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# THE NORTH LAWNDAL COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

## SUB PRIME LENDING DISCUSSION HEATS UP

James Glover



NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America) representatives, Chicago Director-Don Meadows (green top & Yellow) and NACA Operations Director Mr. Duncan (Yellow t-shirt) speak to (sitting) subprime loan, foreclosure and near foreclosure victims about their situations and how NACA can help.

Every since Gov. Rod Blagojevich announced new revisions to House Bill 4050, the subject of Sub prime lending has gone up. Everyone from Presidential Candidate Barack Obama to Congressman Danny K. Davis has spoken on the issue and the subject is picking up steam by the day.

Sub prime lending is, by definition, a "second chance" loan designed to those who don't have a credit score good enough to be financed by one of the more

traditional lending companies. Usually, potential homebuyers with a credit score of less than 620 are the target audience for this kind of lending often described as predatory. Because of the increased rates on the loan, these clients who are already struggling financially find themselves foreclosed on and without a home.

LaRome Pratt, a former North Lawndale resident now residing in Maywood was one of the many individuals who were caught up in

See Lending page 7

## Community Reacts to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Election Results

James Glover

Last Tuesday marked the end of two long eras on Chicago's West Side as 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Michael Chandler and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Madeline Haithcock lost their Aldermanic Runoff elections to Sharon Dixon and Bob Fioretti respectively. The community has had much to say from the moment all aldermanic candidates began campaigning and now that it's all over, several community residents and business owners from both wards have opinions of the new leadership as well as their reflections on the previous administration.

Winston Phillips, a lifetime resident of North Lawndale said "I felt it was time for some new guidance. You know, Chandler has been in office most of my adulthood and he did his thing with the whole redevelopment of Roosevelt, but too much time in

power is a bad thing. It's time for a new face and fresh ideas, while still giving credit to Chandler for all he's done."

That's not to say that all reaction to Chandler's departure from office was met with such even balance. Tamika Washington, an employee at Flash Express and 24<sup>th</sup> Ward resident said "I am ecstatic that he's gone from office. I know that sounds harsh but believe me, I'm not the only one who feels that way. All this restoration is nice as far as stores and banks but what good is it if we're afraid to walk to these places because of the crime and drugs that surrounds them?"

Michael Tucker, a resident from 16<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeway who runs various summer programs says we need to focus not so much on this as Chandler's departure but more as Dixon's arrival. "We need to focus on Dixon and make sure that she holds true to the promises made



One week previous to the April 17th runoff election, a press conference was held where Senator Rickey Hendon's holds his district meeting. Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., Senator Rickey Hendon, 2nd ward aldermanic candidate Wallace Davis, Kenny Johnson and other community leaders back runoff candidate Bob Fioretti (at podium) over incumbent 2nd Alderman Madeline Haithcock during the campaign. See to it that she doesn't slack and shows the same drive and dedication to people she did as an aldermanic candidate

and block club president." Over in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, the arrival of Bob Fioretti is being

See Results page 10

## MEET YOUR NEW ALDERMAN: SHARON DENISE DIXON

### Part 1 in a 2 Part Series

Anita P. Bryant



Senator Rickey Hendon congratulates Sharon Dixon as the new 24th Ward Alderman

The municipal election is over, but Sharon Denise Dixon's campaign signs remain plastered over the 1600 block of South Central Park Ave. in the heart of the Lawndale neighborhood. Before entering her basement office, located in her home on this block, she stops to pick up garbage on her front yard, and notices the sign hanging on her lawn is falling down.

"Interesting," she said looking up at the sign with her name in large bold print.

She waves and smiles at someone across street. Still, she seems flustered by the trash scattered throughout her yard. She is now the alderman elect of the 24<sup>th</sup> ward and possesses the power to do

something about it. After all, it was her troubles with trash that sparked her to run for office.

"I had issues with getting my garbage picked up," said Dixon, attempting to get comfortable in her office while the phone is ringing off the hook. "The garbage was not being picked up on a regular basis, and the streets were not being swept. City services were lacking."

After repeated attempts to get the city to fix the litter problem in her ward, nothing happened, so she started a block club to foster change in her community. Her organizing efforts have paid off as she looks forward to being sworn in as the first woman alderman of the 24<sup>th</sup>

See Dixon page 6

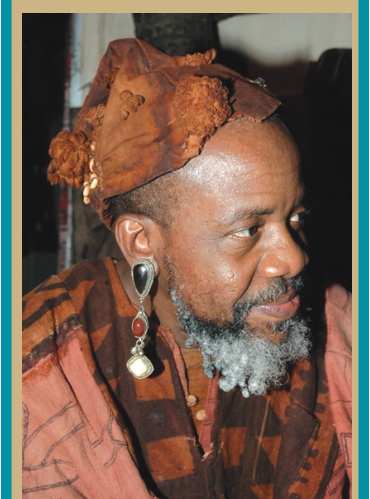
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Visit us on our website at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org) for more articles, information, photos and opportunities



# The North Lawndale 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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### THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Date: May 17 and June 21, 2007  
Free Training in Community Journalism!  
Everyone is Welcome!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 312.492.9090

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

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

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

## NLCN 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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# STEARNS FAMILY FOUNDATION

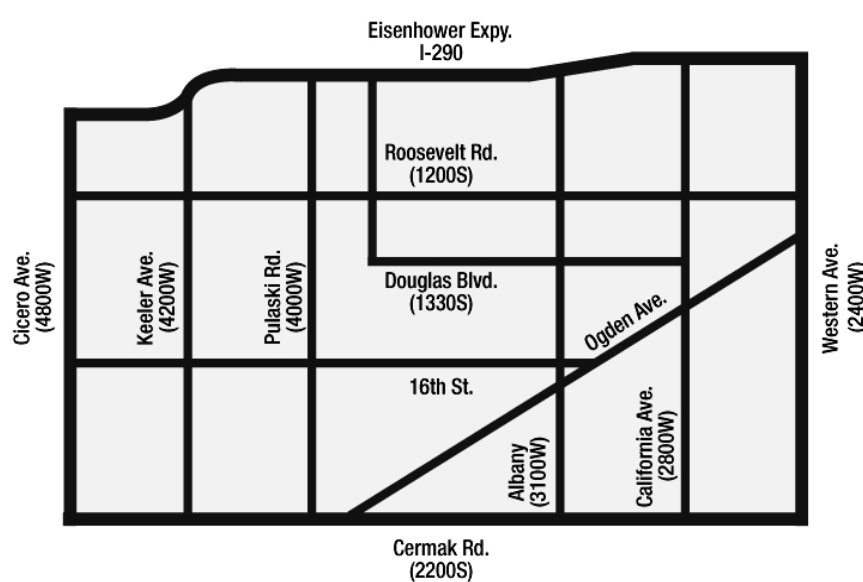
## 2007 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

Promoting Resident Participation for Community Strengthening

The 2007 Stearns 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 Stearns Family Foundation North Lawndale boundary area (mapped below).



Applications may be picked up at our North Lawndale office location or downloaded at [www.stearnsfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.stearnsfamilyfoundation.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 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 STEARNS FAMILY FOUNDATION

405 North Wabash Avenue Suite P-2 South  
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A TRADITION OF TEAMWORK



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## EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING

## Teacher Training System For People With Bachelor Degrees At Collins Academy

Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson

This fall, the Collins Academy High School will open. Its primary mission will be to prepare students for college, but its secondary mission will be to train the next generation of Chicago teachers.

