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

The Taste of Chicago: A Celebration of the Senses

Sophia Karalexis

The Taste of Chicago was truly a celebration of the senses! Entering Grant Park, there were enormous crowds. You could hear the sounds of people talking, bands blaring, and the smell of food cooking in the background was irresistible. The warm summer heat beat down on you as you stood in line for a famous hot dog or slice of pizza at one of, at least, 60 different booths.

What is it about the taste of Chicago that brings people out by the thousands? Any time there is a huge event people want to be a part of it. They have to check it out to see what all the hype is about. The Taste of Chicago provides Chicagoans, and out-of-towners, with the unique experience of being able to taste food from the most famous

establishments the city of Chicago has to offer in a fun, party-like environment.

"It's very crowded. I didn't expect it to be this crowded. There's a lot of people. I've been here once when I was in high school. When I was here before about ten years ago it didn't seem this big, it has really grown quite a bit," said Cicely Harris, a visitor from Washington D.C., who was originally downtown shopping and made a stop at the Taste. Her favorite part of the Taste was the stuffed spinach pizza.

With huge crowds it can be expected that those working the Taste of Chicago



Thousands enjoy the food at the Taste of Chicago

See Taste page 10

THE FUTURE OF CHICAGO'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Demetrius Aaron Porter



CTA's Pink Line

On October 1, 1947 the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) was created by the Illinois legislature who purchased by an act the operations and properties of the Chicago Surface Lines and the Chicago Rapid Transit Company with the hopes that Chicago's public transportation would be an example for other major cities such as New York City (NYC) and Los Angeles (LA) by providing adequate transportation to the public and meet the traveling needs of its citizens in such a big city such as Chicago, which is the third largest city in North America behind NYC and LA.

The mayor of Chicago at that time was Edward Joseph Kelly who in 1938 "wangled an \$18 million federal appropriation to help Chicago build its first small rabbit-

run of subway," said Kelly. Five years later in 1943 the Illinois Commerce Commission said "Kelly's proposals were "unsound." Before the CTA, Chicago was in need of adequate transportation because State Street Merchants, Chicago's newspapers and some Illinois government officials complained enough due to the bankruptcy of Chicago's streetcars and the so-called "rattletrap public transportation systems" that in 1943 Mayor Kelly and Phil Harrington, an engineer, had a meeting and prematurely created the CTA. Thus, in 1945 Illinois state legislators finally saw Mayor Kelly's vision by passing a bill setting the stage for 1947.

Nearly sixty years later the CTA is in more disarray than Chicago's

See CTA page 10

CITY TREASURER NEELY SEEKS GREATER VISIBLY FOR OFFICE

James Glover

Chicago City Treasurer Stephanie D. Neely is hoping to bring a much higher profile to the City's Treasurers office than it has in past years. Appointed by Mayor Daley in 2006 and voted into office by voters in the February 2007 elections, she hopes to do her part as C.I.O. (Chief Investment Officer) to help people take advantage of what the City Treasurer's office has to offer.

"I remember being shocked when I asked people in the community and they had zero idea exactly what the City Treasurer's office and what was available to them. Hopefully with my influence we'll be able to change that."

Neely, a native Chicagoan from the South side, brings to the Office of Treasurer of the City of Chicago over twenty years of financial services experience with leading investment banking institutions.

Most recently, Ms. Neely was a Vice President at Northern Trust Global Investments, where she was responsible for working with public and corporate pension funds. As Treasurer her duties also include serving on five public pension boards. As an African-American woman, Ms. Neely created opportunities for minority-and-women-owned financial services firms by fostering relationships with Northern Trust and thereby helping them grow their business.

Ms. Neely holds a degree in Economics from Smith College and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Chicago. She



City Treasurer Stephanie Neely

has served on the board of several civic and business organizations, including the Chicago Summer Business Institute, the Chicago Chapter of the National Association of Securities Professionals, the Urban Prep Charter School, the Illinois Council against Handgun Violence and the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority.

Neely is trusted with handling a seven billion dollar portfolio as well as making sure that it grows and draws interest. "Every dollar that I earn for this portfolio is another dollar that the city doesn't have to charge the tax payers."

At the moment, Neely intends to inform people about the various programs going on as well as support many youth oriented programs. "The stock market game I feel is vital in regards to letting youth know about handling money and investments" said

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~~~~~  
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## NLCN 2007 Focus People and Education

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

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

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

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

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## THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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## Chicago Responds to Pending Radio Shakeup

Wendell Hutson

Shortly after news broke that WGCI FM (107.5) and WVAZ FM (102.7) radio stations are planning to change their current morning personality lineups, Chicagoans started talking, and haven't stopped.

"Crazy" Howard McGee, who's popular morning show has aired for the past 10 years from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday, on WGCI, will reportedly be replaced, as soon as August, by comedian Steve Harvey. Harvey, currently, has a New York-based, syndicated morning show that airs on WSRB-FM (106.3) during the same time.

The rumored shakeup also has the "Tom Joyner Morning Show," which airs 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday, on WVAZ, being replaced later this year by either McGee or Doug Banks—a former personality for WGCI, who now has a nationally syndicated radio show.

WGCI and WVAZ are both owned by Clear Channel Radio, where officials refused to comment.

While there has been no official word from the stations or personalities, Chicago is already sizing up the future of black radio in Chicago.

"I do not plan on listening to WGCI anymore if they get rid of Howard," said Traycee Hopkins, a 29-year-old manager for Target. "I do not like Steve Harvey because he is 'old school' and his jokes are for old people."

If the rumors are true, and McGee

switches to WVAZ (V-103), what will happen to the "old school" listeners?

"They will stay to see what McGee has to offer them," said Bruce Brown, a telecommunications analyst for Bank of America. "McGee has market appeal to both young and older listeners, so whatever station lands him can count on advertisers following close behind."

Brown adds that WGCI listeners consist of 18 to 30 year-olds, while V-103 commands the 35 to 55 year old age group. But, one thing Brown said he does agree with is placing an over 50 year old disc jockey in a lineup that has, historically, been dominated by a younger audience.

"Bottom line here, McGee is in a win-win position and WGCI stands to lose a lot if they do not keep McGee where he is regardless what it will cost them," said Brown.

Insiders confirmed that money is part of the equation. McGee is already, reportedly, earning over \$2 million a year, which is rare for a local radio host by industry standards.

Tom Joyner earns more than \$7 million a year from his syndicated show and Banks earns close to \$5 million a year. Both are former WGCI personalities, who left to join ABC Radio in Dallas.

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

## Commissioner Barbara McGowan brings fireworks to Columbus Park

Calvin C. Crayton

I was on my way to see the fireworks at Columbus Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, when I read about people stranded on the CTA trains after the firework show downtown. I thought to myself how nice it was to be in the comfort of my own neighborhood on such occasion.

North Lawndale's own firework show is Commissioner Barbara McGowan's idea. A North Lawndale resident for 40 years, she wanted to give something back to the community.

With the help of Alderman Ike Carouthers, the commissioner's staff and many volunteers as well as Comcast sponsorship, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual firework show over Columbus Park has become a wonderful community event that attracts people from all over the city.

Even Mayor Richard M. Daley is supportive of the event. Not everybody likes to go downtown and deal with the huge crowds, McGowan said.

To make the community fireworks a reality, McGowan had to get approval from the city council, the Special Events department, the Fire Department and the 15<sup>th</sup> district Police Department. In addition, the commissioner works closely with the 29<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman's office.

When asked about the event's five years of incident free, McGowan said it's because of her prayers (she said she overcomes obstacles with prayer and faith) and because of the great job by police officers of the 15<sup>th</sup> district. Commander Weisinger and his officers have worked to create a safe environment. Officers Harris and Roberts took the time to walk and talk with the children during the event. Of course, let us give credit to the people of the community

for conducted themselves in an orderly manner.

Looking over Columbus Park, I could see families at peace and enjoying themselves. The fireworks show was also a family outing with games for both children and adults. Commissioner McGowan said she added the adult games this year, because she had noticed that some of the adults were playing the kid's games.

The expression of wonder on the children's faces during the fireworks was priceless.

