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

City of Chicago Holds Budget Hearing on Westside

Tuesday, the City of Chicago Preliminary Budget meeting was held on at the Mayor's office for People with Disabilities Chicago Department on Aging Central West regional Center at 2102 W. Odgen. The second of three, the final hearing being held on Thursday August 30 at the Laughlin Falconer Elementary School 3020 N. Lamon, was packed with city departmental staff, the Mayor and city residents supporting and speaking out on their specific agendas.

The City of Chicago is focusing on getting together a budget by November that not only focuses on the cities needs as a whole, but can specify targeted areas for city funds that can be allocated to improve its neighborhoods.

Mayor Daley's beginning speech

targeted the state of Illinois' funding of education as not meeting the needs of the city. The mayor stated that we have a majority of children that are poor in the Chicago Public School system and the tax base is not as sufficient as the suburban area. "Every year that they don't fund We have to go to the local taxpayer to ask them will they fund it. It simple as that, said Mayor Daley."

Specifics of the proposed budget include an increase in funds for the CEDA Low Income Energy and Assistance Program as well as increases in funding for the fight against the cities growing poverty and homelessness epidemic. However, several CPS program cuts are shown in the proposed budget. A copy of the

See Budget page 11



City residents approach the mike to voice their concerns to Mayor Daley and city department heads, in attendance also were Alderman Walter Burnett & Sharon Dixon, and later, Ed Smith. Former 24th Ward Aldermanic Mark Carter (red shirt) listens intently.

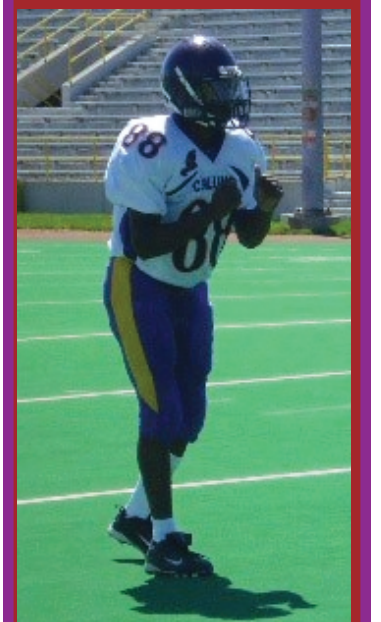
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Catalyst Charter School Receives Award for Academic Excellence

Megan Sieberg



Rufus Williams, Mark Evans Jr., Jakori Lesure, LaDavia Bennet, Ranita Barney, Elizabeth Evans

Last Thursday, at Donoghue Charter Public School, North Lawndale's own Catalyst Charter School was honored at the second annual Charter Up! Celebration for its excellence in extracurricular activities. The school was most noted for a program on its Howland Campus called Footworkin', in which kids are taught a Chicago-born dance style incorporating tap, break, and African tribal dance.

There were four schools recognized by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) including: Catalyst Charter School, Pritzker College Prep, Providence Englewood Charter School, and SIU-E East St. Louis Charter School. The nominees were

selected by a committee of experts in education, child development, literacy, vocational training, community development, and the humanities. The awards were given to charter public schools with innovative programs that encourage learning in unique and engaging ways.

"Our goal is to recognize charter public school programs that exemplify the spirit of innovation that drives charter public schools to success, helping them to achieve high, measurable standards," said Nicolas Crawford, a senior from North Lawndale College Prep who spoke at the event.

Footworkin' is part of Howland's mandatory Renaissance Program which, according to sixth grader Mark

See Academic page 4

Victims of Poverty Speak Out at CCIL Forums

James Glover

Recently, the Chicago Christian Industrial League stepped up its efforts to help fight the growing poverty issue in Chicago. Through many public forums and events, CCIL seeks to get the word out regarding the desperate homelessness situations that millions face everyday, as well as come up with positive and effective solutions as a community.

"I think that the Chicago Christian Industrial League, with being around almost a hundred years, should have a bigger voice in trying to address some of these great issues bothering us as a community," said Ann Marie Grinberg, Public Relations Director for many CCIL programs. "The stronger the collective voice of everyone here at CCIL from the staff to the residents,

the stronger and better of we'll be when battling serious issues like homelessness and poverty."

The Public Forums, which are a part of the 'Moving from Poverty to Opportunity' program run by Heartland Alliance, give people a chance to tell their stories about extreme homelessness and poverty, hopefully providing insight into the problem, as well as giving people a chance to come up with real solutions to these very real and unfortunate situations.

"To have to sleep under bridges when it's five below zero, or to have to camp together in a building with your children with no air or utilities is not a good situation to be in," said Thomas Grier, a former homeless person and CCIL resident. "Maybe now, after people hear the actual



Chicago Christian Industrial League located on Roosevelt and California

heartbreak and see the real effects of poverty, something can get

accomplished to help solve the

See CCIL page 6

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**North Lawndale Community News
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~~~~~  
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## 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 forward to a better life overcoming wisely, adversity.

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## THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

*The North Lawndale Community News* is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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# CHARGES PENDING IN COP SHOOTING

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

Chicago police department spokeswoman Monique Bond told the North Lawndale Community News (NLCN) that charges were pending against a man who was shot by police who attempted to question him late Thursday (Aug. 23) on the city's West Side.

The unidentified man was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he was being treated for a single gunshot wound to the neck. He remained hospitalized under police guard at NLCN press time late Friday.

Bond said officers from the department's Targeted Response Unit (TRU) approached the man wearing a heavy winter coat near the corner of Jackson and Springfield just after 10:30 p.m. "Any type of heavy jacket being

worn in warm temperatures like this is obvious to a police officer that something is being concealed," Bond said.

She said the officers approached the man who immediately ran north towards Wilcox Street, ensuing a foot chase that stretched at least a half block when the officers commanded the man to stop. After discarding two plastic bags containing cocaine and heroin, she said the man then turned in the direction of the pursuing officers and lifted his jacket while raising his right hand as if he were pulling out a weapon in the direction of the officers.

"The officer, believing that the man was going to shoot and in fear of his life, fired once," Bond said.

She said police did not recover a weapon and the department's Office of Professional Standards was reviewing the shooting. Included in the investigation is a review of a police-mounted camera located on West Wilcox.

"Any time there is a police shooting, there are concerns," Bond continued. "But the police are concerned, too, because we have a dangerous job to do and we have to make a split-second decision.

Police did recover the two plastic bags containing cocaine and heroin.

Bond noted that this was the 28<sup>th</sup> shooting of civilians at the hands of Chicago police this year. But, she said, "It sounds like a lot, by comparison to Los Angeles, which

has had 31 shootings.

*Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXFM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News. You can reach Ferman Beckless at beckless@yahoo.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.*

## THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BRACES FOR TROUBLE

Demetrius Aaron Porter

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) proposed a Doomsday Budget Plan that will go into effect to combat its financial problems. Pace and Metra also face financial problems.

According to Harry Brooks, Transit Historian, of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), the CTA has a budget deficit of \$110 million deficit that needed to be cut by July.

"I can not pull any more rabbits out my hat," said CTA President, Ron Huberman. Huberman's frustration underscores the transit agency's dire situation and the growing possibility of drastic cuts.

The CTA will have to raise fares and cut services in order to continue providing

Chicago's commuters with public transportation because it can not generate enough funding itself to adequately service a large city such as Chicago. The Doomsday Budget Plan will entail the cutting of 39 bus routes, mainly the express routes, such as the X28 Stoney Island, X4 Cottage Grove, X20 Madison, X49 Western, X64 Cicero, and the 53A South Pulaski limited. In addition, fare hikes will include a "bus ride to be \$2.50 with no transfer" and "a train ride to raise to \$3.00 during rush hour from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m." and "after peak hours a train ride would cost \$2.50," said Mike Pitula. Also, let's not forget about the possible closings of the Yellow Line and

Purple Line and the elimination of 700 CTA employees.

"Pace on September 1 will be the first to raise fares and will cut para transit services," said Mike Pitula, Community Organizer for Public Transportation for the LVEJO. "The reason being is that "all three agencies CTA, Pace and Metra all operate as independent agencies and have no coordination," said Mike Pitula.