The academy is located at 1313 S. Sacramento and will consist of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade; it will add a grade each year for the next four years. Too many urban High School students graduate without being prepared for college because of their educational foundation, Collins Academy Principal Joyce Caine said.

"...People look at our kids and say they're not college material," Caine said. "I want to have a school that says from day one, we believe you can go to college."

Although the closing of the old Collins high school was a point of contention, the name and colors were kept out of respect for the community and the alumni.

"The school has been in the community for over 30 years. We don't see ourselves as being a replacement, we see ourselves as continuing the strong tradition, respecting the struggle of the long

history and activism that went into starting the school," Caine said. "It was only appropriate to keep the Collins name."

Collins High School was the first black high school to get off academic probation back in 1999. The new Collins Academy is managed and operated by the Academy for Urban School Leadership.

"We are going to be a college prep school and every kid will take a curriculum that will prepare them to succeed in college whether they go to college or not," Caine said. "I have seen a lot of kids make choices they would not have made if they would have had opportunities open to them."

Collins Academy High School will distinguish itself by adding in its second year a master's degree program in education.

Anyone with a bachelor's degree, interested in teaching in the Chicago Public School system, can apply.

"You will receive a first-year teacher's salary," said Caine, who herself was a principal in training at Manley High School



Collins Academy under reconstruction

last year. "And will basically be mentored by another teacher to get hands on experience in what it's like to teach."

"When the year is up, you'll be certified, you'll have a master's degree and then you'll have to agree to teach in CPS schools for five years," She said. "That's our way making sure that we continue to supply our community with quality teachers."

There are five other schools operating under this training/mentorship system that are accepting applications. To apply go to [www.ausl-chicago.org](http://www.ausl-chicago.org).

Collins Academy will share the facility with two other schools. For more information call 773-534-0129 or go to [www.collinsacademy.org](http://www.collinsacademy.org).

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

DNA Clears 200<sup>th</sup> Suspect

Mikal-Ace Ngubani

In an ironic twist of fate and despite his repeated earlier denials of guilt, Jerry Miller was finally exonerated as a result of updated DNA test results after serving more than twenty five years in an Illinois prison for an alleged rape offense that supposedly occurred in 1982. Miller was the 200<sup>th</sup> suspect to be exculpated from a major criminal sentence nationwide.

Though the scientific and indisputable process has been in existence and limited use since 1987, Miller wasn't administered the test until he paroled in 2006, as a result of urgings and laborious encouragements prompted by "The Innocence Project," a New York based legal group that along with several others investigates and follows up on claims of wrongful imprisonments.

At its inception in 1989 there were those who felt that there weren't that many jailed individuals within this country's prison system, who by statutes could actually classify as certifiable 'innocents.' And of the few that did many of them were thought to have been aberrations and those who had somehow fallen thru the cracks of the status quo and but mere exceptions to the rule.

"But now 18 years and 200 reversals later, and coupled with the emergence of high powered DNA testing results, how could anyone of the least intelligence, not conclude on their own that there is something outrageously flawed within our judicial system. A possible kangaroo charade that has sent more than 200 innocent people to prison" said Attorney Barry Scheck, co-founder of the prisoner rights program he began in 1992 to aid and assist the unfairly convicted and aptly titled "The Innocence Project."

Major political figures like Illinois Governor George Ryan, who commuted 167 death row inmates to life sentences and instituted a 2003 moratorium to halt death row executions in Illinois, before leaving office, justified his extremism as the only moralistic manner and means available to nullify or neutralize some of the flagrant miscarriages of justice, that appear to run rampant within society and thoroughly permeate the judicial process.

At one point during his tenure, the governor noted that "We have exonerated more people than we have put to death" an obvious reference to the 13 people, who up until that time were absolved of all criminal misdeeds, as a result of DNA test results, compared to the 12 inmates who had been executed earlier." "There is a fallacious error within this system and DNA tells you that, it needs to be studied."

It should be noted however, that Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller and not George Ryan was the first governor to render a blanket pardon to death row inmates in 1970 after a losing a bid for his third term in office. A dubious distinction that many concede had little to do with the issue of 'guilt or innocence,' as did the manner with Governor Ryan. The conventional exoneration case, according to the Innocence Project, typically involves a sexual offense, whereas the alleged offender is generally someone of color, namely Black, and the victim white, and only witness. More absolutions resulting from the advances of modern DNA technological science can certainly be expected.

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

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## SPIRITUAL LIFE

**WORD- UP: Ball of Confusion - That's What The World Is Today**

Calvin C. Crayton

I would like to state that Word –Up is a Bible column and if anyone is offended by my human error I humbly apologize but if anyone is offended by The Word of God (The Bible) the devil is offended also so take it up with God(YHWH) but he will not change.(Malachi 3 verse 6).

As I watched all of The SO-Called Christians who claim to believe in The Bible go through all of the pagan traditions (Easter, Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday) and none of them could explain how you could get 3 days and 3 nights from Friday to Sunday which was the sign that Jesus himself claimed he would give (Matthew 12 verses 39-40) nor could they validate their man-made days with scripture and to top it all off most of these so-called church folks had no idea what Passover was all about; how tragic! Isaiah 3:12 states: As

for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths. (who is leading you)

Psalms 8:2 verse 5 states: They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are out of course.. During the past couple of weeks my uncle and I have been working on a building in which the foundation has shifted or changed and because of the damage to the foundation the whole structure is out of line. In laymen's terms even when sections seem alright when we look closer we find that there is something wrong and it always goes back to the foundation being off, what is amazing is that by the foundation being damaged or changed it turns the whole building into a ball of confusion. Let's Word-Up!

Every time I turn on the T.V. I see some

Jack leg preacher with the audacity to call himself Reverend (even though not one of them has been able to show me in the scriptures a man called Reverend) telling people how Jesus Changed everything which would mean God changed even though he said I Change Not; which means God lied even though the scriptures state God cannot Lie which changes the foundation of the bible and Christianity and causes confusion and since God is not the author of confusion according to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14vs33 then this confusion must come from the devil, How can a God fearing church have Obama (Senator Barack) signing books and claiming he is a member of that church and accepts Christ as his Lord and Savior go on National T.V. and claim it is not immoral for one man to put his penis up another man's rectum I don't know about you, but that certainly confuses me at

least according to what I read in my Bible.

Proverbs 24verse 21states: My son fear thou The Lord (YHWH) and the king; and meddle not with them that are given to change. You see God is faithful to his word and if it is not in the book don't look. 2 Corinthians 11 verse 3 states: But I fear, least by any means, as the serpent beguiled eve through his subtilty, so your minds be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. You see we can't afford to be led by long robes and music and rhetoric and titles but we must be led by God's word nothing added and nothing taken away in that there is no confusion. Remember if you Don't Read The Book You Lose The Lesson Word UP!!

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

**Vacancy worth Checking Into**

Matt Russell

*Vacancy* is something of a "diamond in the rough", in regards to most contemporary horror flicks. While the more gruesome aspects of the *Hostel* and the *Saw* series give such films their own appeal (and subsequent success), *Vacancy* looks past the fear of dying in horrible, unusual ways and focuses on something scarier: the realization that you're next.

