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

DIXON AND SUPPORTERS SPEAK OUT ON 24TH WARD ELECTION RUNOFF

James Glover



Sharon Dixon

As the community is becoming more divided over the April 17th runoff election between incumbent 24th Ald. Michael Chandler and challenger Sharon Dixon, Dixon and her supporters are campaigning to make sure that residents make an informed decision for the election.

"The community needs to be able to make decisions and misleading information isn't going to help them do that." Said Dixon

Dixon disputes the fact that Alderman Chandler in a recent advertisement has 55 percent of the vote. "That was quite misleading for him to put that in an ad." Said Dixon "No one truly knows for sure if the same people that voted for Worthy and Patterson will vote for Chandler. If they wanted to support Chandler they would've voted for him in the first place and we wouldn't be having a runoff."

Chandler isn't the only person with support from former Alderman candidates. Willie Brooks, who also ran in the

February 27th election, receiving almost three percent of the vote, has pledged her support to Dixon. She held her fundraiser for Dixon and is doing what she can to make sure Dixon becomes the new Alderman of the 24th Ward.

"We need someone who is going to change the culture of the community." Said Brooks

"The same leadership for the past decade obviously has not worked and I feel Sharon can carry us as a ward in a new direction. She definitely has my support."

See Dixon page 8

BETTER LIFE FOR YOUTH EMBARK ON COLLEGE TOUR



Better Life for Youth Teens, BLYF staff and chaparones aboard a Naomi Coach Bus prepare for the long drive to the New Orleans Area Colleges

Last year at this time, teens in the Better Life for Youth program set out for Historically Black Colleges in the area of Atlanta

Georgia. This year, they are headed for New Orleans and the colleges in the surrounding area.

About 34 youth are currently in



Better Life for Youth, Executive Director Eugene Wolf with teen Jasmine in the middle and relative.

New Orleans visiting colleges but they are also visiting the area devastated by the Katrina hurricane in August of 2005. So along with

perusing colleges this group of youth will get an eyewitness of some of the destruction and the

See College page 6

CHRIS GARDNER DISCUSSES HIS "PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS" WITH 600 CPS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Chris Gardner, whose life and book inspired the movie "The Pursuit of Happyness," joined Chicago Board of Education President Rufus Williams to discuss achievement and success with hundreds of high school students on Friday at Crane High School, 2245 W. Jackson.

In the second installment of the Real Men Read Speaker Series, Gardner, who rose from being a homeless single parent in San Francisco to CEO of Gardner Rich & Company, encouraged students to pursue their dreams while working hard for academic success.

"Chris Gardner knows what it is like to struggle for success," Williams said. "He has overcome quite a few obstacles in his personal life by working hard, never giving up and setting goals. This led to not only his success, but his happiness."

Gardner addressed more than 600 achievement academy students from eight schools, who had first studied his book and screened the movie. An Achievement Academy is a two-year secondary school program developed for over-aged students who have not met the promotion criteria to enter high school.

The programs, a collaborative effort between Chicago Public Schools and Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, Maryland, are located in eight existing high schools: Chicago Vocational Career Academy, Clemente, Crane, Englewood, Fenger, Robeson, Senn and Tilden.

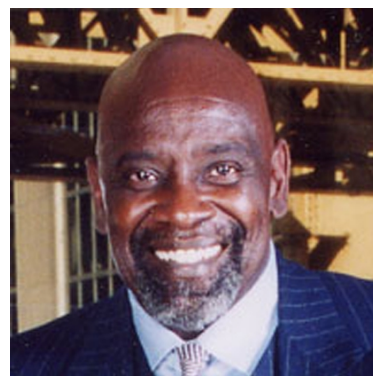
"Though our reading and math scores are improving, not every school and not every student has experienced the same measure of success," Williams said. "The achievement academies are designed to give

students who struggle the extra support they need to succeed."

Real Men Read, which is sponsored by Chase, hosted its third reading day Tuesday, when nearly 300 male volunteers read assigned books and led discussions with more than 7,000 students at 39 elementary schools, primarily in the North Lawndale, South Lawndale and Englewood neighborhoods.

The program, designed to show students that men value education, also is aimed at encouraging community partnerships with schools. Volunteers read to boys and girls in second, fifth, and seventh grades for one hour, once a month, in the hopes that longer lasting school-community partnerships will develop.

In January actor, author and scholar Hill Harper of "CSI: NY" launched the Real Men Read program



Chris Gardner

with a discussion of his book, "Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny."

Williams urges anyone interested in becoming part of Real Men Read to call 773.553.BOOK (2665) or send an email to realmenread@cps.k12.il.us. For more information about Real Men Read, visit www.cps.k12.il.us.

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Visit us on our website at www.nlcen.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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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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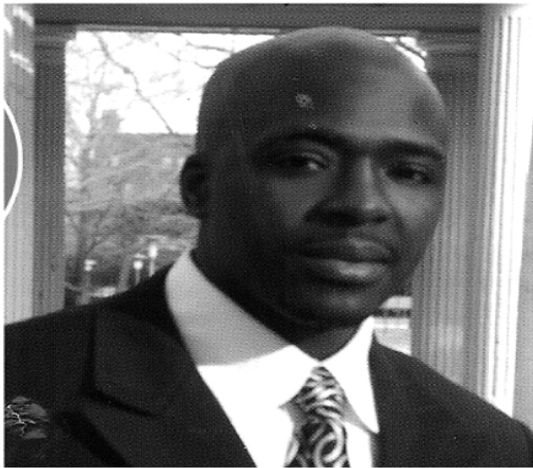
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# On April 17, 2007 Re-Elect Michael D. Chandler

**Alderman, 24<sup>th</sup> Ward**



**Update: Endorsements**  
I am proud and Honored to accept the endorsements of these individuals. Our Support for this Special Aldermanic Run-off continues to grow and climb beyond 60%.



**Mark Carter  
endorsed Mike**

## This is My Platform

Alderman Michael D. Chandler is a life-long resident of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward. He has been the Alderman of that ward for 12 years. Over the past 12 years, we have worked hard to create job opportunities, eliminate barriers, and create a sense of safety and provide opportunities for our residents. We have been successful in many cases, but we have our work cut out for us. We will continue to move forward on this path. There are three major issues impacting the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward:

- Affordable Housing
- Economic Development
- Environment/Safety & Security

### **Affordable Housing**

I strongly believe in encouraging personal investment in the community for a feeling of true



**Thomas Worthy  
endorsed Mike**

ownership. We work hard at encouraging personal investment in the community so that people will feel a sense of pride and true ownership. I prepared the ordinance that initially raised the ANLAP ceiling from 10,000 dollars to 20,000, which thankfully allowed more residents to buy city-owned vacant lots under that program. I am a strong supporter of affordable housing programs, especially those programs that will create and maintain stable communities. Some of my housing initiatives include:

- Supported and Facilitated over 4,000 housing units to be built, rehabbed or redeveloped in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward, worth more than 100 million dollars
- Working on over 4,000 housing unit pipeline projects, totally over 130 million dollars
- Engaged in housing and economic development project with Congressman Danny K. Davis, national housing financial institutions Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to develop an additional thousand housing units on vacant lots
- Working on Dr. Martin L. King Housing Development Project which will create affordable housing units at the site where Dr. King lived while in Chicago

### **Economic Development**

A combination of housing activity with economic development activity will stimulate much-needed jobs in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward. I closely monitor these activities so that we can make sure that the people who live here can benefit from this exciting activity through job opportunities, homeownership, and small business development.

- Working with TIF and Empowerment Zone initiatives, have spurred economic development in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward.
- Advocated for and secured a new fire house and police station in the ward which instilled stability and safety in the ward.
- Paved the way for several banks to locate branches in the ward, a Starbucks, and other economic anchors including Dominicks and Cineplex Theatres
- Working on a business complex in the ward
- Working on a 9 hole Golf Course open to the public in Douglas Park
- Production Studio at Kostner & Roosevelt Road

### **Environment Safety and Security**

We are proud of our new police and fire stations which are public safety anchors in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward. I have worked to improve city services with new sidewalks, alleys, and street and light fixtures along the major streets in the community. I work with community organizations to promote award winning



**Don Patterson  
Endorsed Mike**

community gardens and beautiful green space utilized by block clubs and city-wide groups. Our parks are also improving. The existing parks have undergone major and expansive renovations. Several new parks have been created including the state of the art park district facility at Homan and Arthington, and three new parks are available for community residents.

