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

State Budget Crisis Could have Domino Effect

Wendell Hutson

Imagine being laid off from work only to find out a month later that you will no longer receive your unemployment check.

And the reason you won't receive it is not because the state does not have the money but because lawmakers failed to pass a balanced budget, which prevents the state from sending out checks of any kind. And come Aug. 8 that is what could happen if legislators have not passed a budget as required by the state constitution.

The consequences of a state shut down will be felt all over the state

and affect millions of people including working professionals such as school teachers, state employees and the poor. Essentially it means those collecting unemployment and welfare benefits, state employees depending on pay checks to support their families, and public school districts counting on the state to help pay for staff salaries, will come up short on pay day.

Lawmakers have been deadlocked for months on a budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. They state has been operating under

a one-month budget for July, but that expired Aug. 1 Gov. Rod Blagojevich wants lawmakers to pass a one-month budget extension so talks can continue on a full budget.

"To avoid a costly government shutdown potentially injurious to the health, safety and welfare of Illinois, the General Assembly must pass, at a minimum, a second temporary one-month budget," Gov. Blagojevich said.

Dan Hynes, state comptroller, said Hynes has asked the state's legislative leaders to sign a promise

to avoid a shut down and keep things rolling until a full budget is passed. It is the comptroller's office that is responsible for writing checks out to pay the state bills but the state constitution prohibits that from happening without a budget in place.

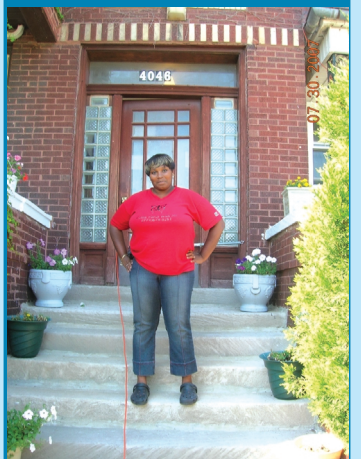
Without a new budget in place, Hynes said, the state would begin facing severe money problems in a week, when 4,900 state employees are scheduled to be paid and schools are in line to receive a \$170 million state aid check.

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BROTHERLY LOVE OUTREACH REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY FURTHER THAN MOST!!

Calvin Crayton

The flyer circulated by the Brotherly Love Missionary Baptist Church, located at 3801 W. Cermack road, boasted "fun for the whole family," and "Christian entertainment." I was pleasantly surprised when it more than equaled its billing.

Some of the entertainment included The Garfield Park Steppers and Puppets, singers, dancers, snow balls, popcorn, watermelon and a barbeque. There was also over 200 book bags and over 300 bags of clothing for a crowd of 800 to 1000 people.

Carl Stockard came from the north side and got his prostate checked and also found employment information while getting school supplies and clothing for his family.

Kevin Miller, from Westside Work Release Center, was a sound man for being so at home when I

was questioning him about the event.

Representatives and donations came from the Mayor's office, Chicago Public Schools, Harmony, House, DHS, Lou Malnotti's Pizza, Lawndale Business & Local Development (LBLDC), Valerie Leonard a community development consultant and resident, Harris Ice Co., Westside Work Release Center, Loretta Hospital, and Austin PCP. But, first and foremost, there was love.

This event stood for a lot more than just going back to school. During a time when the Community really needs a shot in the arm, Pastor Pope, his wife Tamara and his congregation stepped up to the plate. The event took everyone back to school when Brother Eric Strickland Exec. Dir of LBLDC, reminded everyone that the dollar leaves our community quickly, Brother Fred Williams reminded us of our purpose in life, and sister



Community came out to enjoy Brotherly Love Missionary Baptist Church hosting its LoveFest Back to School Jam. "Phenomenal" was the word used by Pastor David M. Pope. Who also received an acknowledgement from Mayor Daley via his Executive Assistant, Ingram Bridges who was in attendance.

Valerie let individuals know that we had better start paying attention to what's happening with TIF funds.

The back to school jam was an event put together by Pastor Pope

and his congregation. They have a vision for the total restoration of man. If it starts with love, Brotherly Love Missionary Baptist Church certainly has it.

5TH SENATORIAL VOLUNTEERS SPEAK ON WHY THEY VOLUNTEER

Julius Goodman



(L-r) Standing: Wilbert Cook and James Thompson (Sitting) Front row: Kurtis Roquemore, Earl Powell Francis Simmons Bill Stevenson Back Row sitting Roger Chandler, Tom Hosia, Nina Johnson-Jalil and Tyrone Tucker, Cecil Lyles

State Senator Rickey Hendon and member volunteers are presenting their annual Stay in School/Back to School annual picnic in Memory of Diane Spence. To be held in Garfield Park located at Jackson and Independence on August 11th, 2007 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

There will be live entertainment, games, vendors and resources from around the city. Included in the festivities will be 3 playoff games in soft ball. Six teams will be in direct competition for first place. Book bags will be distributed to help insure a positive first day of school. Dignitaries include Senator Rickey Hendon, Congressman Danny Davis and a host of alderman, city officials and community leaders from around the city.

Security will include Senator Hendon's private security force along with State Troopers, Chicago Police and Community Volunteers.

The volunteers are people of the community who sacrificed their busy schedule to ensure a celebration worthy of state recognition.

Doctor Earnest L. Thomas is a part time minister. He is also the Asst. Mgr of the fighting fifth softball team. A long time community resident, Doc is the chairman of the Picnic Committee, head of security for Senator Hendon and during election time Doc is the field manager for the Fifth Senatorial district. He acts as a consultant and counselor in his duties chairing the picnic committee.

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Visit us on our website at www.nlcn.org for more articles, information, photos and opportunities

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

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

## NLCN 2007 Focus People and Education

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

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

Education with wisdom can reduce and minimize high rates of unemployment and underemployment, produce healthier citizens, and reduce the dependency on traditional welfare. The West Side is changing, we have to make it in favor of everyone, equitably.

Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. NLCN will continue to provide news and information on issues and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus of our previous years. By becoming an educated wise people, knowing, loving and caring about each other more, we can more participate and benefit in making our communities model neighborhoods. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving 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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North Lawndale  
August 18<sup>th</sup>  
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for Details**

## Writers' Meetings!!

**THE NORTH LAWDALE  
COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Where:** 1211 S. Western, Suite 203

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Date:** August 16, 2007

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# Make it a Malcolm X College Summer!

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## EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING

## CPS GETS MONEY TO COMBAT VIOLENCE

James Glover

Chicago Public Schools recently received a \$4.8 million grant from the United States Department of Labor to put together a series of programs that will, hopefully, provide relief from the recent surge of violent death.

"Before children can learn, they have to feel safe" said Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools. "We need to work hard to prevent our children from being victims of violence and from falling prey to the influence of drugs and gangs."

Chicago Public Schools will soon begin a three month meeting and planning process to determine exactly how the \$4.8 million will be used by three existing CPS departments: Education to Careers, Dropout Prevention and Recovery, and Post Secondary Education and Student Development. While everyone

involved seems pleased that CPS will be doing something to help its students, there is some debate on exactly what the focus areas should be.

"Getting children, especially those in communities that feature high drop out rates to get the importance of education and how much it can do for you," said Rebecca Daniels, teacher in Chicago Public Schools and one of the leaders in the Secondary Education and Student Development Program. "That's not to put down any of the other great programs that Chicago Public Schools is going to offer with the money but if the children aren't in school, how can they take advantage of services in other areas?"

In addition, Chicago Public Schools that have recently received students from closed

down schools will also get support from the grant. Chicago Public Schools will evaluate these host schools to identify gaps or weaknesses in their offerings, then build upon and expand successful programs with funds from the YES grant.

Parents of CPS students are especially happy about the progression that is possible with the improvement of the school system. Loretta Thornton, mother of two Manley High School students, said, "It's good if it's carried out properly and not split up amongst school officials. Long as money is used to create after school programs and educate these kids on what's going on and why they should be in school then I feel its good."

Raymond Jackson, teacher at Herzel Elementary said, "It's good to know that the

government realizes the extreme problem that we're facing here in Chicago as far as education and the need to give our children a better opportunity as to where they don't find themselves in violent situations constantly. Hopefully, this money will be used to create more future leaders and less funerals."

Duncan agrees stating, "It isn't the savior of CPS but it's a good start in that we can improve as a school community, which is what we all need to be doing for the sake of our children. We can't just look at the children as students but as the future of America and we have to make sure that we realize as school officials that we really work for these kids so that learning and all the entails the school system is appealing to them."

## AUGUST 1 BLACK FACTS



Adam Clayton

\* On this day in 1944, Adam Clayton Powell elected first Black congressman from East.

\* On this day in 1867, Blacks voted for the first time in a state election in the South, contributing to Republican sweep in Tennessee.

\* On this day in 1869, Augustus Nathaniel Lushington was born in 1869. He became the first African American to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), earning the doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

\* On this day in 1879, Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first African American to graduate from a nursing school, graduates from the nursing program at the New England Hospital for Women and Children

\* On this day in 1964, Arthur Ashe, first Black male to win Wimbledon, becomes first Black person named to the US Davis Cup team.

## Seizing Opportunity

Lavonte' Roache'

You should seize every opportunity put in front of you. One opportunity does nothing but lead to bigger and better opportunity. There is great opportunity seating in front of you right now, you just got to reach out and grab it. If you do that I guarantee that it would lead you to great success.

Some people, however, are presented with great opportunities, but don't take advantage of them for some odd reason.

I would like for you to reconsider these opportunities and just give it a chance because you will regret it if you don't.

There are opportunities every where you look, mostly at school. Also, there are ways of getting extra credit, collage credits and scholarships and other things. There are opportunities at your local restaurant, just go in and ask for application or if they have any positions open.