Amy and David Fox (Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson), who are driving back from an anniversary party, get lost on a mountain shortcut late at night. Amidst an intense argument, the car breaks down. The obviously failing couple trek back to the Pinewood Motel, which they had passed earlier. The manager (Frank Whaley) gives David and Amy a room, in which they find a series of videotapes. The videotapes prove to be recordings of two masked figures savagely assaulting and killing various men and women. David realizes the videotapes were filmed in the room he and Amy are staying in, and their marital woes soon prove to be the least of their problems.

*Vacancy* grasps the horror of viewing abject brutality by using two relatable people, and asking them the terrifying questions: "You know they're coming for you. What are you going to do about it?" From there, the real terror begins to build as David and Amy have to rely on each other to find a way out of this seemingly hopeless scenario.

Fans of Luke Wilson will note that this is a significantly darker film than what we have seen him in before; even so, it was an excellent casting choice. Horror movies need to be grounded in reality in order to be effective, and solid acting is one of the best ways to achieve this. Wilson is a perfect "every-man", and it is really difficult to dislike any character he's ever played. Of course a great amount of credit goes to Beckinsale, with whom Wilson shares the on-screen chemistry. The two are enjoyable to watch together, and are believable whether they are fighting with one another or against their attackers.

The Pinewood Motel is as much a character as the Foxes. Extensive use of shadow in outdoor shots gives the building a sinister tone, and nothing about the interior is comfortable. A collision of retro and rustic, the Pinewood is mostly drab, with any attempts of decoration running from seedy to tacky. Even the phones emit a skull-rattling blast. Paul Haslinger's eerie mechanical score, combined with the sickly atmosphere of the Pinewood, provide a gloomy but riveting backdrop for the horror on Amy and David faces.

*Vacancy* is a refreshing reminder that R rated movies can get by on psychological fear. While being far from an original entry in the genre, it deserves credit for trying to bring a little dignity back to horror movies and providing an entertaining watch along the way. 3 out of 4 stars

**ON CD**

Reviewed by David Schultz

**LET'S GET QUIET – Ben Tankard (Verify/ Jive/Zomba) (\*\*1/2)** There aren't enough gospel-like influences flavored into this instrumental excursion that claims to be "new age gospel/smooth jazz fusion. This comes off sounding more like a label than a musical description.

It's just that pianist Ben Tankard's "Let's Get Quiet" is more about mood and commercial appeal than spiritual motivated. Tankard doesn't capture enough of that old school religion that Ramsey Lewis achieved on his own CD through his rendition of "O

See CD page 11

**Homebuyers' Workshop 2007****FREE!**

These programs are made possible in part by grants from CHASE, Citibank, the Dept. of Housing and GPCA.

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Avoiding Foreclosure

**Where:**

4950 W. Thomas St.

**When:**

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 1 & Thursday, May 3

Note: There are two parts to this workshop. Attendance at both sessions is required to receive a certificate.

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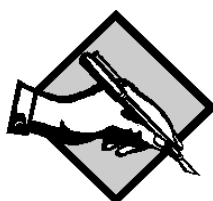
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## Community People

## Dixon from front page

Ward in May.

Dixon, 45, won last week's run-off election, receiving 51 percent of the vote to defeat Alderman Michael Chandler, a 12 year incumbent.

"I have never run for office before in my life," she said.

Despite her political inexperience, those who know Dixon aren't surprised at her success. Dixon's neighbor Tanell Hayes, 18, recalled her tenacity when it came to cleaning up the block. Hayes said she often would arrange block-cleaning projects starting as early as 7:00 a.m. "When she says she is going to do things, you know it's going to get done," Hayes said.

Dixon has been pursuing her master's degree in social work at Loyola University, which she put on hold during the campaign and is a few credit hours short of completing. No amount of schooling, however, could have prepared her for the difficult political lessons

learned during the aldermanic campaign. "It was an interesting process," Dixon said, adding that she ran a clean campaign with a lot of integrity.

Still, the process was not without controversy. Dixon spent much of the campaign on the defensive, attempting to prove her qualifications, and explain why she left the ward where she grew up.

"What is it that I don't know?" Dixon asked. "I was an adult when I left here and I got some exposure in other areas, I came back to share that with the people, and they have just said thank you to me, and I am going tell them they're welcome by serving them to the best of my ability."

Dixon grew up in North Lawndale at 3541 W. Lexington, and went to school in the community, graduating from Manley High School in 1980. She left the community to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago where she received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Since graduating, Dixon has

See page 10



Sharon Dixon and Garfield Majors of A-1 Garfield Exterminating and Janitorial Company

## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware



Melanie Brown and new baby Iris

*I love my baby's daddy, I'll never let him go!*

Melanie Scary Spice Brown has named her daughter Iris Murphy Brown. We are still waiting on this whole paternity test thing to happen. From my point of view I can't really tell who the daddy is because the baby is so small. What I can say is that she is really dark though. I

hope they hurry up and take a paternity test because I wanna know if Eddie is the baby. Mel B says she doesn't know why Eddie is doing this because they were so in love. Maybe because he got a lead role in a movie and Tracie Edmonds hooked up with him. Duh!

**Beyonce's** newly released edition of her album *B'Day* has to come to an end. Just three weeks after the superstar released a deluxe edition of her sophomore solo album, *B'Day*, the album was pulled from shelves. According to *MTV.com*, Bey's team agreed to halt distribution of the albums and accompanying DVDs after they were accused of re-recording a 1996 hit by British singer **Des'ree**, without clearance. As previously reported, Bey and Sony were slapped with a \$150,000 lawsuit on April 16 that accused them of re-recording Des'ree's song "I'm Kissing You" even though clearance discussions had stalled. According to the lawsuit, filed in Manhattan Federal Court, Beyonce's team initially sought clearance to use interpolations of the song on Feb. 13. On March 3, a month before *B'Day* was slated to be re-released, Beyonce's side reportedly had a license request ready to submit. Two days later, Des'ree's publishers, the Royalty Network, submitted a counter

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## THE ERRAND BOY ... "Oh Boy"

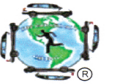
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## AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic

**THE CONDEMNED (\*\*)** "The Condemned" could be described as a mini-"Royal Rumble" in the jungle version of Stephen King's 1987's "The Running Man" which was a futuristic, entertainingly trashy, big buck exploitation, survival adventure rip-off of the 1932 film, "The Most Dangerous Game".

Updated with a weak moral tone on the current "reality TV" craze going too far, which sounds like an oxymoron considering the reputation of this "sports entertainment" outfit that produced and finance this movie project. "The Condemned" is intended as the first starring vehicle for semi-retired wrestler "Stone Cold" Steve Austin who delivers his usual tough guy attitude and stares with cheap wisecracks.

After numerous bit roles on TV ("Nash Bridges") and movies ("The Longest Yard" remake), Austin stars as Jack Conrad, an American death row prisoner held captive inside an El Salvador maximum prison.

Conrad is viewed as a replacement; chosen and transported with nine other ruthless inmates to a remote island by a megalomaniac millionaire, Ian Breckel (Robert Mammone) staging a Survivor-type death matches for the internet. Where the inmate that survives by killing the others in televised combat wins his freedom.

