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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

## NEW STUDY OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES IN CHICAGO

Megan Sieberg



Donna Thompson, CEO of Access Community Health Network, speaks out against breast cancer disparities between African American and White women in Chicago

Last Wednesday, The Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force released a major report outlining 37 recommendations for lowering breast cancer mortality rates among African-American women in Chicago. The report, entitled *Improving Quality and Reducing Disparities in Breast Cancer Mortality*, comes at a time when disparities between African-American and white women in Chicago are at an all time high.

Since 1980, the black-white disparity in breast cancer mortality in Chicago has been steadily rising from almost zero to 68 percent, according to the report. By comparison, the rate of mortality among black women in New York City in 2003 was only 11 percent higher than that of white women, and the rate of the disparity across the U.S. was 37 percent.

"In Chicago, African-American women have been left behind in the

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## Pilsen Community Hosts Educational Summit

James Glover



Caption: At the Pilsen Education Summit, Martha Monrroy a Principal at Copper Dual Language Academy and Co-Chair of the Pilsen Education Task Force was joined by some of her students for the full day of educational workshops. Photo credit: Johanna Diaz/Afterschool Alliance

On Saturday, October 20, Benito Juarez High School hosted the first annual Pilsen Educational Summit. The summit, which was the cumulative idea

of neighborhood residents, community organizations and higher education institutions, brought out hundreds of

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## CTA Problems Creating Hardship for Everyone

Wendell Hutson

### Insufficient Funds

Effective Sunday, November 4, 2007

#### Revised CTA Fare Structure

CTA Fare Types	Peak Period Full Fare (weekdays 6:30- 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.)	Non-Peak Period Full Fare (All Other Times)	Reduced Fare * (All Times) *Remains unchanged from January 1, 2006
Cash (No Transfers)	\$2.50 (Bus) \$3.00 (Rail)	\$2.50 (Bus) \$2.50 (Rail)	\$1.00 (Bus and Rail)
Chicago Card +/- Chicago Card Plus <sup>1</sup> \$5 fee waived through October 31, 2007	Deducts 1st ride \$2.00 (Bus); \$2.00 (Rail) 1st transfer 25¢ 2nd transfer FREE		
Transit Card <sup>1</sup>	Deducts 1st ride \$2.00 (Bus) \$3.00 (Rail) 1st transfer 25¢ 2nd transfer FREE	Deducts 1st ride \$2.00 (Bus) \$2.50 (Rail) 1st transfer 25¢ 2nd transfer FREE	Deducts 1st ride 85¢ (Bus and Rail) 1st transfer 15¢ 2nd transfer FREE
Passes	1-Day \$6 7-Day \$23 30-Day \$84		30-Day \$35.00
Visitor Passes	2-Day \$10 3-Day \$14 5-Day \$21		

<sup>1</sup> A transfer allows two additional rides within two hours of first use. Transfers are available to customers using Transit Cards, Chicago Card and Chicago Card Plus only. Paper transfer cards issued by Pace are not accepted by CTA.

If the CTA implements it's so-called "doomsday" plan Nov. 4 as scheduled riders will not be the only ones facing economic hardship.

Just ask 37-year-old Jamie Taylor, a bus driver for the CTA. Taylor, who has been with the CTA for seven years, is among the 600 employees slated to be laid off next week, which is based largely on seniority. Another 1,799 employees would then be laid off in the CTA's second round of fare hikes and service cuts in January.

"I thought when I got hired I would have job security since I am a union employee," she said. "But now I learn that even if you are a union employee, you can still be laid off. If I knew that I would have kept my previous factory job where I had been for 10 years."

The fact that 599 other employees are set to lose their jobs with her is little comfort to Taylor, a single mother of two.

"What do the CTA expect me to do? They have no idea how hard it is to find a job toward the end of year," she added.

And she is not alone when it comes to frustration toward the CTA.

Alvin Jacobs, 43, has been a CTA bus driver for 12 years and he too is set to be laid off next week.

"I just bought my first house and I have a baby on the way," he said. "And to top it off, Christmas is in

two months and the CTA wants to throw me out on the streets now. Boy, are they considerate and appreciative of the 12 years of my life I gave them."

The list of angry CTA employees goes on and on and riders, who will also be faced with new challenges to get to work, sympathize with them.

"I know exactly how they feel," said Sheila Garrison, 51, who works as a housekeeping supervisor at a West Side hotel. "I worked 10 years at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Chicago and when business got slow, they laid me off (indefinitely). This is why so many employees change jobs so often because they know their employer will not be loyal to them when it counts."