If you are too young to get a job try to doing odd jobs around the house or go around the community and ask the odder people if they need there garbage taken out or there snow shovel. Ask your parents if they need help around there office or where they work at, if you do a little extra work at home can they give you a little more money than they give you usually give you.

I am a prefect example of a person who did not take the opportunity, at first I did not wont a job and it was plenty of opportunity that came my way but I got tried of letting

opportunity pass me up.

My friend James Glover came over my house and told me about after school matters at his job and I told him I did wont a job so he left it along a few days want pass and I got tried of doing nothing so I told him take me up there and when he did it was to late. Something good came out of me trying to cease opportunity little did I know they needed a younger person thoughts on "violence in the community" so I said to myself can't hurt to try and I did and now I write "from a youth prospective" every week in the North Lawndale news paper, and if I did not go up there and tried to seize an opportunity then you would not be reading this article.

Some people seize the wrong opportunity. They see selling drugs as an opportunity and it is but it's the wrong opportunity because that just brings other bad opportunity and with bad opportunity came bad results, they also see robbing people, killing people and other things like that as opportunities, now does are the wrong opportunities to be seizing. We can find better opportunity than things that ends up putting us in jail if you look hard enough you can find the thing that you exactly what's to do just look around you and you will see the opportunity just reach out and grab them.

*Lavonte' Roache' is a resident on the West Side. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## 158 Receive Certificates From Center For Employment Training

Mike Cook

Wearing white caps and gowns, the proud graduates marched to the music of "Pomp and Circumstance" to receive their certificates in Medical Assistance and Building Maintenance Service Technician. The beautiful Flower Garden, across from the Center For Employment office on 3333 W. Arthington, was filled with hundreds of the graduates, relatives and friends.

The ceremony on Friday, July 27 marked the fortieth year of operations for the Center. As stated in their literature, "The mission of CET, an economic development corporation, is to promote human development and education by providing people with marketable skills, training and supportive services that contribute to self sufficiency."

The Center is especially valued by the community because they welcome trainees who have been marginalized for reasons of convictions, little job history, and financial problems.

One of the guest speakers, Donald N. Mayes, Jr., shared a hair-raising tale of drug addiction, criminal behavior, serious prison time, and two wives who both died young. He credits Jesus for setting him straight as he went on to legal employment, earning both B.A. and M.A. degrees, while rising

to his current manager's position at the Chicago Transit Authority. He received a moving response, indicating that many of the new graduates shared some of his experiences. Mr. Mayes now volunteers with CET, working to place the new graduates in employment.

CET in Chicago is one of 45 operations, including centers in Belize and China. The origins of CET can be traced back to a legendary figure, the recently deceased Rev. Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan. Beginning in Philadelphia in 1964, Reverend Sullivan began an innovative job training program, Opportunity Industrialization Centers of America (OIC), which soon went nationwide, including a Chicago Center at 13<sup>th</sup> and Wabash. CET remains as one of his legacies, retaining his goals and ideals.

CET Chicago has a staff of thirteen, lead by the Center Director, Ms. Marie Pickett, and including job developers, financial aid advisors and instructors. The Center is located at 3333 W. Arthington, Suite 510; Chicago, IL 60624; tele: (773) 533-3140; fax: (773) 533-1722.

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

## Crisis from front page

That's not good news for Rhonda Hall, a single mom who depends on a \$380 a month welfare check to help support her two sons, ages 3 and 7.

"Right now, I can't make it without that check, plain and simple," she said. "I need that extra money to make ends meet because I am only working two-days a week."

But losing her cash will not be as harsh as losing her medical and food stamp (Link) cards.

"How will we eat? What if my babies get sick and need medical attention. Then what am I suppose to do?" adds Hall.

The consequences from a state shut down are endless but it's not just the poor that will suffer.

Just ask Marc Williamson, an \$84,300-year regional director for the Secretary of State's Office, who is worried about lost

compensation a month before his daughter's wedding.

"I have made commitments to help pay for the wedding and if I start missing paychecks it will put everything in disarray," he said. "My little girl is counting on me to come through and I can't let her down."

Secretary of State Jesse White recently sent a letter to all 3,700 of his employees telling them to report to work no matter what.

"If a shutdown does occur, the Illinois Secretary of State's office will remain open and employees are required to work their normal schedules," White said. "Employees will be compensated, as always, for this time."

Realistically speaking though, Williamson said many of his colleagues will more than likely not show up for work if they cannot be paid on time, thus forcing many offices to close anyway.

House Democrats estimate that between

**See page 15**

**Taste of North Lawndale**  
**August 18<sup>th</sup> 312/492-9090**



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# Business Training For Entrepreneurs In The Community

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

ASSETS Chicago provides small-business training to people looking to start their own business and for those already in business, but who need more information on entrepreneur success.

Located at 3948 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 213 ASSETS Chicago is a faith-based organization that supervises an eight-week evening course, two hours once a week. The cost is \$150. The next session will begin in September. Space is limited.

"All the knowledge that you're going to get is particle knowledge," said Cristian Shoemaker, representative for ASSETS Chicago. "At the end you will have a solid business plan, you'll get paired with a mentor, and you will have practical knowledge on every aspect of starting a small business."

"The main thing is that you will be working on a business plan the whole time, a business plan is needed in order to finance your business."

The course also provides training in

market research, promotion, legal issues that include registering your name, how to budget the financial cash flow, taxes, insurance, and more.

Susie Travis, founder of For Senior Only, a transportation service specifically for seniors took the course in 2005. Her business was already established, but she needed to put together a business plan in order to apply for grants in the community.

"One of the things I learned was how to put your business in order, and that there's always a better way to do things," she said.

"Make sure you have the correct papers, make sure if you're gonna do a 501c3 that you have your articles of incorporation, and those type of things before you even begin doing other work."

Travis said she also learned that it's very important to research and find out if your business is marketable or needed. "That's a must. Find out who else is doing what you're doing. I found a lot of people are transporting

senior citizens, but nobody else is doing exactly what I do. We wait for the passengers when we take them where they are going."

Because Travis learned that she needed to get her passengers *before* applying for grants to cover the expenses, and not the other way around, she said she has received a grant from the Steans Family Foundation for the cost of a second van, and funds from Congressman Danny K. Davis to cover the insurance.

"A lot of times we just think that we want to start like I did but I found out I needed to start with paperwork and my mission statement. I was all disorganized before I went to that school."

"The course is taught by entrepreneurs in the area," said Shoemaker, which means you receive practical advice from people who know the community where you hope to establish your business.

To qualify you will need at least a 9<sup>th</sup> grade math and reading level in English. For more

information or for an application call 773-542-9256 or go to [www.Assetschicago.org](http://www.Assetschicago.org), or email Cristian Shoemaker at [Cristian@assetschicago.org](mailto:Cristian@assetschicago.org).

For more information on For Seniors Only call 773-573-6758.

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).

## Gun Turn-in Ok, But Culture Change Is Better



Ferman Mentrell Beckless

The turning-in of guns last week across the city left Chicago leaders excited, though they know that with guns still in the hands of

criminals, there will be violence.

The city received more than 6,000 shotguns, rifles, assault weapons and handguns, passing out in exchange \$100 debit cards for each gun turned in. The turnout was so great and unexpected; officials were forced to distribute vouchers for the debit cards.

Even replicas were turned in; meaning these guns were absolutely no good to the cowardly gunmen who preferred doing a drive-by shooting than stand face to face with their potential victims.

The high number of guns turned in is good news. However, But it is also alarming to me. We live in a society that has seemingly long accepted violence as a method for settling differences. It will take more than a gun turn-in to quell the violence that for the last few decades has paralyzed this great city to live in.

That's right. A cultural change is needed.

I remember growing up in the housing projects, watching the Untouchables on a black and white television set. All the violent scenes surrounding Al Capone and his gangsters were shown in silhouettes. That means, we didn't see blood oozing out of the forehead of a victim who ran afoul of the criminals. Nowadays, the action movies are in full color and no scene is sacred. Stabbing, shooting and beatings are life-like and sell better than mom's apple pie.

As a child in rural Arkansas, my Dad had his own gun and often went hunting to help feed his siblings. During my father's generation, every household had guns. Be it for hunting, protection or whatever. There were guns everywhere. And yet people didn't go out shooting others for recreation. There wasn't any street gang.

Today, young, irresponsible hoodlums have guns. And I doubt if any of them turned their guns in for what would be the paltry sum of \$100, seeing that the average handgun costs in excess of \$300. In my opinion, most of these gunmen get their ideas from movies such as "Boys in the Hood," from movies that depict killing as glamorous. Add in the fact that no one seems to have respect and love for his/her fellow man, and there you have it: A culture of violence.

I'm not ready to be left at the mercy of a bunch of gun-toting idiots who decided to pass up on the \$100 debit cards. The culture we live in is not one I'd like to be at the mercy of.

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.

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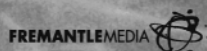
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## TO YOUR HEALTH &amp; SPIRITUAL LIFE

# A Cultural Exchange

Megan Sieberg

Last Friday, Habilitative Systems Incorporated, a social and human services organization on the west side of Chicago, hosted a delegation of diplomats from South Africa and Morocco, who came to tour the facility and gain useful knowledge to take back to their respective countries.

Since the death of Martin Luther King, the West Side of Chicago has seen more than its fair share of turmoil. Riots following the assassination resulted in the destruction of 75 percent of businesses in the area, generating both economic and social turmoil that have had devastating effects on crime, education, employment and affordable housing. In North Lawndale, less than 30 percent of residents have received a high school education, and the employment rate hovers around a mere 35 percent.

When asked why she came to the West Side of Chicago, a representative from South Africa said "our project is quite different, but it is important to take some of the learnings."

It is a wonder that a delegation would come from any developing nation to receive counseling from a community that has experienced such din over the past 30 years. What could the west side offer a country in which citizens endure similar tribulations?

According to Dr. John Morrison, who was present at the event "we don't feel that this is our giving to Africa, or Africa giving to us. It's an exchange. We're learning best practices and they're learning best practices so we can put together better programs."