### **Public Facilities:**

- New Police Station
- New Fire Station
- New State of the Art Park District Facility
- Three New parks at Homan & St. Louis 13<sup>th</sup> & St. Louis and 19<sup>th</sup> & St. Louis.
- New Olympic size swimming pool in the pipeline

## To Your Health

# THE I-H SYNDROME: Why do Black American Teens and young Adults use Marijuana? Part 2 of 4



Julius Goodman

Tracking behavior attitudes is important because changes in attitudes drive changes in drug use. Glorification of drug use by music groups (especially rap groups), television, and movies and a drop in anti-drug information in the media have resulted in a change in attitudes in the last 10 years.

Public debate about the legalization of drugs is sending the wrong message to youth. Survey results indicate that 40 percent of youth are hearing; "more and more talk about

legalizing marijuana".

Many black teenagers and young adults said in interviews that they were lured to cigarettes by friends who told them that nicotine would enhance their high from marijuana which had been part of drug user's lore for decades. And this is apparently no mere myth.

"Many scientists who study brain chemistry say the link between cigarettes and African American youth talk very explicitly about using smoking to maintain a marijuana

high," said Robin Mermelstein, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the principal investigator in a study of why teenagers smoke completed for the federal Centers for disease Control and Prevention.

According to a national survey, Black teenagers begin smoking cigarettes later than white teenagers, but black teenagers start using marijuana earlier than white teenagers.

The hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are when teens are most vulnerable and most likely to get into trouble, Your kids need to be involved

in extracurricular or out-of-school programs, supervised by competent, responsible, adults. While you can not physically be with your teens 24/7 and constant monitoring might be challenging because of your responsibilities outside the home or are a single parent, engaging your kids in positive after school activities provides both of you with options.

Research shows that there is a link between effective monitoring and drug prevention.

When teen-agers are monitored, they are

See IH page 15

## Etiquette for Communicating with People with disabilities

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Michael DeStefano is a case manager with El Valor 1821 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St. El Valor was founded in 1973 by the late Guadalupe Reyes after doctors advised her to institutionalize her son. She started a support group in a church basement for parents who had children with developmental disabilities.

"From there it grew into a very large not for profit organization that serves children, families, and individuals with disabilities," said DeStefano.

He manages CILA (community integrated living arrangements) for adults who have developmental disabilities. "It's a residential home in the community that can hold a maximum of 8 individuals. We have staff there 24 hours a day to assist these individuals with whatever they need assistance with and to help integrate them into their community environment."

DeStefano said 30 years ago a physician might have advised a parent who had a child with down syndrome to institutionalize her child, but things have changed since then.

"Many states have completely dismantled their institutions so that people who have various needs are in their community receiving the support they need," he said.

He said it's important for the general public to know that the term mental retardation has a negative connotation to it and should not be used.

"When you describe somebody who has a developmental disability or a mental illness it is preferred to say 'a person with a mental illness or a person with a disability' as opposed to saying 'a mentally retarded person or a disabled person,'" he said.

The general public might assume that people with developmental disabilities need the constant care of parents and family to take care of them. "I don't know of anyone who doesn't want to live independently because that's what we all do," said DeStefano.

"Everybody becomes an adult and wants to become more independent. They want to have their own place to live, want to get married; they want to have a family, all of these things. That's just human nature." DeStefano is the coordinator of two CILA homes

Many people without obvious disabilities make etiquette mistakes when communicating with people who have disabilities. Allen T. Bergman is CEO of Anixter Center, an organization that assists people who have disabilities to live and work successfully in the community. He has listed online right and wrong things to do and say, when communicating with people who have disabilities.

"Appropriate terminology for people with disabilities begins with always putting the person first... Avoid using terms such as 'wheelchair-bound' and 'confined to a wheelchair'. Instead, say, 'uses a wheelchair'."

Other terms to avoid are birth defect, crippled, deformed, handicapped, lame, and retarded.

Examples of things you should not do include, 'don't patronize a person by patting him on his head or shoulder. Don't take it upon yourself to push a person's wheelchair if they don't ask you to. It's okay to offer your assistance to a person with a disability, but when offering assistance, wait until the offer is accepted, and then ask for instructions. Don't be offended if your offer is declined.

When communicating with a person with hearing loss, don't over articulate, and don't raise your voice unless you are asked to. If a person does not understand what you are saying, rephrase the words instead of repeating the same words over. Don't shout.

When introduced to a person who is visually impaired, if she does not extend her hand, just say hello. Don't grab her hand to shake it. Always speak in a normal tone of voice. Don't speak loudly.

When communicating with people who have speech

See Etiquette page 8

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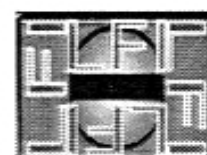
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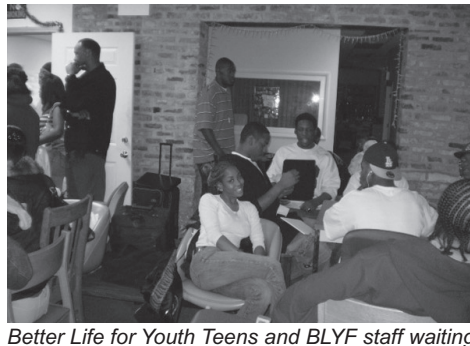
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## EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING

## From College page 1



Better Life for Youth Teens loading the bus, while parents wait for the departure



Better Life for Youth Teens and BLYF staff waiting on bus for College Tour at District meeting office of Illinois State Senator Rickey Hendon

rebuilding that is underway.

Said Executive Director, Eugene Wolf, "We have been doing this tour for a long time and this is a good group of kids." Some of the kids already have been accepted by some

of the colleges. "One of the youth came up to us late in the program and said that they had been accepted and did not have a way to visit the college and pleaded for a chance to go on

See College page 13

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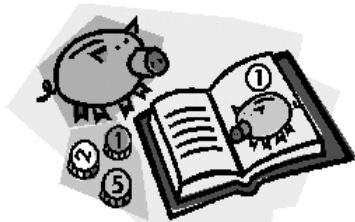


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## SPIRITUAL LIFE

**WORD-UP: All You Know Is The Bible**

Calvin C. Crayton

"All you know is the Bible." My nephew spoke these words to me during a heated discussion and it dawned on me; that's a good thing. Now I'll be the First to admit that knowing the Bible won't keep me out of hell (be you doers of the word) but I figure I stand a much better chance of avoiding hell by knowing God's word than by not knowing God's word. It's like two people both leaving Chicago going to California with a map that shows them The Way (not a way but The Way meaning there is no other way to get there but The Way the map shows).

For illustration purposes let's consider Chicago earth and California heaven all other places are hell which Chicago becomes for anyone who decides they aren't going to leave. Now our map is the Bible and not only does it show us The Way to go but it also gives us specific instructions on how to follow it.

For example Deuteronomy 4:2 states: Ye shall not add unto the word which I give you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that you may keep the commandments of The Lord your God.

I won't write all the instructions word for word but a brief overview Joshua 1 lets us know to be strong and have courage, and to study and meditate day and night, Proverbs 3 tells us to lean not on our own understanding but to acknowledge him in all our ways, Proverbs 30:5-6 warns us again not to add to God's word. 1 Corinthians 4:6 states not to think of men past what is written (I have yet

to see a man called Reverend in the Bible) with that said let's travel.

The first group of people didn't believe in the map or California and felt like Chicago was their kind of town so they remained the next group of travelers started toward New York. At the same time a group started toward California we'll return to them later.

Another group got tired in Iowa and went back to Chicago. Another group got scared up in the mountains and turned back to Chicago.

The largest group of all turned out to be one of the saddest because they really believed in the map but they started adding to the map taking from the map until they began to get further and further from the map until finally they began to trade the rules of the map for the traditions of other travelers (Matthew 15:5).

This largest group of all travelers begin to meet on the first day of the week and entertain themselves and out of two hours of entertainment they would look at their maps for 10-15 minutes and then they would have these certain travelers that wore long robes (Matthew 23:5) and they called Reverend (even though Psalms 111:9 in the map said that the creator of the map's name was Holy and Reverend) stand up and tell them his or her understanding.

Thus they trusted the man more than the map and they traveled a wide road instead of the straight and narrow one and they celebrated days called Christmas and Easter

(spring goddess of fertility) and they claimed as their lord someone who died on a good Friday and rose on an Easter Sunday even though the map warned them that there would

be many false prophets and specifically told them that he would be in the belly of the earth three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40) they still called the map a lie by saying he died Friday and rose Sunday because they loved the praises of men whether than the praises of God. (John 12:43) therefore he never knew them.

The group that started toward New York looked at their map and repented and made it to California. The group that started toward California stopped reading their map and ended up in Portland. (Matthew 24:11-13) But he that shall endure to the end the same shall be saved. Remember if You Don't Read The Map You Lose The Way!! WORD-UP!!