But, there maybe an alternative to CTA's proposed Doomsday Budget Plan that could help CTA generate enough monies to trim its enormous deficit. In Springfield lawmakers are trying to get Bill 572, that's already passed through the House of Representatives, passed

through the Senate that would "include amendments to help raise taxes that would provide CTA with enough funding," said Mike Pitula. But, current Illinois Governor, Rob Blagojevich, recently stated that he would "not raise taxes," so the chances of Bill 572 being passed is not likely and is threatened to be vetoed by the Governor.

Also, there is a push for "bipartisan support in Collar Counties, such as Dupage, to increase sales taxes to help generate funding for the CTA that would include one half of one percent or 50 cents taken out of every \$100.00 made" and in non-Collar Counties "one quarter of one percent or 25 cents taken

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## POLICE ROUNDUP

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

### MAN TAKES BEAT-DOWN FOR HAT

A 31-year-old man was hospitalized late Friday after he told police he was beaten by at least three men armed with a baseball bat.

The unidentified victim told police he was approached by the trio in the 1600 block of South Homan Avenue just after 2:00 p.m. Thursday. After refusing to comply with a demand that he give up the hat he was wearing, the trio proceeded to beat the man about the head and body, according to police department News Affairs spokeswoman Officer Laura Kubiak.

Area 4 investigators are seeking three male Blacks, ranging in age from 18 to 25, who are believed to be responsible for the beating.

### SUNDAY SHOOTING DEATHS INVESTIGATED

Area 4 Homicide Investigators were without an arrest or motive in the shooting death of a 28-year-old man, who was discovered by police lying on the ground outside a building in the 700 block of West Lake Street.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office identified the victim as Omari Houston. He was pronounced dead on the scene early Sunday (Aug. 19) morning after sustaining a single gunshot wound to his side.

In an unrelated shooting death, a 25-year-old man was discovered shot to death in a car parked in the 500 Block of South Lockwood Avenue just after 1:00 a.m. Sunday (Aug. 19).

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office identified the victim as Shaun Wooden of the 5300 block of West Congress Parkway. He was pronounced dead on the scene from his wounds. Area 4 Homicide Investigators were without an arrest or motive in the

shooting.

### CAUSE OF WOMAN'S DEATH UNDER INVESTIGATION

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office continued its investigation into the death of a 42-year-old woman, who complained of trouble breathing late Monday (Aug. 20) at her residence in the 1300 block of West 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

The unidentified woman was rushed by Chicago Fire Department paramedics to John Stroger, Jr. Hospital where she was pronounced dead shortly after arriving. A police report indicated the death was being investigated as a non-criminal death.

### MAN CRITICAL FROM SHOOTING

A 38-year-old shooting victim was listed in critical condition after sustaining a single gunshot wound to the back while walking down the street in the 2300 block of South Damen Avenue early Tuesday (Aug. 21) afternoon.

Police said the shooting occurred just after 2:45 p.m. when an unknown gunman approached and shot the victim before fleeing westbound on Blue Island Avenue. The unidentified victim was rushed via ambulance to John Stroger, Jr. Hospital where he remained late Friday. Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in connection with the shooting.

### DRUG RING INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT

Chicago police said on Friday that they are still seeking seven individuals who have been issued warrants in connection with an open-air drug market that operated in the East Garfield community.

Police department News Affairs spokeswoman Officer Laura Kubiak identified those being sought as 26-year-old

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## THEATRE REVIEW: APOLOGY FROM ONE SISTA TO ANOTHER

Mike Cook

*Apology* explores issues including the exploitation of needy and vulnerable women, loneliness, maturity, self-esteem and idealism. This was well accomplished with fine writing, excellent acting, avoiding stereotypes and simplistic judgment. The characters are true to life, yet also invested with the agony and poetry of the human soul.

Brian has a good front and rap. Behind that he is a skilled manipulator who plays all the chords; charm, flattery, threats, brutality – and vulnerability. He works two women like a magician performing card tricks. Meeting Rita in an online chat room he enters her life and lays down his main game: claiming to be an experienced entrepreneur who needs investment in his projects. Rita's friend Sophie is on the rebound from a bad relationship so Brian plays her as well.

Rita escapes but Sophie gets the full treatment. Brian attacks her self-esteem, isolates her from her friends, beats her and tells her he will attack her family. He sees her

increasing drug dependency as just another tool to hold her down. Charles, a true friend, tries but fails to help. This posse of associates hangs out at the Poetry Slam Café. Not incidentally, the poetry recited at the Café is strong and musical while speaking to the issues and dynamics of the play.

Sometimes the actors step out of character and address the audience directly in verse. The fine poetry is perfectly fitted into the plot and character development of the story. As one of the main characters lies dead at the end of the play, his living alter ego stands over the body and delivers a beautiful eulogy in rhyme. The actors in this ensemble are all outstanding, making the audience flinch at some of the powerhouse scenes.

At the conclusion, the author, Shywanee Manson (and director) took the stage and introduced the actors: Safia Jalila, Brandon Battle, Lana Cromwell, Mel Roberson, Robert Herron and Tara Brown. Richard Reed displays depth as the cruel but conflicted

Brian. Ameena Chapman's Rita matures during the course of the play; as the tragic Sophie, Toya Turner gives a performance of remarkable depth. In a supporting role, Andre Truss plays Tyrone who has graduated from selling reefer to what he calls H TWO OH. He displays the confidence, moves and stage presence of the late, great Sammy Davis, Jr.

At the impressive Herman Hall theatre of the Illinois Institute of Technology, *Apology* completed its current run on Sunday, September 26. Earlier, the play was nominated for best theatre performance by the Chicago 2006 Truth Awards. The production team of Itua Irumundomon and Brian Water are negotiating with other venues to transfer *Apology*, a play engaging contemporary life with depth and compassion. They can be contacted at: 708-969-6869.

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

## CTA from page 3

out of every \$100.00 made' said Mike Pitula. Also, the notion of real estate taxes contributing to the funding of CTA is an option that would include "house buyers and sellers contributing once or twice in their lifetime" and "those that are in more contact with real estate transactions would contribute more," said Mile Pitula.

Now that CTA will have resort to such drastic measures North Lawndale Community (NLC) and neighboring communities like Little Village will have to network with each other to ensure that residents will have transportation to commute throughout the city and the suburbs. So, the LVEJO has proposed to start a "Rider Organization" that will "build unity between riders and CTA drivers" and will advocate "no more fare increases, no lay offs and no service cuts," said Mike Pitula.

Demetrius Aaron Porter is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).

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## Academic from front page

Evans Jr., emphasizes the importance of education beyond the classroom.

"Other than the academic things we do at Catalyst, the Renaissance Program is where we can do things like art, and other academic achievements that will help us when we grow up," said Evans. "Other than skills in math, science and social studies, we'll also have skills from Renaissance."

Charter public schools are governed by non-profit boards of directors that encourage

academic autonomy and community engagement. The 35 Charter Public Schools across Illinois serve over 19,000 students, of which 80 percent are from low-income families. Although separate from traditional public schools, INCS Executive, Elizabeth Evans, hopes these new programs will be shared with public schools around the state.

"Our goal is to establish partnerships between charter public schools and traditional public schools to help spread innovation throughout the entire public school system," she said.

In the mean time, awards will continue to be given annually to charter public schools, like Catalyst, that exceed the standard of excellence laid out by INCS.

Sixth grader, LaDavia Bennett, was one of four students who gladly accepted the award on behalf of Catalyst. Although she said she "wouldn't cry over it," she admitted to being proud of her school's achievement. "Where I'm from, we don't actually have a lot of things, and me learning this is actually giving me a chance to do something and I just want to thank you for it."

Megan Sieberg is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. She has a degree



Nicholas Crawford, senior at North Lawndale College Prep

in Communication Studies and is currently the Communications Manager at the North Lawndale Community News.