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

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## OBAMA'S ANCESTORS OWNED SLAVES

Mikal-Ace N'gubani

Newspapers across the country report that Barack Obama's ancestors owned slaves.

Genealogist William Addams Reitwiesner uncovered evidence in the 1850 census of Kentucky that Illinois state senator, and presidential candidate, Barack Obama's maternal ancestors are listed in the antebellum records of several southern states as documented, African slave owners.

Reitwiesner believes that the Kentucky state history statistics confirm the fact that George Washington Overall was the great, great, great grandfather of Obama's Caucasian mother. The ancestor is documented as having owned a 15 year old African girl, as well as a 25 year old African man.

Records further indicate that Mary Duvall, another ancestor on the senator's mother's side, also owned two African slaves: a 60 year old man and a 58 year old woman.

Born and raised in the United States, Obama's father was Kenyan and his mother was a white American from Kansas.

When asked about his maternal ancestors, Obama replied that he was not surprised. His response is viewed, in certain circles of the political arena, as meaning that the senator,

long before his public exposure, was well aware of his lineage. Yet, Obama, who once had a hand in voting down a bill favoring reparations for slave descendants, appears to have merely dismissed the issue pertaining to his ancestors as something unworthy of an official apology on his behalf.

"That was a part of our tortured tangled history," Obama stated.

Whether news of the exposé hampers the ever-increasing political momentum of Obama at this phase in the electoral campaign, or gets interpreted as a meaningless coincidence, remains to be seen.

However, census data and informational records also reflect that Obama, who states that he is, at best, pleased with the outing of this historical truth, is not entirely alone in his ancestral ties. Reitwiesner has gone public with more genealogical discoveries, which include confirmation that two other presidential candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat John Edwards, are also descendants of certifiable slave owners.

*Mikal-Ace Ngubani holds a Mass Communications Degree from Columbia College. He is a freelance writer, non-fictional essayist and acknowledged Street Poet.*

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

# North Lawndale Residents Comment on U.S. Supreme Court Verdict on Race and Education

James Glover

Recently, the United States Supreme Court decided by a 5-4 vote that Race could no longer be used as a factor in school placement.

While the race of a student can be one of many characteristics taken into consideration to achieve diversity in the student body, it may not become the predominant criterion that determines which students are admitted to the most popular schools in a district.

In a major 5-to-4 decision announced Thursday, the US Supreme Court struck down race-based public school enrollment plans in Seattle and Louisville, KY that were designed to maintain racially integrated student populations. The majority justices said the plans were unconstitutional because they relied too heavily on race in violation of the mandate that all Americans be treated equally regardless of skin color or ethnicity.

"This is certainly good news as far as racial diversity in schools is concerned," said Martina Richards, North Lawndale resident and mother of 3 CPS students. "This will hopefully lead to better opportunities for low income and inner city children to get away and see other sides of life in more upgraded and racially diverse schools."

In Seattle, WA and Louisville, KY there were plans to use race as a factor in decided what they call "classroom diversity." However, many people who watched these events unfold says the real reason behind the plans were to keep "ghetto children" from attending the better rated schools in the area.

The opinion is the first to touch on the issue of diversity and education since 2003, when a 5-4 ruling upheld the limited consideration of race in college admissions to attain a diverse student body. Since then, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who approved of the limited use of race, has retired. Her replacement, Justice Samuel Alito, was in the majority that struck down the school districts' plans in Louisville and Seattle.

The 2003 cases looked at the undergraduate and law-school admissions policies at the University of Michigan. In those cases, the court upheld affirmative action in college admissions in principle, and it supported the idea that using race as one factor to promote classroom diversity is a permissible goal.

The effects of this case is not lost on Chicago residents, as the subject of school

See Ruling page 10

# AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

Megan Sieberg

Sixth grader, Gerrielle Jackson, is a renaissance girl. She is about to enter her first year at Learn Charter School, and has just recently finished her tenure at Circle Rock, which was forced to close down on June 5. While attending Circle Rock, Gerrielle was the highest ranked student in the school.

Throughout both fourth and fifth grade, Gerrielle received certificates of achievement in many areas. On the honor roll since kindergarten, she excels in subjects such as spelling, science, language arts, reading, bible, leadership, dance and chorus. Although her favorite subject is math, she has recently received Circle Rock's Principles Award for maintaining straight A's throughout four marking periods in all classes. With this award, she also received a \$200 savings bond. Last year, Gerrielle was the recipient of the Pro-Award, which is distributed to students who are courteous, kind, considerate and respectful. Her excellence was also recognized by her classmates when they voted her Mathematician of the Year.

Gerrielle's academic success began at an early age. When she was in second grade, her teacher referred her to Louis University,

where she took high-level classes in math and science every Sunday. She was referred to the same program the following year and spent her Sundays studying criminal investigation and acting. Against all odds, throughout school closings, Gerrielle has managed to keep a positive attitude. She remains motivated to be academically successful.

During the interview, Gerrielle came off as shy and quiet. Her mother, Bridget Brown, did most of the talking. It was apparent that Bridget is both a proud parent, and a motivating figure in Gerrielle's life. When asked how much her mother motivates her in school, Gerrielle simply replied, "a lot." Bridget has invested a lot of time and money into her daughter's education, sending her to her several special classes and keeping her on task with her school work. "I'm trying to get her connected," she stated, while discussing Gerrielle's future enrollment in excelled UIC classes, "I'll pay the cost for her to go."

Although Bridget is extremely supportive, it is obvious that Gerrielle is intrinsically motivated. When asked what activities she enjoys outside of the

See Exceptional page 8

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# Since When Is It Cool Not To Go To School

Lavonte' Roache'

Since when is it cool not to go to school. Now days you see more and more young people not going to school some for good reason some for bad reason. A lot do it because they have to get a job and help their parents with bills and help watch their little bothers or sisters. The parents don't realize that if they just let their kids go to school that in the future they will get a lot in return. Some kids work part time but then the money stats to get them to thinking that I am making enough money right now and I go to school so if I didn't go to school I could make a lot more money and slowly but surly they cease to stop going.

Some kids don't go because they just don't like school. At first they go because their

parents make them but after awhile not even their parent can make them go anymore and they don't know that they are messing up the rest of their lives, school is not that bad to mess up the rest of life, you wont the good cars, the big houses and the super model girl friend and your kids to look and dress good than you need to stay in school so you can have the education and great paying job to all that happen.

Now you have the kids that don't do so great academically and behavior wise so they figure out that school is not for them but their wrong school is for everybody. They don't show any changes that their trying to do any bitter and they keep getting in to trouble so their suspend all the time and when they do

come their grade really suffer academically. Than they stop coming and finely they drop out of the school system.

Then you have those ones that would rather sell drugs than get an education. They leave out for school but they don't go so their parents will never know so they can't do anything about it. Instead of try to go to collage they are trying to go to jail. They don't know that the money that they are getting now will never compare to the money they can be getting in the future if they went to school and collage its like thousands of dollars you will be missing out on while you are serving time in jail.

Last but not least you have the ones that see other and they think that's cool if they

can get away with it, why can't I. those are the ones that have the best chance of going back to school and during some with their lives because they have the most will to be there. Trust me from someone that knows you won't to get it over the first time around you don't won't to have to do any extra time because that time you could be work at a good job making real money by yourself that car you always wonted or what ever you won't.

If you have a child or you are a watching someone else child you should make weekly visits up to their school just check up on them and make sure every thing alright.

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).

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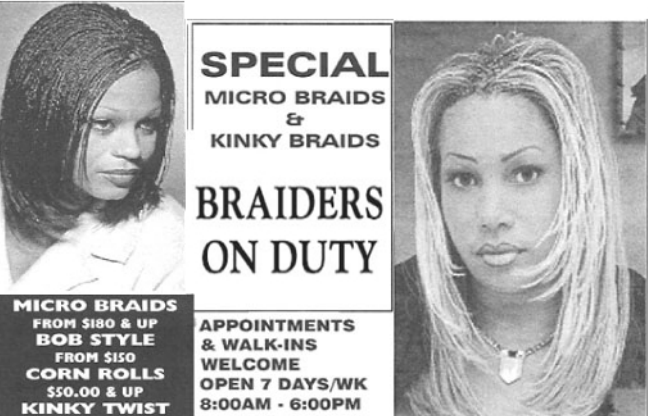
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## TO YOUR HEALTH &amp; SPIRITUAL LIFE

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Karon Elizabeth Stratton

The Lord Jesus Christ has made it clear, "I want My people well". Wellness must be taught in the Church and in the communities.