Breckel grows obsessed with obtaining

Super Bowl -type rating numbers on the internet. Therefore, he allows certain confrontations to go too far and manipulates the outcome by making parachute drops of weapons to certain inmates that begins to trouble Breckel's best friend and producer, Goldman (Rick Hoffman).

Meanwhile, the internet broadcast happens to reveal that Conrad is really Riley, a former special forces' agent abandoned by the government during a mission that FBI agent Brad Wilkins (Sullivan Stapleton) tries to uncover enough proof and his location to warrant the agency to rescue him.

Of course, there are shades of TV's "Survivor" series as alliances are formed that leaves to pairings to overcome another inmate and eventually double crosses their partner in crime.

"The Condemned" represents World Wrestling Entertainment's latest re-entry into movies with their most prominent wrestlers trying to forge an acting career beyond the ring. Hulk Hogan achieved minimum results, While more recently, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has achieved and maintain the highest success since moving away from WWE (He's currently filming for Disney).

Even though, "The Condemned" has its moments of action. Steve Austin's "stone cold" stares and action moves don't even seem



Steve Austin and Vinnie Jones in *The Condemned*

as swift and forceful as younger wrestler star, John Cena was in "The Marine". Still, Austin has potential as a sort of a redneck version of Clint Eastwood or Charles Bronson.

But "The Condemned" is only adequate by today's standards. We can follow the story, see the danger but we don't feel enough of the suspense and excitement. While a little

editing around some dialogue scenes would have made the film look and feel tighter and crisper than a little drawn-out.

R; 114min. A Lionsgate Films 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).



Community People

# Rev. Ulysses L. Young: A positive Figure in North Lawndale

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson



Rev. and Mrs. Young

Rev. Ulysses S. Young, an 88 year old World War II veteran is a positive figure in the North Lawndale Community, where he has lived since 1955 with his wife and six children. Young is an associate minister at Douglass Park Baptist church on 1840 S. Kedzie, where the Rev Daryl L. McDonald is pastor.

Rev. Young obtained his GED when he was 83, so that he could acquire a diploma in ministry from Chicago Baptist Ministries. "I have always wanted to be the best at what I did, and I didn't think I had what it took to be the best in that area. I wanted a strong base voice and to be great, be an orator so that he could stand out. I didn't have those particular qualities", Young stated.

He was, however, working in the ministry as a deacon of trustees. "I thank God that He was gracious

enough, that He spared me enough time, that I did get at it before He called me from this life to the next life."

Young grew up in Arkansas, where he attended school along with his brother and two sisters, in a poor school system for Black children. "There were only 5 months of school: two in the summer and three in winter. The kids that were old enough to work in the fields had to miss most of that little time. It was very hard to get an education. We were lucky to get in a good month; even with all the kids working we got just enough money to exist."

After the depression, his parents worked hard as sharecroppers where Young said they were sometimes cheated. "You were supposed to get half but they would figure a way of cheating you out of it. As a sharecropper, they kept the books and it didn't make a difference

See Young page 10

## Lending from front page

what is called "predatory lending." Pratt said that he was excited by the prospect of being able to buy a house and accepted the increased interest because there were no other options.

"I was excited because there weren't many available loans for me you know? I was fine with the one and two percent increase on the rates but over the course of the deal rates went up on my loan even though I was fixing my credit. With me already having so many responsibilities, the price of my home became just too much to deal with. I was foreclosed on and eventually they took my home. The thing is, I had already paid close to 60,000 dollars. Now that's money that is just gone."

Pratt's story is just one of the many you'll hear in regards to sub prime lending. Gail Thompson is in the middle of fighting for her house now. "I had a steady payment going until I was informed, without notice, that the rates had increased and my payment went up. It's become more difficult for me to keep up but I am doing what I can."

These are the exact kind of cases that supporters of House Bill 4050 point to when arguing that 4050 wasn't designed to discriminate but rather protect. "4050 wasn't made to point out predominately African American or Latino neighborhoods," said U.S. Senator Dick Durbin "but rather to protect the neighborhoods that predatory lenders target."

Durbin is also instrumental in creating a new bill to fight against sub prime lending so that what happened to Pratt and Thompson won't happen to more people "It's something we desperately need and Senator Obama and I are definitely working hard to ensure the best interest of all potential homebuyers.

However, homebuyers aren't the only people affected by the recent epidemic of foreclosures, lending companies also lose money. A steep rise in the rate of sub prime mortgage foreclosures has caused more than two dozen sub prime mortgage lenders to fail or file for bankruptcy, most prominently New Century Financial Corporation, previously the nation's second largest sub prime lender according to a report by Forbes Magazine. The failure of these companies has caused stock prices in the \$6.5 trillion mortgage bundled securities market to collapse, threatening broader impacts on the U.S. housing market and economy as a whole. The crisis is ongoing and has received considerable attention from the U.S. media and from lawmakers in the early part of 2007.

"Mortgage fraud and abuse are costing thousands of Americans their hard earned savings and dreams of home ownership." Said Illinois Senator Barack Obama. "The housing market has become more vulnerable and it is even affecting businesses, which are leading to the loss of jobs for people working in the honest lending market. We have much stiffer penalties for those who do not have the consumers

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## Economic Development

## BUSINESS OWNERS CONCERNED GOV'S TAX PLAN BAD FOR BUSINESS, GOOD FOR SCHOOLS

Anita P. Bryant

Governor Rod Blagojevich continues to gather support for his proposed tax plan from community leaders and educators, but local entrepreneurs are worried about the greater impact it will have on poor communities despite the target to provide funds for healthcare and education.

According to the Tax Fairness Plan, the Governor wants to shift the burden away from middle class families and make businesses carry the load. The Gross Receipts Tax will service industries at one point eight percent. Manufacturers, construction, retail and wholesale companies will be taxed at zero point five percent. This will produce seven point six billion dollars for property tax relief.

On Friday, April 7, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, held a news conference where many black business leaders raised questions about the new plan saying it will cause them to go bankrupt.

Gerardo Cardenas spokesperson for Blagojevich said regardless of these questions, there has been "overwhelming support from the African-American community."

"The Gross Receipts Tax will only affect Illinois businesses generating more than two million dollars or more in sales," said Cardenas.

"A lot of African American businesses will be exempt," Cardenas said. "Our focus is to improve and to foster growth of small and African-American businesses."

Eric Strickland, executive director of Lawndale Business and Local Development Corp, an organization, which serves smaller enterprises in the Lawndale area said, "I know it will affect the businesses in this area a great deal, and whatever is going to affect the businesses, it is going to be passed on to the consumers."

According to Cardenas, Blagojevich's

"Helping Kids Learn" proposal will help alleviate the chronic under-funding situation in Illinois schools by providing \$100 million to support suffering school districts. If implemented the tax will generate \$10 billion in school funding for the next four years.

For the Fiscal Year 2008, Chicago Public Schools would get \$112 million for improvement projects.

"The Governor will provide specific funds for underperforming schools," Cardenas said.

Cardenas added, the Illinois State Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools will have to come up with the strategy for how the money will be allocated to each school district.

Michael Vaughn, spokesperson for Chicago Public Schools said, "We are encouraged school funding is taking center stage."