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## Larry G. Nelson

### Seeks 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Democratic Committeeman Post

Melvin Delk

Larry G. Nelson, life long resident of North Lawndale in 1983 dashed into a burning building while smoke and flames raged threw the structure he returned with two children under his arms. Then mayor, Jane Byrne gave Nelson an award for his valor. In 1978, Nelson was instrumental in helping the Chicago Police Department in apprehending a rapist, and saving the victim life when he applied C.P.R. Presently Nelson is running for the office of 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Democratic Ward Committeeman. The office is held by former alderman, Michael D. Chandler who was defeated this past March by Sharon Dixon.

While riding with Nelson, he made a stop on the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Drake to talk with an elderly man. The man asked Nelson for One Dollar. Nelson reached into his pocket and handed the man some money. "How is your family" Nelson asked. The man said, "fine Larry." Nelson got the man phone number, and told the man that he had a job for his son to do. Later Nelson stop at a local business, upon leaving a woman walked up and hugged him. "Has your brother gotten out of jail yet? No Larry. I hope that he learns this time when he gets out." She explains to Nelson that she thinks that the police set her brother up. "Have him see me when he gets out," Nelson added. At that moment a friend of Nelson walked up to him. Nelson told him that he is running for 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Democratic Ward Committeeman. The man said that he would support Nelson.



MELVIN DELK

When asked why he is running for office Nelson said, "I am running because it is time for a change and new leadership. I want to bring unity to the community. I will work with various churches, block clubs, businesses, and residents." When asked about coalition building and working with the alderman Nelson said, "I can work with anyone."

In 1983, Nelson was a precinct area coordinator for Danny Davis and the election of Harold Washington. He later served as a coordinator for the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for Vice-President Walter Mondale's presidential bid. Nelson recalls being shot at late at night while hanging posters for State Representative Art Turner. "Those were dangerous times." Nelson was referring to the time when Alderman Ed Smith, Congressman Danny K. Davis and himself was shot at. When the gun shots rang out Alderman Smith ran behind a tree, Congressman Davis ran

**See Nelsonpage 11**



# SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS VOICE CONCERNS AT BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Mary Moran

Congressman Danny K. Davis presented the small business industry roundtable discussion on Aug. 15; this was an opportunity for people to inform Cong. Davis about what should be done to help small businesses. Also people were able to find out about tax credits, incentives, loan programs and opportunities.

The keynote speakers were Patrick Conlon from the state treasurer's office, Carol Harris from the small business administration and Cheryl Holman from the Illinois department of employment security. Conlon informed the audience about the numerous programs that the state treasurer's office has to offer.

One such program is Opportunity Illinois which deals with community development and consumer loans. Under community development is the "employ Illinois," which gives business owners access to money to start or enhance their business with the help of low-interest rate loans.

Businesses experiencing economic hardships are also eligible to receive employ Illinois loans to assist them in rebounding from tough economic times.

Under state law, the treasurer's office has the authority to deposit state money at a reduced rate of interest in local financial institutions that issue loans at below-market rates for specific projects and programs such as non-profit organizations, businesses and

individuals.

The small businesses that qualify for these loans are neighborhood businesses such as small retail, industrial, export, and contracting firms. The other two loans that are offered under employ Illinois are loans for childcare providers and loans for TV and movie makers.

"If you have a business or are looking to start a business please contact our office," Colon said. The treasurer's office also offer three types of consumer loans, one for Illinoisans with disabilities, citizen soldiers, and storm victims.

Carole Harris is the project director at the small business administration (SBA). Harris works with small business development centers to provide counseling and training on how to develop your business such as marketing and keeping financial records. Although they work with many major banks the SBA does not do any lending, but do guarantees for loans.

"What we hope to do is provide people with enough technology, and training by which they can submit an application properly and get a response in three days." One of the major problems that the audience voiced their opinion on is the fact that many people are turned down for loans by banks.

Marcus Matthews from Chase small business banking in Bensenville, the two things that chase looks for is collateral and

credit. "I don't want to be the one that said I can't give you the loan based on credit," he said. Also Matthews advised the audience that the first two years for any business is crucial so you must have a cash flow, so his advices to potential business owners "don't quit your full time job."

Cheryl Holman spoke on community assistance programs. These programs trains people, many of who are in target areas who may not have been hired by some employers, some but not all are ex-offenders. The program does all the training and if an employer hires them, they qualify for tax credits and/or incentives.

Will Edwards from the mayor's office on work force development also discuss the need for businesses to take part in hiring people from target areas to receive tax credits. Cong. Davis closed the meeting by assuring the audience not to give up there dream by giving examples of various community people who started with little, but succeeded.

Cong. Davis will have his State of the District 2007 meeting on Sept. 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Malcolm X College located at 1900 W. Jackson.

Mary Moran is a writer for NLCN. Mary is a veteran of the U. S. Army and journalism graduate from Columbia College in Chicago. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## HIV/AIDS: The Silent Killer

Michael B Miller

HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death in the African American community. To this day, no one wants to acknowledge it.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to be a health crisis for African Americans. In a 2002 report of The Center for Disease Control Prevention, HIV/AIDS was among the top three causes of death for African-American men between 25 and 54 years of age and for African-American women of the same age group, the disease was among the top four causes of death. However, for black women between the age of 25 and 34, HIV/AIDS was the number one killer.

HIV/AIDS is an illness that does not discriminate. It attacks men, women, and children. It attacks heterosexuals, homosexuals, single and married people. Everyone is at risk. Every race is at risk, but it seems that African Americans are even more at risk.

I wonder why black people are always the largest group of people who suffer. I truly believe that this disease is a conspiracy in the black community. You cannot tell me that this is not a conspiracy when a group of people is more exposed with a particular disease. African Americans make up approximately 13 percent of the U.S. population. Yet they accounted for 19,206 (or 50 percent) of the estimated 38,730 new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States, a higher number than any other racial groups.

HIV/AIDS is killing us, but it's only killing us because we do not know! Many of us are afraid, but we should be more afraid of not knowing. African Americans do not realize that it is better to know what you have, than not know. You can die if you do not detect it on time. Early detection is the only way to live a long and normal life. Just look at Ervin "Magic" Johnson!

So many of our young people are still having unprotected sex, getting pregnant. Many brothers feel it is unsatisfying to use condoms. Guess what? One night of unprotected sex could alter your entire life!

Face the truth! Every time I look around, I hear misinformation about this disease. People are constantly being mis-educated about it. One more thing I want people to know: HIV is not equal to AIDS. You can be infected with HIV without having full-blown AIDS.

Michael B. Miller is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## AUGUST 29 BLACK FACTS



Dinah Washington

\* On this date in 1924, singer Dinah Washington was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. During her brief blues, jazz and gospel career, Washington was known as the "Queen of the Blues."

\* On this date in 1958, entertainer, Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana. Jackson began his career at age 11 in 1969 as a member of the Jackson 5. Jackson launched a solo career in 1978 with the release of his debut album "Off the Wall." In 1983, Jackson released one of the top selling albums of all-time: "Thriller."

\* On this date in 1957, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first federal civil rights legislation since 1875. The bill established the civil rights commission and the civil rights division in the Justice Department.

\* On this date in 1962, Mal Goode became the first African-American television news commentator on U.S. network television when he appeared on ABC.

\* On this date in 1920, jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker was born in Kansas City, Mo.

### CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



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Girls ages 13-15 run track for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place



Boys ages 14-16 swim for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place



Kids from North Lawndale visits Brookfield Zoo



Brookfield Zoo's duck exhibit



Timothy and Tavares enjoy the snake exhibit at Brookfield Zoo

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## Cradle To The Grave Program Could Curb Youth Violence

Lavonte Roache



Emergency room where gunshot victims usually come to for surgery

Today's teens are dying from gun shot wounds more frequently than ever before. The rate of death of gun shot teenage victims rose to 30 percent in 1999. Teenagers are twice as likely as any other age group to be victims of violent crimes.

"The statistics regarding teenage deaths, especially by gunshot wounds are absolutely sickening," said Charles Frankfurt, researcher for the Children are the Future Violence Prevention Program. "With the rash of deaths this past summer, most noticeably here in Illinois, something obviously has to be done to stop this upward epidemic of negativity resulting in the deaths of children."