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

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# MALCOLM X SHOWCASES “THE POCKETBOOK MONOLOGUES



Deborah Crable, National President, National Alliance of Market Developers (NAMD)



Sharon McGhee, Author and creator of The Pocket book Monologues



LaDonna Tittle, Radio Personality



Bonnie DeShong, Radio Personality

Above is a scene from “The Pocketbook Monologues” that was performed at Malcolm X College on March 28. “The Pocketbook Monologues” was written by Sharon McGhee as an adaptation of the popular “Vagina Monologues” for African-American women. The term “pocketbook” is a term used by older African-American women about the subject of sex. The play was performed by Deborah Crable,

Sharon McGhee, LaDonna Tittle and Bonnie DeShong. They depicted woman at four different stages of life: young adult, career woman, middle age and senior citizen.

The play was true to its purpose of telling often tabu stories of women experiences with their pocket books. It was after experiencing the play

that it was understood by all in the audience that the pocket book was not a purse, but actually the female sexual organ.

LaDonna Tittle performance was “hilarious” says one male member who attended the performance. “I can’t wait to see it again,” he said.

Being straight forward honest the stories told

of experiences from crack addicts, to lonely women, to experiences with men on the down-low. The play will also serve to help establish scholarships for inner-city girls.

Sharon McGhee is an award winning radio journalist, and currently a news anchor for WVON 1690.

## Chandler and Community Residents March to Stop Drug Abuse in North Lawndale

James Glover

Last Saturday Alderman Michael Chandler led of group of marchers in a campaign to “Stop The Drugs” affecting Chicago’s West Side. The march was designed to bring attention to the drugs and violence that have long been the concern of West Side residents.

“We wanted to shut down the drug spots and hangouts,” said Chandler. “It needs to be known that the community will not tolerate such behavior.”

Alongside Chandler were Commander James B. Jackson of the 11<sup>th</sup> Police District, members of Congressman Danny K. Davis staff, several local business owners and about 60 community members. Former Aldermanic candidate Mark Carter was also there.

The march started at Lexington and Kedzie and made it way through several side streets with marchers shouting in unison phrases such as “Save our sons, don’t use guns.” And other effective protest slogans. William C. Mitchell, who owns buildings in the North Lawndale area was a participant at the march and according to him, he really saw unification at the event.

“Even though it was only a small part of what is a large community, just the fact that there are people who care and want to see better, I know that we can change the community,” said Mitchell. “I’ve learned through time that small coalitions like the group of people here today can really make a positive impact in the face of negativity.”

Chandler also agreed that progress had been made, saying that the West Side march and rally showed instant results.

“A child walked up to me and said that his building was filled with both drug sellers and users. That he couldn’t even play in his area because he was afraid of being hurt. Well Commander Jackson and I showed up to the building and it cleared out. For the first time in what I can suspect was awhile, children were able to enjoy the neighborhood as we once did.”

Crystal Watts, a teenager and Manley High School student who went to the march said that she became encouraged at how people came together to show love for each other and the neighborhood. “I felt happy that we marched and came out to make it safer. My family and I came out there and the Alderman showed everyone love, talked to everyone. It was a really special event.”

Chandler was excited that youth like Crystal and others felt better.



Dr. Lincoln Scott, pastor of House of Prayer Church with 24th Ald. Michael Chandler and Commander Jackson of the 11th District Police Station speak out against drugs during march on drugs.

“We played music and dance, talked and children played games. We need to get back to that in our neighborhoods.”

While most perceive the march as a positive event, not everyone was receptive to Alderman Chandler and his people. Carol Black, a local resident on the block of St. Louis and Lexington was one of the voices that showed displeasure with the event. “This was a publicity stunt, we’re not stupid. I have been on this block for years and never have I seen him come around for no other reason than for votes. His job is in danger and now he chooses to be all people friendly?”

Chandler however states that he would be happy to help anyone put together a similar rally in any of the Lawndale neighborhoods, showing that its not about publicity but doing his job. “Anyone can feel free to contact me and my offices and put together a demonstration to increase the safety and well being of both our neighborhoods and its residents.”

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

## Dixon from front page

Dixon is being supported by various neighborhood residents. Cassandra Triplett, a student at Michelle Clark and resident of 15<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeway says that while she has nothing personal against Alderman Chandler, Sharon Dixon seems like a better choice. “She really seems like she cares for the people. She’s always out here in the neighborhood making time to speak to anyone and handling the simple issues most people ignore.” Said Triplett “I can’t vote yet but I am telling my fellow classmates that can vote, sending emails and passing out flyers. I think her in

office would bring a more positive atmosphere to the neighborhood.”

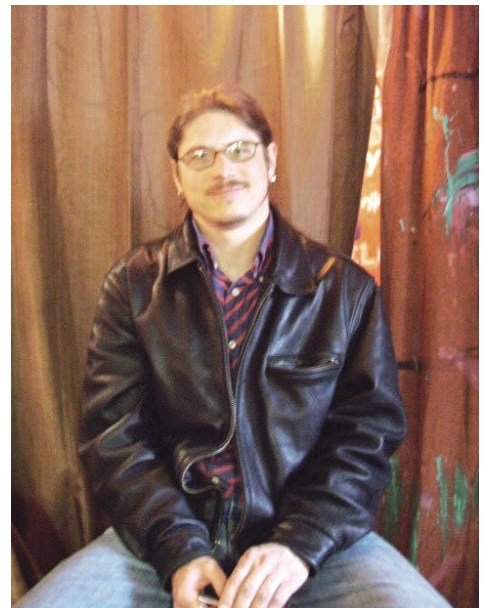
Tanell Hayes, a senior at Manley Career Academy, is also a young supporter who feels Dixon would be the most logical choice for new leadership in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward. “She spends time with us to see what meets our needs and commits herself to being for the people. Showing the dedication needed to uplift the spirits and positions of the community residents.”

While Dixon obviously has her supporters, she feels more is needed.

Recently, Dixon issued a press release challenging Chandler to two to three debates before the April 17<sup>th</sup> election. Dixon said it is important for the two to meet and discuss the real issues, however any such forums have yet to come about. When asked why she isn’t working with the Alderman’s office to arrange debates Dixon replied “If the Alderman was that accessible and willing to participate in such events, I probably wouldn’t be running.”

For now, Dixon with the help of her new campaign manager Richard Barnett and her supporters are continuing her campaign to become the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman.

## Etiquette from page 4



Michael DeStefano

impairments, don’t finish their sentences. Listen patiently. Many speech impairments become worse if the speaker feels rushed or anxious. If you display impatience through facial expressions, body language or wandering attention, you may contribute to the speaker’s difficulty. If you maintain visual contact you can use visual cues to help you understand what is being said. If you don’t understand what is being said, tell the speaker. It’s better to let her know than to dismiss her.

Shake hands with people with disabilities just as you would someone without an obvious disability. It is okay to use your left hand to shake hands when appropriate.

When addressing everyone else by his or her first name, address the person with a disability by his/her first name too.

Don’t be embarrassed to use commonly used phrases like “got to be running along, or see you later,” just because you think it relates to the person’s disability.

For more info on El Valor go to [www.elvalor.org](http://www.elvalor.org) or call 312-666-4511. For more info on Anixter Center go to [www.anixter.org](http://www.anixter.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).

# BLAGOJEVICH MORTGAGES POPULARITY WITH HOUSE BILL 4050 REVISIONS

Ben Protes



Gov. Rod Blagojevich

Politicians quickly learn you can't please all the people all the time, however, as Gov. Rod Blagojevich discovered recently, sometimes you can't please anyone at all.

Last month Blagojevich announced plans to reinstate and revise a controversial predatory lending law that requires financial counseling for certain home buyers, a move that angered the law's supporters and detractors.

The Illinois Predatory Lending Database Pilot Program, also known as House Bill 4050, originally required counseling for borrowers with credit scores below 620 in 10 predominantly minority neighborhoods on the Southwest Side of Chicago.

In January Blagojevich suspended the law after an NLCN investigative report revealed that it pushed several mortgage lenders out of the targeted ZIP codes, and that consequently real

estate sales in these areas significantly declined.

House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago), chief sponsor of the law, opposed the suspension, whereas leaders in the affected neighborhoods who complained that the pilot program amounted to redlining celebrated the governor's decision.

Blagojevich now plans to limit the scope of credit counseling while expanding the pilot area to comprise all of Cook County.

"It's critical that we get this right, and the original rules [of the program] raised enough red flags that it made sense to take a step back. [The new rules] will apply evenly to all potentially-predatory mortgages, regardless of which community the borrower lives in," Blagojevich said in a statement.