The implication is that the west side is developing simultaneously with poor countries in Africa. In the United States, which has a reputation of being the world's economic powerhouse, this idea is profound. It is not often that America takes notes from the most destitute continent in the world.

Despite boundaries of cultural relativity, there was an overwhelming sense of empathy between the delegates from Africa and the employees of HSI. Both parties shared a vision to increase opportunity among disadvantaged individuals in poverty-stricken areas. Each was looking to learn from the other.

There is plenty to be learned from HSI. As one of the leading employers on the west side, HSI has helped integrate people with disabilities into the community since 1978. In the past five years, the organization's Teen Reach After-School Program has served over 200 children in the West Garfield and Austin areas. Overall, HSI serves more than 7,000 west side residents per year in a number of community-based programs.

Although the west side is struggling both socially and economically, organizations like HSI are doing what they can, on a grassroots level, to catalyze upliftment. Similar projects are being undertaken in developing nations around the world. Knowledge is being transferred across borders and across cultural boundaries in an effort to form partnerships between developing communities on all continents.

Last Friday's event proved that even the United States can learn from its international cohorts. Habilitative Services Inc. CEO Donald Dew proclaimed that, "social work is the noblest profession on the planet. There is nothing more important to me than doing God's Work, and that is serving humanity." The representatives may have had different cultural perspectives, but they all certainly agreed with that.

Megan Sieberg is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. She has a degree in Communication Studies and is currently the Communications Manager at the North Lawndale Community News.

## WORD UP: FEELINGS NOTHING MORE THAN FEELINGS

Calvin C. Crayton

It's amazing when we consider that most people don't feel like doing the right thing at least the right thing according to God's word. And yet even despite this fact most of us go to church seeking to feel good rather than learn God's word. What's astonishing is that the church is willing to accommodate us by having the choir sing 45 minutes, the deacons pray 20 minutes (in spite of the fact that Jesus said do not do like this.)

Then there is another 20 minutes of commercial announcements and the preacher stands up prays again then reads 1-5 verses from the Bible and tells the congregation what he thinks while they holler preach preacher preach and toward the end of his sermon the organ player gets up and starts hitting notes in sequence with the preacher's groans so that the congregations feelings come into play and every body goes home stupid but feeling good, sounds just like the same effect you can

get from Jack -Daniels and James Brown except the Jack and James are cheaper.

Romans 10 vs. 1-2 states: Brethren my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge. You see even if I am cheering what difference does it make if I am cheering for the wrong team?

Most of us don't seem to realize that Jesus did not feel like going to the cross but he did obey. We don't have to feel right to do right and feelings were not meant to take the place of reasoning. We have to come to the understanding that God is a God of reasoning what he says is what he says and that is it. I change not means I change not. Three days and Three nights mean Three days and Three nights Lord and Savior means Lord and Savior not just savior every time we want to go on feelings it usually means disobedience.

You see even though the truth will set us free it usually comes with some pain. I have come to realize everybody does not like God's word for what it is we want to adjust it to fit how we feel. Believe me if you are getting along with everyone somewhere along the line you are disobeying God's word. The problem is we want to feel like everyone likes us and we worry more about getting along with men more than getting along with God. I am glad we serve an unchanging God who is faithful to his word and if we obey there are blessings and if we disobey there are curses but he is so forgiving that at any given moment we can just repent and apologize if we feel like it and he is right there waiting with open arms for he protects us in our disobedience but our true blessings come when we obey and what a good thing when we feel like obeying out of love of The Father. Remember if WE don't Read The Book We Lose The Lesson Word Up!!

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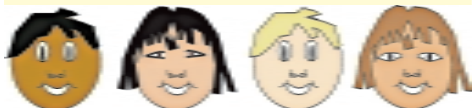
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# SHEDD AQUARIUM MORE THAN JUST FISH

Crystal McGee

Chicago's Shedd Aquarium has more to offer than its vast selection of current water-world residents. Every Thursday, beginning at 5 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m., the Shedd sponsors WNUA's *Jazzin at the Shedd* on the lower level of the building. When the main set is over, you can attend a smaller set held on the first floor where tables and chairs surround a huge aquarium while you listen to a smaller jazz ensemble until 10 p.m. at no extra cost. The admission is \$10.00, and seniors can enter at a reduced rate.

Recently, they featured the exquisite smooth jazz band **Lake Effect**, which was co-created by Neil Artwick and Bob Davis. The elegant compositions, with attention to melodic detail and compelling liquid grooves, are trademark of the Lake Effect sound. The band has been together for 10 years and features the famous jazz guitarist, Steve Cole. The drummer, Chris, will have you jumping out of your seat, as he did several times during his performance last week. The band will be appearing at the *Elbo Room* on August 22.

*Lake Effects* performance had the dance floor and isles filled with people moving and singing to the jazzy tunes.

Other groups who will be performing in the future are the Tim Fitzgerald Trio, the Dee Alexander Quartet, the Jarrard Harris Band, and many more. The entire list can be found

on the Shedd's website.

The crowd was a mixture of races, backgrounds and lifestyles. Nina, a flight attendant and founder of "Nina's Delight" catering, who attended alone, met people and stayed for three shows. She said "Chicago is such a beautiful city and since I have been relocated to Chicago, I needed to see more of this beautiful city. I listen to WNUA often and I just decided to check this out. I am so glad I came and I will be back."

Also in attendance was C.J. Booth, one of Northwestern University's star polo players. He said that he comes to relax and enjoy people.

There were two Chicago Bulls rookies who wanted to remain low-key.

Another sponsor for the event was the Illinois Lottery, who raffled off three \$200.00 lottery tickets during the first break and three more during the second. Each week, they post pictures of the winners. The drawing is free for attendants



The jazz band Lake Effect

When you enter, you sign up to win a WNUA Bag of Goodies, which contains a black tee shirt with white writing and a stainless steel coffee mug. Both items have the WNUA logo.

*Jazzin at the Shedd* will continue every Thursday until August 30<sup>th</sup> which will be the final set for 2007. You don't want to miss another of Chicago's Finest.

Crystal McGee is a West Side resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz. Film critic



### THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (\*\*\*)

Whether you are a fan or not of the longest running animated TV series ever. "The Simpson's' Movie" is, what we expected it should be. The movie stretches out the Simpson's broad and subversive humor a little more than allowed by network TV standards.

"The Simpson's" movie is infectiously funny that generates into one hilarious romp throughout its cavalcade of characters that still provide an amazing reservoir of comedic hilarity that most real, live action comedies don't even come close to.

As the plot lines goes, the family arrives late for church services, but soon have to leave after removing their grandpa who had a "genuine religious experience" from a holy steam of sun rays through the church stained glass window. Grandpa Simpson utters some key words that forecast a certain doomsday scenario for the residents of Springfield.

This sets off Lisa on a campaign against the pollution being done in Lake Springfield. Sharing her conservationist passion and concern, Lisa becomes romantically infatuated by the new kid from Ireland, Colin that really doesn't seem to offer much through the film's proceedings.

Homer makes his family to agree to flee to Alaska to assume a new life there. But as news come that their friends in Springfield are beginning to run low on energy and necessities. Then when news comes that the government intends to blow up the town. Marge and the kids decides to return back to help their friends. Only they become captured and placed back inside the dome by EPA

agents.

While Homer refuses and stays behind alone, until he rescued from the cold by a mystic Alaskan woman who help Homer have an "epiphany"; that makes him realize. In order to save himself; Home must save Springfield, which leads to a bumbling, outrageous finale

Through all the pop culture references, inside jokes, self parody, some perverse violence and other form of comedic mayhem.

What stand out in this movie version that isn't compromised from the TV series is the affection threes characters have for each other. It delivers a dysfunctional family that still exists through their moral heart and souls as a family No matter how extreme the situation usually caused by Homer.

Also, and most important, the longevity of this cartoon series is a testimony to the show's talented pool of writers and voice performers that broaden the scope and texture of animated characters beyond "The Flintstones" which were essentially, a stone age version of "The Honeymooners". Clearly, "The Simpsons" have already established their place in TV pop culture history; their movie just serves as a hilarious exclamation point. PG-13; 87min. A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Picture Release – Presented at selected theaters

### THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (\*\*\*)

Even as Jason Bourne (Mat Damon) comes full circle to where it all began as this reconditioned and lethal CIA operative that works "above clearance" whose now trying to recall how he came to be and who he was prior.

"The Bourne Ultimatum" is a movie that feels more like its going through the motions. The movie seems to set its story and direction through a deliberate pattern of "chase, chase, and then some brief moments of information, than back to another lengthy chase and vice versa and so on".

For what its worth, "The Bourne Ultimatum" seems to have peaked at the right time. Even though initially, Bourne is

See Flicks page 11

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# Harris Bank and the North Lawndale Community News Honors North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month



Priscilla (Perci) Lucas

## COME PARTY WITH ME



Owner Heaven Storm in front of her home



Kids at play on Bouncer



Heaven Storm, owner of Come Play With Me

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor "Come Party with Me," as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for August.

Thirty-four year old Heaven Storm is a quiet, soft-spoken young entrepreneur who has managed to parlay her professional skills as a pre-school teacher into a blossoming business for entertaining children.

"Come Party with Me," located at 4046 W. Grenshaw, is a home-based business that is steadily becoming a parent's best friend. This innovative ideal of entertaining children has replaced the exhausting task of keeping a child's attention on activities so they don't run around recklessly while mom, or dad, attempts to entertain adults.

"I like to entertain kids," said Storm. "I basically entertain the kids and keep them involved while the adults get to mingle and have fun with each other, and the kids get to have fun with their peers, not in a structured environment, but to have somebody to supervise what they are doing."

Storm's background as a teacher was a motivating factor in starting this line of business. Children flock about as she prepares the brightly colored bouncer and waits patiently for the bubbles to foam before hopping in. The cheers begin.