"The primary goal for Chicago Public schools is to come up with a formula to get

additional funds especially for the schools demonstrating the most need. We will set up a formula that gets all the available dollars where the challenges are the greatest," said Vaughn.

Warren Ballentine, a national radio host who started his own campaign to raise money for Chicago schools said the Governor's plan may work because it is an embarrassment that Illinois ranks 49 out of 50 states when it comes to school funding. Something has to be done, he said.

"I think it is a good idea. The question—is it the right idea? Either way we are going to be paying for this, so I want to know if is going to be equal across the board," Ballentine said. "I want to know will the portions go equally to each school district?"

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

## CAN AFRICAN SPIRITUALITY SURVIVE?

Kabuika Kamunga



Chief Khalilu

Can African spirituality survive among African Christians and Muslims in the United States?

I have always been intrigued by the African religion. Raised Catholic, I was told

to stay away from all African spiritual practices, they were considered anti-Christian. It is only when I converted to Judaism in Chicago that I felt free to explore the spirituality of my homeland.

For six months, I talked to Africans in the Chicago land area. Some said the blood of Jesus Christ is all they need. Others choose to balance their tradition with Christianity. Most of the people I interviewed said they were either Christian or Muslim. Few dared to say they followed only the African religion.

The traditional healer was one of them.

"Spirituality is the matrix through which you are able to understand your universe," said Chief Khalilu Massaquoi, who is an Ifa priest from Sierra Leone (a religion of the Yoruba tradition). "If that matrix has been sabotaged by outside forces, say you're African and Europeans have managed to convince you that everything African is wrong. How are you going to be empowered in that environment?"

Chief Khalilu said religions like Christianity and Islam undermine African spirituality as they replace it with a different cultural landscape. He said he is not against religions, but he is concerned that people are losing their spiritual connection and it is important to preserve it.

"So often times when Africans gather

around me, I tell them, we don't really have problems with the World Bank," he said. "What we do have problem with is the agreement, the pact we made with our ancestors. We haven't kept the pact."

Paul Olaniyan, a pastor at a predominantly Nigerian church in Rogers Park, disagrees.

"If you believe in Jesus Christ, you should believe in him alone, not with any other African magic," said Pastor Paul, sitting in his office on Howard Avenue. "You cannot serve two masters."

"Africans are trying to run away from their spiritual heritage while others are running toward it," said Chief Khalilu, who stated that 80 percent of the people who came to his healing practice are white. Hispanics are next, followed by Asians. Blacks are last.

SOME STILL HOLD ON TO THEIR TRADITION

However, many Africans feel comfortable mixing the African religion with the Christian one.

Whenever he needs something big from God, Tshimankinda Kadima Kalombo, a Congolese man from Milwaukee, Wis. said he asks his ancestors to help make God listen to his prayers.

Ancestors are "people who have lived with us, who know our realities and would know better how to intercede on our behalf

to God," said Kalombo, a Catholic who has been living in the U.S. for 19 years.

Pastor Jean-Baptiste Kasongo belongs to the same Luba tribe as Kalombo. He said he lets the spirits of his ancestors guide him.

"I pray in the language that they passed on to me and I can feel them," Pastor Jean-Baptiste said. "I try to bring some of the values of my ancestor into my Christian faith so that we can have a social and cultural context."

AND SOME MUSLIMS TOO

Northwestern University Professor Bachir Souleymane Diagne said similar religious mixture exists in Islam, where many African Muslims carry writings of the Qu'ran as talismans to protect themselves from bad spirits.

"Religion can be used to recast older forms of beliefs," said Dr. Diagne, who teaches religion and philosophy. He is originally from Senegal, West Africa. "Obviously, you do have traces of traditions, more ancient belief system, that seem to be still part of the psyche of a few Senegalese."

And so the African tradition lives on.

Kabuika Kamunga has a bachelor degree in Chemistry and a master's in Journalism. She is Congolese and resides in Chicago. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

## Biz from page 6

proposal that granted permission, but only under the condition that a video not be made for the song and the song's title remain the same. By March 27, Des'ree's camp discovered that Beyonce would include her version, "Still In Love (Kissing You)" and had filmed a video for it. Since filing the lawsuit, the Royalty Network and Sony/Columbia agreed that the label would halt distribution of the album until a May 4 preliminary injunction hearing.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston's divorce was made final. The divorce was listed under uncontested and neither of them gets spousal support. (As if there was any). Houston has sole custody of 14 year old Bobbi Christina and Brown has visitation rights.

The Queens home of the mother of G-Unit rapper **Tony Yayo** was sprayed with bullets in a Wednesday night attack. According to *The New York Daily News*, approximately 12 shots were fired at the house. Though Yayo's 32-year-old sister and her two-year-old daughter were in the home at the time, neither sustained any injuries. "I think they did it to

send a message, but we are innocent people. Either me or my daughter could have been dead," Yayo's sister, who asked to not be identified by name, told *The News*. Evidence suggested that the bullets were fired from a high-powered weapon. Though the shooting is still under investigation, some speculate that the attack could be in response to Yayo's alleged assault on the 14-year-old son of Jimmy "Henchmen" Rosemond. As previously reported, Yayo was arrested on misdemeanor charges of harassment and endangering the welfare of a child after Rosemond's son was allegedly attacked on a Manhattan street.


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

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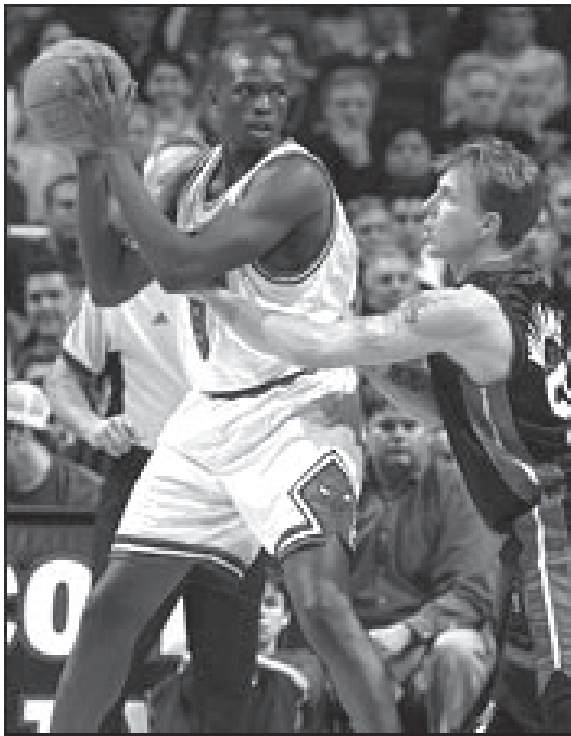
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## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## Chi-Town Sports Roundup

Todd Thomas



Chicago Bull Luol Deng Against Miami Heat

might be able to break down the walls that have kept them from the finals since the Jordan years.

The White Sox 10-8 are in fourth place, but they've been playing well enough on the young season to believe that they could be in the running for another pennant. Jim Thome has been the offensive leader (.340 batting average, five home runs) while his counterparts in the middle of the lineup, Jermaine Dye and Paul Konerko try to get on track. Konerko has started to break out of his funk and had two homers in a recent game against the Kansas City Royals. The biggest highlight for the south siders has been the no-hitter that pitcher Mark Buerle notched against the Texas Rangers. It was the first no-hit ballgame by a White Sox pitcher in 16 years and it has created

a buzz about the pitching staff that was on the wane after last season.