Community leaders who fought to remove their ZIP codes from the pilot area now are working to eliminate the program altogether, saying it unduly burdens potential home buyers.

"The consumer shouldn't have to be the one

going through [the counseling]. They need to go directly after the predatory lenders," said Julie Santos, co-chairman of the Coalition to Rescind House Bill 4050.

See 4050 page 10

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**Panelists: Sabrina O'Quinn (Greater Open Door M.B Church) TBA**  
**Special Thanks to: Alderman Michael D. Chandler**  
**State Representative Art Turner and Rev. Walter C. Harris**  
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# IN OPPOSITION TO STARS AND BARS

Jaira J. Harrington

I am currently attending school at Spelman College in the state of Georgia and the ethnic and racial diversity of Atlanta has been refreshing here thus far. It is easy to forget that some people in this state, and in this country for that matter, still have racial supremacist attitudes.

The Georgia Legislature recently passed a bill that would establish April as Confederate History Month. Needless to say, as an American and a black woman, I am outraged. This is my response to express my view.

Why would representatives of the state of Georgia support a legislation in 2007 that would recognize the Confederate heritage for an entire month?

Proponents argue that the confederacy

is a banner under which all Southerners can rally. Its ideals honor southern heritage and the men who fought in the Civil War.

These are unrealistic, glossy perceptions of the truth behind the Confederacy.

The Cornerstone Speech, given by Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens, declared that the Confederacy must "rest upon the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery—subordination to the superior race—is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical and moral truth."

The maxims behind the stars and bars are rooted in abject ignorance and racism. How

can any American, acknowledging the contributions and impact of Black Americans on our common history, have any pride in this movement? The Confederate States committed treason by waging war against the legitimate country of the United States and are completely unpatriotic and unapologetically Anti-American.

Contemporaneously, a number of other states disapprove of the Confederacy and have passed a legislation to condemn slave trade. Virginia apologized for its role in the slave trade last month unanimously. Maryland and Missouri are currently considering similar legislation. Albeit a symbolic message, it is in direct opposition to exhorting the tradition of the institution of slavery, which this

Confederate History Month achieves.

In such a fragile time, where national security and international tensions are so contentious, where fears of an internal uprising of terrorists are so high, why are we having this discussion? The Confederates were one of the first groups whose zealous, fanatical and seditious ideals forced them to turn away from a progressive and equal United States. Now, more than ever, this is a perfect time to unify, instead of divide.

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

# AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz

**THE HOAX (\*\*\*/1/2)** "The Hoax" shows us an ambitious man who eventually becomes consumed by the twists, turns and evolution of his own fabrication. This is a mesmerizing film that should not be missed. Drawn from actual events, Richard Gere gives one of his best screen performances in recent years portraying writer Clifford Irving, the man considered to be the "pioneer of the "white lie." Irving embellished his "creation" into a grand, public spectacle that even led to a possible after-effect on history.

In October of 1971 Clifford Irving was about to become a best seller author at McGraw-Hill publishing company. He was showered with praise by McGraw corporate executives about his new manuscript that they agreed to publish.

When suddenly, the managing editor of Life magazine, one of McGraw's subsidiary publications, sent word that he disliked Irving's book, a move that eventually killed Irving's deal with McGraw-Hill.

Desperate to salvage his association with

the publishing giant, Irving tries to stall until he comes across a magazine article about the reclusive and eccentrically weird and legendary industrialist billionaire, Howard Hughes, who was named in a lawsuit with TWA that could cut into his fortunes. Irving found a letter in the article that he manages to handwrite and duplicate.

Later when Irving finds himself being given the brush-off during a scheduled appointment with executive Andrea Tate (Hope Davis), he issued warning of an impending deal that her bosses need to jump on or lose out to rival publishers. When he returns to McGraw-Hill to meet with their board members led by Shelton Fisher (Stanley Tucci) and c.e.o Harold McGraw (John Carter), Irving uses the forged letter to represent himself as the official biographer to Howard Hughes that he's offering to McGraw-Hill.

With Hughes in the news for his impending court case, Irving is able to fool a handwriting specialist to confirm the

authenticity of the signature, which leads him to being courted by the publishing board for the manuscript rights.

Irving immediately seeks the assistance of his reluctant yet devoted friend and researcher, Dick Suskind (Alfred Molina in a strong and amusing supporting performance) to help him forge the book by stealing information and files on Hughes from the Library of Congress and the Department of Defense.

Meanwhile Irving jeopardizes his marriage to wife Edith (Marcia Gay Harden) by seeking out his ex-wife.

Then suddenly, Clifford receives a large box containing numerous files, the most eye catching of which are evidence that Hughes made loans to President Nixon among other illegal transactions.

"The Hoax" is thoroughly fascinating and richly detailed by the deception and maneuvering to the paranoia that practically takes on a life on its own.

See Flicks page 12



Richard Gere in Miramax Films' The Hoax

Economic Development

**4050** from front page

Blagojevich maintained, however, that his proposed revisions to the counseling process scrutinize lenders and their loans rather than consumers and their credit histories.

The new plan mandates counseling for first-time home buyers, those who have not purchased a home in three years and people refinancing their mortgages, regardless of their credit score, if they are considering loans with certain high-risk provisions.

Those provisions include fees exceeding five percent, pre-payment penalties, interest-only payments, partial-monthly payments resulting in negative amortization, 100 percent-financing, and adjustable-rates with a term of less than five years.

The revisions also allow borrowers to receive counseling over the phone if they reside over 50 miles from the nearest counselor or if they are confined to their homes due to medical conditions.

Santos questioned whether Blagojevich reworked the law to aid consumers or to ease

his on-going feud with Madigan, which worsened after House Bill 4050 was suspended. If Blagojevich’s decision was calculated to appease Madigan, the governor misjudged the veteran speaker.

“This is not about trying to improve a program. It’s about letting predatory lenders prey on vulnerable home buyers. It’s incredibly disappointing,” Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said.

Blagojevich claimed to open the revision process to community leaders and legislators, including Madigan, however, Santos and Brown insist they were ignored.

“There may have been an impression that we knew more, but we were left out of the process, which has been par for the course unfortunately,” Brown said. “If [Blagojevich] is confused, give him my number so he can reach me.”

Blagojevich’s proposal also has come under fire from mortgage brokers and credit counselors who doubt that the necessary infrastructure will be in place to implement counseling countywide.

“There are not sufficient enough counselors in this area to do this. They’ll be working 24 hours a day,” said Marve Stockert, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Mortgage Brokers, a certified counseling agency.

The burden will intensify if existing private counseling agencies, such as Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), do not resume counseling.

“We haven’t made a decision as to whether we’ll go back in and continue counseling,” said NHS credit counselor Mike Van Zalingen, adding that the new plan would “open some relatively sophisticated borrowers to go through counseling.” Blagojevich’s aides are confident, nonetheless, that the proposal will be feasible and successful.

“I don’t think [having enough counselors] is going to be an issue. We are prepared to deal with it,” said Blagojevich spokesman Gerardo Cardenas. “It doesn’t apply to all mortgage loans ... we are targeting loans that appear to be bad, predatory loans.”

Beginning April 6 the state will hold a 45-day public comment period, during which

anyone may request a public hearing to discuss the law. Meanwhile, Santos hopes to meet with Blagojevich to propose an amendment that would tighten state control over the lending industry.

During a second notice period, also 45 days long, the rules, and any proposed amendments, will be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR).

Madigan intends to “work with house members on [JCAR] to address our concerns,” Brown said. “We’ll look very closely at it and take the appropriate action.”

Blagojevich is adamant the new proposal will protect consumers from predatory loans, but he is willing to revise it further, according to Cardenas. “In regards to protecting home buyers in Cook County, this is a very good program. However, we are certainly open to take a look ... at any suggestions and changes,” Cardenas said.

Those who want to comment on the new rules can write to Craig Cellini, Rules Administrator, IDFP, 320 W. Washington St., Springfield, IL 62786. Comments must be submitted on or before May 21.

*Ben Protes graduated from Northwestern University in June 2006 and is working as a staff writer and assistant editor at NLCN as part of the Northwestern Public Interest Fellowship. He has worked for CBS 2 Chicago and St. Leonard’s Ministries on Chicago’s West Side. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

TRACING OF FAMILY LINEAGE TREND GAINS MOMENTUM

Mikal-Ace Ngubani

It didn’t begin with Oprah Winfrey, Al Sharpton, or even the Texas Super Bowl football player who discovered recently that his last name once belonged to a historically racist Texas town and its slave owning founder.

There seems to be a growing awareness movement among African-Americans today, to gain more of a perspective and knowledge of their family ancestral lines and its chronological ties to American history.