"I was a pre-school teacher for seven years, and I just enjoy kids and I have fun with kids. Every day is like a party in my classroom," Storms says, smiling as she watches over the group. "I work with kids seven days a week and I love it!"

Ms. Storm's service includes a variety of entertaining projects guaranteed to keep the kids busy and happy. She has a huge bouncer, a kiddie pool with foam, art projects, goody bags and games. She takes great care to ensure that each guest is involved and that no child is left out of the festivities.

Current health issues are a constant plague on communities. Storm employs healthy, vigorous activities such as relay races to burn off the sweet treats that the children munch on.

"They say we [Americans] are overweight, and so let's incorporate exercise along with having fun," Storm said.

As her business takes off, Ms. Storm wants North Lawndale to know that this is the community in which she grew up, and this is the community in which she plans on staying.

To the people of North Lawndale she simply says that, "they have a community person who genuinely cares for children and wants to entertain them. My parties come to the community, they come wherever you are," she said. "My customers supply the space, and I come and give them what they want."

You can contact Heaven Storm at (773) 678-8261 for appointments and rates.

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# What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

## What It Iz!

Rumors have been surfacing the web all week long about Usher and his fiancé Tameka. They broke up, the wedding is off and she's not pregnant. Well I have found some evidence that this crap is not true even though the world hoped it would be. It was rumored that Tameka has been jailed for shoplifting and the story was leaked to the Enquire by her half sister and her and Tameka split the money. I think the shoplifting thing was true since she did not say it wasn't. Then she went into the hospital with complications from her pregnancy the day of their supposed to be wedding. It was reported that she is faking her pregnancy. I really don't know I think so because she is not showing and she is 5 months. I think this is the biggest screwed up couple in the entertainment business. These



Usher and Tameka arriving in NY after the rumors. Photo courtesy of concreteloop.com

are quotes from the happy (and by happy I mean dysfunctional) couple: "Everybody's fine, Tameka and the baby are fine," Usher told Us magazine on July 31st. "No one knows why we cancelled the wedding, but I can tell you that all the reasons that everyone is speculating and writing about are completely untrue." This is what Tameka said to

People.com. As this joke unravels I will keep you posted.

After months of rumors, Nicole Richie confirmed Tuesday that she is pregnant. "Yes I am. We are," Richie told ABC News' Diane Sawyer for an interview to be aired this week. "I'm almost four months." Richie's boyfriend, Good Charlotte frontman Joel Madden is the father. She also talks about her guilty plea in the DUI case resulting in a four day jail sentence. "I have a responsibility and it's something that I did wrong, and if I could personally apologize to every single person that has lost a loved one from drunk driving, I would," Richie said. "And unfortunately I can't, but this is my way of paying my dues and taking responsibility and being an adult." Richie also shared her thoughts on her hard-partying contemporaries and what effect their

bad behavior has on young fans.

The interview will air on "Good Morning America" on Thursday and Friday and on 20/20 Friday night.

Rapper Twista, who was tapped by McDonald's to perform during its nationwide concert series, has been dropped from the lineup because of his "controversial lyrics," the fast food giant said Monday. The Chicago rapper is better known for his lightning-fast rap delivery than particularly raunchy content: His hits include "Slow Jamz," with Kanye West and Jami Foxx, and "Overnight Celebrity." However, he does use explicit language and reference drugs in his some of his rhymes. McDonald's, which initially signed the rapper to perform in Chicago for its 10-city concert series, said it could no

See Biz page 13

# The Right Time

Jaira J. Harrington

It seems as though America is becoming increasingly aware of our civic duty and responsibility to vote now more than ever. If we are not, we should be. In 2000, George W. Bush was elected president after a mired of controversy, and in 2004, he was re-elected. During his two terms America has experienced some of the most heavy-handed, ungainly and misstep-laden political leadership in recent memory.

In the realm of foreign policy, the United States' unilateral entry into Iraq in 2003 was under the guise of a multi-country "coalition" force in the War on Terror. Five years later, the War in Iraq is essentially an American venture with little success. In an assessment of the War's course and the Bush Administration reported that of 18 benchmarks, only eight were considered "satisfactory," while another eight was considered "unsatisfactory," and the remaining two benchmarks were a toss-up.

President Bush's adamant refusal to withdraw from Iraq, set timelines or otherwise ensure the American people that there is a plan for a change in strategy is an unsettling approach to the conflict that continues to rage. Although American's capricious opinion should not necessarily drive policy decisions, which is the purpose of the representative form of government that we have, at the very least, it should inform it. We must also take

advantage of that opportunity to voice our concerns. However, congressional efforts to block further support and funding for the war have been curbed by partisan allegiance and presidential veto.

In addition to the growing concern for the troops and the general course of the war, our current administration's counterterrorism approach may have served us more harm than good. During the past few years, vestiges of torture have been alleged by detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay detention centers. Also, the secret rendition policies that indefinitely take citizens of foreign nations, who may be associated with terrorist organizations, for interrogations assist in reducing the rights of potentially innocent people. Over the same period we have witnessed bombings in Madrid and London and foiled plots in the Homeland. The terrorists appear to have become more brazen over time. America may have entered a state of national insecurity. Our future leaders must handle this issue with greater care.

Our government's heavy emphasis on national security and the militarized state has had its affects on economic policy as well. With a price tag of \$10 billion per month, the war in Iraq is narrowing an already strained budget. In addition, the almighty dollar is on the

decline. The U.S. government budget deficit set a record \$413 billion in 2004, according to the Associated Press. The most current estimate for the national debt is \$10.04 trillion and rising. The disparity between the dollar and other foreign currency has significantly widened. The dollar is worth only half the Euro and the British pound. Although domestic spending and consumerism also play a role in our nation's economic health, our executive-level policies have not adequately addressed the persistent problems that are fundamentally ignored with the focus placed on military spending.

Domestic policy has been slighted as well. Newly appointed members of U.S. Supreme Court have already made decisions that will significantly impact the future of this country. Since the relatively recent appointments of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito by President Bush, the Supreme Court has restricted women's freedom to abortion and school districts' ability to govern public education opportunities for minorities in an inherently unjust public education system. The effort to improve the status of public schools with the No Child Left Behind Act has not brought notable change. A change

wanted and needed.

And the list goes on: lest we forget Hurricane Katrina; unresponsiveness to the threat of global warming; overall reduction in civil liberties courtesy of the Patriot Act; the fractured Social Security system; and millions of Americans without healthcare, etc. It is time for a change. That time is now.

The presidential primaries are underway. I would ask that the readership pay attention to these campaigns as they unfold. Be active in making an informed decision. One of the people on the stage at these debates will become the next president of the United States. An informed decision must accompany the fulfillment of one's democratic right and obligation: voting. We have spent eight years in a less-than-desirable political situation. The challenge of raising domestic and international confidence in our leadership is vital to the next presidential cycle. In advance, please consider making the decision to vote a priority in 2008.

Jaira J. Harrington is a recent graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and is presently an intern for Media Matters for America in Washington, DC. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

# Police Roundup

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

## Latin King Gang Member Dead

Known Latin King Gang Member Wilfredo Serrano is dead after a shooting in the 1100 block of North Wolcott around 9:00 last Thursday night. Area 4 Violent Crimes Investigators are searching for the unidentified black male gunman.

Officer Laura Kubiak, who is the spokesperson for The Police Department News Affairs, said the 17-year-old Serrano had just exchanged greetings with an unidentified gunman, who then proceeded to shoot him.

The victim, who sustained a single gunshot wound to the back, was rushed to Illinois Masonic Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

According to unidentified witnesses, the 18-20 year-old black gunman immediately fled the scene.

Kubiak did not say whether investigators knew for certain that the shooting was gang-related.

## Shooting victim recovers

A 20-year-old man who sustained a single gunshot wound to the left leg while celebrating his birthday last Monday, is recovering at John Stroger, Jr. Hospital.

He was initially listed in guarded condition. Officer Laura Kubiak said this is the second time the victim had sustained a gunshot wound to the left leg.

Police reports indicate the unidentified victim is an alleged member of the Vice Lords street gang, who was drinking when an altercation erupted. He was shot by an unidentified gunman who immediately fled.

Kubiak said the victim refused to cooperate with Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators.

## Shooting victim critical

A shooting in the 2900 block of West Jackson Boulevard late last Saturday left an unidentified victim in critical condition with multiple gunshot wounds to the abdomen, chest and buttocks.

Fire department paramedics rushed the victim to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center shortly after the 12:43 a.m. shooting.

Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in the shooting.

## Prostitution arrest

A 29-year-old North Side, Phillip Dumitrescul, was arrested and his vehicle impounded by police late Thursday after he was observed soliciting for prostitution in the 21 block of West Monroe.

Dumitrescul of the 2600 block of North Burling Street has a pending court date.

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.

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## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

Todd Thomas

First it was Miami Heat basketball player Antoine Walker being robbed of cash, jewelry and his car at his River North Chicago residence by masked men brandishing guns. A scant three weeks later a similar robbery takes place in Burr Ridge. This time the victim is former Chicago Bull Eddie Curry, now of the New York Knicks. Both Currie and Walker, along with others were bound with duct tape while being robbed and both men are natives of Chicago who lead fairly public lives that may have made them easy prey for the culprits.

The harrowing incidents are a reminder of the financially desperate and criminally brazen state of the society. Both men lived in wealthy areas they thought were relatively safe from robberies and burglaries, but both men were proven wrong when they were violated at their homes. In Currie's case, the robbers also duct-taped his wife and personal assistant. The incidents have already had an effect, and Walker has moved from his home and has not participated in the Pro-Am Summer League basketball tournament at IIT that he sponsors. He was a regular at the

games, but has not participated in several weeks. This could be the death-knell for athletes who like to remain accessible to their friends and the public. Walker has always freely made his way in the public and Currie was said to be a friendly neighbor that could often be scene riding his all-terrain vehicle through the neighborhood. It just might not pay for them to continue to live this way and risk their lives and property.