"We need to develop a community-wide action plan that supports everyone's effort to combat this epidemic," said Roy Walker III, referring to children obesity in his article 'Children are Our Future, What You need to do to Stay Healthy.' "Our children need to understand that obesity can lead to an early death sentence."

I agree. We must educate our youth with the truth about proper nutrition. We need to teach them about food ingredients and how to avoid the harmful ones, to tell them the difference between conventional foods and organic foods. We need to teach them the importance of drinking purified water as opposed to soda or sugar-water beverages and to indulge in fun exercises and life-progressing activities.

Parents will need to be taught first since they are the ones, buying food for the household. It is the toxic, non-nutritious junk food that is the reason for the health crisis in this country. The majority of the population is malnourished. As I understand it, the obesity problem is not simply an over consumption of food, but rather a high intake of fat and sugar in one's dietary lifestyle.

Change Your Food to organic and whole foods. Eat whole-grain flour instead of bleached, white flour; eat brown rice instead of white rice; choose organic fruits and vegetables and drink purified water. Avoid refined products; they don't have any nutritional benefits. When you choose a healthier diet, you will see a difference in health and weight loss.

According to a report by the American Cancer Society, published in the Chicago Defender this year, "23,870 people will die of

cancer in Illinois in 2007, down from the estimate in the 2006 report of 24,300 deaths statewide."

Ponder on these numbers. That's a lot of people dying from cancer in one year.

In 2004, 553,888 people died of cancer across the nation, the report said. That's half a million people dying of cancer in one year; some of these deaths may have been prevented with a healthier lifestyle. These statistics show that ignorance can kill. It doesn't matter whether a person has a G.E.D. or a Ph.D., it's about being informed about your health and nutrition.

Like the laws of gravity, nutrition is a science. If you drop a golf ball, it will fall to the ground. If you don't eat proper nutritious food, diseases will result and a premature death will follow. I call it unintentional suicide. If you add

smoking cigarettes to a bad diet, I call it expedited unintentional suicide.

It is time to destroy the ignorance by teaching the whole truth. It is time to apply the knowledge of proper nutrition and lifestyle. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who wants us well and to be living the fullness of our days.

The wisdom, we apply in our lives, glorifies God. Teaching wellness in the Church will help people's lives; it will bless and edify the children of God. It will show obedience to the words of God, "I want My people well."

*Karon Elizabeth Stratton, is a former resident of North and South Lawndale and is a "Letter Writer for God." She is chosen of God to become a wise doctor and to teach and inspire wellness in the Church and in communities. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.*

## WATERMELON FOR YOUR HEALTH

Fred Mitchell

Do you want to eat a fruit that is full of nutrients and sustains your health? Then watermelon is the fruit for you! It has a lot of health benefits that you might not know about while enhancing your healthy lifestyle.

Watermelon, perfect on a hot summer day, is a delectable thirst-quencher that decreases inflammation in conditions such as asthma, atherosclerosis, diabetes, colon cancer and arthritis. The sweet, juicy watermelon is

packed with antioxidants. These powerful antioxidants travel through the body neutralizing free radicals, which are substances that can cause a great deal of damage in the body. They lower cholesterol, thus preventing a heart attack or stroke.

Watermelon is also a good source of vitamins C and A (with its concentration of beta-carotene), thus helping the immune system get rid of harmful molecules.

According to the Women's Heart Foundation website, high intakes of vitamin C and beta-carotene reduce the risk of heart disease and colon cancer, decrease airway spasms in asthma and alleviate some of the symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. A cup of watermelon provides 24.3 percent of the daily value for vitamin C and 11.1 percent for vitamin A.

Watermelon is also rich in the vitamins B6 and B1, which are necessary for energy production. Watermelon is a very good source of magnesium and potassium. Part of this high ranking was due to the higher nutrient density of watermelon. Because it has a higher water-

content and lower calorie-content than most fruits (a cup of watermelon contains only 48 calories), watermelon delivers more nutrients per calorie \_ an outstanding health benefit!

To maintain a healthy lifestyle, treat yourself to watermelon. Organic Watermelons are grown right here in North Lawndale. The North Lawndale Greening Committee will be sponsoring a bus tour of its organic gardens in North Lawndale this August. GET ON BOARD!!

*Fred Mitchell is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.*

## Healthcare for the Working Poor

Mary Moran

The cost of healthcare is on the rise everyday. Working families and businesses are struggling to keep up. As a result, the number of uninsured people is increasing.

According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (C.D.C.), 43.6 million Americans were uninsured in 2006; that's 6 percent more than the previous year. In Illinois, the number of uninsured raised to 13 percent, from 3 percent since 2005.

"Lawmakers can't continue to pretend that healthcare is not a problem for their constituents," said Governor Rod R. Blagojevich in his June 27, 2007 press release. "Statistics show that families throughout Illinois are struggling more than they were just a year ago to afford the healthcare they need."

The Governor's insurance plan, 'Illinois Covered,' would provide affordable medical coverage to the uninsured and would also decrease the insurance cost of many middle-income families and small businesses currently insured, helping them save thousands of dollars each year. Thus the plan would reform the existing healthcare system to improve quality, reduce costs and require more accountability. The 'Illinois Covered' insurance will be purchased through employers or by individuals.

Under the Illinois Covered insurance, individuals and families without employer-sponsored coverage will also be able to save thousands annually. A family of four currently may have to pay as much as \$15,564 annually for coverage purchased on the private market. Under the Illinois Covered choice plan, that family could get a comprehensive coverage for \$2,250.

imilar programs like Medicaid and Family Care have enabled more than 500,000 low-income working people to get health coverage through the state. 'Family Care' plan offers healthcare coverage to

parents living with children 18 years old or younger. It also covers relatives, who are caring for children instead of their parents. However, for the 320,000 poor adults in Illinois who do not have children or whose children are older than 18, they can get health insurance through the 'Illinois Covered Assist.'

The 'Illinois Covered Assist' program will provide insurance for people, who live below the poverty level, do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have access to employer-sponsored coverage.

The Illinois Covered plan will increase the young-dependent-adult age to 29, in order to give parents more flexibility in helping their children maintain health coverage into adulthood. Currently, most plans disqualify dependents for family coverage once they reach the age of 22 or 23. This program helps many parents who have children in colleges and universities.

Since Blagojevich took office in 2003, more than 560,000 uninsured men, women, children and seniors got healthcare coverage; the governor's goal is to keep building on that progress. The 'Illinois All Kids' Program, which started in July 2006, has enabled many families to afford health care for their children. The Illinois Covered which is now being held up in special session, if approved, the first phase would start in January 2008. All parts of Illinois covered would be up and running in January 2010. Everyone is encouraged to write a letter to your local legislator and voice your support of the governor's health plan.

For more information, visit <http://www.illinoiscovered.com>

*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.nlcen.org.*

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# AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic

**TALK TO ME (\*\*1/2)** "Talk to Me" is not only a biographical drama about Ralph Waldo "Petey" Greene (Don Cheadle) who was an ex convict who became a popular and controversial talk radio host in Washington DC during the 1960's.

This movie is also about the relationship and the difficulties he had with a straight-laced black radio programmer, Dewey Hughes (Chiwetel



Don Cheadle in Talk to Me

moments.

Vernell pushes and supports "Petey" to collect on that offer. When "Petey" arrives at the offices of struggling R&B AM station, WOL to meet with Dewey; whom he interrupts in a meeting with station boss, E.G. Sonderling (Martin Sheen) and executive on how to improve the station's rating and profits.

Many films have chronicled the reaction and emotion from this tragedy. Director Kasi Lemmons accumulate the

emotions and the history within the era with detailed authenticity of the incident brilliantly underscored by the defining performances carried by Don Cheadle and Chiwetel Ejiofor who galvanize this movie throughout that will touch viewers.