As a result of forensic and anthropological science, more and more African descended Americans are using the advances of modern archaeology to educate themselves. Learning wholly or in part, as to how an African based history has been systematically denied them or intentionally withheld as part of a long ago policies, to either undermine or justify the administration of social injustice.

Many of these newly enlightened elements now know as a result of documented scientific discoveries of the last fifty years, that African descended Americans had a vested stake in creating a global history, which preceded western world slavery and colonization by several thousand years. They are also aware that all of mankind, according to scientific research and study began on the continent of Africa then possibly spread throughout and across the world.

“I just want to know my history. Not ‘his-story,” said Sherrie Adjibola, an alumna of Chicago State College. “If you really think about it there’s something seriously unethical and diabolical about the providing of an altered and skewered misperception of Black history, to American born, yet African descended children, who subsequently transmit their learned mistruths to successive generations. So I’d just like to try and rectify something that has been historically incorrect in our hearts and minds and family history for over a hundred years.”

Many African-Americans believe other people should not take issue with them for changing their name to a name of cultural significance.

“Even though Shakespeare declared, “What’s in a name?” Muhammad Ali did it. So did Kareem Abul Jabbar, Chaka Khan, Ahmad Jamal, Yusef Lateef and countless others. So why should anyone have any

See Family page 14

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# THE POWER OF LANGUAGES

Kabuika Kamunga



The Vatican, some say, is a place with the highest number of multilingual people. I beg to differ. It is in Africa that you find people who easily speak numerous languages.

I speak English, French, Lingala and some Spanish. But according to Congolese standards, I am linguistically borderline illiterate. In Congo-Kinshasa (former Zaire), people easily speak at least five languages fluently. You study in French, which is the official language of the country. You speak Tshiluba with your parents because it's your tribal language. You hang out with your friends and joke in Lingala because it's cool. You learn to speak Kikongo because it's your spouse's tribal language. Finally, you learn Swahili subliminally because you hear it spoken all the times at your neighbors' house.

Think that's amazing? Try South Africa.

There are 11 official languages in South Africa: English, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Sepedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga and Afrikaans. Mingling in the streets of Johannesburg, I saw people speak to each other in a myriad of languages. At first I couldn't figure out how one individual knew just which language to use when speaking to another person he happens to be sitting next

to on a bus. The answer amazed me.

Many South Africans speak all 11 languages. They take pride in the cultural diversity of their country.

A language can save you.

Once when I was on an assignment in Mozambique, I used my not-so-fluent Spanish and a Portuguese phrase book to get by in the country where Portuguese is the official language. My efforts to speak Portuguese were welcomed and I quickly made friends; they accompanied me everywhere I went, protecting me and letting me know when it was safe for me to film and take pictures on the streets.

Some fellow journalists were not so lucky. Speaking only English, they ran into trouble with the police who gave them a hard time

and confiscated their gear. They had to get out of the country after that. I think they became a target because they were not immersed enough into the Mozambican environment.

The best way to immerse into other cultures is through languages. For me, languages are so important that the first thing I do when I get to know a child or an adult is to teach them a new language. All the children I have babysat for have learned to sing in French and my friends in college became interested in Lingala.

Think this doesn't apply to you?

The United States is a country of immigrants in which everyone, except Native Americans, have ancestors who came from elsewhere, whether from Africa or Europe. The American society is a wonderful mixture of European descents, African descents, Indians, Central and Latin Americans, Tibetans and more. At any given point, your neighbors in Chicago can speak English, Spanish, Hindi, French or many more languages. It is

up to you to either benefit from the cultural diversity of your environment or be restrained to a mono-lingual community.

Wouldn't it be great for you to speak Tibetan when the Dalai Lama comes to town?

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

## Theatre Review: Bedtime Story

Mike Cook

The play, "Bedtime stories," feed children the memories, myths and hopes of storytellers. Tales not meant for their ears, they grab anyway by sneak and stealth. These tales simmer in the Lee family pot, filling a pressure cooker with stress, frustrated ambition, enduring friendship and a complicated past that will not stay gone.

In the Louisiana Bayou of Tsehaye GERALYN Hebert's script, set years ago, James is a railroad man gone for days at a time as his wife, Mimi, becomes disillusioned and distant, unable to even fake passion. Their three children try to decipher fact from fantasy, as Grandma Lee's stories become tangled up with dreams and secrets as well. James has one goal: to make their farmland a paying proposition so he can come off the road. There are a reasons and excuses why he makes no progress.

When a storm hits, symbolizing the turmoil within the family, James dashes out on a mission he refuses to explain. His destination is a jazz club in St. Louis, Missouri to see Carmine, the

tenor saxophonist.

Cool, sophisticated, the archetype of the traveling jazzman, Carmine is a peer of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington. As they riff and reminisce, we learn of Carmine's past as a farmer.

Carmine is the worker and partner the family needs to make a go of the farm. When he enters their home, Grandma Lee's postures changes and the hard years of farming melt away. And James's wife, Mimi, recognizes him.

The play's multiple themes were well orchestrated. Playwright Hebert teamed up with Director Kamesha Jackson and Set Designer Reginald B. Wilson to create a colorful and kinetic production.

Kevin Hope energetically portrays its character James as still maturing and finding wisdom that surprises even him. Genn Jackson plays Mimi, who is disturbed about her family's future and tries to understand James. As Grandma Lee, Jeniel M. Smith balances common sense and mysticism, pondering whether real life has passed her by. Foster Williams relieves the tension as Bert, a low-key family friend and helper.

Of special interest are the delightful performances of the children: Aaya Samadhi as 13 year-old Annelise, Jamal Green as John Peter and Angel Ruffin-Goodson as Celene. Will Davis is Carmine and gives a multi-textured portrayal of an artist and troubled family man. Will Carmine be able to come to term with his life when he meets James?

Bedtime Story is presented by eta Creative Arts Foundation, inc.. At 7558 S. South Chicago Avenue, the play will run thru April 8<sup>th</sup>. Show times are 8 PM Thursday thru Saturday with 3 and 7 PM performances on Sundays. General admission is \$25, with 2 for 1 ticketing on Thursdays and Sundays. Phone: (773) 752-3955; Fax: (773) 752-8729; [www.etacreativearts.org](http://www.etacreativearts.org).

*Mike Cook is a North Lawndale resident and NLCN's theatre critic. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

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WHAT IT IZ IN THE BIZ

*It's no business like someone else business in show business!*

Melanie (Scary Spice) Brown gave birth to a little girl Tuesday. Coincidentally the baby, who hasn't been named yet, shares the same birthday as the alleged father, Eddie Murphy. A paternity test should be in the works, so get ready Eddie and Tracie. He is denying the child and has been since the beginning. The paternity of the new baby, however, is in question. Brown has said her ex-boyfriend, Eddie Murphy – who shares a birthday with the infant and turned 46 on Tuesday – is the father, but he has questioned that claim. “I don't know whose child that is until it comes out and has a blood test,” Murphy said on a Dutch TV show in December when asked about impending fatherhood. “You shouldn't jump to conclusions, sir.” I sure will keep you updated on the results of that paternity test and also the name of the baby who is now known as Baby Brown.

Remember the recent attack against a

child from rapper Tony Yayo and the G Unit crew that I wrote about? Well some people are fed up with the scary tactics G Unit is doing. Monday Rev. Al Sharpton and the mother of the 14 year old held, Cynthia Reed, a press conference calling for action against the recent acts of violence. Also present was the family of Israel Ramirez, the Bustah Rhymes' bodyguard who was killed. Sharpton is calling for both parties, 50 Cent and the Game to call their beef a truce. Tony Yayo is already charged with assault and endangering the welfare of a child. 50 claims he was not in New York at the time of the incident and released this statement: “As CEO of G-Unit Records, I take allegations swirling in the media regarding the alleged altercation against a teenage boy on Tuesday Mar. 20 in Manhattan very seriously,” 50 Cent said. “I have authorized an independent investigation of the incident to determine whether anyone associated with G-Unit Records was involved in the confrontation. I must state for the record, that I was at my home in Farmington,

Marquita Ware



Rally against G Unit for recent attack on 14 year old. The marcher wore Ban 50 t-shirts and cut up G Unit shirts

Connecticut the entire day completing songs for my new album.” 50 also said that attempts to falsely link him to the incident would result in legal ramifications. We will see where this leads.

QUICKIES:

Oscar winners Jennifer Hudson and Forest Whittaker are going to be doing a movie together. The movie entitled Winged

Creatures is now shooting in L.A. Hudson will be playing Whitakers daughter in her role. They are joined by Kate Beckinsdale, Dakota Fanning, Guy Pearce, Jackie Earle Haley, Jeanne Tripplehorn, and Embeth Davidtz.