One in five of all American teenagers have experienced a violent crime. In 2006, 57,000 people were treated in hospital emergency

rooms for gun shoot wounds and data from the Federal Bureau of Justice statistics indicates that more than half of all the victims of non-fatal gun shot wounds are under the age of 20.

Gun violence has been a significant health problem in the states for years and is growing rapidly not just kids but adults to. Violence — exposure studies observed the incidence of or attempted shooting of youth were between 0.5% and 33% estimated that 3,365 youth died from gun shot injuries in one year. Four to five times the number sustained non fatal injuries.

Temple university trauma outreach coordinator and creator Scott Charles and Dr. Amy Goldberg the director, were sick and tired of teenagers getting shoot and made a choice to do something about it. They came up with a program called Cradle to Grave where they bring in a group of kids and teenagers of about two hundred to three hundred.

Amy Goldberg takes the kids and teenagers to the trauma room and ask on kid or teenager to lay down on the table were once laid a gun shot victim and he or she tells the story of one of the gun shoot victims.

Some of the kids had smiles on their face, they quickly disappeared once they heard the story about Lamont Adams. They asked one of kids to lie down on the table and they demonstrated the operation they did on Lamont to try to save his life. First they told the young man to lie down on the table and then Mr. Scott Charles get some small red dots and place them on the young man in the areas where Lamont was shot Mr. Charles place them all over his body but once place he stressed was his hand where he and two gun shot wounds that show

the area where he tried to defend himself, he had a total of 24 bullet holes in body.

The kids were really shocked as one of instructors begins showing them a graphic description of the effort to save his life. "Lamont was not breathing at all," Goldberg said. She picked up a big steel contraption from a surgical tray in the room to show the kids what they used to open his ribs. He was shot over a \$100 dice game.

Officer John Beck, a veteran of the Chicago Police Department thinks that a similar program in Illinois would be extremely beneficial to the youth. "Kids are being shot and killed more now than I have ever seen and I've been on this force 17 years. A program like Cradle to the Grave would be a nice program to in the city of Chicago and in many other areas in Illinois, maybe getting some sense into these kids and bringing them to a realization that most of the negativity they will encounter as teenagers isn't cause for getting a gun and taking a life, or getting their own life took."

Officer Sandy Jones said we need more programs like this one around to show the real dangers of youth violence. "Most children don't watch the news or read the papers, so to introduce them to the real life procedure of the after effects of youth violence may bring about some change in their mentality, possibly the realization that if they don't take better action, they too could end up on an operating table with someone telling their tragic story."

*Lavonte' Roache' is an 18-year old resident on the West Side. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## CCIL from front page

problem."

The forums are usually attended by as many as 100 people, and come together with a series of questions about bringing helpful solutions.

Amanda Treviso, who attended the meeting, said, "We need to be informed so that those of us lucky enough not to be in a similar situation can come up with the ideas and unity needed to get these people into a more positive environment where they just won't become another American victim."

CCIL is also putting together its own programs. The West Side Working Group, comprised of CCIL residents as well as those who take advantage of the CCIL programs, comes together to discuss the issues going on in the North Lawndale Community. All topics are up for discussion with the number one priority being a group commitment to positive change. Harriet M. Morgan, part of the West Side Working Group, said, "We have these meetings and really try to improve our situation as a people."

The feeling at CCIL is positive, and there is a sense of getting things done. "I absolutely

love it," said Jenny Brandthorse, Director at CCIL. "We're attacking serious issues in the community that will, in the end, benefit everyone involved. The groups provided are making it better as a people, as a community and as a city, which is really the goal of everything that we set out to accomplish here."

*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).*



# Austin Farmers Market – Healthy Food for the Community

Todd Thomas



The Thurman Family Farmers

Fresh, healthy produce is a cornerstone of good health and some of the best in the area is available at the Austin Farmers Market, located at Madison and Central. The produce is provided by the Thurman family, who transport the vegetables, fruits and poultry from their 45-acre farm in Pembroke Township near Kankakee, IL.

The Thurman family has been farming for several generations, and bringing their harvest to Chicago has been part of their tradition for many years. The hot, dry weather the past two seasons caused them some problems and they missed the market. But they have returned this year and the bounty is good. Greens, Watermelon, Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Onions, and Green Beans are just a few of the things available at the market. The best part is that they are all grown without the use of chemicals. John Thurman heads the farm and he talks about the beauty of a natural harvest.

“We make our living from the soil, so if we weren’t in balance with nature then it wouldn’t work for us. Because if you’re not in balance then you won’t produce a good crop,” Thurman says. “That’s the same reason why we don’t use chemicals, because we know at one point that

would run out and the land wouldn’t accept it anymore.” Respecting nature and not abusing the land are keys to success in farming, but it’s not easy raising crops naturally and crops do fail. But that’s just a natural part of the growing cycle and you have to live with it, says Thurman.

“You treat it right and it will treat you right,” Thurman says of cropland. “Between Mother Nature, us, and the good Lord - sometimes we make a living, and sometimes we just try to make a living, but in the end it’s all good.”

Eating the naturally grown produce is a welcome change for the body from the chemical bombardment of traditionally grown food. Thurman has some advice for people about their food and consumption priorities.

“People don’t educate themselves enough about what goes inside of them as much as what’s on the outside of them. They think about the clothes they put on, the deodorant, and the perfumes, but what about what goes on the inside? Good in, good out, bad in, bad out,” Thurman says.

The Thurmans are adept at raising a large variety of crops, but they are especially proud of

See Farmers page 11

## Collins Tunes Up With Big Win

Todd Thomas

Collins High School’s football team got off to a good start Sunday afternoon when they defeated Raby High School 50-8 at Hansen Stadium.

Things started out well enough for Raby when they scored on the opening drive to take a 6-0 lead over Collins. They upped the lead to 8-0 after scoring on the two-point conversion, but it would be the last time they saw the end zone all day.

The Cobras started to warm up after losing a fumble on their first possession and they scored on a short touchdown run and two-point conversion to knot the score at 8-8. At that point it appeared that the game would be a very close contest, but Collins had other ideas and turned it up a notch. The slow start concerned head coach Anthony Andrew, but he’s seen it before.

“We always start off slow, and then we wake up after that,” Andrew said.

On the next possession, Kelton Williams scored on a three-yard touchdown run and they were up 16-8 after another successful conversion. It didn’t take long for them to score again, and Patrick Sanders scored from 13-yards out to pull ahead 24-8.

The offense was so impressive that the defense was almost overshadowed, but to be fair both teams spent the afternoon laying hard licks on each other. Trainers had to attend to several players who were shaken

up on both sides of the ball. Collins’ first big play on defense came when Jimmy Williams picked off a Raby pass with 8:26 left in the second quarter. Williams then proceeded to score on a 30-yard run to put the Cobras ahead 30-8.

The second quarter seemed to last forever as Collins continued to pour it on Raby. It was a painful quarter for Raby, but a thing of gridiron beauty for the Cobras. Senior Quarterback, Twjuan Scott, started to assert himself, throwing touchdown passes to Jacari Hardin and another wideout to make the score 44-8 at the end of the half.

Despite the lopsided score, Raby came out with intensity in the second half and showed a lot of character. But they were forced to play catch-up. Their running game and downfield passes were not effective against the Cobra defense. Collins also showed good character and didn’t do too much trash talking in the one-sided affair. One player did receive a penalty, but Coach Andrew wasn’t having any of it.

“We did a good job with not trash talking, but one player did get a penalty. I told him not to retaliate, just point to the scoreboard,” Andrew said.

Collins scored again at the very end of the third quarter to hit the half-century mark, and the defense shut Raby down the rest of the way. The final score was 50-8, but Coach Andrew still saw some room for improvement



Coach Andrew Sends in Quarterback TwJuan Scott

in his team.

“Once I got home and looked at the tapes I saw some good things and I saw some bad things,” Andrew said. “But they shouldn’t have even scored that first touchdown,” he added.

Collins plays again at Hansen Stadium at 5:00pm on Sunday, Sept. 2 against Lakeview.

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).

## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic

**LADRON QUE ROBA A LADRON (\*\*1/2)** Loosely translated to mean, “Thief Can Rob a Thief” is quite an entertaining and funny Latino heist comedy with a moral objectivity behind its proceedings. Emilio Lopez (Miguel Varoni) and Mocesuma Valdez (Saul Lisazo) have different philosophies about “stealing”. Even though both men share an appreciation for stylish clothing and fast cars. Only one of the two lives in more opulence.

Emilio is a flamboyantly dressed street hustler who calls himself a “freelance distributor” who sells bootleg videos. But its Valdez who amasses a wealthy empire as a high profile scam artist promoting himself as an infomercial guru suckering poor Latino immigrant residents into purchasing his worthless health products.

Emilio visits Alejandro (Alex) Toledo (Fernando Colunga), a recent “illegal alien”

and petty thief living at a halfway house where the owner profits off the immigrants that the two friends manages to bust by stealing his payment.

Soon after Emilio tells Alex of his plan to rob Valdez who lives in a well guarded mansion where an entire floor is dedicated to his money vault that requires; a three number combination, a large key and a magnetic card in his office desk.

Emilio’s heist plan includes the usual “motley crew” of experts that provide their own amusing quirks which includes an inept “method” actor hired to pose as a union backer who sets Valdez’s non-union immigrant workers to strike outside his offices as a diversion.

Like most heist movies, this one plays itself like a deck of cards. Holding a couple back for the “aha” moment in the finale. Even though, director Joe Menendez tries not to

tip the hand of the script. The viewer can easily pick up on the “twist” in one of the characters working on the inside and their personal motive with a “family” connection during the setup and before Emilio turns his heist into a Robin Hood-type deed in which he returns the money back to the surviving family members that used Valdez’s products.

It’s a nice sentiment for this little film, but it doesn’t make a big enough statement that should have been this funny movie’s moral exclamation point.

PG-13; 98min. A Lionsgate Film Release – presented at selected theaters

**ILLEGAL TENDER (\*1/2)** Executive producer John Singleton tries to tap into the Latino market by bankrolling a reported \$3 million into this urban drama from “Empire” writer-director Franc Reyes. Wanda De Jesus portrays Millie, the mother who fled the

See Flicks page 10



Dania Ramirez and Rick Gonzalez in Illegal Tender



## Economic Development

## Competition Heats Among Real Estate Lenders

Wendell Hutson

The strong economy and rapid growth in real estate has produced a massive class of lenders competing for borrowers in an ever-changing world of real estate finance.

Real estate lending is in a transition, just like the industry itself, said some experts, who favor floating-rates over a fixed-interest rate right now.

"Borrowers want the best possible deal they can get so it is best for borrowers to take a floating rate over a fixed rate," said Cheryl Smith, an analyst with Atlanta-based Robinson Financial Enterprises Ltd. "Face it, money talks in this business."

Chicago-based real estate adviser King Smith said lending practices remain the same but the players have changed a little bit.

"You have a different breed of lenders today than 30 years ago. Today pension funds and life insurance companies are competing for business with traditional lenders like banks," Smith said. "With this new breed of lenders came a shift from less commercial to more residential lending. Retail and industrial are two other property types a lot of lenders like because they are two future needs."

Smith added that office buildings could become outdated in the future and lenders don't want to be stuck with a piece of property that may take a long time to return their initial investment.

"The market is soft right now for

residential property, which often is less risky than other property types," said Kristy Lockridge, a senior investment officer in the Chicago office of GE Capital, a real estate finance company. "While lenders don't mind taking risks, they also want to minimize that risk and residential property seems to do that."

Keeping a portfolio balanced is something lenders aim for, because no lender wants to be over invested in one area.

"Lenders are looking for more diversification and because there are so many office buildings going up, most lenders have already reached their target for that property type," Lockridge said. "Once that happens they are not as likely to continue lending toward that sector."

Still, lenders are feeling their way back into the current market, testing the foundation of property types and watching Wall Street as they proceed with caution. Regulatory pressures, as well as painful memories of failed portfolios and bad lending deals have persuaded lenders to create no-nonsense underwriting standards.

"The more equity a borrower can put up, the better their chances of getting a lender to finance the rest," said Minnie Gilmore, a former investment banker with Chicago-based Seaway National Bank. "Lenders wouldn't be in this business if they didn't like giving out money to borrowers and taking

risks. However, lenders won't finance a project that won't produce a profit in the end. That's common sense."

Other lenders agree that equity plays a major role in lending.

"When lenders see borrowers willing to take some sort of risk, they are more inclined to fund a deal," said Christopher Carroll, vice president of the capital markets unit at Chicago-based Cohen Financial, a real estate investment firm. "But again, I don't care how much equity a borrower puts into a deal, if the location and credit is not there, the deal still may not happen."

The pressure from competition among lenders has also produced more funding alternatives for borrowers especially when it comes to banks.

The desire to increase profits is the main reason banks have re-entered the direct lending game after years of operating with thin real estate portfolios.

However, some banks now require a loan-to-value coverage of 65 percent and 1.3-debt service coverage, although these standards have changed over the last five years. For some mortgage conduits, underwriters want a 70 percent loan-to-value ratio and debt service coverage of 1.35 percent to 1 percent.

Traditional lenders like banks are seeing their once strong hold on commercial and residential lending, quickly falling into the

hands of conduit lenders. Conduit lenders are attractive, said some industry observers, because they write non-recourse loans where the borrower is not personally liable. The attractive rates and terms offered by most conduit lenders are driving the lending industry to reshape itself and polish up its act.

"The efficiency of conduit lenders comes from their ability, with minimum expenses, to break into the bond markets and make loans up to \$100 million," said Jerry Williamson, president of Dallas-based Berry, Oaks & Associates, a law firm specializing in real estate finance. "Conduit lenders use long-term money to finance long-term debt and banks typically use short-term deposits to fund long-term deals."

From life insurance companies to pension funds, developers now have a variety of choices when seeking funding for a project and the list of lenders seems to grow each year.

"At the rate things are going now, I wouldn't be surprised if payday loan companies move from consumer loaning to business," Smith said. "Who knows, one day a developer may be able to get a small, \$1 million project financed by a payday loan company."

Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

## THE RECKLESS BECKLESS PERSPECTIVES - DEAR YOUNGBLOOD ON THE CORNER

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't drive past the neighborhood grocery store or gas station and see you. You've got on pants, six sizes too large, earring in the ear, a baseball cap on, turned sideways and words popping out of your mouth that would make a sailor blush.

You stand there, and as I approach, offering to sell me some 'blow,' asking for a square (cigarette) or asking me for spare change; acting as if you wouldn't mind busting my head open if I don't comply with your wishes for my money.

Meanwhile, a legitimate business owner is intimidated by your presence and calls the police. You say you don't like the police because they harass you. So I have a question I beg you to answer: "Why are you hanging out on the corners in front of business establishments?"

You might not know this, but I grew up in

the housing projects on the South Side of Chicago, Stateway Gardens, and later spent nearly 30 years in the Englewood community. And like a lot of other law-abiding citizens, I refuse to patronize a business where I have to go through a maze of goon-looking young men just to purchase a gallon of milk.

I left Englewood because I got tired of the bullets flying past me that some cock-eyed 18-year-old fired at someone else. Must I remind you of the year 2006 when two innocent young girls lost their lives in the Englewood community because some gun-toting gang bangers were at war?

The Special Operations Section of the Chicago Police Department was born out of need. Their job is to hit the high-crime areas full force with orders to clean it up. And no, I don't necessarily agree with the tactics they use when

doing their jobs, which I describe as excessive force against young African-American men.

Reports that surfaced after the shooting of 18-year-old Aaron Harrison is that members of the Special Operations force approached Harrison and a group of young men standing in front of a store. The police version said Harrison was tugging at his waist as if he concealed a weapon.

That's when the officers decided to go after Harrison. He ran, cutting through alleys and gangways, and, according to police, pulled a gun and pointed it at them. The police argue they fired once, shooting him in the shoulder. However, the community believes

the police murdered Harrison. To date, the Cook County Medical Examiner's office says Harrison sustained a single gunshot wound to the shoulder while Harrison's family and supporters said he sustained a single gunshot wound to the back.