It is an emotional scene to witness "Petey" and "Dewey viewing the mayhem in the street and rescuing one of the white employees from a lynch mob beating. While the street riots becomes the benchmark that probably ignited his popularity. When "Petey" went back on the air to calm the black radio listeners and joined James Brown on stage for a free outdoor concert

But Petey's on air success wasn't enough to overcome his tragic past and personal demons as an alcoholic that begin to enter and effect his personal and professional life.

What shines throughout this film is the human bond forged between these two different men that knew earlier on how each filled in for what the other was lacking. In a moment of clarity between these characters; "I need you to do all the things I was afraid to do", "Petey" told to Dewey.

And in his response; "I need you to say all the things I was afraid to say", Dewey told to "Petey".

And this is the moment that bookends this movie into a love story that this true story also reflects

And without any homophobic tenancies suggested in their actions and emotions, understand the sacrifices, the pain and respect that dramatize the love and sorrow they shared in their lives. Enough to allow Cheadle's character to shear a single tear down his cheer.

In short, there is some remarkable acting going on in this film, which is also well supported by Cedric the Entertainer as the Barry White-voiced love DJ; Vondie Curtis Hall as the old school DJ icon.

"Talk to Me" is just one story from the many black radio pioneer who paved the way for what black radio is doing today. Of course, being a Chicago native I grew up under WVON's "Good Guys" format that was owned by a white businessman, Phil and Leonard Chess that also established Chess Records. Now there's a movie in there that should be made.

But until then, "Talk to Me" is a movie worth talking about and seeing for yourself. This is a movie offers one of the best, funniest, most humane, and satisfying cinematic experiences you'll have amidst this over emphasized summer blockbuster movie season of hi-tech action and barely any acting that doesn't have the heart and soul this movie has. A remarkable, well crafted and perfectly acted movie that I highly recommend. R; 117min. A Focus Features Release – presented at selected theaters

**RESCUE DAWN (\*\*\*)** Inspired by true events that were first done in a 1997 documentary, "Rescue Dawn" is another physical challenge of stamina and endurance for actor Christian Bale to help dramatize the horrors of war through the physical and mental abuse and endurance in this true story of one man's quest for survival.

Bale portrays German-born U.S. naval pilot Dieter Dengler on his first mission during the Vietnam War. When his plane is shot down and soon after captured behind enemy lines by a small

See Flicks page 9

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### FREE

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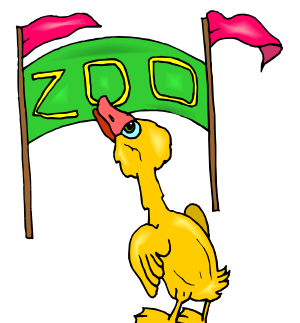
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# HARRIS BANK & THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS HONORS NORTH LAWDALE'S SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH AL MOOROC BARBER SHOP



Priscilla  
(Perci)  
Lucas

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor AL MOOROC Barber Shop located 3042 W. Roosevelt Rd., as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for July.

Maurquette El Bey, 35, an insightful young man who Atlanta, Ga., has returned back to his roots to serve this community.

Al Mooroc has been opened for the past month and walking into the bright storefront shop the first thing you notice is the Moroccan flag draped across a red wall. Pictures of Marcus Garvey and Noble Drew Ali hangs proudly bringing a sense of pride and purpose of African-American heritage to this culturally decorated shop.

El Bey (Master Barber), and his employee Carl King (C.K.) are busy working their craft and while the shop is still a work in progress, it beckons you to enter for a better peek. Ask the questions what does Al Mooroc means and El Bey a follower of the Moorish Science Temple of America will graciously answer.

"When you through the history you'll understand that El Morocco is a sacred, or secret name of America... it is actually a masculine way of saying America," he said.

This is more than your typical barbershop here you'll hear more than the latest updates on sports, politics and neighborhood gossip – history is a hot topic.

This young entrepreneur has bigger plans for the North Lawndale community and helping others, especially the children are his top priority.

"What I plan on doing is to put forth toward the young children something to look forward too... I have some programs, and things of that nature that I want to establish and get into effect in the community." He said. "My whole thing is to apply myself into this community and do more than cutting hair."

Steadfast and faithful to the Moorish Science Temple of America, "a religious organization founded in 1913 by the Prophet Noble Drew Ali, which is a sect of Islam, Gnosticism and Taoism... Its main tenet was that African Americans were descended from the Moors and thus were originally Islamic."

El Bey believes that by teaching our youth history of people and not just the color of their skin is the key for positive changes in their attitudes.

"My thing is to get into the children heads and have them on a path where they are more solidify in nationality law and business that's the main goal that I really want to put forward toward the people in the neighborhood," El Bey said.

"As a people we don't have any concept of business; how to open, how to operate, counseling, marketing and advertising there are certain things that we just don't do...we have an employee mind frame rather than an employer mind frame."

Although, his long range goals is to be a vital asset to North Lawndale, with a strong desire in serving the community by giving the best service possible.

"Giving people quality service that we usually don't get anymore...the barber shop has kind of lost its flair a little bit because of the fact that (some) barbers aren't really barbering they just cut hair right now... they are just in it for the money – to get in and to get out," he said.

"The primary thing is that this (Al Mooroc) is somewhere they can bring their children and themselves to get quality service, not only that, but I also would like them to enroll into (future) programs that I plan to set forward.

AL MOOROC is opened Tuesday – Saturdays from 9am to 7pm. Full range of services: General haircuts, shaves, facials for men and women, waxing, twist and lock. Telephone: 773/533-1901

Priscilla Lucas is a North Lawndale resident and a journalism graduate from Columbia College. Priscilla is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).



07-07-2007

AL MOOROC Barber Shop



07-07-2007

AL MOOROC owner Maurquette EL Bey



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Moroccan Flag

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# Reginald T. McCants Performs at Free Concert

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Reginald T. McCants, keyboardist, will be performing during the Ravinia in Lawndale Festival on Saturday, July 21. This free concert will start at 6 p.m., and will be held on the corner of Ogden and Sacramento in Douglas Park. It will be the second of four, monthly, Ravinia Lawndale concerts scheduled this summer. Ravinia in Lawndale invites everyone to bring their grills, family and friends to enjoy the music.

McCants was born and raised in Chicago, where he lives today. He graduated from the University of Memphis in 1983, where he majored in music, business and composition. He has been a professional keyboardist ever since. His style is contemporary jazz.

Some of the music you can expect to hear will include Reginald’s original compositions, cover tunes by Stevie Wonder, and upbeat, fun music that will encourage audience participation. You can go online and type in “Reginald T. McCants” to hear samples of

music from his *Thank You* album. He will have his latest CD, *The Journey*, available for purchase for \$10.

McCants said he was honored when he got the call requesting his performance at the Ravinia in Lawndale Festival.

“Ravinia is known for first class, and it’s good they’re doing something on the west side. It’s a long way from where they are located,” he said. He expects to see a mixed variety of age groups at the family-oriented event. McCants said it is good to come out and enjoy the free music, and he thinks more people should support live music more often by going to the Chicago venues where a lot of artists perform regularly.

“Those singers and musicians need your support because if people don’t ask for it [live music] and support it, the club owners don’t provide for it.”

McCants said he is available for corporate events and private functions such as weddings

and birthday parties. You can contact him at 773-374-4075.

Also scheduled to perform during the July concert is vocalist, Julia Huff. NLCN is sorry that we weren’t able to reach her in time for an interview.

Go to [www.Ravinia.com](http://www.Ravinia.com) to find out about Ravinia in Highland Park’s 2007 summer concerts, including info on performances, ticket prices, and transportation.

Ravinia has an outreach program called the Ravinia Lawndale Music Conservatory. The partnership offers free music lessons in voice, guitar, piano and violin to children and adults at four Chicago park districts. For more information call the Douglas Park number at 773-522-5303.

*Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson is a poet and*



Reginald T. McCants  
writer for NLCN and Residents Journal. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## Free Acupuncture Available to Everyone

Kabuika Kamunga

Two months ago I went to the emergency room at Stroger Hospital and was told to see a primary care physician. While I waited for my application for ‘Access To Care’ to get approved (an insurance for low-income), I have two choices. Either I remain ill in bed until my medical paperwork gets processed or seek alternative treatment while I wait.