A London based woman is claiming to be the mother of Michael Jackson's kids. She says his ex wife is not the biological mother and DNA will determine that. I am not going to go in depth about this because who cares.

www.concreteloop.com  
www.mtvnews.com www.bet.com

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

BULLS QUIETLY MAKE IT INTO NBA PLAYOFFS

Todd Thomas

The Chicago Bulls are quietly having a quality season in the NBA. They are currently 43-31 and have clinched an Eastern Conference playoff spot. With seven games remaining in the regular season they trail the Cleveland Cavaliers (44-29) by .5 games for the second seed in the Central Division.

The seeding is pivotal position because it would all but guarantee that the Bulls won't have to play the defending champion Miami Heat or the Detroit Pistons in the first round of the playoffs. Cleveland is their main adversary for the seed and a recent game against them was a great opportunity to see how the Bulls will play in the postseason.

In the first quarter the Bulls shot well from the field and pulled ahead looking very comfortable as Ben Gordon (eight

points) and Tyrus Thomas (12 points) opened up the scoring. Thomas has been playing more because of the injury to Andres Nocioni and he's shown improvement. He is a high flyer and he scored all of his points in the quarter on slam dunks. Lebron James, Cleveland's All-Star guard, wasn't a factor early on and his teammates were neutralized by the Bulls' defense and they led 30-26 after one quarter.

Early in the second quarter the Bulls lost their defensive energy and Cleveland took advantage of it. James scored nine quick points on an array of difficult moves and Bulls Coach Scott Skiles started to seethe on the bench. After a timeout the Bulls regained some of their momentum and Gordon and Thomas continued to score. Godon had 16 points and Thomas had 14 at the end of the first half.

In the third quarter Kirk Hinrich got into

the swing of things and an early three-pointer put the Bulls ahead 65-63. The Bulls are a better team when Hinrich gets on a roll, but in this game the they also needed Luol Deng to score (11 points on 5-of 14 shooting) but he couldn't get on track and wasn't a factor in the game. The Cavaliers were not playing that well overall but Lebron James shouldered most of the burden for them and when he started to exert his will on the court it spelled trouble for Chicago.

The fourth quarter was a slugfest and it came down to last second opportunities for the Bulls. Ben Gordon could not make it happen and he missed a shot and turned the ball over in the final 30 seconds, leading to a 100-100 tie and overtime.

In overtime, “King” James took over and scored five decisive points down the stretch. His dominance and Gordon's last minute

miscues spoiled any chance for the Bulls to pull ahead with best record in the division. This sets up a coming week where every game will be critical for them in the fight for playoff position.

This game against Cleveland illustrated several important facts about the Chicago Bulls team: 1.They are in trouble when they have to rely too heavily on Ben Gordon. 2. They must maintain defensive energy to be effective. 3. The play of Loul Deng is key. 4. Kirk Hinrich has to focus and play up to his potential. If they do these things and get a little playoff luck they have a good chance to have a competitive postseason.

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

Flicks from page 9



Nia Long, Ice Cube, Aleisha Allen and Philip Bolden in Sony Pictures' Are We Done Yet? - 2007

Quite a cinematic departure and achievement for director Lasse Hallstrom , best known for such scenic and human dramas as “An Unfinished life” and “The Cider House Rules.” Hallstrom weaves his characters well through this intricate story without bogging it down with any political angles or conspiracy theories.

Clearly, this is the story of how one man's creation turned into an obsession that got the better of him, but still could have had an after-shock-effect on certain real life, political incidents during the 70's.

Oh, for those good old days when the only fear came from within. R; 106min. A Miramax Films Release – Presented at selected theaters  
**ARE WE DONE YET? (\*\*)** Even if

this movie sequel to the 2005's “Are We There Yet?” attempts to be an “urbanized to mainstream” rendition of the 1948 RKO Picture, “Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House” Beyond this film's ethnic visibility, “Are We Done Yet” is a standard family-friendly movie affair that structurally may based its premise on the aforementioned original film that this movie here has revamped and feels closer to the 1986 yuppie version with Tom Hanks and Shelly Long in “The Money Pit” and even Richard Pryor's 1988 strained comedic effort, “Moving”.

Now since Ice Cube, whose action hero career has staled after replacing Vin Diesel in “XXX: State of the Union” continues to try to re-invents himself in this role originated by Cary Grant as an accident prone, inept ‘family man’.

Picking up from “Are We There Yet” conclusion; Ice Cube plays Nick Persons marries Suzanne (Nia Long) and takes on the inexperienced. And sometimes overbearing role of a strict step father to her two children, Lindsay () Aleisha Allen) and Kevin (Phillip Daniel Bolden) who thankfully have settled down from being the smart-ass mischief makers they were in the original.

Nick has also sold his sports store

business to pursuit his other dream – publishing a sports magazine for a group of investors awaiting his prototype that includes his interview with basketball great ( and movie theatre mogul) Earvin :”Magic” Johnson who appears later in a cameo bit.

But trying to lift-off a new business venture and a married lifestyle in a overly crowded city apartment that is accented by Nick's burst of clumsiness proves to more than a strain when Suzanne announces she's pregnant with twins.

“Are We Done Yet?” is an improvement over the original because it's less than a one joke movie. The sequel seems to be better made because it has a thought process through the comedic mishaps. And the humor is not force fed; it comes off a little natural. And I guess, anything that show Ice Cube with an acting range beyond his trademark “gangsta” stare and upper lip snarl is a move in the right direction even if the script is routine and without much character depth.

PG-13; 85min. A Columbia Picture Release – presented at selected theaters

**THE REAPING (\*\*)** Just in time for Holy Week, there is this contrived and routine horror movie that incorporates the Book of Exodus glossed up with special effects to enhance its lame script. It borrows elements from “The Exorcist,” “The Omen” and “Rosemary's Baby” to help make its case for spirituality in a skeptical age, and does so by utilizing its swampy and sweaty Louisiana locales.

In this lurid tale, Hilary Swank portrays Katherine Winters, an atheist university professor who receives an early warning by a

priest (Stephen Rea) who witnesses a burst of fire on a framed photo that burns only a woman's face.

Then the priest discovers a group of photos suddenly burned the same way. When the photos are assembled by the burned markings they connect into a symbol. These photos were taken of Katherine when she did some missionary work for the priest in Sudan, where an accident led to her child's death.

Since that incident, Katherine lost her faith and conformed to a career debunking religious miracles with practical, scientific conclusions.

The reasons behind “The Reaping” are hardly practical. After all, it's really not much of a surprise when the true cult leader's identity is revealed and the second coming is closer than Katherine thinks. (Hint here without spoiling the plot!).

“The Reaping” purposely exploits the bible for a theatrical payoff with little shock and suspense or moral value in its story to occupy our time and interest. The movie is a lame excuse that becomes predictable with its open ended conclusion that suggests a sequel should be avoided (or at the very least made into a direct-to-video entry).

Failure was even more apparent when this movie's filming location was interrupted by Hurricane Katrina. Too bad, the filmmakers didn't take the hint.

R; 96min. A Warner Bros. Picture 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.nlc.org.

# LOCAL SPORTS

Todd Thomas



Phoenix Junior Nick Crawford pitches Against Manley

In local sports high schools are beginning to get serious about their spring sports and baseball, volleyball, girls softball and track and field are all in action at schools throughout the community.

Last week in baseball North Lawndale College Prep and Manley took to the field for an early season showdown. The Phoenix (1-1) on the young season defeated Manley 6-4. They have games all this week at the Gwendolyn Brooks Tournament on the south side.

In track and field North Lawndale headed downstate for the Illinois class A state indoor championships and several athletes had nice outings and placed in their events. The Phoenix had particular success in the 400-meter races: On the boys' side, Junior Marsalis Barber came in third place in the 400, and in girl's competition senior Tashannia Profit placed seventh. Profit, who also plays on the Phoenix volleyball team, is doing superbly in the classroom as well. She has won an academic scholarship to the University of Miami (Ohio) where she'll be

studying and playing sports in the coming fall. Rounding out the 400-meter finishers is sophomore Brittany Thomas who finished eighth. Marsalis Barber also placed sixth in the 200-meter dash.

The track team did well during the indoor season and posted some of the top times in North Lawndale's short history. But now comes the outdoor campaign and the push to make it to the state meet at the end of the year. Doing well at state is the main goal of coach Craig Collins.

"We're doing fine and we're on course to do well at the state meet," Collins said. "But we don't just want to make it to the state meet, we want to do well."