The police had arrested Harrison in the past.

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

He even has a conviction on his record.

I'd like to know why Harrison would

See Perspective page 11



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## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## WHAT IT IZ IN THE BIZ

Marquita Ware



Amy Winehouse and her husband Blake Civil-Fielder

*Who let the dogs out!*

Speaking of dogs I know everyone seen Mike Vick's apology cause it has been surfacing all over the news and the internet. I found the apology

to be a little sincere yet humorous. He started off saying he's a football player and not a public speaker (and he was speaking from his heart lol) so if anything sounded strange that was the reason. Everyone has been getting down on Mike so I am just gonna' leave him alone. On December 10<sup>th</sup> he is scheduled for sentencing on the conspiracy charges. He could face anywhere from 12 months to five years. Everybody in the entertainment business is starting to make going to jail a trend. This is one trend that I truly will not follow.

Another dog issue barring the name DMX. Yeah the dog of all dogs got his house raided.

The Arizona Sheriff's Dept. removed 12 mistreated pit bulls from the rappers house. Neighbors called police after constant barking from the dogs. DMX was not home at the time of the raid and has not been at his Arizona

home for months. The dogs have a caretaker who obviously wasn't taking care of the dogs. The police also found 6 dead/burned dogs and a few guns. I'll keep you posted on what happens to DMX.

I don't know if anyone has heard of Amy Winehouse, but she is this great singer from London. She has a hit song called Rehab that I just truly love. Anyways, her and her husband Blake Civil-Fielder were staying at London's posh Sanderson Hotel when they got into a fight. My sources say that Winehouse told American blogger Perez Hilton via text message that her husband was trying to "save her" from self-mutilating and taking drugs when the fight ensued. The two were recently in rehab but I am not for sure what happened with that. I hope Amy doesn't let the drugs take over her and ruin her career cause she has a great one ahead of her.

Kanye West and 50 Cent got this little petty beef going on because their albums are both scheduled to drop on the same day. The latest threat has been made by 50 saying if Kanye sells more units than him in the first

week he will retire. "I think we push each other. I feel I wouldn't have some of the tracks on my album if it wasn't for 50, and he wouldn't have some of the things he had if he wasn't up against me," West told MTV backstage at the V Festival in Stafford, England. During an appearance on British talk show "The Friday Night Project," Kanye responded to 50's claim, saying, "Please, 50, don't retire once my album sells and beats your album."

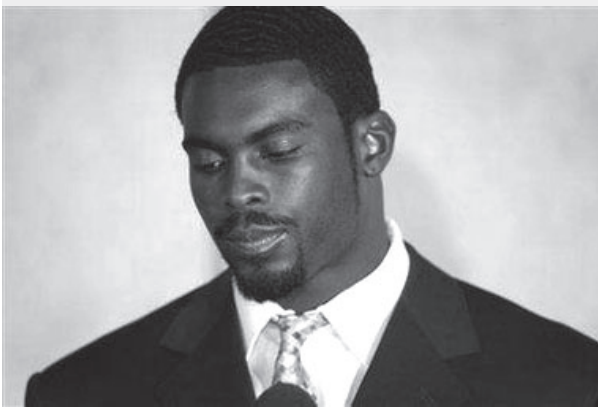
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If you have any questions for me about celebrity gossip or news, just call 312-492-9090 or write to KETA, 1211 S. Western, Chicago, IL 60608 and I will feature my answer in the next column. If you want to know about one of your friends and nem' I can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

## Sports Roundup

Todd Thomas



Michael Vick

NFL superstar quarterback Michael Vick officially plead guilty to the dogfighting charges that could land him in jail for up to five years and cost him his NFL career.

Vick indicated that he would seek a plea agreement on August 23, and then made it official at a hearing on August 27. Directly after the hearing he held a new conference and told reporters and the public how the ordeal has affected and changed him.

Vick took the podium at the news conference with a script but instead spoke freely, without looking at the prepared statement. He was contrite and apologetic as expected, but also seemed very nervous and uncomfortable with the situation. Some of the key things he said were.

"I want to apologize for all the things I've done and all the things I've allowed to happen. Dogfighting is a terrible thing and I do regret it."

Vick also said "I take full responsibility for my actions, what I did was very immature - I do need to grow up." He also addressed his young fans and stated "And if I'm disappointed with myself more than anything, it's because of all the young people, young kids that I've let down, who look at Michael Vick as a role model. Vick continued by saying "I found Jesus and asked him for forgiveness, and turned my life over to God. And I think that that's the right thing to do as of now."

It's no surprise that Vick tried to say all of the right things with so much weighing against him, but dogfighting is actually extremely common in this country. Here are some interesting facts about it.

\*Dogfighting is a felony in every state except Wyoming and Idaho.

\*An estimated 20,000 to 40,000 people

participate in dogfighting.

\*Dogfighting is a multibillion-dollar industry.

\*Pit Bulls account for 99 percent of the dog species involved in dogfighting.

\*An average dog fight carries a \$10,000 dollar purse.

The Vick case with Bad Newz Kennels is also not the first time pro athletes have been caught up in dogfighting. A former pro basketball player and a former football player had issues with the law in 2005.

Former NFL running back Leshon Johnson plead guilty to three charges related to dogfighting and is now serving a five-year deferred sentence. And Former NBA player Qyntel Woods faced possible charges of dogfighting before pleading guilty to a lesser charge of animal cruelty.

People involved in dogfighting are starting to come forward and speak about it, albeit under conditions of anonymity and some have said the "sport" is rampant among professional athletes. Vick's plea agreement stipulates that "the defendant will provide more detailed facts relating to his case during ensuing debriefings," so the truth about Bad Newz Kennels and others involved will probably come to the surface in the coming months.

In addition to the dogfighting charges Vick may also face state animal-cruelty charges. He must also pay for the handling of the 54 Pit Bulls which were found at Bad Newz Kennels. Authorities have said that most of the dogs found there will have to be euthanized because they are too wired for dogfighting and too aggressive to be adopted.

Closer to home, Chicago Bears linebacker Lance Briggs is in a bit of a bind after he crashed his new Lamborghini sports car into a pole on the Edens expressway in the wee hours of Tuesday morning. Briggs apparently panicked when the accident occurred and fled the scene, only to call police later. Briggs spoke to reporters and offered this assessment of the situation.

"When it happened the first thing I did was, obviously panic. I didn't want there to be a big scene there, so I left the scene. When I left I called the tow truck - I was startled and I reported that my car was stolen. Within

See Sports page 10

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz

Gordon Pinsent and Julie Christie in *Away From Her*

**AWAY FROM HER (\*\*\*/2)** Actress Sarah Polley delivers an impressive, yet personal directorial debut backed by the honest and compelling performances of Julie Christie and Gordon Pinsent as this devoted, elderly married couple, Fiona and Grant Anderson whose lives in their Canadian cabin home become altered.

The husband is confronted and has to deal with the aftermath of his beloved wife being institutionalized when stricken with Alzheimer's disease.

Both are vibrant and intelligent whose devotion puts their love to the ultimate test, as Grant soon feels his love that sustains their marriage, isn't enough retain their love through her mental deterioration.

When Fiona develops an "attachment" to a more advanced Alzheimer patient (Michael Murphy) who happens to belong to a "home alone" wife, (Olympia Dukakis) that Grant's wife knew in his youth that he initially visits and eventually seeks her help to remove her husband to see whether or not Fiona's disease has made her completely forgotten her husband.

A bittersweet portrayal at life nears a crossroad that can somehow retain its dignity and grace through these honest and memorable performances given by Pinsent and Christie who show us how the simple things often have the deepest meanings.

PG-13; 110min Lionsgate Home Video.

**TV on DVD:** There are a slew of recent

and vintage TV series hitting the DVD circuit to help viewers to either prepare or delay the new fall TV season. Among those worthy entries: "Ugly Betty: the Complete First Season: The Bettyfied Edition"... After stumbling through its second season, a descent rebound is accomplished for "Desperate Housewives: The Complete Third Season, the Dirty Laundry Edition"...