Fortunately for Garrison she will still be able to get to work even though the no. 127 bus will be eliminated.

"Yeah, luckily I will be able to take the no. 12 Roosevelt bus to get to my job, but others may not be so fortunate," she said.

CTA President Ron Huberman admits the service cuts will ultimately hurt workers.

"There will be people who simply can't get to work through transit," said Huberman.

The CTA expects to lose about 250,000 rides a day from the impact of the service cuts and fare hikes.

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LOCAL RADIO  
ROUNDSUP TGO  
ELECTION  
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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 foward 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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## YOUTH MUST BE AWARE OF EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND THEM

Lavonte' Roache'

Youth awareness is a very important thing in today's society because the youth need to know about what's going just as well as the next person.

With all the things happening in the City of Chicago as well as the North Lawndale community alone that should give enough reason for the youth to be informed about what's happening in there surroundings. However, with the focus on the latest trends and what it takes to remain in the "circle." There is little attention paid to the fact that awareness amongst youth needs to be talked about now.

Such pressing issues that are alarming or should be alarming the youth should be things such as the current CTA crisis, state budget cuts and racism fueled violence.

"I agree completely that we should be paying attention to what's going on in our neighborhood and around the world," said Roland Sessions, Junior at Manley Career Academy. "We can't be out here only worried about who has the best weed or which two girls are sleeping with that same dude. That's nothing in the long term view of things. We need to know about what's going on with war and how the city is playing with the CTA and bus fares. That's important."

The first thing is statewide budget cuts. Budget cuts are one of the biggest concerns because when Governor Blagojevich decides that cuts need to be made a lot of programs suffer that could be beneficial to kids and young adults and these are things that we need to be informed about to gives us a chances to fight things like this.

Programs such as the Ceasefire and Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago have taken massive hits financially, potentially lowering the huge positive effects that these particular programs bring.

We deserve the chance to fight for things given to us instead of just letting them be taken away. Community schools lose programs every day and instead of being able to act and fight to protect the programs that help us improve as youth, we don't get informed until the last minute and suffer because of our own personal lack of awareness. . We need things like after school programs. A program like that helps keep kids and young adults off of the street like me, that's a positive thing in my eyes. All I'm saying is give us the chance to do something about it before it's too late.

The next thing I wanted to talk about is youth violence which is becoming a major concern in the North Lawndale Community. When you read the paper on a daily bases I guarantee you will read about at least one youth violent act every time.

Every couple days you hear about some teenager being jumped on, shot, or stabbed and even killed in the North Lawndale community and the bad thing is we are doing it to ourselves. This year has been one of the worst years for youth violence in the Lawndale community. The city had to increase the number of police on the street to try and stop the violence from happening.

Also, in our school system, racially fueled violence going on at schools like

See Youth page 8

## COMMUNITY LEADERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE AT BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Megan Sieberg



Youth listen as community leaders speak out against gun-violence at Bethel Lutheran Church

Last Thursday, the Willie Williams III Program held a meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church to discuss gun violence with youth and parents from around the area. A panel of community leaders from various backgrounds spoke at the event, encouraging youth to act against gun violence and make good life decisions in the face of negative influence.

Hogan Williams, substance abuse counselor for the Youth Service Project, discussed the role drugs, gateway drugs in particular, play in youth violence. Although a major problem in low income communities, Williams explained that taking drugs is a personal choice, and drugs cannot be held fully responsible for people's actions.

"We think that drugs are the reason why all the violence is going on today. But we want you guys to understand it's not the drugs," he told the young audience. "You are the reason why drugs are so prevalent today because you have the power to say 'no.'"

Azim Ramelize, assistant deputy commissioner for the Department of Children and Youth Services, spoke about his own experience with gun violence. When he was 17, Ramelize spent a year in the hospital after suffering a gun shot wound to the back. Although he was able to move on with his life, graduating from college and becoming a lawyer, he is no longer able to walk.

While speaking about his past, Ramelize made it clear he was not looking for sympathy. He was there to send a powerful message.

"People die every day," he said. "This is not a joke."

Slamming the podium several times, Ramelize simulated the sound of a gun shot for the stunned youth sitting before him. That, he explained, is how quickly life can change.

More broadly, Ramelize encouraged the children to "do something" with their lives. He advised them not to listen to anyone in life who tells them not to bother aiming high. In a fast paced world, Ramelize explained, being educated and making good decisions is vital.

"Don't let people dumb you down," he said. "If you don't know how to use a computer, if you don't know how to speak to people, if you don't know how to read and write you're finished!"