Despite Walker's absence from Pro-Am, the games are still excellent and the European professionals and college players have been putting on a stellar show each weekend. The Sonny Parker summer basketball tournament is also taking place and games are played at Homan Square Gym on Saturdays and Mondays. Other local basketball action takes place at Franklin Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays and there is a quality tournament at Shedd Park on Friday evenings beginning at 7:00pm.

In local baseball the North Lawndale Marlins won the North Lawndale Pony League championship with an 11-0 victory

See Sports page 14



The 2007 Pony League Champions, The North Lawndale Marlins

## TONY GWYNN JOINS THE ALL-TIME GREATS

Todd Thomas

Baseball great Tony Gwynn was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame on July 28, cementing his place as one of the games all-time great players. Baltimore Orioles' infielder Cal Ripken Junior was also enshrined, but slugger Mark McGwire, who was also on the ballot, was not.

Gwynn was one of the few men to ever get faintly close to mastering how to hit a baseball with genuine consistency at the major league level. The failure rate at the plate is high, even for the most talented hitters, and hitting over .300 is an enviable feat. Gwynn hit over .300 nearly every year of his 20-year career and won eight batting titles. He was on fire at the plate since his first full season in 1984 when he led the league in batting average .357, and runs scored with 233.

Gwynn was an amazing hitter and flirted with the hallowed .400 batting average mark several times. In 1994 he batted .394, and in 1997 he hit .374. He retired with an eye-popping career batting average of .338 and 17<sup>th</sup> place on the career hits list. The somewhat portly outfielder also won three gold gloves, showing that he was also capable in the field.

Off the baseball diamond Tony Gwynn was also a great ambassador of the game and was never the focus of the embarrassing criminal or anti-social behaviors that have come to plague professional athletes. He played his entire career with the San Diego Padres and never let up in his pursuit of excellence. Despite his success he mentioned in his induction speech that he was not tremendously gifted physically, and that he had to work hard at the game every day to stay at the top.

His baseball feats are truly remarkable when they are compared to other great hitters in MLB history. When Gwynn's stats are compared to another great hitters, such as the legendary Rod Carew he measures up nicely. Carew led the league in batting average seven times, compared to Gwynn's eight times. Carew nearly hit for .400 in 1977 when he had .388 average, while Gwynn peaked at .394 in 1994. Carew's career average is .328, compared to Gwynn's .338. Gwynn, however never won an MVP award while Carew won the in 1977.

Any way he is measured, Gwynn was a tremendous asset to the game of baseball for two decades and the recent Hall of Fame ceremony conjured up memories of a cleaner time in Major League Baseball. Mark McGwire was also on this years Hall of Fame ballot, but didn't receive nearly the required

votes to get in, probably a good barometer of the future Hall of Fame status of suspected steroid users.

Iron Man Cal Ripken, Jr. was sure to get in and he was a fan favorite during his 21-year career with the Baltimore Orioles. He played in a remarkable 2,632 consecutive games while also winning two MVP awards. He also hit 431 home runs and compiled 3,184 career hits. Some fans thought the consecutive games played record chase was somewhat of a farce, but it can't be argued that he was uniquely consistent in all areas of the game and he was truly devoted to baseball in true old school fashion.

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 8

brainwashed with a new name and identity; was a perfect candidate because he had no life of his own when he decides to go do some good for the bureau that has since turned into 'grey matter'.

In this race against time for the truth, Jason Bourne is globetrotting at a frenzy pace from Moscow to Turin, Paris, London, Madrid until the trait ultimately leads back to New York (Which oddly enough doesn't occur to this ultra savvy and smart spy to do first). Bourne is searching for something in the past that he needs to reach before the CIA do.

In Paris, Bourne tells a brother of his sister's death and vows to find out who started "the whole thing". While being determined to retrieve his memory after the scores he settled three years ago in "The Bourne Supremacy"

Director Paul Greengrass goes from one spectacular sequence of amazing action and crashes to another. With a tightly fought fight sequence Bourne has with a hit man in a small public washroom that is a marvel to watch the technology and the logistics that are usually reserved for oriental action fare from director John Woo.

Greengrass equals with amazement the same breathtaking achievement in the car chase and crashes in the tunnel scene he accomplished in "Supremacy" that got audiences applauding the sequence. These exhilarating sequences transport the film more than the plot. R; 111min. A Universal Picture Release – presented at selected theaters

HOT ROD ( \* ) "Hot Rod" is the silly



Andy Samberg and Isla Fisher in Paramount Pictures' Hot Rod

little comedy that one expects it to be. Long on sight gags and moronic humor and short on plot line. Andy Samberg is an amiable comedic presence who has yet to fully establish a distinctive style on the big screen beyond his "Saturday Night Live" reputation.

Samberg plays Rod Kimble, an accident prone, dorky daredevil-of-a-budding stuntman who could easily be considered the illegitimate child to Will Ferrell's "Ricky Bobby" character. (Ferrell happens to have co-executive produced this half baked comedy)

Instead, in this movie, Kimble desires to follow into the footsteps of his late father who claimed to be Evel Kneivel's stunt tester from an old photo. While at the same time living with his parents, Rod is trying to obtain some resemblance of respect from his roughhousing stepfather, Frank (Ian McShane) by beating him one time in a fight.

Because of the familiar way this film is assembled that we've seen before in other low-brow comedies, "Hot Rod" is clearly, a comedy that lacks ambition

The story premise, what there is of it, could have been more fertile as a movie parody on Burt Reynolds' 1978 "Hooper". For example, the potential is more there and wider to work with than what we ultimately got in this movie.

Even though, "Hot Rod" has marginal degree of silliness to amusing moments to keep the characters and the proceedings running long enough, just as the movie runs out of gas. PG; 83min. A Paramount Pictures Release – presented at selected theaters

**WHO'S YOUR CADDY? ( \* )** "Who's Your Caddy?" turns out to be an easily dismissible urban comedy. Because the movie is more predictably silly than sensibly funny in its lame rip-off on 1980's "CaddyShack".

Here's another black showcase of second and third rate stand-up comics, rappers and TV performers popping up, strutting and clowning through their ethnicity of mostly amplified street attitude and sexual arrogances that dominates this culture clash premise of a rich rap record mogul, Christopher Hawkins aka C-Note (Antwan "Big Boi" Patton) and his bulky and loud posse who uses his money and their ethnic bravado to harass and befuddle the strict, uptight white owner, Richard Cummings (Jeffery Jones still stuck under the influence of "Ferris Bueller" again)) for membership into his prestigious, exclusive, all-White country golf club .

Ultimately, Cummings and C-Note escalate their rivalry into golf challenge (also not unlike the finale in the aforementioned 1980 movie) that also dwindles down to what this film was really about — Cummings' self proclaimed golf record that was broken but never recognized.



Chase Tatum, Faizon Love, Antwan 'Big Boi' Patton and Finesse Mitchell in MGM's Who's Your Caddy?

Because the achievement was done by Jack Nicholas' black caddy pictured together in an old photo that C-Note spots in the clubhouse. The caddy also happened to be Christopher's father. So it becomes clear so late in the film; that the son wants to set the record straight through this golf challenge teamed with talented caddy versus Cummings and season pro golfer, while changing the club's "segregated" policy.

Numerous "familiar faces" pup up briefly to pepper the scenery; Garrett Morris plays a legal preacher; Tony Cox plays the pint size contract hit man. While TV's "Fresh Prince" dad, James Avery plays Christopher's father's friend who becomes the voice of reason in the film. For the most part, all of them deserve better than what they were provided in their roles and dialogue here.

But the bigger surprise and shame is that this lame hip-hop influence mini minstrel show was co-executive produced by Queen Latifah. While the film also marks the first film foray of Dimension Films' new urban arm, Our

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THEATRE REVIEW: *TWO BY PEARL*

Mike Cook

The first of two plays written by Pearl Cleage is "Hospice."

The two characters are Alice and her pregnant daughter Jenny sharing a house. Jenny has begun labor pains but Alice demands that Jenny leave the house immediately. Their relationship pits the Jenny against the Alice in a duel of insults, fueled by Alice's terminal cancer and the Jenny's insecurity. Dying, she mocks Jenny for being pregnant by someone who is not her husband and who was absent during her labor.

Jenny's labor grunts echo and Alice groans from cancer pain. Alice plays Puccini's opera, "Madam Butterfly" on her old turntable; the daughter comes back with Billie Holliday singing one of her saddest songs, "In My Solitude," an appropriate choice because loneliness is one of the themes of this drama, along with missed chances, a bitter mother and daughter rivalry and the oneness of birth and death.

They are both writers. Alice is a well-known, published poet. Jenny is a newspaper movie critic who accused her mom of stealing lines from her poetry. They compare notes on her ex-husband and daughter's father, which becomes a juicy opportunity for their final clash. This repetition of opposite forces comes to a logical finale as the mother dies just as the daughter gives birth.

Ms. Cleage's dialogue is banal, lacking in originality and poetry. It fails to illuminate the two sophisticates or give their relationship depth. Noelle Hardy playing the mother, and Tanya Lane as the daughter, both put in a good effort in roles short on meaningful lines. Chuck Smith directs, and the scenic designer, Chris Corwin succeeds in giving a real, period flavor for the play's setting which is Detroit in 1983.

Emily Waecker, Mike Winkelman and Victoria DeLorio do good work as the

costume, lighting and sound designers. The Stage Manager is Amy Distel and the Dramaturg is Janelle Jones (Snow).

\*\*\*\*\*

Pearl Cleage's second play is the "Late Bus to Mecca."