For the kids and teens "Cory in the House: All Star Edition", the Disney Channel series spin-off from "That's so Raven" includes segments guest stars Raven and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. For the animation TV fan: "The Tick Vs. Season Two" and "Darkwing Duck: Volume 2" is available.

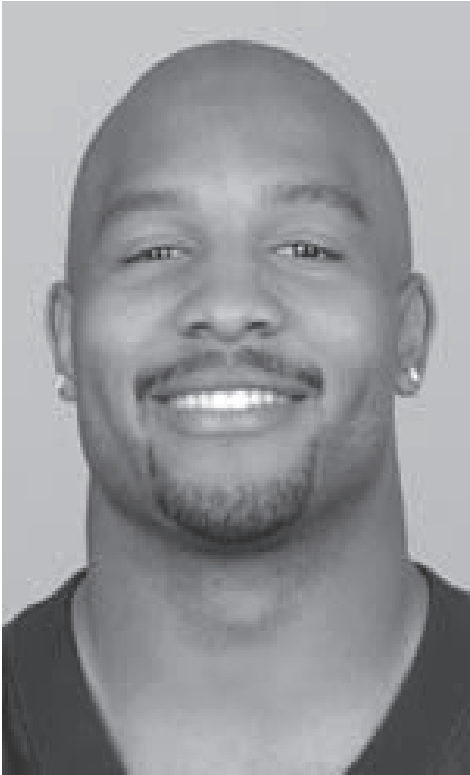
While upcoming entries include: Grey's Anatomy: The complete third Season" due Sept. 11 and "Brothers and Sisters: The Complete First Season" due out Sept. 18... But now here are a few TV series making their DVD debut that 50's baby boomers are more inclined to remember: Infinity Entertainment has released "The Real McCoy" The Complete First Season" with Walter Brennan and Richard Crenna.

"Suspense: The Lost Episodes was a mystery anthology series with early TV guest star appearances by Boris Karloff, Charlton Heston, Jack Lemmon, just to name a few.

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



Sports from page 9



Lance Briggs

probably 10 minutes I called back and accepted responsibility because it was ridiculous in the first place,” Briggs said.

There should be more to come, but right now Briggs only faces a misdemeanor for leaving the scene of an accident.

*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).*

Flicks from page 7

Bronx in 1985 to provide a comfortable life for her 21 yr old son, Wilson Jr. (Rick Gonzalez) who is not told about his father’s past as a drug dealer gunned down on the night of his birth.

Back then, Millie tried to advise Wilson Sr. (Manny Perez) to abort a rendezvous meeting with a mob boss to payback money that since has been laundered by Millie who turned the “dirty money” clean through profitable investments and stock choices that she used to better her life for her family.

But now when someone from her past spots her at the market; Millie rushes to uproot her family to a new location against Wilson Jr’s rejection, due in part to his new girlfriend, Ana (Daria Ramirez).

In a bold move for a mother to do, Millie leaves Wilson Jr. with his new girl Ana in her home alone; to seek refugee for her younger “cutie” son, Randy (Antonio Ortiz). Wilson Jr. comes to realize the real danger they are in from a shootout with two hired assassins that invade the house, but Wilson Jr. is not fully aware of the reasons behind it all until Millie partially explains to her son his late father’s association to Javier Cordero (Gary Perez).

So the inexperienced Wilson Jr. trying to help his mother resolve this situation decides to travel to Puerto Rico to meet with Cordero who claims he’s owed \$2 million and sends back home beaten and bruised by Cordero’s lieutenant, Chocó (Tego Calderon) who knows the reputation of Wilson’s father.

Everyone knows from most mob movies, the mother stills knows too much to continue live in obscurity. Even without the help of a witness protection program

that this movie claims through the mother claims to be bias in who is worthy of protection by the importance and influence of the criminal. An interesting point that is not dramatized more to make this movie less generic and cliché as it is.

R; 108min. A Universal Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

**BALLS OF FURY (\*\*)**

“Balls of Fury” is a thinly disguised spoof on Bruce Lee’s 1973 cult favorite “Enter the Dragon” that conceives itself as a kung fu parody set to the seedy underworld of competitive ping pong tournament on a remote Central American island to cover illegal smuggling operation

Dan Fogler plays the one time ping pong child prodigy, Randy Daytona who embarrassed himself during a critical match against cocky East German opponent, Karl Wolfschtagg (the film’s co-writer-producer Thomas Lennon who partnered with director Robert Ben Garant are also responsible for cable TV’s “Reno 911”).

Due to Randy’s concentration being distracted by his ex marine father’s (Robert Patrick) gambling bet on the match with the Japanese Triad mob. Randy loses the match that leaves to his father’s murder.

Now twenty years later, pudgy and full of self doubt working as a novelty lounge act, Randy is brought out of retirement by FBI agent Sgt Ernie Rodriguez (George Lopez) to use his ping pong skills to infiltrate a strange tournament on a Central America island fortress, operated by the flamboyant yet sinister Master Feng (Christopher Walken) to undercover his illegal gun manufacturing operation.

But Feng was also the unseen force behind the triad that had his father murdered that Randy would like to avenge in between his clumsy and inept demeanor. Still, Randy’s rusty re-entry into the sport leads to the FBI agent taking him to re-sharpen Randy’s skills under the sage teachings of blind master Wong, played hilariously by veteran oriental actor James Hong who has the best comedic lines to steal most of the scenes in this comedy.



James Hong, Dan Fogler and George Lopez in Balls of Fury

Wong happened to by Feng’s original teacher before quitting mid-way to begin his evil quest. Wong offers his highly skilled niece, Maggie (Maggie Q) in martial arts and ping pong to senselessly fall in love with Randy during his training preparation.

Dan Fogler, fresh from his Broadway stint in “Putnam Spelling bee” is a likeable butterball full of pratfalls and slapstick abilities. But when he stretches his face and screams; One can’t help but see a natural casting candidate if ever a movie biography on the late comic Sam Kinison is made.

“Balls of Fury” is a disposable comedy spoof that we expected to be; that manages to sustain its humor a little longer than anticipated. This isn’t saying much since the wit and humor isn’t enough against its own “hit and miss” levels to outpace the film.

The movie has its moments, but mostly this is a stupid excuse for silliness done wrong. Even as a straight-up kung fu parody set to table tennis. “Balls of Fury” isn’t as distinctive or funnier enough at three times the length that was achieved years ago in an obvious Bruce Lee takeoff skit that was the best and funniest in 1977’s “The Kentucky Fried Movie”, an early success for Zucker-Abraham-Zucker who gave us “Airplane!” If only “Ball of Fury” could have been “match point” to its processor.

PG-13; 90min. A Rogue Pictures release – presented at selected theaters

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

Farmers from page 7

Antwon Brown; 26-year-old Debra Livingston; 26-year-old Conriller McCracken; 38-year-old Shirley Moten; 27-year-old Tywione Robinson; 35-year-old Ramona Wade; and 39-year-old Gregory Pearson.

All except Pearson are wanted on criminal drug conspiracy charges. Pearson is wanted for possession of a controlled substance.

Members of the department’s Narcotics and Gang Investigation Section (NAGIS) responded to complaints from community residents and began their investigation last December. The focus of the seven-month investigation targeted illegal narcotics activity taking place that was leading to violence and street wars between two rival gangs, the Vice Lords and the Gangster Disciples.

In late July, police shut down the operation dubbed “Double Wrap,” with the arrest of 10 individuals including a juvenile.

Last year alone, police shut down 56 open-air drug markets with more than 596 arrests. Operation Double Wrap was the 21<sup>st</sup> open-air drug market shut down this year.