Vance Henry, director of CAPS, indicated that "good decisions" are not only important, they are a matter of life and death. He told the youth that unless they decide to get educated and stay off the path of drugs and violence they will be choosing what he called "the path of death."

"Good decisions," however, are not easy for children growing up in low-income communities to make, according to Phillip



Willie Williams Jr., who's son was shot and killed in 2006, speaks out against gun violence to youth at Bethel Lutheran Church

Hampton, director of 311 City Service. Living in disadvantaged circumstances, many youth in Chicago are confronted with issues of drugs and violence on a daily basis. Often, parents are unable to supply children with the tools they need to overcome negative influence, so children must be able to find it within themselves to stay in school and stay out of trouble. This, Hampton told the younger children, can be a hard reality to live with.

"We live in a world where your parents may not be providing for you like they should," he said. "Bottom line, if you're gonna make it, it's on you."

Last year, 34 children were killed in the City of Chicago as a result of gun violence. This year, 27 children have been killed already and the number is still climbing. On April 1, 2006, Willie Williams III became one such victim. As a result, his father, Willie Williams Jr., created the Willie Williams III Program in honor of his son's life.

The program, supported by Purpose Over Pain, C.A.P.S., 311, Bethel Lutheran Church and the City of Chicago, was established to give support to inner-city children.

The goal of the program, according to founder Willie Williams Jr., is to provide inner-city youth with positive outlets such as job training, sports programs, arts & crafts and mentorship.

By not only informing youth about the dangers of gun-violence and gang involvement, but also by shedding light on alternative lifestyles, the Willie Williams III program teaches kids to make healthy choices in order to live in a safer world.

"Life happens very fast," Henry informed the youth. "You need to make the right decisions."

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.

## Hardship from front page

### Service & Fares

#### November 4, 2007 Route Eliminations

| Name                           | Route                             | Name |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| X3 KING DR EXPRESS             | 90N NORTH HARLEM                  |      |
| X4 COTTAGE GROVE EXPRESS       | 93 CALIFORNIA/DODGE               |      |
| 17 WESTCHESTER                 | 96 LUNT                           |      |
| 19 UNITED CENTER EXPRESS       | 120 OGILVIE/WACKER EXPRESS        |      |
| X20 WASHINGTON/MADISON EXPRESS | 121 UNION/WACKER EXPRESS          |      |
| X28 STONY ISLAND EXPRESS       | 122 ILLINOIS CTR/OGILVIE EXPRESS  |      |
| X49 WESTERN EXPRESS            | 123 ILLINOIS CENTER/UNION EXPRESS |      |
| 53AL SOUTH PULASKI LIMITED     | 125 WATER TOWER EXPRESS           |      |
| 54A NORTH CICERO/SKOKIE BLVD   | 127 MADISON/ROOSEVELT CIRCULATOR  |      |
| X54 CICERO EXPRESS             | 129 WEST LOOP/SOUTH LOOP          |      |
| 55A 55TH/AUSTIN                | 130 GRANT PARK TREASURES          |      |
| X55 GARFIELD EXPRESS           | 134 STOCKTON/LASALLE EXPRESS      |      |
| 55N 55TH/NARRAGANSETT          | 135 CLARENDON/LASALLE EXPRESS     |      |
| 56A NORTH MILWAUKEE            | 143 STOCKTON/MICHIGAN EXPRESS     |      |
| 62H ARCHER/HARLEM              | 144 MARINE/MICHIGAN EXPRESS       |      |
| 64 FOSTER/CANFIELD             | 157 STREETERVILLE                 |      |
| 69 CUMBERLAND/EAST RIVER       | 165 WEST 65TH                     |      |
| X80 IRVING PARK EXPRESS        | 200 MAIN SHUTTLE                  |      |
| 85A NORTH CENTRAL              | 205 CHICAGO/GOLF                  |      |
| 86 NARRAGANSETT/RIDGELAND      |                                   |      |

Its bus service accounts for two-thirds of the 1.6 million rides that the transit agency provides each weekday.

Riders like Garrison could see fares increase to \$3 and the loss of 39 bus routes next week, if the General Assembly fails to provide new funding to balance the CTA's 2007 budget. When Jan. 6 arrives, CTA fares would increase to as much as \$3.25 and 43 additional bus routes would be eliminated.

However, there would be no fare increase for disabled, elderly and student riders.

Thirty-day passes, now \$75, would increase to \$84 in November and \$94 in January, likely resulting in massive rider losses and more traffic jamming expressways, major streets and parking garages, Huberman explained.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich opposes a proposed sales tax hike in northeastern Illinois to aid CTA, Metra and Pace. That legislation failed to pass in the House but is still

considered alive.