The two women characters are in a bus depot in Detroit in 1970. The flashy Ava Gardner Johnson is waiting for a bus to Atlanta. The speechless, nameless and unkempt woman is just sitting in the terminal. Later, Ava begins addressing Nameless out of curiosity, but also measuring her for a robbery.

Talking both to Nameless and herself, Ava explains that she is on her way to Atlanta for the Muhammad Ali boxing match. She explains that there is money to be made on such occasions. When the homeless woman returns from the bathroom, she catches Ava rifling her purse for money and medication.

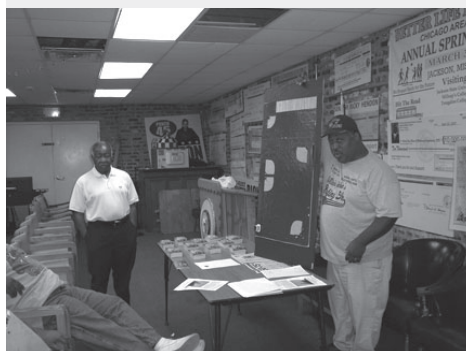
Ava's babbling reveals the theme of the play: "Nigger." It is one of the first words out of her mouth and she repeats it 38 times in the course of the play, making it clear that her "Nigger" is black males who are, stupid, cowardly, crime prone, greedy, predatory, and over-all despicable.

Matters darken even further when Ava reveals that because of "Nigger," she has agreed to engage in sex with animals at a party after the fight. She is holding a second bus ticket for her hustling buddy who never shows up. Ava offers the medicated, homeless woman the second ticket and she agrees to travel. That is it! There is hardly enough material in this play for a scene study in a drama class and one wonders why it has a full production.

The thinking may be that the word "Nigger" alone, without personification, without context, is enough to carry a play. This would suggest that the titillation the

See Pearl page 15

## Fifth from front page



Dr. Earnest L. Thomas (Doc) and Roger Chandler

Honorable mention is given at this time to Verdell Trice (Papa Trice as he affectionately likes to be called). Papa Trice has been involved with the Senator for over 20 years and he is still around to give advice and support where needed. He no longer leads the committee, he leaves that job for Doc but he is always available to share his experience and expertise.

Nina Johnson-Jalil is the asst chairperson for the picnic committee and the administrative assistant. Nobody works harder to keep the committee on tract and productive. She has volunteered in this capacity for over two years. "I do it for the community" said; Nina.

"I have been inspired by Senator Hendon, since the first time I met him. He is the only politician I know that has a regular weekly meeting with the community. He travels above and beyond the call of duty by constantly giving back. I feel his concern for the people. I have been humbled by his attitude of gratitude as he continually serves the multitude". Nina is a real estate broker, loan originator, and real estate investor. She also is a certified international property specialist. "When you volunteer with the fighting Fifth you walk into opportunities of a life time", said; Nina.

Roger Chandler has been a volunteer for



Roger Chandler and Verdell Trice (Papa)

over 15 years. He remembers when the picnic first started in Union park. As a volunteer Roger said, "I just do what real men do and help in any capacity that I can. Senator Hendon is a great leader in the community and I am just glad to volunteer". Roger coordinates the cooking, vendors and park setup in his volunteer capacity on the picnic committee. Roger is also the chairman of the non-for-profit organization call Needful Things of Chicago. Anyone in need of food and shelter and other basic needs can call Roger at 312-296-2899.

Wilbert Cook is a volunteer that oversees the school supplies for the committee. He is also founder and executive director of the Hand up Recovery Home, a 24 hr transitional living facility to assist individuals in alcohol and drug recovery. The home houses 1 to 8 individuals anywhere from 24 hours to 12 mos. Call 773-522-7330 for assistance.

Bill Stevenson is a volunteer and a retired civil servant. He previously worked in the recorder of deeds office with Jesse White. He just wants to do all he can to help the community.

Tyrone (Tydow) Tucker is an office assistant for 24<sup>th</sup> ward Alderman Sharon Dixon. He is volunteering in the capacity of security and other duties as needed for the committee.

Kurtis Roquemore is a community

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## Decline in Marriages

Brandi Walker

There once was a sweet, warm married couple that been together for almost ten years. To everybody, who knew them, they looked like a match made in heaven. They both liked so much of the same things. They both had similar personalities and backgrounds. Most importantly, they both knew each other inside and out. Yes, they appeared to be the 'perfect married couple.' However, a few months short of their ten-year anniversary, this so-called picture-perfect couple shockingly decided to put an end to their marriage. They are not alone.

Today, there are many marriages sadly ending in divorce. According to Divorce Magazine.com, approximately 10 percent of the population got divorced in 2002. That is up from 8 percent in 1990.

The most popular reason given for those marital splits is infidelity. When you feel your spouse is having an affair behind your back, it is important to check for signs that your mate is unfaithful.

"The earlier you spot the signs of infidelity, the better your chances of saving your marriage or of protecting yourself legally and financially in case the infidelity leads to divorce," writes Ruth Houston, who is the author of 'Is He Cheating on You? 829 Telltale Signs.' She says 66 percent of spouses have no idea their husband or wife is cheating on them.

Houston says some of these signs are in physical appearance, conversational clues, day-to-day behavior, car clues, sex, smell and taste, strange objects in your home and cell phones and pagers. This means, if your mate is either looking differently than usual or acting differently than usual, those are just some of the signs that something deceitful is going on.

However, infidelity could be a sign that

your mate may not be the right person for you.

"The distance between couples happens because they don't know how to be relative to one another," said Hedy Tan, who is a counselor for Adult Relationship Consulting, a company based downtown Chicago. "People tend to enter marriages with unrealistic expectations of one another."

These high expectations can be dotted on personality, financial status and ambitions. As cliché as this may sound, marriage really does take a lot of work. You're entering a lifelong commitment of dealing with another person. It is up to you as to whether or not you could love and accept this personality. Background and upbringing can also play a role in the compatibility of a couple. Some people, for example, come from a more religious upbringing than others. So for certain couples, having God in their marriage is important.

Robin Taylor, a divorced woman, agrees.

"I definitely feel that having God in a marriage is vital," said Taylor, who lives on the South Side. "I feel that more couples aren't doing this because they probably don't feel that God is real or [that He] cares about their problems."

Having a mate who shares similar values makes for a strong marriage.

For many couples, money and ego tear up their marriages. Friction occurs when one person wants to spend money on things he or she desires, while the other person has other plans. It is vital for couples to be honest with each other and to reach a common ground regarding this very important issue. They should set up a budget on how to spend their money.

Nowadays there are more wives bringing home more of the bacon than the husbands. This usually doesn't sit well with the males'

See Marriage page 15

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# PTSD: Still a Problem with Returning War Veterans

Mary Moran

Attorneys at Morrison & Foerster LLP based in California have filed an unprecedented national class action lawsuit alleging "shameful failures" by the U.S. department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") and other government institutions to care for those veterans who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and are now suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder ("PTSD").

PTSD is an ailment resulting from exposure to an experience involving direct or indirect threat of serious injury or death. The trauma may be experienced alone, as in rape or assault, or in the company of others, as in military combat.

The events that can cause PTSD are called "stressors." They include natural disasters i.e. floods, earthquakes, car accidents, airplane crashes, or deliberate man-made disasters such as bombings, torture, or death camps. Symptoms include recurrent thoughts of a traumatic event, reduced involvement in work or outside interest, hyper alertness, anxiety and irritability. The disorder apparently is more severe and longer lasting when the stress is of human design.

This lawsuit was brought on behalf of veterans and their families seeking or receiving death or disability compensation for PTSD, as well as those who have filed pending claims or who have applied for VA medical benefits based upon the disorder. The complaint has been filed in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

Gordon P. Erspamer, a litigation partner in Morrison & Foerster's Walnut Creek office says "this isn't a case about isolated problems or the type of normal delays and administrative hassles we all occasionally experience with bureaucracies. This case is founded on the

virtual meltdown of the VA's capacity to care for men and women, who served their country bravely and honorably, were severely injured and are now being treated like second-class citizens."

The complaints alleges that federal government officials have improperly induced many soldiers suffering from PTSD to accept "personality disorder" discharges, precluding veterans from obtaining disability benefits or receiving ongoing medical treatment because the disorder is then classified as a pre-existing condition.

The complaint also focus on the fact that more than 22,500 soldiers across the armed forces have allegedly been diagnosed and discharged with "personality disorder" in the last six years, condemning them to a lifetime of disability without any compensation or access to VA medical care.

"Many of these veterans simply give up in frustration and despair or die-some committing suicide," Erspamer said.

This lawsuit comes amidst two other suits. The parents of Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Lucey have filed a lawsuit against VA in Springfield, Mass for the death of their 23-year-old. The complaint alleges that the Northampton VA medical center released their son a few days after admitting him citing that they couldn't make an assessment of his PTSD until he was alcohol free. Luceys' family states that when they took their son back a few days later the staff turned him away. Cpl. Lucey hanged himself two weeks later.

Sergeant Steve Edwards also has also filed a lawsuit against VA. The 41 year-old- National Guardsman from San Jose, Ca was injured by a road side bomb in Iraqi in December 2004. He returned home in February 2005, and being unable to return to his job as an audiovisual

technician, had to live on state unemployment. Edwards filed for disability at the suggestion of another vet. He submitted his claim in June 2005, and wasn't compensated until August 2006.

Sharon Buchanan, a veteran service officer admits that filing for disability under PTSD is not a short term wait. "There are many claims being filed and each one has to be researched," she said. "The first thing is to be diagnosed as PTSD by a medical professional whether civilian or military to find out what "stressor" caused the PTSD, and the veteran will also receive a score," she said.

The VA's backlog can take up to 177 days to process an initial claim and an average of 657 days to process an appeal. Buchanan also admits that VA is trying very hard to clear as much as the backlog as possible but has no knowledge of anyone claiming that they were discharged under "personality disorder," when they should have been diagnosed as PTSD.