The Chicago Cubs 7-12 are stumbling out of the starting gate and are already mired in last place in the National League Central. They seem to have somewhat of an identity crisis and they need to start jelling before people cast them off as typical lovable losers. They've had some unavoidable setbacks and injuries that have made things tough and manager Lou Piniella has already been forced to show his volatile side on several occasions. He has charged onto the field in anger more than one and he's blown up in media sessions, berating reporters.

Around the league, last year's beleaguered Yankee Alex Rodriguez, appears to have returned to his hall-of fame-form and has blasted a record tying 14 home runs in the month of April. He also leads the league in RBI's and runs scored. And in the National League, Barry Bonds is starting to creep up on the all-time home run record. He has six home runs this season and is 15 behind Hank Aaron's all-time mark of 755.

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

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David Schultz



Jennifer Hudson, Beyonce Knowles, Eddie Murphy and Anika Noni Rose in DreamGirls

**DREAMGIRLS (\*\*\*)** Chicagoan Jennifer Hudson dominates in her Best Supporting Actress Oscar winning screen debut for this dazzling screen adaptation of the Broadway musical drama on the rise and turmoil within the success and eventual breakup of a "Supremes"-like girl group.

This all-star cast includes Jaime Foxx as the womanizing visionary, an ambitious Detroit auto dealer turned record mogul modeled after Berry Gordy and his Motown records empire. Eddie Murphy earned his first Oscar nomination as a self iconic blues singer who was given a successful new recording image, but unable to overcome his old habits. Beyonce Knowles blossoms through her Diana Ross-inspired lead singer and eventual solo career along with other story and character parallels.

Well detailed and atmospheric through the 60's to mid-80's era, but a bit cliché driven. Still director Bill Condon manages to bring it home, the glam, the glitter with the professional and personal turmoil that older viewer can compare to 1976's "Sparkle" with the Curtis Mayfield score.

PG-13; 130min. DreamWorks Home Video: Available: May 1

**JONESTOWN – THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PEOPLES TEMPLE (\*\*1/2)** Stanley Nelson's documentary for PBS' "American Experience" offers some fresh eyes to the largest mass murder-suicide in history, told through new footage from the survivors and relatives of Peoples Temple, headed by preacher Jim Jones who in 1978, led more than 900 members to Guyana to

their death through tainted punch. Much of the remarkable footage from San Francisco congressman Leo Ryan's investigative visit has been seen before. But it still packs a wallop and a cautionary warning.

Not Rated, 90 min. PBS Home Video

**BECAUSE I SAID SO (\*\*)** Diane Keaton goes full tilt as an overbearing, manipulative, divorced mother of four grown

daughters. Mandy Moore plays the youngest of the daughter whose married gets derailed when she discovers her husband with her ex-boyfriend. So, the mother makes it her mission to run an on-line want ad and personally rates the candidates based on her expectation

Enter a musician (Gabriel Macht) who sets out to prove the mother wrong about him, by seeking out her daughter. As funny at times this movie can be, it never gets away from the obvious.

PG-13; 102min. Universal Home Video

**LITTLE CHILDREN (\*\*\*)** A cracked view of suburbia life in director Todd Field's intimate, sometimes intense observation of middle class American family life involves an affair between a married man (Patrick Wilson) and woman (Kate Winslet) in a community troubled by the return of an unwelcome neighbor – a convicted sex offender, played by Jackie Earle Haley in a well deserved Oscar nominated performance after a 23 yr screen absence since his standout teen roles in "Bad News Bears" and "Breaking Away". Sort of a man-child character living with his mother whose can't escape the bias interest of a local fireman (Noah Emmerich) who befriends the married man invited into their manly fold of his weekend warrior-like football team in this provocative and interesting film with insightful performances.

R; 137min. New Line Home Video; Available: May 1

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

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## Are African-Americans still into Baseball?

Todd Thomas



Frank Brim Doing What He Does Best Coaching St. Mel Player Zachery Bibbs

African-American participation in the game of baseball has declined significantly over the past few decades and the Major League numbers have plummeted from 27.5 percent in 1975 to a mere 8.4 percent today.

The decline is due in part to the lack of enthusiasm for the sport in the innercity. If adult baseball lovers don't come up with a strategy to get athletic youngsters to embrace baseball with the same fervor as basketball and football, the trend will continue.

Baseball coach Frank Brim encourages former

professional African-American athletes to come back to their communities and inspire the younger generation. He said the earlier kids learn the fundamentals, the better players they will be.

"These kids are out here playing baseball but they've never learned the basics," said Brim, who coaches at Providence St. Mel and runs First-Round Baseball Academy. "So now it's hard for them to correct it."

Moreover, today's kids are different. Brim described them as a "microwave generation," whose main exposure to sports is through highlights on ESPN. They want instant gratification and notoriety in the sports they play but it's not that easy in baseball.

"I don't think we can help [the 14 and 15 year olds], because it's almost too late," Brim said. "...When they play against real competition, they can't compete. Who wants to lose 22 to 0? Nobody."

In addition to the lack of baseball fundamentals, Brim noticed problems with the equipment. He said players tend to use gloves that are too big and bats that are too heavy – both of which hinder performance and cause young baseball players to become frustrated.

But many youth simply don't know any better and adults don't know that much about the game either.

"The kids that play in this area develop bad habits and they're hard to correct," Brim said. "[While suburban] kids are getting better information and training from day one

**See Baseball page 10**



**Dixon** from page 6

worked for General Electric, Northwestern Memorial Hospital in their MRI Department, and has even been a flight attendant. She returned to Lawndale six-years ago, and accepted a job at Ada S. McKinley Social Service Agency before deciding to run for alderman.

Dixon’s campaign had to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges, including few endorsements, relatively little funding, and almost no support from major political leaders. Despite these obstacles, she defeated an alderman endorsed by both of the daily newspapers, organized labor, the local congressman, and even four candidates who originally ran for the seat.

“I didn’t have a lot of money. We had the grassroots folks that came out and worked and we [won].”

Dixon said her new position should not be too difficult for her because service is part of her nature. “It’s new, but I also think it reminds me in some ways of social work.

**Lending** from page 7

best interest at heart.”

Taylor Stafford, a Wall Street Investor and owner of his own lending company would like to see steps taken to prevent lending business owners like himself protected. “I fully understand the government taking steps to protect the homebuyers but it isn’t like we aren’t also taking risk. There are times when we lose money with no chance whatsoever to recoup our loses. Rates need to be in place to make sure that when we make these loans, they remain affordable so that people don’t lose their homes and we don’t lose our investment.”

The Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) has even issued a Call to Action as the first step in it’s

You service people. That is what you do. You help to empower them. You help them to grow,” Dixon said.

“Actually, it is really not hard,” Dixon said about running her ward. “It’s just working with downtown city council and the Mayor to get some things turned around.”

Dixon’s supporters are excited about her victory, and they believe she will ignite the fire the community needs to change for the better.