But CTA unions wouldn't have to honor pension and health-care concessions made by its members and retirees if the pending House legislation does not become law by Jan. 1.

And the CTA's budget deficit for next year includes \$44 million in employee pension and retiree health care costs that it hopes to reduce, said Huberman.

The House bill, considered by many experts as the long-term solution to avoid annual transit funding crises, would increase the sales tax imposed by the Regional Transportation Authority in the six-county area by 0.25 percent in Cook County and 0.50 percent in the collar counties. The five collar counties would have the authority to use half of the sales tax increase for much-needed road improvements.

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



## Education and Training

## LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL CELEBRATES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

James Glover



Students, parents and community leaders march from San Lucas United Church of Christ to Casa Puertoricana, as part of the BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development) Lights On Afterschool march through Humboldt Park on Oct. 18. The group stopped at neighboring after-school programs to raise awareness about the critical role that after-school programs play in the lives of youth. The Resurrection Project

On Thursday, October 18, CPS participated in a nationwide Lights On After School program, taking the time to celebrate the positive effect of After School Programs created by the Public School System. Here in Chicago, a few schools held events to give the celebrations not only an educational, but a cultural feel as well.

"We must keep the lights on, and doors

open, in our schools after hours," said Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools. "Our students need the extra enrichment, and they need a safe place to go after the school bell rings. We need to make sure they get it."

Chicago Public Schools kicked off the citywide event with breakfast at the Holiday Inn, located at 506 W. Harrison. At the Breakfast many groups were acknowledged

from around the City of Chicago who support high level and high educational value after school programs through out the city. Former Chicago Bull and current Bulls radio broadcaster Bill Wennington spoke at the event about the opportunities provided by businesses such as Washington Mutual and CitiCorp.

"The work that you guys have put in to make sure that our children, and the future of our children remains stable is remarkable," said Wennington. "Through strong support from the businesses and foundations like yourself, we can give our kids the proper support to succeed long term."

The Currie High School Gospel Choir also sang at the breakfast. Henry Green, a member of the choir participates in an Arts Program funded by Citi Bank, and says that the opportunities provided by after school programs are really helpful.

"There aren't a lot of people out here nowadays who are looking to see you succeed. So when someone or a group of people, especially a group with money comes out and goes out of their way to make sure that you actually have something positive to do, away from the violence and the drugs, it's only right that you show them through hard work and appreciation that the effort isn't being wasted."

Over at Little Village Lawndale High School, various events took place such as a Candle Light Virgil, Dinner, Award Ceremonies and various games such as Bingo.

Alicia Rodriguez, executive director of The Classroom to The Boardroom Project, which won an award for Best Corporate After

School Program, said "The ability to work with children and help them accomplish goals should be a joy to anyone, and everyone should jump at the chance should it present itself," said Rodriguez. "We need to be out here, active in our children's lives so that they can grow to help the next generation, who may be in even greater need of support."

BUILD, or Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development, partnered with Casa Puertoricana and several other community agencies across the city to march with lights through Humboldt Park. Children of all different ages and races came together in what turned into a both a celebration of after school activity, and a show of racial unity. Mycal Davidson, a senior at Von Stuben participating in BUILD said, "I felt good to be able to do something with the other community residents and other children who are receiving the same great opportunities as me. Also, to show that blacks and Hispanics can come together for more than violence was also an added bonus."

Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan, who oversaw the day's event said, "I think that all in all we saw some real positive actions from the students, showing both their appreciation for what the programs has done and for anticipation for what's next with the programs and their education."

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

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## HFS AND McDONALDS SPONSOR FINANCIAL AID COLLEGE FAIR

David Tenorio

As the costs associated with higher education continues to spiral upward, pre-college students and parents alike must take the initiative to research various funding even before the student finishes high school.

At a recent college financial aid fair sponsored jointly by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HFS) and McDonald's restaurants, more than 500 parents turned out to learn the ins and outs of how to apply for funding for their children. Entitled "Steps for Success Saturdays," the college fair, which was held at Kelly High School, opened its doors to parents and students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

Open to students of all ethnicities, the all day fair offered workshops designed to inform parents and students about the college

application process, how to pay for college, and how to apply for financial aid.

Featured speaker during the fair was Mariela Dabbah, author of the book, "Help Your Child Succeed in High School and Go to College," who spoke on the advantages and values of completing college and who also passed out free autographed copies of her book. "I cannot emphasize enough the need for all students, particularly minorities, to attend college," said Ms. Dabbah. "Statistics have proven that individuals with a college degree can have lifetime earnings of one to three, million dollars above those who don't graduate from college. Parents need to start saving for their children's college education as early as the day they are born. The

unfortunate part is that more than \$19 million dollars in financial aid was left untapped during the 2006-2007 academic year because not enough students applied."