North Lawndale has two meets this week: April 7 at St. Ignatius 10:00am, and April 12 at Lisle at 4:00pm. They have another big meet on April 14 at Proviso East, 9:00am.

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).

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COME IN AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN PERSON.

**CHARLOTTE'S WEB (\*\*\*)** This live action- computer generated animatronics mixture provides an entertaining movie remake given the "Babe" treatment that is delivered with "radiant" appeal. While remaining faithful to the popular E.B. White's children book, Dakota Fanning provides the initial human concern as the farm girl who makes a pet out of a piglet bound for slaughter.

As Wilber grows bigger and is relocated to a relative's larger farm with a barnyard full of animal neighbors with an all-star vocal cast that includes a married goose couple (Oprah Winfrey and Cedric the Entertainer), a fainting horse (Robert Redford) and a temperamental rat (Steve Buscemi).

The shy pig, Wilbur is befriended by an articulate and artistic spider (Julia Roberts). The spider that creates word written webs helps the spring pig survive and strive beyond the first snow of winter, in this charming, contemporary tale of friendship and salvation that is full of wit, humor and wonder. G; 96min. Paramount Home Video

**JUMP IN! (\*\*1/2)** Jump in is an energetic coming-of-age drama about a Brooklyn teenager (Corbin Bleu). His father tries to influence him into becoming a champion boxer. Suddenly the teen finds his true calling while facing personal and moral obstacles.

His neighbor's daughter (Chicago native Keke Palmer of "Akeelah and the Bee") asks for his assistance. She wanted him to be her substitute as a jumper on her Double Dutch team for the city championship. This cable TV made movie doesn't skip its beat, but it shows how important in life, love and



Corbin Bleu and KeKe Palmer in Jump In

rivalry are in order to find your own groove. G; 85min. Walt Disney Home Video

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD (\*\*\*)** Matt Damon stars in this intricate drama about a college graduate's career development that's instrumental in the tumultuous early history of the CIA. Director Robert De Niro creates a "world within a world" where Damon's character knows the importance and value in secrecy and deception. Work then begins to interfere with his personal life. His son overhears his meeting with a KGB agent.

The agent attempting to warn the father, that his son's girlfriend is a KGB operative. A movie full of interesting elements and drama, which is tough and serious minded, in director De Niro's depiction of the birth of government security. R; 166min. Universal Home Video

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).

## APRIL 4 BLACK FACTS



Blues Musician Muddy Waters

\* On this date in 1915, Blues musician Muddy Waters was born in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Waters, who moved to Chicago in 1943, is considered the "Father of Chicago Blues."

\* On this date in 1968, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. His death sparked riots in Chicago and other cities across the United States.

\* On this date in 1942, Richard Parsons of Dime Savings Bank was born. Parsons was the first African-American CEO of a non minority U.S. financial institution.

\* On this date in 1928, poet Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri. During her career Angelou was a poet, author, historian, song writer, playwright, dancer and civil rights activist.

## From College page 6



Things got emotional as families start saying goodbyes for the BLYF college tour.

this tour,"said Wolf. Better Life for Youth made a way for this teen to go on the tour.

BLYF held several fundraisers along with  
See College page 16

# THE PARENT CONNECTION: *Baby Mama/ Daddy Drama Does Not Excuse Me From Parental Responsibility!*



Stanley G. Buford

In my new book *Not All Teachers Are Parents, But All Parents Are Teachers!* My focus in chapter one is specifically: **The Case For Parenting Classes.** All children are the result of a union between male and female, and as statistics prove, most problems are made worse when children come to school with an objective to vent their frustrations on unsuspecting school personnel. In my after school mentoring program "From Boys to Men Network," we teach students the art of "discipline," or put another way, we help them to identify with the "Golden Rule" (Do unto others as you would have them do unto you).

This is a concept that all parents must accept and practice. It must be taught at an early age and reinforced in the school, church, community, and home environments. If parents have not learned to be good parents early on, they will become less inclined to get it right as they become "repeating parents"; this is especially true of parents that

obtain the title of *parent* too soon—commonly unwed and unequipped to deal with the complexities of life and its consequences. These facts are played out on a daily basis in the inner cities of Urban Centers in America, with little or no attention to identifying the problem before children of underprivileged children become parents themselves.

Parenting classes in some progressive churches, for example, is mandatory for all members that express an interest in marriage. Likewise, parenting classes are available, as well as family counseling, to all parents-to-be married or not. There should be no stigma attached to those who ask for it. If parents have not learned to be good parents before their child is born, they are not likely to fulfill their responsibilities when their children reach school age.

For most of them, getting their children ready for school will amount to little more than getting them dressed and on their way. The reason many pastors and community leaders don't recommend or support

"parenting classes" in my view, is that they know it will create another level of paperwork, and for many, it becomes another drain on their already-stressed financial resources. I say this from the perspective of an active parent, teacher, mentor, and former youth pastor. Parenting is probably the most time-consuming responsibility we will address in our lifetime. We must never pass it off lightly to the school systems for six hours a day.

The school's job is to work in partnership with parents not "in place" of them. Preparing a child to learn is as important as providing them with food, clothing, and shelter. The good news here is that most parents want the best for their children and see to it that their needs are met. Responsible, loving, mature parents teach their children the basic fundamentals of hygiene, proper nutrition, moral values, and the importance of a good spiritual foundation. Our mission then as parent advocates, by way of a strong church and community base, is to ensure that this process is made clear to all that knock, seek,

and ask with no qualifications placed upon those in need for at least attempting to do the right thing.

The school systems in Urban Centers across the nation should not bear the responsibility of "raising" children; that is the parents mandated duty. Educators must, however, become knowledgeable of the human capital available within these communities by being responsive to and aware of its culture, creativity, potential and contributions to society as a whole.

Stanley G. Buford is teacher/entrepreneur, author and father of 2, Terrence and Kathryn. He is a winner of the National Leadership Award in business, Executive Director of the From Boys To Men Network Foundation, Inc; and former Co President of the Oak Park based, African American Parents for Purposeful Leadership in Education (A.P.P.L.E.).

Email: [terkatinc1@aol.com](mailto:terkatinc1@aol.com) To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).

## SEEKING LOVE OVER THE INTERNET CAN BE DANGEROUS

Wendell Hutson

With all the dangers many teenagers face when meeting strangers off the Internet one might question why so many adults are doing the same thing.

That's the question Sandra Farris, a single, 39-year-old Austin resident, asked after learning she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD) from a man she had sex with after meeting him on the Internet.

"I am very insecure about my weight and I thought the Internet was the only way I could attract a man to me," she said. "Besides, I work and go to school so I have very little time to meet men in other social atmospheres."

Farris, who is 5'3 in height and 190 pounds, said she met "Robert," a college-educated businessman who lives in the South Loop off the Web site *Adult Friend Finder.com* (AFF) in November. She said they spoke on the phone for three, straight days before she agreed to meet him at his place. After eating a steak dinner he prepared and drinking some red wine while watching a movie, the pair started kissing.

"One thing led to another and before I knew it, we were in his bedroom having sex," Farris recalls. "And the sex was great. I finally felt loved. He was a very handsome man and I was fascinated that he wanted me, or so I thought."

After her one-night stand, she never heard back from him again.

"My phone calls went unanswered and he wasn't returning my e-mails either," she adds.

About a week later she noticed a discharge from her vagina and then a burning feeling when she urinated. That's when she realized something was wrong. As it turned out, she had contracted a STD called Gonorrhea.

"When the doctor came back into the room and told me this, my face fell to the floor because I was surprised that a well-groomed man like him would be passing such a disease around," Farris said.

Luckily for her it is a curable disease but now and for the rest of her life she said she must get tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, which has no cure.

But Farris is not alone. So many adults are members of adult Web sites like AFF, especially blacks, who often make up the bulk of reported STD cases each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Other adult sex sites include [Onlinebootycall.com](http://Onlinebootycall.com) and [ATL.com](http://ATL.com). It is these Web sites that allow you to post nude, graphic

photos of yourself as well as upload video clips, which can show you having sex with others. Members can e-mail each other through the site, start local sex groups and even arrange sex parties. Other popular adult Web sites like Yahoo! Personals, Blackplanet.com and Hi5.com, does not allow its members to post nude photos or upload sex videos.

Phyllis Dawson, a clinical psychologist at Howard University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., said many adults, especially black adults, suffer from low self-esteem.

"Weight has a lot to do with it when it comes to women using Web sites to meet men for adult fun or simply companionship, which could just mean phone conversations," she said. "But for men, it is often for convenience. A man working third shift (i.e. 12 midnight to 8 a.m.) may not have time to meet women during the day because they are at work and is usually home sleeping. So quite often they will either pick up a prostitute on the way to work (or after work) or use the Internet while at work to meet women."