I decided to see acupuncturists for free.

I went to the acupuncture clinic of the Midwest College of Oriental Medicine. Located on the North Side of Chicago on Montrose Avenue, the free Chinese medicine clinic has become my buoy for health.

I walk in the clinic’s waiting room. It is full of people of different races and ages. There are two Ethiopian women and a little girl speaking Amharic in one corner. Next to them a Caucasian young woman wearing a black suit is reading a magazine. She must have come straight from work. I sit down next to a Hispanic woman, who is doing her ‘English as a Second Language’ homework. On my other side, an African-American patient tells me she loves the acupuncture treatment so much, she is planning to bring her grandmother here.

Approximately 350 patients come for treatment at the clinic every week. They range

from professional people to homeless people. Several of the patients do not have medical insurance; others do and combine both Western and Chinese medicines to get well. Some people come regularly, others, only when they feel very sick. All the seats in the waiting room are taken. I may have to wait an hour or more to get treated. But it’s worth it.

In a treatment room, a student examines me. He then gets his work approved by the supervisor. Today Dr. Hui-Yan Cai is on duty. She double-checks the student’s diagnostic and suggests a course of treatment. I soon find out that Dr. Cai is more than simply an instructor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She was the director of the obstetrics and gynecology department of an 8,000-bed hospital in China.

“In China I always combined both Western and Chinese medicine to treat people,” said Dr. Cai, who is a medical doctor and has a Ph.D. in Traditional Chinese Medicine from the Guangzhou University in China and a post doc from the University of Illinois. “I found only one medicine is not as strong as the combination.”

I am astonished. Here is a prominent physician of two medical systems, making sure that I receive the best treatment for free.

“My goal is to teach people [in the United States] to realize the importance of oriental

medicine,” said Dr. Cai, speaking humbly of her life work. “That’s why I came here.”

And that is why the Midwest College Clinic is my buoy for health.

Since I have been coming for treatments, two or three times a week, I have started to regain strength little by little. I am given an explanation of what is ailing me, according to the Chinese medical system.

“[Chinese Medicine] is a different way of looking at health and disease,” says Dr. Alan Uretz, the internship director at Midwest College. He has a Ph.D. in Chinese medicine from China. “Modern bioscience is mechanistic ... [viewing] the body as a machine. Therefore, health care is aimed at repairing the broken machine.”

“Chinese medicine, on the other hand, is energetic,” Dr. Uretz continues. “An individual is a unique configuration of a flow of energy. Therefore, any disease or discomfort is viewed as a weakness, imbalance or interruption of the flow of energy.”

Although Chinese medicine is often used for pain management in the United States, it has been the primary health care system on the Asian continent for more than 2,000 years. At the clinic in Uptown, they treat anything from sprained ankles to high cholesterol and HIV/AIDS.

**See Acupuncture page 11**

## Exceptional from page 4

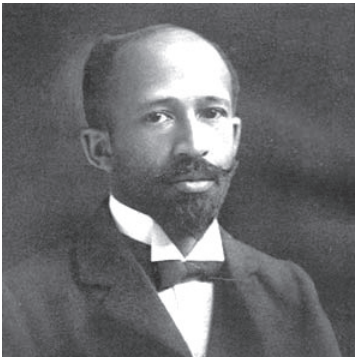
classroom, Gerrielle said “I like to read chapter books.” When asked how much she reads, her mother chimed in stating, “She reads every night. Sometimes I have to tell her to cut out the light.” Her favorite author is Judy Bloom, and her favorite book is, *Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret*.

Gerrielle also enjoys a busy social life. One of her favorite activities is talking on the phone with her friends. According to her mother, she talks on the phone “too much.” Of course, this doesn’t appear to interfere with her studies. She remains motivated to continue doing well in school so that she can, one day, attend either Spelman College or Harvard University. She will do so with her mother’s voice ringing in her ear, saying, “Education! Education! Education! Go to school! Go to school! Go to college! Go to college!

Despite her transition, she appears optimistic about her future. Her academic versatility makes her a cut above the rest, and her many accolades are proof that she is heading down the road toward success

*Megan Sieberg is NLCN’s Communications Manager. Megan is a graduate of Northwestern University. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## JULY 11 Black Facts



W.E.B. DuBois

- \* On this date in 1905, The Niagara Movement, the forerunner of the NAACP, was founded by W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter at a meeting in Niagara Falls, NY.
- \* On this date in 1766, Olaudah Equiano writer of a book about his account of traveling on the Middle Passage buys his freedom from slavery.
- \* On this date in 1915, Miffin Wistar Gibbs a conductor on the Underground Railroad, clothing retailer and newspaper publisher died in California.
- \* On this date in 1925, African-American Opera Coloratura Mattiwilda Dobbs was born. She debuted at La Scala in Milan, Italy in 1953. She debuted in the U.S. in 1955 with the San Francisco Opera.

## Organizing your Financial Documents

K L Gillespie

If your drawers are overflowing with bills, receipts, and bank statements, then it’s probably time to roll up your sleeves and get organized. This may seem overwhelming, given the amount of paperwork you’re dealing with, but proper organization of financial documents can help reduce clutter and make things a lot easier to find. It can also help minimize the stress and frustration that come with searching for something you can’t seem to locate.

An efficient filing system is easy to manage and can help simplify your life. There are a number of documents which are significant when it comes to making a purchase, applying for a loan, or verifying your income.

These items should be maintained. For example, tax returns and supporting papers are important and should be kept for at least seven to ten years due to potential IRS audits. Bank statements and payment stubs are also important verifications of income and savings, so they should also be filed.

Some other significant documents that

should be filed are bills, receipts for large purchases, investment account statements, insurance policies, credit card statements, health statements, birth certificates/passports, and car/house titles.

A good way to determine if a document is important, or if it should be discarded, is to ask yourself if you’ve ever needed it for any business transaction or for verification purpose. If the answer is yes, then it should probably be filed. If the answer is no, then it, most likely, should be shredded.

Once you’ve decided what to keep, devise a filing system that will enable you to locate these items in your time of need. This system can be setup in anyway you choose, as long as you’re able to find what you’re looking for when you need it. It’s also a good idea to make sure it’s easy for someone to understand, just in case you’re away or there is an emergency. In this way, time will not be wasted searching for an item later.

Create categories for your documents (ex. Bank Statements, Investments, Taxes) and setup file folders for each. If you prefer to

use old shoe boxes, that’s also fine. The goal is to make this as simple as possible so that it’s easily accessible. Ensure that you have labels for each category and a nice size font, or colors, for quick identification.

Next, gather all your records, assign them to one of the categories, and file them in your folders. Folders can be stored away in a drawer or file cabinet, and boxes can be placed on a closet shelf. If you receive bills and account statements online, and prefer to keep it that way, then you can look into storing these electronically so they are still organized and in a central location.

All other unnecessary papers or junk mail that contain your name, address, or social security number should be shredded. This will help prevent your personal information from being misused by others and will help you maintain control of your documents.

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



## Sports &amp; Entertainment

THEATRE REVIEW:  
“*RAGTIME*”

Mike Cook

*Ragtime* is the theatre adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Mr. E. L. Doctorow, now playing at the Porchlight Music Theatre. Before the theatre version, there was a movie version, in which Howard Rollins gave a great performance as the lead character, Coalhouse Walker. In all three versions, *Ragtime* is a rollicking spectacle chock full of singing and dancing.

The time period is from 1906 to 1917, and the story centers around three families, each representative of America in the making. Coalhouse is a Black, piano player with a lover, Sarah, and a son. Father and his daughter, Tateh, are immigrants from Latvia in Eastern Europe. In the immaculate town of New Rochelle, New York live the WASP (white, Anglo-Saxon, protestant) family: Mother, father, Edgar, and Grandfather. These families revolve around each other like three moons circling the planet **Earth**.

*Ragtime* is the music that laid the foundation for jazz. Coalhouse visits New Rochelle, attempting to win back Sarah and Coalhouse, Jr., who have taken refuge with the WASPs. He is in their home when the imposing Grandfather enters and is astonished to find Coalhouse diddling on the piano. Grandfather demands to know if Coalhouse knows any “coon songs.” Coalhouse explains ragtime and begins playing in a style one can still hear in the recordings of Scott Joplin.