**7 PROSTITUTION ARRESTS**

Chicago police announced the arrests of seven men, who were charged with either patronizing or soliciting for prostitution recently. Those arrested include:

- Jeffery Davis, 18, of the 3100 block of West Lexington Street. He was arrested in the 1400 block of North Pulaski Road;
- Alberto Ruiz, 27, of the 2000 block of North Western Avenue. He was arrested in the 2900 block of North Pulaski;

- Krzysztof Piechota, 27, of the 8200 block of O’Connor Drive, River Grove. He was arrested in the 4800 block of West Augusta Boulevard and his vehicle was impounded;
- Eustaquio Hernandez, 22, of the 900 block of Bishop Avenue, Aurora. He was arrested in the 5200 block of West Chicago Avenue and his vehicle was impounded;
- Lee Straughter, 32, of the 100 block of Morris, Bellwood. He was arrested in the 1400 block of South Pulaski and his vehicle was impounded;
- Donald Robinson, 31 of the 100 block of South Cuyler, Oak Park. He was arrested in the 1400 block of South Pulaski and his vehicle was impounded;
- And, Darnell Grigler, 38, of the 7000 block of South Green Street. He was arrested in the 1400 block of South Pulaski and his vehicle was impounded.

The police department warns that all the individuals arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

*Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXFM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News. You can reach Ferman Beckless at [beckless@yahoo.com](mailto:beckless@yahoo.com). To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGRESSMAN DANNY K. DAVIS CONVENES THE STATE OF THE DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING** where residents and other 7<sup>th</sup> District stakeholders will speak out on issues impacting quality of life. The meeting will take place on September 14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and September 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Office of Danny K. Davis, located at 3333 W. Arthington, Suite 130.

**COME TO THE GRAND OPENING OF PERFECT PRAISE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST!** When: Sunday, Sept. 2 at 2:30 pm with a Ribbon Cutting at 7 pm. Where: 650 N. Cicero Ave. Special Guests: Pastor T.C. Raven, Apostle Roy Ewing & Savior's Rest Full Gospel Church, Christian Spiritual Union C.O.G.I.C., Elder Robinson and many more

**The Wiley Resource Center, NFP Legal Support Program,** will be hosting a **FREE "YOUTH & THE LAW" WORKSHOP** on Saturday, Sept. 22. The workshop will be held at Shepherd's Temple M.B. Church on 4339 W. Cermak Rd. Contact Antoinette Mayfield at 773/876-2402, or contact Attorney Melissa Williams at 773/620-4456..

#### LIHEAP

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### Budget from front page

Preliminary 2008 budget can be acquired from the Office of Budget and Management at City Hall

In a phone interview in preparing this story NLCN spoke to Tayor Mitchell. "We're definitely disappointed with the proposed budget cuts regarding CPS," said Mitchell, a member of the Chicago Public Schools financial division. Both the State and the city are grappling with the overall cuts from the federal government.

Many North Lawndale Community residents are curious as to how the City Budget is going to affect them. One resident specially brought the Chicago Park District to the forefront. According to the proposed State Budget Numbers, the Chicago Parks District is set to gain upwards of a fifteen percent increase in funds, something that many allude may be in done in a effort to get the 2016 Olympics to Chicago. Marica Carusi, who attended and provided testimony at the meeting said "I would certainly hope that this proposed increased for the Parks District is aimed at keeping our parks clean, the crime down and beautifying our neighborhoods, not just spending money aimed at getting the Olympics and getting money into people's pockets."

City residents had concerns from Park District access to sewers, to cutting of trees on their block. North Lawndale residents were sizeable in their attendance, especially over the newly proposed Ogden Pulaski TIF. Rosalyn D. Brown, the third to speak said "They are going to put a TIF in

the Ogden Pulaski TIF, What I'm asking for is an advisory council so we the residents can have something to say." The message of inclusion in decisions on changes in one's community where they live was echoed by other residents that spoke at the hearing. Also receiving applausal support from many in the audience.

Joe Ann Bradley, a candidate for 24th ward democratic committeeman spoke representing the Lawndale Alliance, a group of residents from the North Lawndale area stood up in the crowd to show support. "The people of Lawndale are not all thugs. They are not all dope dealers..... These are people who are honest paying taxpayers. Who are working class for the most part are concerned about this city." Ms. Bradley also asked for an extension for the Conservation Council that is about to expire. She asked that it be extended for the life of the Ogden Pulaski TIF.

The budget seems to be a serious concern in west side communities. Brian T. Roby, a youth counselor and Executive Director of the Community Uplift and Outreach Project said "The lack of support for the not forprofits that are out here trying to make a difference is really troublesome. There's no reason why we shouldn't be a focal point of the budget, as we provide a lot to the community that the city offices claim to want to improve. Hopefully there are some changes made to the budget so that money is more widespread in community development."

### Nelson from page 5



behind a big tree and he (Nelson) dropped to the ground. "You see I was from 16<sup>th</sup> Street, so I knew how to drop to the ground

It was 1989 when Nelson was employed by then Recorder of Deeds Carol Mosley Braun, The first African-American to hold that office. He was one of her most trusted employees. Braun later was elected to the United States Senate.

"Danny Davis, Ed Smith and my grandfather Rev. David A. Williams stood with me until I got straighten out. I thank God for bringing me threw." Nelson was a man-child, it seemed that he was preordain to help people. Nelson is a living institution of the good in North Lawndale. "I have survived because

I remained focus. I try to make things positive. I want to help our youth because we are losing so many. They deserve better. I asked Nelson, was there hope for the children in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward and he responded by saying that he is a living testimony what God can do. "There is hope for the children, but God leaves something for us to do. That is why I am running for Democratic Ward Committeeman."



Also throwing their hat in the ring for that position are current Alderman **Sharon Dixon**, current 24<sup>th</sup> ward democratic committeeman and former Alderman **Michael Chandler**, and **Joe Ann Bradley**. Look for articles on them other other candidates in coming issues of NLCN.

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### Perspective from page 8

repeatedly hang out in an area where he claims police had harassed him in the past. Especially since his mother resides in Berwyn, a suburb that looks nothing like North Lawndale. I'd also like to know why he chose to hang out in front of a legitimate business while there was a park immediately across the street?

Don't get me wrong. I wasn't there and I'm not concluding that the police were right. I've tried to reach Monique Bond, the spokesperson for the police department, to ask her if the Department had traced ownership of the gun recovered at the scene.

Young men and women, there are numerous shootings not committed by the police. And to this date, I haven't heard any anti-violence chants or seen anyone throw rocks and bottles at gang members and drug dealers, as they did when they marched over to Area 4 Police Headquarters when Harrison got shot at.

I suggest that we spend a little more time loving ourselves and not hating someone else. When we do that, we won't be killing each other. We'll be able to stand up and rightfully demand that others respect us as we respect ourselves.

Peace & Love

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

*Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXXM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News. You can reach Ferman Beckless at beckless@yahoo.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.*

### Farmers from page 7

the greens that they grow. Thurman sees greens as a wonderful product for the taste and the health benefits as well.

"They have beta carotene and it's just good for you. Greens keep you flushed and everything moving. And they've got a lot of vitamins that you wouldn't get otherwise." Thurman cautions people to not overcook their greens because "the longer you cook them the more nutrition you lose."

Farming is a tough business and it takes a lot of dedication and fortitude to keep going through the tough times on the farm, but Thurman loves being in a rural environment and thinks it's good for the physical and mental well being of most people.

"It's a good, clean atmosphere if you've got kids - if you don't it's easy breathing for yourself," says Thurman. "It's hard but it's fare...it's just that simple. He adds, "It may not have all the amenities that you're used to, but if you want to live longer, in a laid-back, quiet atmosphere then that's for you. But if you like the rush and the noise and the hustle and bustle, then you might as well stay in the city."

The Thurman's fresh, naturally grown produce should be around for a long time, and right now there are 11 family members between the ages of 12 and 29 who work on the farm. His 22 year-old daughter is closing in on buying her own land in Pembroke and his sons are working at other trades to make the transition to farming less financially daunting. The Thurmans are simply dedicated to farming.

"Farming with us is just what we do. It's not just a way to make money, it's a lifestyle, and it's what we desire," Thurman says. The Austin Market is open every Saturday from 7:00am until 2:00pm. It's located near the corner of Madison and Central in the parking lot of Emmitt Math, Science and Technology parking lot.

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



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

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