Defendants in the class action suit include James Nicholson, secretary of the VA (who resigned July 17, effective later this year); Alberto Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States, Dr. Michael Kussman, Under Secretary of the Veterans Health Administration; Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary for the Veterans Benefits Administration, Pritz K. Navara, Veterans Service Center Manager, VA Oakland Regional Office, and various other governments officials.

Nicholson has recently ordered the hiring of new mental health personnel.

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).

# Pentecostal Assemblies of The World takes over Nashville

Brandon Johnson

Country Music moved to the side as The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World took over Nashville and deemed it the place of worship for Jesus this past week. From July 21 to July 28, PAW members from all over the world (including Chicago) came out to worship and celebrate the Lord.

Daniel George of the One Way Family Worship Center, located on 5758 West Fillmore, said, "The eight hour road trip was well worth it with all the revelation and love we received and felt here."

Members from England, Africa, Canada, and the U.S all had similar testimonies about this event.

It was a week filled with revelation, praise, worship and miracles. Notable speakers, such as Noel Jones from the City of Refuge in California, and Horace E. Smith of the Apostolic Faith Church on 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Indiana, preached mighty words. Otis Boyd made his speaking debut and enlightened the crowd with his testimony of being pronounced dead and then having his life returned to him when his mother said the name "Jesus." The testimony sent everyone into worship of Jesus Christ.

"You felt something go through the room when he said 'Jesus.' I think it went well for his first time." A young man from the North Lawndale area said.

Other people spoke about salvation, blessing and living for God.

Every day of the week started off with Prayer workshops. Then, there was a word from the Lord in the morning followed by different workshops such as prayer, financial literacy, youth choir, youth witnessing and many more until 6:30 when the main service began. There was something for everyone to enjoy. Marvin Sapp, Dwayne Coleman and Ty Tribbett performed a few songs this week that continued the celebration into the night. It was announced that next year's convention will be in Dallas, Texas.

The Pentecostal Assemblies of The World, Inc. (PAW), founded in 1906, is the oldest Oneness Pentecostal organization that is still active. The PAW has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World is the second largest Oneness Pentecostal organization in the United States, behind the United Pentecostal Church, according to Adherents.com.

Notable Chicago churches within the PAW are Bishop Arthur M Brazier's Apostolic Church of God on 63 and Dorchester, Noah Nicholson's One Way Family Worship Center, and the Horace E Smith Apostolic Faith Church.

## Flicks from page 8

Streets Films, founded by Tracy Edmonds (ex wife of singer-songwriter Babyface, who were both were responsible for more classier efforts "Waiting To Exhale" and "Soul Food") that clearly compromise their values this time for a quick buck in this "foul ball" that is not up to par. No matter how one scores it! PG-13; 93min. A Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Picture Release - presented at selected theaters

**NO RESERVATIONS (\*\*)** "No Reservations" is a descent, but uninspiring little romantic comedy that serves its familiar characters and situations at room temperature level of creditability that doesn't overcook its premise but doesn't apply enough seasoning to flavor up the proceedings.

Catherine Zeta-Jones plays Kate Armstrong, a workaholic world class, and head chef at a posh N.Y. restaurant who is too preoccupied in her position to allow a personal



Aaron Eckhart and Catherine Zeta-Jones in Warner Bros. Pictures' No Reservations

life that oddly enough (but without good reasons since her business is profitable under the cook. Then why does her boss, Paula (Patricia Clarkson) concern herself by arranged weekly therapy session for her "star chef" with a psychiatrist (Bob Balaban).

Where her session reveals Kate feels more comfortable and in control in her professional life that she's been unable to achieve in her past relationships. That assumption we could have told them for free. However, now Kate is emotional and professionally going to put the test.

When Kate receives word at work that her sister and her niece, Zoe (Abigail Breslin) on route for a visit have been in a car accident leaving Zoe hospitalized. Kate comes across a letter from her sister that makes her Zoe's sole guardian in case of her death.

For all the honesty and warmth the film tries to achieve, "No Reservations" is a movie that comes off under cooked.

PG; 104min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release

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).

## Biz from page 10

longer support Twista for the Aug. 7 performance. "Although we respect free speech and artistic expression, we do not condone or perpetuate derogatory language," said spokesman William Whitman in a statement. "We want to ensure these free concerts are fun as well as appropriate for all of our customers." When asked why they booked the rapper, given his content, the company referred back to the statement. They started hearing things feeling like they were getting a little flak, and I felt like rather than stick by me and stick through it, they got scared," he said. "I've been rapping the same way for 15 years. It only became a problem when Don Imus said something negative about black women and they needed a scapegoat."

After Imus was fired for calling the Rutgers University women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos," some critics decried what they considered a double standard for rappers who often use derogatory terms about women. Increased pressure was put on rappers and record labels to clean up offensive content. "I was actually going to have a school with a choir come sing the song 'Hope' with me. So now ... McDonald's have to tell the kids that they can't perform."

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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](http://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.

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## Fifth from page 12



Anthony Johnson

resident and a volunteer that just wants to help in any capacity he can.

Earl Powell volunteers as the Entertainment Director. He met Senator Hendon about seven years ago and has been friends every since. Earl said, "As I have watched Rickey over the years his enthusiasm for the people only increased my enthusiasm to help people. I volunteer and do what ever I can". Earl writes and produces music and has written for known artists such as Jennifer Hudson and Syleena Johnson.

Cecil Lyles is a long time volunteer and an ardent supporter of Rickey Hendon and the Fighting Fifth. He is leading volunteer security team and has been a long time supporter of the Fifth Senatorial district. Cecil operates Lyle and associates, an after school program that provides assistance to youth in tutoring and school concerns.

Anthony (Tony) Johnson is the transportation coordinator for the picnic committee. He has been an active volunteer for over 8 years. He is the director of the after school program called Children at Risk. The program offers sports and educational programs to give the youth something to do after school. Tony said; "I worked for the community to give something back and to put something forward".

Tom Hosia is a long time volunteer for the community representing the Fight Fifth. During election season he is a vice president in charge of campaign activity. Tom also directs HICA (Harrison, Independence, California and Arthington), and ex-offender program designed to assist ex-offenders in job opportunities and housing. His entire organization volunteers to support the Senator

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## Sports from page 13



Player of the Year Martrice McKnight

that they would kill dogs, primarily Pit Bulls, by several barbaric means including hanging, electrocution, and shooting. They also participated in forced breeding of the female dogs by having them placed in "rape stands." The media and a lot of the public has already convicted Vick of the crimes, but the truth won't

be know until the November date when the trial commences.

*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).*

over the Franklin Park Indians at Garfield Park.

Too bad professional sports haven't had the same scandal-free atmosphere of the local sports scene. Atlanta Falcons' quarterback Michael Vick has been tied to a gruesome dogfighting ring that utilized one of his Georgia homes as its headquarters. Vick is also the alleged chief financier of the illegal operation and faces a stiff five-year jail term if convicted. A co-defendant in the case has already named him as the main supplier of money for the dogfighting but Vick maintains his innocence and stated that he hopes "to clear his good name."

The dogfighting charges were bad in and fit themselves, but the brutality that Vick and his associates administered to the dogs is what has surprised people most. It is alleged



Pitcher, Darrial Boy -Boy Birdsong

# Taste of North Lawndale August 18<sup>th</sup> 312/492-9090

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz



Ice Cube in Are We Done Yet

## DISTURBIA

(\*\*\*) Shia LaBeouf stars in this clever thriller variation on Hitchcock's classic "Rear Window" as a troubled youth from a personal tragedy that leads him into being the neighborhood "bad boy" put on home arrest on a monitor device strapped to his leg.

Confined and bored, the youth creates his own voyeuristic Reality TV,

by checking out suburban life of his neighbors through his binoculars. When he views a potential murder committed in the house occupied by a private, new neighbor, (David Morse).

As familiar as this movie is to other suspense genre movies; this film plays it straight while lightly poking fun at suburbia living. But there is also the novelty of teenagers playing their true ages and responses in an adult size situation that is surprisingly smart and entertaining.

PG-13; 100min. Paramount Home Video; Available: Aug. 7

*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).*

**ARE WE DONE YET?** (\*\*) Only a slight improvement over the original, this urbanized remake of "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" offers Ice Cube as an accident-prone, inept 'family guy' who moves his wife (Nia Long) and her two kids away from the stressful and cramped city life to suburbia living in the wooden country trying to rehab a rundown house, sold to him by John McGinley of TV's "Scrubs" as the eccentric contractor, who like the dream house turns out to be more than Cube's character bargained for from this comedy of errors and mishaps.

PG-13; 92min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: Aug. 7

## Crisis from page 5

Aug. 16 and Aug. 25, another 62,250 state employees would miss pay checks if a balanced budget is not passed.

But it doesn't just stop with state employees. Nearly anyone who does business with the state will be affected by a shit down.

For example:

\*Contractors would also be caught in the web of "passing the buck" because they would not be paid for services rendered to the state. Those services include laundry, security, school bus drivers, etc.

\*Car dealerships would face possible lost sales because customers would be reluctant to buy a vehicle if they cannot purchase license plates for it.

\*Non-profit organizations such as churches would also be hit hard because many of them depend on state grants to operate their programs. Some organizations warn that they will be forced to suspend programs such as college scholarships and layoff employees if state funding is interrupted.

"We're praying every thing goes accordingly and God steps in to fix this mess created by man," said Evangelist Charles Smith, minister at Sheldon Heights Church of Christ on Chicago's far South Side. "We have a food pantry that we operate each week as do many other churches throughout the state and families depend on us to survive."

*Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer and can be reached at [wreporter@yahoo.com](mailto:wreporter@yahoo.com). To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org)*

# Who is Generation Next?

Towanda Abbott

Generation next is a ministry dedicated to serving youth and young people throughout the city of Chicago with a contemporary style of teaching to which young individuals can relate. The Generation Next ministry promises to be very exciting and effective. Generation next is run under the supervision of Minister Sanders. Through bible study, youth sessions and youth fellowships, they promise to teach the ways of Christ to equip, empower, and encourage young people to represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The ministry is designed to bring young men and women to Christ. These young individuals are members of the New Birth Christian Center, located at 5853-57 W. North Ave. The Pastor is Robbie B. Wilkerson and Tasha Wilkerson is the first lady.

Generation Next is broken up into two parts: Generation Next and Generation Next phase two. Generation next is for children between the ages of 17 and 23 and they meet every second and fourth Friday of the month. Generation Next phase two will start in August and the age group for that will be between the ages of 12 and 16.

Generation Next promotes Christianity to the fullest potential. They come together to discuss what the word of God says about many different issues. The sessions usually run from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Minister Sanders sponsors all the youth sessions and he is always willing and ready to give us something to think about. Generation Next just had a youth rally on Friday, July 20. There were several youth ministries that came out to support the Generation Next Ministry.

"Generation next is what society needs and what they need to see. A group of young people praising the Lord and giving him thanks. Generation next is helping me make progress in life. I can say that I am more active in church and in life in general. My life has changed from being down in depression to full of excitement and now I am able to

See Generation page 15

## Summer Sizzle!

## Register at Malcolm X College!

August 1-29, 2007

Malcolm X College invites the community to **Summer Sizzle** festivities from August 1<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. The events are geared to showcase the College's amenities and increase awareness regarding the affordability and benefits of a community college education. All events are free, open to the public, and will be held at the College.

**Jazz Under the Stars** will be held 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday in August. The concert series will showcase a variety of performers. Registration for College Credit, Adult Education, and Continuing Education classes will be on-going. Additionally, the **24-Hour Registration Block Party** will begin 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The public will enjoy live bands, dancing, games, and round the clock registration.

For more info contact :

(312) 850 - 7055 (Registration)

(312) 850 - 7049 (Jazz Under the Stars)



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### LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK**, Estate of Deandre M. Washington. The Case Number is 07 P 3193. Notice is hereby given you, Michael Sewer, that a Petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County by April Lucas, praying that he be appointed successor guardian on the above named minor. A hearing on said Petition will be held before the Honorable Judge, Dorothy Brown on September 18, 2007, at 10 a.m., in Room 1806, in the Richard J. Daley Center.

**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. D07108228 on July 18, 2007. Under the Assumed Name of Wrap Braids with the business located at 839 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL 60622. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Frances Simmons, 839 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NIKE Calls on Chicago's Best Ballers** for inaugural "Ball For Fall" 3-on-3 tournament. **When:** Saturday August 11 and Sunday August 12. **Where:** Seward Park located at 375 W. Elm St. (corner of Division & North Orleans), Chicago, IL 60610. **Transit:** El-Red Line to Clark/Division and walk two blocks west. Bus-11 Lincoln/Sedgwick 70 Division. **Highlights:** 3-on-3 tournament, slam dunk contest, skills clinics and Q&A with athletes. For more information contact Laura Zobrist at 312-803-8221 and Paul Jackiewicz at 312-931-2812.

**North Lawndale Olympics!** Biking, Track and Swimming! **When:** Saturday, August 4 at 10:30 a.m. **Where:** meet at 1870 S. Kedzie. This FREE event is sponsored with a grant from the Steans Family Foundation through their North Lawndale Community Neighborhood Grants Program.

**Chicago Community Organizations, Developers, and Architects** Encouraged to Apply for Top Awards in community Development. The CNDA awards include: The Chicago Community Trust Outstanding Community Initiative of the Year with a \$20,000 grant, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project with a cash prize of \$15,000, The Outstanding For-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project Award, and a Special Recognition Award with a \$5,000 prize. Applications are due September 12. For more information call 312-697-6150

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHICAGO'S CITY PARK DISTRICT ANNOUNCES MOVIES IN THE PARKS** where more than 150 current and classic movies will be shown in neighborhood parks from June through September. **Douglass Park**, located at 1401 S. Sacramento Ave., will be showing *The Ant Bully* on July 27, and *Charlottes Web* on Aug 17. **The Garfield Park Conservatory**, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave., will be showing *Casino Royal* on August 30, and *The Pursuit of Happyness* on September 6. **Franklin Park**, located at 4320 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., will be showing *Happy Feet* on August 12. For a complete schedule of the Park movie dates and times go to [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

**PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE.** What: Anointed in Movement Christian Performing Arts Company presents "Another Level...Open Heaven." Performances will include drama, dance, singing, poetry and comedy. **When:** Saturday August at 5 p.m. with a pre-show production at 4:15 p.m. Tickets (\$10) may be purchased online at [www.aimcompany.org](http://www.aimcompany.org), or at the following locations: Betty Jo's Bookstore in Broadview, IL; Fountain of Living Waters; and New Sound Gospel & Tapes on 107<sup>th</sup> & Halsted). For more information call Christian Valley Baptist Church at (773) 762-4417.

**THE WILLIE WILLIAMS III YOUTH FOUNDATION IS HOSTING 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS.** Dates and Times: July 27 and 29 on the North Side at Wrightwood Park, August 3 and 4 on the Northwest Side at Lincoln Park, August 11 and 12 on the West Side at Orr High School, August 25 at Union Park, August 31 and September 1 on the North Side at Seward Park, September 15 and 16 on the Northwest Side at Union Park. For more information call (773) 252-5965 or go to [Williewmsyouth.fdn.com](http://Williewmsyouth.fdn.com).

**LIFE CHANGING FAMILY SERVICES** "Back to School" Day in the Park Presented by Jesus Word Center Church 4224 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Chicago On Saturday Aug 4, 2007 we will be in Franklin Park Located at 14<sup>th</sup> at Keeler School Supplies, Book Bags, Free Food, Pop Gospel Singing-Dance- Mine Games- and loads of fun

**NATIONAL CITY ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S CHAMPION AWARD** to Honor Excellence in Children's Programming and Services. The final, statewide honoree will receive a \$10,000 grant. Nominations are being accepted through August 17. For more information contact Voices for Illinois Children at (312) 456-0600 or visit [NationalCity.com/ChildrensChampion](http://NationalCity.com/ChildrensChampion).

**The Olympics are already in Chicago!** 1500 youth will compete in the Olympic-style 2007 CAP Games. **When:** Saturday, August 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Where:** Hanson Park Stadium, 5501 W. Fullerton in Chicago. **Highlights:** a Torch Parade/International Friendship & Understanding, the CAP Games Competition, a Half Time Ceremony featuring Tyrus Thomas from the Chicago Bulls, and Team Awards. For more information contact Mary Montgomery Clifford at 312-623-2091 or Howard Lathan at 312-663-3574.

**The Chicago Air and Water Show** will shake up the lakefront on August 18 and 19. It is the largest FREE show of its kind, and will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. The show will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Parachute Team Golden Knights, the Shell Extreme Water Show, and a civilian lineup. For more information contact Mary May at 312-744-0576 or Cindy Gatzolis at 312-744-0573.

### Marriage from page 12

ego.

Mae Abraham, a married South Side resident, feels this is a prevalent issue.

"I think that money and job status both play roles in the problems of a marriage, Abraham said. "If the woman is making more money than the man, then that usually creates problems."

Above all else, what keeps a marriage solid are communication and chemistry. Every couple has their fair share of problems, but it is up to the husband and wife to communicate in order to establish a mutual common ground. Maturity and humility also are characteristics in a successful marriage.

"Married couples must have respect, courtesy, appreciation and acceptance of one another," Tan said. "Spending 15-30 minutes relating to one another is a vital thing for a couple to do."

Keep conversing with one another. Develop a trustworthy, spiritual relationship. Work on agreeing on issues such as money. Be realistic; don't expect so much out of your mate. Indeed, marriage takes a lot of work and sacrifice. But in the end, if there's true love involved, it'll all be worth it.

*Brandi Walker is a freelance writer in Chicago. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

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### Generaton from page 14

understand the word of God with help from Minister Sanders," says Jonathan McDonald.

"Generation next has motivated me to become a better teenager. Minister Sanders has taught me how to handle different situations when I thought that the situation was hard to handle. While being a part of Generation Next I have learned how to support my peers, and from what I see my peers have learned how to support me," says Chavon Martin.

Generation next is all about having fun in a Christian way and understanding the Word of God. To be a part of Generation Next, or to participate in our sessions, come out to New Birth Christian Center, located at 5853-57 W. North Ave. Come out and have fun.

Towanda Abbott is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

### Fifth from page 14

in any capacity necessary. If you need assistance in that area please call Tom Hosia at 773-533-1680.

James Thompson a long time supporter of Rickey Hendon who does whatever he is asked to do.

Francis Simmons has been a volunteer for over 5 years. She is the chairperson for youth activities for the picnic committee. "I feel that my services are best used in helping young people", said Francis. She is an author, community activist and inventor. She is a single parent dividing her services between home and the community. "It is very important to focus on youth", said Francis. "I have been working with youth since 1994. I go inside the schools whenever possible acting in the capacity of "Purpose Consultant" helping young people reach inside themselves to bring out the best". "A better tomorrow for today's teens, said Francis.

### Pearl from page 12

audience receives from hearing the word is the main point, and any worthy exploration of black life is beside the point. Then again, to paraphrase the mythic showman, P.T. Barnum — nobody ever went broke despoiling the image of black men.

Frances Wilkerson and Alana Arenas trade roles from show to show as Ava Gardner Johnson and Nameless. Thomas Jones directs. The production staff is the same as in "Hospice." Again, they do a good job with the set, lights and costumes. The Eclipse Theatre Company has dedicated their entire season to the plays of Pearl Cleage.

"Hospice" and the "Late Bus to Mecca" are both showing now and will run through September 2 at the Victory Gardens Green Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-871-3000. Ticket prices are \$18 to \$22.

*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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