The third Father, from Latvia, and his daughter, Little Girl, find hard times in New York City. She becomes ill and they become homeless. He cannot feed her, or provide medical care, so he arranges to send her, alone, to an orphanage in Massachusetts. However, at the last minute he jumps on the train, encouraged because he has just found support for his artwork.

Coalhouse acquires a Model T Ford and, driving into New Rochelle, he finds himself surrounded by firefighters, with axes, who resent the dapper Black gentleman driving a new car. Coalhouse escapes, seeking help, but the firemen trash his Model T. He swears he will have justice at any cost and the final conflicts of the play are set in motion.

*Ragtime* is a musical with a capital “M.” There is much more singing and dancing than there is spoken dialogue. Two songs are especially moving. “Till We Reach That Day,” speaks to the nobility of struggle, promising only paradise in the end. Coalhouse sings, “On the Wings of a Dream,” in which he expresses his hopes for his son and all youth. Famous people appear such as Henry Ford, Booker T. Washington, Harry Houdini, Emma Goldman, Admiral Peary, and Matthew Henson. They represent a wide range of opinions and positions.

It’s a big play with a huge cast including: Charissa Armon, as Mother; Aaron Graham, as Tateh; Bill Ingram, as New Rochelle Father; Drew Mikuska, as Little Boy; Leah Rose Orleans, as Tateh’s daughter; Alexis J. Roberts, as Sarah; Jim Sherman, as Grandfather and; Scott Sowinski, as Mother’s Younger Brother. Playing multiple roles are: Anjali Asokan, Julia Black, Jeff Borck, Stephane Duret, Sarah Hayes, Renardo Johnson, Linda Kernan, Barry Irving, and Jayson Brooks (as Coalhouse Walker).

Terence McNally won a Tony Award for the book. Stephen Flaherty also won a Tony for the music. Lynn Arens wrote the song lyrics. L. Walter Stearns directed. Eugene Dixon is the musical director and Brenda Didier earns credit for the extensive choreography and dancing. The scenic design is by Roy Hine, the lighting is designed by John Horan, the costumes were design by Bill Morey, the sound is designed by

See *Ragtime* page 11

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## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

*Can I have it like that, You got it like that!! (I just didn;t have anything better to say and I was watching that Heineken commercial)*



Diddy and Kim Porter

I don’t know what kind of relationship Kim Porter and Diddy had, but the rumors have now been confirmed, they have broken up. First off, they never lived under the same roof and every time he broke up with someone it was because he loved Kim, who is now stuck with raising twin babies. The two have been together for 10 years even counting the years he was with JLo. The breakup comes from Diddy hanging out with Sienna Miller. Both Diddy and Sienna’s rep told People Magazine that there is nothing between the two. (YEAH RIGHT!) Also, in Essence magazine Diddy said that he would not marry Kim, that should have told her something. You know what, I hate when yo man waits until you have a baby and then wants to do stupid stuff!

Rapper KRS-One tragically lost his 23 year old stepson Randy Hubbard Parker, who committed suicide by shooting himself in the head. His mother Simone Parker, who is KRS-One wife, said the suicide was cause by severe depression her son was having. Randy was a graphic designer and an aspiring fashion entrepreneur who held a brief stint as an intern at Koch Entertainment a few years ago. At the time of the tragedy, KRS-One was on tour overseas with producer Marley Marl and unavailable. A private memorial service is scheduled for Randy in Florida on what would have been his 24th birthday. Another memorial service in New York is currently being planned. Our condolences go out to the Simone, KRS-One and the whole family.

## Flicks from page 6

band of Viet Cong guerillas who take him through deplorable conditions and treatment at their prison camp.

Dieter is quick to privately make his intentions clear that he plans to escape, which naturally is met with mixed reactions by the POW’s who have been there longer. But Dieter finds an ally in Duane (Steve Zahn) and arguable resistance from Eugene (Jeremy Davies) who could jeopardize Dieter’s plan through his lack of cooperation.

During the daytime hours, the POW’s are allowed to roam the compound while being watched by their captors whose food supply has dwindled down to rice and maggots. At night, the POW’s are handcuffed and laid down on the ground in a slave ship manner, forced to sleep side by side in their own excrement.

However, Dieter tries to win the other POW’s confidence, by finding a nail that is filed and sharpened enough to work as a key that unlocks the handcuffs after hours. But Dieter is advised not to try to make an escape at night. Because without any water from the rainy season, the jungle is a worse prison than the camp to survive.

While Zahn and Bale endure for the realism of their characters; the bulk of the film belongs to Christian Bale who delivers his most physically challenging performance since “The Machinist”. Bale even tops Nicolas Cage eating a live, large cockroach in 1989’s “Vampire’s Kiss”. Where Bale is visibly eating maggots in a bowl and capturing and skinning to eat a live water snake. (So I won’t advise eating a large meal before seeing this movie!)

There have been several movies in recent years detailing the horrors of war through what one man is forced to live under and survive through that is

Two people who attended Beyonce’s concert in St. Louis Sunday night were injured fireworks meant for the stage spilled into the front row. After completion of the show, Beyonce visited the two injured people at the St. Louis’ Barnes-Jewish Hospital where they were treated for minor injuries. “She was just very concerced about the people injured in the audience. It was unannounced and we kept it very low-key so that she could spend time with them,” hospital spokesswoman Kathy Holleman told AP about the approximately 45-minute visit. “I just thought it was a great thing for someone of her stature to do,” she added. Names of the injured have not been released. Aww that was so sweet of her to visit and make sure no one was going to sue.

## QUICKIES:

A section of Afeni Shakur’s North Carolina based home caught fire on Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. A spokesperson for Shakur, mother of the late Tupac Shakur, said “The fire was contained with the efforts of three fire departments, but the guest home was gutted.” Fortunately, there were no reported injuries or loss of life.

Former rivals-turned-BFFs Jay-Z and Nas have both contributed to scholar Michael Eric Dyson’s upcoming book “Know What I Mean: Reflections on Hip-Hop.” In the manual, which is aimed at young hip hop fans, Jay-Z writes: “It’s one thing for young people to see rappers making appearances on TRL or to see their records fly up the charts. But it is another thing for a young boy from the hood to go into the library at his school and check out a book on why his culture matters.”

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

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

visually deplorable and heinous treatment. “Rescue Dawn” is another example that evolves

into this compelling, uncompromising movie that director Werner Herzog details the travesty of war that resonates through Bale’s miraculous performance.

R; 126min. A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters

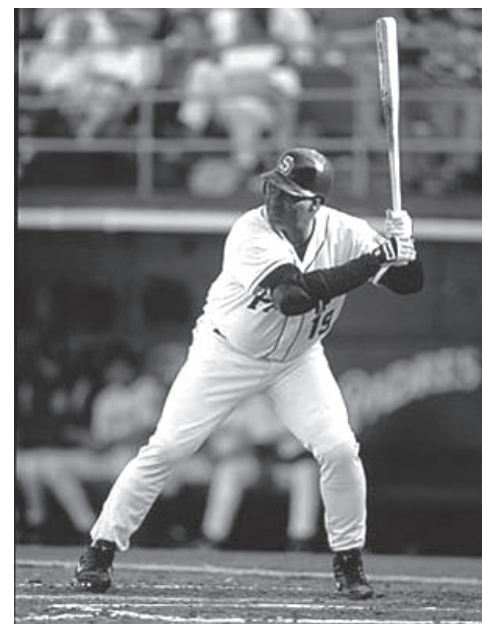
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (\*\*1/2) As one grows from child’s play into adulthood, the stakes become higher and darker in this fifth installment to the popular book and movie franchise that still retains the quality and technical wizardry of its predecessors. But these adolescents are being treated to the grim and gritty real (adult) world of sorcery

Even though, the style and approach of “The Order of Phoenix” seems to set it self apart from the previous films.

See page 10

BLACK BASEBALL  
HALL OF FAMERS

Todd Thomas



Tony-Gwynn

A new class of Major League Baseball Hall of Famers will be inducted on July 28. Among the inductees will be Tony Gwynn, the great hitter from the San Diego Padres. He is one of thirty-four African-Americans in the Hall of Fame and seventeen of them were Negro League stars.