Regardless of the reasons, having unprotected sex, especially with strangers is asking for trouble, she added.

For example, on Chicago's South Side there is a swinger's club called "The Mag Team," which recruits a lot of members from AFF. The club sponsors parties at hotels and private residences for members and their guests to come meet and have sex with others. They even provide condoms but are rarely used, according to "Mark," a married, 45-year-old restaurant manager, who is also a member of The Mag Team.

"There's nothing like the feel of skin on skin," he said. "I have been a member of both AFF and The Mag Team for three years and I love it. I have met so many wonderful women and have had every sexual fantasy fulfilled from 'threesomes' to 'gang banging' a white woman with five other men (who I didn't even know)."

Dawson adds that as long as there are people like "Mark" in the world, HIV and other STDs will remain a threat to mankind.

"Quite frankly, I think it's disgusting that adults are having unprotected sex with strangers but then preach to their kids about the importance of safe sex."

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

## Family from page 10

qualms what so ever about our disassociating ourselves from any kind of name that historically links us to our suppression as an African descended people," said Community Activist Gregory Rhassard.

In a world where names once signified ethnic origin, occupation or character such as Eric the Red or identified your parents, like 'John or Jack's son, which ultimately became 'Johnson or Jackson' and the local tailor became Taylor. Not to mention the assortment of trade names that became commonplace like Shepard, Hunter or Black-Smith. For the most part, none of those names were forcibly imposed upon any other people in history, ala Kunta Kinte and Toby in the bio-drama *Roots*, except Black people during slavery. Nor were any names or symbols of ownership branded with hot irons onto the backs of anyone else during their enslavement. This happened to the forefathers of Black people in America, names which for whatever reason, many people still

identify with today.

"A nation within a nation of people, who up until the passage of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, were not even acknowledged as American citizens, despite the fact that by that time, we had been marooned on the shores of America forever, two hundred years and participated in every military conflict the country became involved in and were the least appreciated for our efforts," Rhassard said.

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

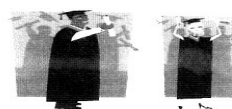
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## CHICAGO CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE SERVES EASTER MEAL TO HOMELESS

The Chicago Christian Industrial League (CCIL) is gearing up for an action-packed Easter this year.

CCIL, 2750 W. Roosevelt Road, will serve Easter brunch for homeless men, women, children, including CCIL residents and disadvantaged individuals in the North Lawndale community. The meal will take place between 9:30 a.m. and Noon on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007.

Volunteers will serve a meal of egg bake, turkey, ham, dressing, vegetables, biscuits/gravy, fruit, pastries, assorted beverages. Fun Easter festivities will also take place.

CCIL anticipates serving over 1,000 meals for Easter this year.

CCIL Executive Director Judy McIntyre comments, "CCIL works to make a positive difference in the lives of people. Each and every person affected by homelessness has reason to believe in the promises given this Easter season."

For information about volunteering for Easter brunch at the Chicago Christian Industrial League, contact Albert Tanquero at 773-435-8385.

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### IH from page 4

less likely to use marijuana or engage in other risky behaviors.

To collect data on the reason why Black American Teens and Young Adults use marijuana, I developed a survey. These questions were asked to different participants at different times (some at night and some in the daytime) in cross sections of the city.

These are the questions:

1. Do you smoke marijuana? 2. How old were you when you started? 3. How does your behavior change when you smoke marijuana? 4. Why did you start using marijuana? 5. Can you stop smoking marijuana?

"I was 10 when I first started and I have been smoking for 7 years.

Well I act the same, except things seem funnier to me. I don't know why people kill each other and say weed made them do it. I don't really know why I started smoking weed but I know I can stop," said Kebrome, 18.

"I was 12 when I started and I been smoking for 5 years. When I smoke I act goofy. I started smoking because I was stressed out. I don't think I can quit," said Tasha, 17.

"I started when I was 11. I don't know if I change behavior but I do know smoking keeps my nerves down. I started smoking because of stress. I can stop when I want to," said Brett, 17.

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

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### HELP WANTED

**THE POST OFFICE IS HIRING.** If you or someone you know might be interested, have call 1-866-999-8777. They should follow the prompts and an application will be sent to them. Or they can apply online at <http://www.usps.com/employment/>  
**COMED IS HIRING** PT Customer Svc Reps (CSR) starting at about \$20.75 per hour. email your resume to COMED (Exelon) at [EEDHRWEST@exeloncorp.com](mailto:EEDHRWEST@exeloncorp.com), place the title of the position you are applying for in the subject line.

**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.

### Legal Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, file no. D07106396 on March 9, 2007, under the Assumed Name of Maxamillion and Prostyle Marketing & Promotions with the place of business located at 2101 E.Oak Park Ave. Berwyn, IL 60402 The true name and residence address of the owners are: Antwone L. Edwards 2101 E. Oak Park Ave. & Alex McNotty 455 Rebecca Ln. Bolingbrook, IL 60440

## 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**  
4859 South Wabash, Chicago, Illinois 60615  
(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

**VISIT OUR WEBLOG AT [WWW.NLCN.ORG](http://WWW.NLCN.ORG)**

**TO COMMENT ON THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES FROM OUR NEWSPAPER**

# BETTER LIFE FOR YOUTH EMBARK ON COLLEGE TOUR

From College page 13



Teens in the BLYF program pose before launching on their 9 day excursion to New Orleans area colleges and Universities. They include Loyola University, New Orleans, Tulane University, Dillard University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Grambling State University, and the University of New Orleans, and Louisiana State University Health Science and other colleges within the area.

receiving support from Illinois State Senator Rickey R. Hendon, Senator Mattie Hunter, the Chicago Area Project and others. The fundraisers included a talent show youth dances and other fun things for the youth to participate.

Staff memberfor Better Life for Youth include Administrative Assistant-Antoinnette Richmond and Frank

Pitchford. Better life for youth has a strong attendance requirement for youth that participate in the program to be eligible to go on the tour. When they go on the trip chaparones make sure that they are abiding by the dress and behavior codes set by BLFY. More to come later when BLYF returns from their nine day journey.

## INTERSTATE

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| <b>Struts</b><br><b>Front or Rear Installed</b><br><b>\$199.00</b><br><b>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>Mufflers</b><br><b>\$19.99</b><br>Inspect exhaust system for leaks.<br>Labor Extra.<br><b>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>Converter INSTALLED</b><br><b>\$119.99</b><br><b>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</b> |
| <b>Full Tune-Up Service</b><br>4 cyl. <b>\$159.00</b><br>6cyl. <b>\$179.00</b><br>8cyl. <b>\$199.00</b><br>Includes plugs, wires, fuel filter, air filter, P.C.V. valve cap, rotor, oil change and filter.<br><b>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</b> | <b>Front or Rear Brakes Service</b><br><b>\$59.99</b><br><b>Front or Rear</b><br>Includes installation of front pads, inspect inspect rotors, wheelbearing, calipers, hydraulic system and road test.<br>Pads and shoes extra.<br><b>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</b> |                                                                                      |

## Lawndale Christian Fitness Center

now offers

### Family Membership Plans

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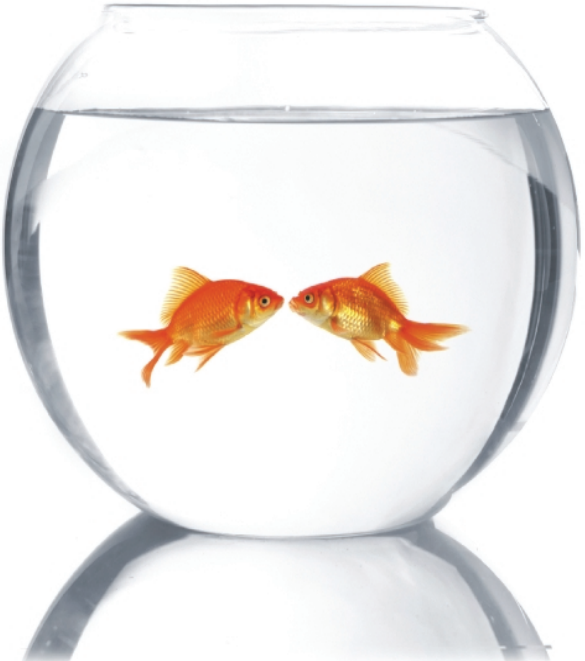
(1 adult and up to 2 children 6-17 yrs.)

\$35 couple family plan

(married couple and up to 2 children 6-17 yrs.)

\$1 non-member daily rate per child

\$5 each additional child



Contact LCFC for more information about these new classes for your kids and family!

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