“Sharon had the best feeling about the people,” Richard Barnett, Dixon’s campaign manager, said. “I think Sharon is going to make an excellent alderman. She’s smart, intelligent, she looks good, and she has the people at heart.” Dixon’s good looks have prompted inquiries into her personal life, including her romantic relationships (her only marriage ended in divorce).

“If folks want to talk to me about my personal life, I do not have a problem with that. It was not relevant to the campaign.”

In what little free time she has, Dixon likes to watch movies, read a good book, and spend

attempt to fight back against predatory lending. This past Saturday (April 21<sup>st</sup>) Thousands of sub prime lending victims met at 31 different NACA offices nationwide to protest. They are the first non for profit to do so up until this point.

Closer to home, Cong. Davis looks to tackle the problem of sub prime lending as well as making sure that House Bill 4050 doesn’t cross the line to the point where people are afraid to buy homes because of the potential hassle involved. “We want people to be able to buy homes without fearing that the process may drag on and on.” Said Davis “Of course 4050 is good in that it gives people a chance to educate themselves on the facts and not be swindled or backed into a bad situation. However, let’s not make our homebuyers already well educated in these topics be forced to go through

time with her thoughts, though her passion is working with children. Raised Baptist, she considers herself a “very spiritual” person.

Chauncey Stroud, a volunteer for Dixon’s campaign is ready for new leadership, because he believes she will bring dedication and sincerity for the next four years.

“She’s a people person,” Stroud said, “It’s a purity in her. You know she really cares.” Dixon will be sworn in May 21<sup>st</sup>, and until then, “It’s time to rest up and go thank the people. And then it’s time for me to get to work.”

To contact your new alderman call 773.522.2430, email [sharondixon@comcast.net](mailto:sharondixon@comcast.net) or visit 1630 S. Central Park Ave.

Part two of this series will explore Ms. Dixon’s agenda for change in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward.

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

something, unnecessarily.”

You can certainly be assured that this topic will become even more a hot button issue in the near future as the provisions that Gov. Blagojevich made to 4050 are scrutinized and more and more local politicians get involved. The more people discuss this issue, as well as the more mainstream press covers it, the more we as a community will become more informed.

For more information on sub prime lending and its practices, contact James Glover at 773-867-9037. To contact NACA, please call 773 723-6222.

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident who does freelance writing for the NLCN. He is also involved in nonprofit work and community organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

**Baseball** from page 9



North Lawndale College Prep Sophomore Jonathon Mills Plays Both Baseball and Basketball. Here he Winds up Against Providence St. Mel

when they’re 7 or 8 years old.”

Money is also an issue with equipment and many kids are forced to use second-hand gloves and bats.

“Baseball is an expensive sport,” Brim said. “A good baseball glove will cost \$250.00 and a good bat can cost \$300.00. Who can afford that? Not us.”

Despite the obstacles, Brim is confident baseball can regain some of its lost popularity. He remains steadfast in his mission to develop good baseball players. He knows he cannot do it alone and suggested the Park Districts and Chicago Public Schools get involved. He would like to create a top-notch baseball facility at a Park District or public school that is on par with those in more affluent areas. It’s really not hard to do, he said.

Brim looks at the baseball current situation among African-Americans from a historical perspective.

“Over 60 years ago, [Jackie Robinson] broke the color barrier and now 60 years later we’re not even playing,” said Brim about the legendary Black baseball player. “I want to see my people play the game.”

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

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**Results** from front page

almost universally held in great regard. Haithcock seemed to have lost touch with even her staunchest of supporters. Amid allegations that she was “distanced” from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward residents, as well as shouts of her abusing power in office to look after personal issues, she was defeated pretty soundly in the runoff election.

Gracie Miller, a longtime Haithcock supporter said “I love Madeline but I would say everyone’s time is up eventually and in all honesty Bob seems like a quality person for the job. I look forward to seeing what’s next for our community.”

Kai-El Amin, an owner of a DJ’s Gyros in the Garfield Area said he will miss Haithcock greatly. “She always looked after the interest of the community first and foremost, regardless of what anyone says.” Said El-Amin “She kept my residence safe through her work as well as making sure my restaurant wasn’t run over by thugs and drugs. I hope Foretti keeps up to that standard.”

As always, youth are adding in on the subject. Fioretta Lawson, a senior at Marshall High School said “Now that I am old enough to vote, Bob Fioretti will be the first politician I’m really following like that because I feel my vote counted to put him there. I hope he provides a good example of what strong leadership should be.”

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident who does freestyle writing for the NLCN. He is also involved in Non For Profit work and Community Organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

**Young** from page 7

what your figures were, it was their figures that counted. At that time all they had to do was bring some kind of charge against you, you would be in big trouble. Disputing a white person, it wasn’t good to protest if you thought anything of your life.”

Determined not to be a farmer, Young said he learned how to fix automobiles in a little garage earning \$5 a week. That training paid off when he was drafted into the army. By then he had almost three years experience in auto mechanics and was assigned to motor pool, where he worked and trained others to work with Jeeps and trucks.

“That \$5 an hour job that gave me experience proved very beneficial because for almost 4 years, I would go to work and work 8 hours and be off. Almost like a civilian job. That little \$5 an hour job caused me to have a good life in the army” Young stated.

In 1944, while still in the army, Young became sick and spent nine months in the hospital recuperating. He said he has often wondered if it was God’s way of keeping him from the battlefield. Young then met and married his wife after the army and shortly move to the south side of Chicago in 1947. With his auto mechanic skills at hand, he was hired at a used car dealership on Chicago Ave. and Western, and a year later bought his own garage on 67<sup>th</sup> and Rowe.

Young said he went back to Arkansas in 1949 to help his relatives with the farm they now owned. He then came back to Chicago in 1954 and moved to the North Lawndale house he owns today. Young is currently working with Toastmasters, an organization that helps people present speeches. His first presentation in front of an audience will be on the first Wednesday in May, in the old Sears building.

*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).*

**Single Parenting, The Effects And How You Can Get Assistance**

Monique Johnson

Parenting is a really big challenge for most people to take on. Raising a child takes a lot of time, work, patience, as well as mental, financial and physical stability. When one parent is absent from a child’s life not only is it harmful towards the child, but can take a toll on the single parent left with the responsibilities.

Caseworker Clara of HRDI says,” It’s important that you ask for help, you could be neglecting yourself from useful information. Human resources can provide you with all types of information, from home day cares to dental assistance, as well as medical assistance.”

Developing a plan is a really good way to start the process of making things work in your best interest. Group up with people in your communities to find out more information, for example, other young mothers, or older women with children. Single parenting whether man or woman, can get very expensive. As a parent you have to consider everything, from a comfortable doctor, a great pediatrician, diapers, milk, child care, and even personal goals you would like to create for yourself

“It can be very overwhelming,” says Joanne Anderson, single mother of four. “Remember a child has to eat. You can’t starve and neither can that child.” A child totally depends on you, and with no experience it can be a drastic change.”

It is also important to find some time for yourself. Christiana Henson, a representative at Planned Parenthood said “Yes, you child should be your first priority, however a parent must make time to continue to have some semblance of a regular life before stress builds in, which can have a serious negative impact.”