The Negro Leagues have been garnering a lot of respect in recent years and, deservedly so. They were playing quality baseball, and many of the players were among the best baseball players in the country, regardless of race. All of the black Hall of Famers are listed alphabetically.

Andy Cooper, Pitcher, Kansas City Monarchs, Negro Leagues

Ray Dandridge, Third Baseman, Third Baseman, Newark Eagles, Negro Leagues

Leon Day, Pitcher, Newark Eagles, Negro Leagues

Martin Dihigo, Pitcher, Baltimore Black Sox, Negro Leagues

Larry Doby, Center Fielder, Cleveland Indians

William Foster, Pitcher, Homestead Grays, Negro Leagues

Bob Gibson, Pitcher, St. Louis Cardinals

See Famers page 11

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Taste from front page

work hard to keep up with the orders. A typical work day for Waseem Bhimani, the boss at the Gold Coast Dogs stand, was 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day, non-stop. “We are doing about 40 cases a day and each case has about 90 dogs,” said Bhimani. That equals about 3,600 hot dogs per day at one stand alone!

Not only are the crowds hungry, they are also thirsty! With temperatures last weekend reaching into the mid 90’s, large quantities of drinks were also consumed. One drink distributor was Sierra Mist. They were passing out free samples of their product, non-stop, during the entire Taste.

“This booth is non-stop. You do not stop pouring for eight to nine hours a day. I can’t even tell you how many cans we go through. If it’s really hot at one of our Zanies comedies shows we will give out free cans to people. We are doing an open mic to find the funniest person at the Taste of the Chicago,” said Cyndi Nelson, manager of the Zanies comedy club in St. Charles.

The Chicago Police Department took special measures to ensure the safety of those at the Taste. Their presence was felt as they walked in groups, making sure everything was orderly. Two police officers from the 11<sup>th</sup> district said that everything had gone smoothly and that there weren’t any major fights or disturbances.

Overall, the Taste is a fun place to go with a significant other, your family, alone or with



Taste goers enjoy a game of chess

friends! If you can deal with the crowd and the heat, the Taste of Chicago will always have something going on to keep you entertained and keep your stomach full. The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of Chicago is now over, but will return next summer. For a complete list of all food establishments that participated in the Taste visit [www.tasteofchicago.us](http://www.tasteofchicago.us)

*Sophia Karalexis is a graduate in English from DePaul University. Sophia also earned a minor in Journalism. Sophia is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

Flicks from page 9

It’s probably because how the script has been condensed down from the lengthy novel that also makes this the shortest in the series by keeping the action and dialogue moving, while retaining the complexity and secrets within the story and characters. This seems to help remove the previous stigma for the audience who might have felt like they were sometimes reading the book on the big screen rather than watching a movie. Sometimes, “less is more” can be an advantage. As long as some of the challenges from the book are met in the film version.

In this outing, an evil presence and an impending war loom over the fifth year studies at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) gets nearly expelled from school for using magic in defense and in the presence of his bullying cousin.

Potter is brought back to the “other side” by Professor Alastor “Mad Eye” Moody (Brendan Gleeson) and his crew from Hogwarts who takes him to a secret organization known as the “Order of Phoenix”. Where Potter is reunited with joy to his godfather, Sirius Black (Gary Oldman) and allowed to hear certain aspects during an adult meeting; while exploring some family secrets about his deceased parents who are pictured as founding board members.

Still through more of this film, no one seems willing to believe Potter’s claim to an altercation with the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Finnes) whose building an army in a planned resurgence

in search of the prophesy that would make him more powerful than before. (Perhaps, this is because some adults view Potter as still a child when he’s clearly not anymore!)

Starting with bias newspaper headlines; The Dark Wizard employs various techniques and distractions But the film’s most disruptive force that is the centerpiece of the drama comes in the presence of Imelda Staunton who nearly steals the film as the Ministry’s Professor of the Dark Arts for Defense, Dolores Umbridge, a rules and regulation freak whose toad-like appearance with a fetish for mewing cats on mounted picture dishes in her room. Staunton gives memorable performance that is a wickedly delicious mixture of Mary Poppins meets “Cuckoos’ Nest’s” head Nurse Ratchett that should not be overlooked for Oscar consideration.

The script and direction does some justice to the film and book franchise’s legacy while trying to infuse some new fresh blood and enthusiasm but this film compromises itself by being too grim that takes some of the magic along with the characters’ innocence that doesn’t make “Order of Phoenix” enjoyable enough.

There’s even the presence of a black student wizard among the classmates and a black adult sorcerer that utters “I like Potter’s style “for that brief ethnic representation and obviously doesn’t know what he’s talking about when it comes this film. PG; 139min. A Warner Bros. Picture Release – presented at selected theaters

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

CTA from front page

public transportation system and streetcars where in the 1940s. On July 11, 2007 at the CTA headquarters located at 567 West Lake Street, the corner of Lake and Clinton, CTA will hold its monthly public hearing meeting to continue discussing the current state and the future of the CTA that was left in the air after this past June 13<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

“If we make no changes CTA bus service might see its totality,” CTA President Ron Huberman said. Currently, CTA has an almost \$100 million deficit that needs to be addressed in order for the CTA to continue providing adequate services to communities such as North Lawndale and neighboring communities.

“There is a lot of speculation because legislatures are not vocal in Springfield in trying to get a budget passed,” said Kim Wasserman, Coordinator, of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

(LVEJO). Kim went on to say that a “far increase would be detrimental to residents of our communities” like North Lawndale and Little Village because they both are amongst the poorest communities out of Chicago’s 77 in total. Also, in comparison to NYC and LA, Chicago is the third worse in “providing funding to its public transportation,” said Wasserman.

This is one of the reasons why Chicago’s Alderman Edward M. Burke, of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward, has proposed to have motorist to pay a toll in order to enter downtown Chicago to generate some funding for our public transportation system.

Here are some other major factors that still exist since the June 13<sup>th</sup> public meeting that would affect residents in North Lawndale and Little Village if CTA does not receive funding from Springfield and the city itself.

A \$96 million budget gap would still exist; the Pink Line built to aid commuters and the CTA would still cost \$10 million a year to operate only to offer less service; the possible arrival of the Olympics that would

ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz



Sandra Bullock in Premonition

**PREMONITION (\*\*)** Sandra Bullock stars in this psychological thriller involving a happily married housewife, Linda Hanson who suddenly has her perfect life and her sanity pushed and altered. When one day, the police arrives at her suburban home to inform her that an auto accident has claimed the life of her workaholic yet devoted husband (Julian McMahon). Only she awakens the next morning to find her husband alive in their house.

So eventually, Linda sets out somehow, trying to prevent the tragedy that has already happened from occurring again. Crafted more like a supernatural drama that alternates Bullock’s character between time and reality; is sort of like “Groundhog Day” played straight.

But this film’s approach makes the drama become anticlimactic through its mundane ending with the hysterical wife chasing down to warn her husband by cell phone that only leads to her witnessing a larger catastrophe. And ultimately learns that it’s better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all.

PG-13; 97min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: July 17

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

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cost the city millions of dollars to host taking more funding away from public transportation; about 75 of CTA administrative positions would not have been cut to try to free up \$12.5 million with another 800 jobs threatened to be dissolving.; and, to top it all off [chicagogasprices.com](http://chicagogasprices.com) recently reported that over a recent 15-16 week period, that started back in March of this year, Chicago’s gas prices where amongst the top in the nation. So, trying to find alternative traveling will be difficult for most residents in North Lawndale until CTA decides it future.

To learn more about the history of the CTA you could visit [google.com](http://google.com). And, if you have any questions regarding the current state of the CTA you could contact Kim Wasserman, at 312-762-6991 or visit CTA website [chicagotransitauthority.com](http://chicagotransitauthority.com).

*Demetrius A. Porter is a North Lawndale resident. He is a journalism student at Roosevelt University. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

Neely from front page

Neely. “In order to better understand the financial world, games such as this are important as the serve as both an entertainment and educational tool.” Neely is also promoting such upcoming events as City Treasurer’s Office Small Business expo, which will be held at McCormick Place on August 3. “This we feel is an huge opportunity where business owners can get assistance as well as those who are looking to become small business owners can get much needed information on what to do,” said Nelly. She adds “It’s my job to bring events like this to the people and form relationships with community business owners so that the city and its business prospects can prosper.”

Stephanie is also a member of Lawndale Christian Church and according to some members, serves as a very positive influence. “The fact that we have someone associated with this Church and this community the nature of Stephanie Neely is absolutely fantastic,” said Greg Davis, member of Lawndale Christian. “I am positive that she’ll continue to serve the city and make connections within the community that will help educate, which is a very important thing.”

Business owner Carlito Contre, who plans to attend the small business expo is taking notice of Neely’s effort. “I think anyone who is managing the city’s money, yet doing everything they can to make sure that business owners are informed and not taken advantage of is a person I can co-sign. It’s good to know that the city has community rooted people working for us and wanting to see us do well not just for the cities benefit but for the people’s benefit as well.”

With the dedication that she’s shown to the community so far, Neely hopes to continue to make progressive change.

“There is a lot of opportunity out here to make financial growth and improve relations between the Treasurer’s office and the communities of Chicago. The people had enough faith to vote me into this position with that goal in mind and I intend to work until I accomplish just that.”

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident and an NLCN general assignment reporter. He is also involved in nonprofit work and community organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

**Ruling from page 4**

placement has been heavily discussed recently with the closing of three predominantly African-American schools. A Chicago Public Schools representative was quoted as saying “While its good to see racial tones somewhat taken out of the school system, we personally have never used race as any kind of factor in what children can go to what school.”

Terrence Grant, recent graduate of Whitney Young High School, disputes that. “I know both I and my brother were refused entrance to a school based on race and that’s a fact. I won’t name the school out of respect for the school system and the honest people working there but I will say that when my family pressed the issue on why we were denied they said that we ‘wouldn’t fit in that environment.”

Because of this decision, many concerned parents of Chicago Public School students are hoping that we won’t see schools packed in without the necessary diversity and exposure to other cultures that is needed to get a grasp on society. “Now they won’t toss all the kids in the same school according to their neighborhood and race and our kids and look at the world differently and grow together” said Rosa Martinez, mother of 3 soon to be high school students. “Now if we could only get them to exclude financial status, we’d continue to make change.”

North Lawndale Community News will continue to cover diversity in schools as well as the effects of this decision in future articles.

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident and an NLCN general assignment reporter. He is also involved in nonprofit work and community organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*



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### Ragtime from page 9

Kevin Carney, the stage manager is Mark Johnson and the assistant director is Lili-Anne Brown.

Porchlight is being hosted by The Apollo Theater & Studio at 2540 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614; (773) 935-6100; [www.apollochicago.com](http://www.apollochicago.com). Unless extended, *Ragtime* will run through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Show times are Thursday thru Saturday at 7:30 and a Sunday matinee at 3:30. Ticket prices are \$41.50 to \$46.50 with special group rates available.

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE BETTER LIFE FOR YOUTH WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL TALENT SHOW** on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 5<sup>th</sup> City, 3350 W. Jackson Blvd. from 7 p.m.- until. Group Needs are: Singers Actors and Dancers. For More information contact: Eugene Wolf at 312/ 671-1026

**FREE TENNIS LESSONS** Every Saturday At Columbus Park on the Tennis Court located at Austin and Adams. For Ages 8-18 Must have Parental Permission Use of all equipment is provided FREE. Instructors Available on site. All are Welcome For More Information contact Commissioner Pat Horton, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, 312-217-5936

**HOUSTON ROCKETS GUARD LUTHER HEAD WILL HOST A FREE YOUTH SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP** at Manley High School, 2935 W. Polk, from July 9 through July 13. Registration will began at 8:30 a.m. on Monday July 9. Boys and Girls ages 11-18 years old are invited to attend. Each day's session is 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon. All participants must enter gym at the Arthington Street entrance.

**Rainbow PUSH is hosting the African American Contractor Association (AACA)** and other concerned groups, trade-workers and truckers to celebrate its 7<sup>th</sup> annual African American Contractors Day. On this day, we will convene to discuss opportunities for jobs, contracts and fairness in the industry. The event will be take place on Saturday, July 14 at Dr. King's Workshop Headquarters of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, which is located on 930 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Chicago, IL 60615. For more information please call the AACA at (312) 915-5969 or (312) 567-9919.

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### Accupunture from page 8

My practitioner today is a Polish-American student. I feel an electric sensation as he sticks a needle in my arm. On the treatment table, I quickly fall asleep with acupuncture needles stuck all over my body. I don't even feel them. Twenty minutes later, my student practitioner returns and asks me how I feel. "Great!" I reply happily, thanking him for the wonderful treatment. Like many other students, he is very good at his work.

I am amazed to hear the personal stories that drove the practitioners (both students and instructors) to

study acupuncture.

"I had a hemorrhagic stroke when I was 41 years old," said Gail McMahon, an instructor and supervisor at the clinic. She had an aneurism burst in her head, leaving her paralyzed. She underwent a brain surgery and as soon as she was out of the hospital, she went to a friend's acupuncture clinic.

"Look at what [acupuncture] did for me and what it can do for others' problems," McMahon says.

Looking at her now, you would have never guessed she was once paralyzed. Her full recovery inspired her to help others and so she went back to school and obtained a bachelor in nutrition and a master's

degree in oriental medicine.

The same dedication can be found among the students. Gary Pecho, father of three, started his Chinese medicine studies last fall while holding his full-time job. His reason is simple: to treat his daughter who has Angelman syndrome (similar to autism) and does not talk. "I am her doctor, I am her dentist. I am her father", said Pecho, adding that his daughter is not comfortable with strangers touching her. "I treat her with Chinese herbs and acupressure."

The Midwest College Clinic is located on 909 West Montrose Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. It offers free

acupuncture, nutritional counseling and much more (you pay a low cost for herbs). Clinic hours are Monday through Friday. Monday & Tuesday 1:00-8:00 p.m.; Wednesday & Friday 1:00-3:00 p.m.; and Thursday 5:30-8:00 p.m. New patients are accepted only on Monday and Tuesday 2:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, call the clinic at 773-528-0261.

*Kabuika Kamunga has a bachelor degree in Chemistry and a master's in Journalism. She is Congolese and resides in Chicago. She is currently doing an internship in Johannesburg, South Africa. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

### Famers from page 9

Josh Gibson, Catcher, Homestead Grays, Negro Leagues  
Frank Grant, Second Baseman, Buffalo Bisons, Negro Leagues  
Pete Hill Center Fielder, Negro Leagues  
Monte Irvin, Left Fielder, Newark Eagles, Negro Leagues  
Reggie Jackson, Right Fielder, Oakland Athletics  
Pop Lloyd, Shortstop, New York Lincoln Giants, Negro Leagues  
Biz Mackey, Catcher, Negro

#### Leagues

Willie Mays, Center Fielder, San Francisco Giants  
Willie McCovey, First Baseman, San Francisco Giants  
Joe Morgan, Second Base, Cincinnati Reds  
Eddie Murray, First Baseman, Baltimore Orioles  
Satchel Page, Pitcher, Kansas City Monarchs, Negro Leagues  
Kirby Puckett, Center fielder, Minnesota Twins  
Frank Robinson, Right Field, Baltimore Orioles  
Jackie Robinson, Second Base,

#### Brooklyn Dodgers

Ozzie Smith, Shortstop, St. Louis Cardinals  
Willie Stargell, Left Field, Pittsburgh Pirates  
Norman Turkey Stearns, Kansas City Monarchs, Negro Leagues  
Willie Wells, Shortstop, St. Louis Stars, Negro Leagues  
Billie Williams, Left fielder, Chicago Cubs  
Joe Williams, Pitcher, New York Lincoln Giants, Negro Leagues  
Jud Winfield, Third Base, Philadelphia Stars, Negro leagues  
Dave Winfield, Left Field, New

#### York Yankees

The Negro Leaguers had a special induction ceremony and Jackie Robinson's eloquent widow, Rachel Robinson, made this comment.

"It's exciting, it's an historic day for me. I think it means, in a formal way, that they are being recognized as the great organizations that they were."

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



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