Nowadays doctors are reporting more cases of post partum depression. Post Partum is a form of major depression that affects women and even men. Dr. Roman Plainfield from Mt. Siani Medical said “Post Partum can cause parents to have negative remembrance about the birth, leading to nightmares and detachment from the child. It can however be prevented with through parental counseling as well as better and more healthy living” There are so many others things that can affect each and every woman with a child differently. It’s also really important for a single parent to keep their own health in check. A child cannot survive with out a parent so try to become more of a healthy individual.

It should also be taken into account that according to the US Census Bureau 30% of single parents are men. More and more men are raising children on their own and it too, can be a tough experience for males. “I do the best I can to monitor my children as well as work. It can be a bit of a battle but I managed to pull it off.” Said Kenneth Wright, single father of two boys and a girl. “I know I have to play the role of stern figure and provider but also make sure my kids, especially my daughter get the guidance that she would normally seek from her mother.” Single parenting is a tough job but also a job that can be extremely rewarding and memorable. One parent is obviously better than being stuck in the system and with the proper dedication to parenthood, a single mother or father can still be instrumental in raising a child to extraordinary heights.

If you would like more information about becoming the best parent you could be, please contact the Department of Human Services office as well as the Planned Parenthood in your location.



# THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS'

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**THE GREATER GARFIELD PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS MILLENNIUM MOTHER'S CELEBRAT MOTHER'S DAY** Sunday, May 13, 2007 at the Garfield Park Conservatory 1pm-5pm Catered luncheon, fashions by A.J. Fashions, music by Yusef Murphy, and special awards ceremony for tickets call 773/826-9270 \$40per person

**FREE PROM DRESSES FOR LOW-INCOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS** Any low-income high school junior or senior is eligible to receive a free gently used prom dress through the Glass Slipper Project, a nonprofit organization. Girls can go to "Boutique" days from 8AM until 3PM on April 21st, April 28th and May 5th at Farren High School, located at 5055 S. State Street (NE corner of 51st and State). Girls just need to be enrolled in any high school as a current junior or senior, and they need to bring a current, valid school ID. No need to sign up; just show up! For more info, visit [www.glassslipperproject.org](http://www.glassslipperproject.org)

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

### CD from page 5

Happy Day". The closest Tankard comes is his rendition of "I Came to the Garden Alone" and the choir support on his keyboard version of the Al Green hit, "Everything Is Gonna Be Alright".

Still, Tankard registers a potential crossover for a general "smooth jazz format with his version of the Maze featuring Frankie Beverly hit, "Before I Let Go" that is simpler yet catchy. Tankard's "Let's Get Quiet" is engaging enough but it lacks enough artistic adventure in its song choices and production. It's pleasurable but it's not refined enough to reflect the musical distinction that it calms to represent. Even though it might grow a little on some less-discriminating listeners

**Choice Selections:** "Let's Get Quiet", "Before I Let Go",

*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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### April 25 Black Facts



Chuck Cooper

\* On this date in 1950, Charles "Chuck" Cooper was the first African-American player ever drafted by an NBA team. Cooper was selected by the Boston Celtics.

\* On this date in 1972, Major General Frederick E. Davidson became the

first African-American to lead an Army Division.

\* On this date in 1944, The United Negro College Fund was founded by 27 member black colleges and universities.

\* On this date in 1960, the Memphis federal court passed a consent judgment that ended restrictions barring voters in Fayette County, Tennessee. This was the first voting rights case under the Civil Rights Act of 1957.

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### 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.

#### Clinic closures

- **Hayes Health Center of Cook County**  
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(773) 268-4305
- **Westside Health Center of Cook County**  
3410 West Van Buren, Chicago, Illinois 60624  
(773) 265-2800
- **Northside Health Center of Cook County (Thorek)**  
850 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60613  
(773) 975-3262
- **Austin/PATH Adolescent Health Center of Cook County**  
231 North Pine Street Rm. #133B, Chicago, Illinois 60644  
(773) 854-3827
- **Beethoven Child Health Center of Cook County**  
25 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street Rm. #133, Chicago, Illinois 60609, (773) 536-5700
- **Bond Health Center of Cook County**  
7050 South May Street, Chicago, Illinois 60621, (773) 723-3766
- **DuSable Adolescent Health Center of Cook County**  
4934 South Wabash Avenue Rm. #165, Chicago, Illinois 60615  
(773) 548-3208
- **Morton East Adolescent Health Center of Cook County**  
2423 South Austin Boulevard, Cicero, Illinois 60804, (708) 656-1130

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# Money Smart Week in Chicago

K.L.Gillespie

April 30th through May fifth is Money Smart Week in Chicago. Money Smart Week focuses on helping people manage their personal finances. The concept was created 6 years ago by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago as a way to promote financial literacy.

“As a central bank, we felt we should be leaders at helping individuals as well with their personal finances. Essentially it helps the economy overall. If people are making good decisions about their money its probably contributing to the economy in a positive way,” said Alejo Torres, senior outreach program manager for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

As financial products became more and more complex, the Feds considered it significant not to add a new program to the market, but to educate people on how to use existing products and understand information already available.

“We decided to create Money Smart week which would highlight all of these services and programs in the community and kind of galvanize the community around the topic that financial education is important, that managing your personal finances is important”, said Torres. “It raises awareness of the overall concept and it delivers because there’s content. There are classes, seminars and activities that people can attend for free and they don’t have to worry about being sold products and services.”

The Federal Reserve partners with numerous organizations to plan and facilitate the events surrounding Money Smart Week. Included are financial institutions, government agencies, not for profits, and educational institutions. Based on expertise, partners decide on which topics they will present to the public.

The first campaign in 2002 began with 40 organizations and 40 programs, but these numbers have increased as the program has built momentum and more and more people have expressed interest in contributing their efforts to its success.

Today, the campaign has close to 200 partners and over 300 educational events. Attendance has also risen in the past two years, increasing from approximately 11,000 people in 2005 to about 12,000 in 2006. The success of Money Smart Week has also extended beyond Chicago, as it now has a presence in Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa.

The Money Smart workshops are inclusive and are geared toward every demographic. “Everyone at every stage in life can learn more about money. So we tell our partners, whatever your target markets are, and whoever you want to reach during the week, do so. The result is a very diverse package of classes and activities”, said Torres.

This year the focus has also been on expanding the events offered to the Latino community and to have more activities for children. To get them more involved, a key component of the campaign is to have a money smart kid essay contest which is designed to promote financial literacy among young people. There are also a host of seminars for youth on credit issues, college planning, and money management.

Educational classes and seminars are offered throughout the day at various locations across the Chicagoland area. One organization in North Lawndale, The Homan Square Community Center, will also be participating and hosting an event on ‘Money Matters: The Basics of Banking Services, Budgeting, and Saving.’ This event is open to the public and will take place on May second from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

As for the success of Money Smart Week, Torres says that properly promoting the event and encouraging people to attend is important. “The goal is to not only build awareness but to get people to come out to the programs so they can get the information they need and hopefully change their behavior. Ultimately, change of behavior is really what we are trying to get people to do. That’s hard to track, but we think it’s important,” said Torres.

For a schedule of events, visit [www.moneysmartweek.org/chicago](http://www.moneysmartweek.org/chicago)

*Katherine Gillespie is NLCN's Financial Columnist. She is a North Lawndale resident and she has an MBA from the Illinois Institute of Technology. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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