Ms. Dabbah, along with financial aid reps from several local area colleges, urged parents to become more involved in their children's higher educational plans by helping them research colleges and universities online and also seeking as much financial aid as they are entitled to.

A workshop entitled "Preparing Your Students for College" focused on what students and parents alike need to do to seek higher education after high school. High grades are not only required for most big name colleges, but a high grade point average

(GPA) will also hopefully open the door to scholarships which students do not have to pay back. There are also grants available from various sources that, if obtained, do not have to be paid back. The final resort for financial aid seekers are loans or paying out of one's pocket.

Additionally parents should help students apply to various colleges and universities and help them put together a "student resume" entailing what their child has done academically and outside of the classroom that would help them toward obtaining a college degree.

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

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: TOWARD A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY

Jaira J. Harrington

The media has given a great deal of attention to the so-called "green movement" and environmental patterns of degradation throughout the world through climate change. Having worked in the environmental policy realm as an intern with the Sierra Club in Atlanta, I saw the environmental awareness gap between upper-middle class, predominately white communities and just about every socio-economic stratum in communities of color.

Presently, I live in California where environmental awareness is hard to ignore. The august foothills and mountains serve as the awe-inspiring backdrop for the landscape. My native North Lawndale hardly has this level of an intimate connection to the land and, in the

past, our community has been environmentally violated. In this manner, among others, we have experienced a great injustice—an environmental injustice.

So what is environmental justice, exactly? At the *People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit* in 1991, a diverse group of great minds including businesspeople, academics, government officials and concerned citizens overwhelmingly demanded that the US government take a firm stance against the disparate exposure of poor communities and communities of color to environmental wastes and toxins. This group formed a clear, concise definition: Environmental justice is the pursuit of equal justice and equal protection under the law for all environmental statutes and

regulations without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and /or socioeconomic status. Environmental racism is the when environmental policies (including land use, development of new chemical plants, landfills, toxic dumps, etc.) deliberately or unintentionally pose disproportionate harm to people of color.

The issue of environmental justice should not be glossed over as a passing trend. According to a forthcoming study led by environmental justice advocate and expert Dr. Robert Bullard of Clark Atlanta University, ranked the top 10 metropolitan areas in the U.S. with the largest number of minorities living in neighborhoods that contain hazardous waste facilities. In this study, Chicago ranked fifth. Hazardous waste facilities are located in nine

neighborhoods where the total population of people of color is about 72 percent. All of these communities have a sizeable population of impoverished families and individuals. This is a dubious coincidence.

Clean air, clean water and a healthy environment in which one can live, work, play and pray should not be a luxury. These expectations are fundamental human rights. Until there is a more balanced approach to environmental issues, especially equal protection under the law; communities like North Lawndale will continue to be besieged by environmental injustices.

Jaira J. Harrington is a North Lawndale native. She is currently a Bess K. Gallard English Teaching Fellow at the Branson School in Ross, California. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).





## POLICE ROUNDUP

By Ferman Mertell Beckless



### MAN SHOT DEAD IN LAWDALE

Area 4 Homicide investigators were without an arrest or motive in the early Sunday morning shooting of a 21-year-old man in the 2700 block of South Spaulding.

Officers from the city's 10<sup>th</sup> District responded to a call just before 2 a.m. and found the unidentified man unresponsive after sustaining a single gunshot wound to the back. He was pronounced dead on the scene and his body was later moved to the Cook County medical examiner's office for an autopsy.

Unidentified witnesses told police the victim was walking when an unidentified gunman in a black vehicle held a brief conversation with the victim. The passenger then exited the vehicle and fired several shots from a handgun, striking the victim before fleeing.

### TEENS SHOT

Two teens sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds in two separate and apparently unrelated shootings last Saturday morning.

In the first shooting that occurred in the 3400 block of West 30<sup>th</sup> Street just after 1:30 a.m. that morning, a 17-year-old youth sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the buttocks and right leg. Paramedics rushed him to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he was listed in guarded condition.

Witnesses told police that the victim was standing at that location when an unknown gunman approached and fired several shots from a passing vehicle before fleeing. Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest in that shooting.

In the second shooting that occurred in the 2200 block of South California Avenue, another 17-year-old youth sustained a

gunshot wound to the back. The unidentified victim was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he was listed in critical condition and is being treated.

Police were told that the shooting victim was sitting in a vehicle when a gunman, described as being male and Hispanic between the ages of 17 and 25, approached and shot him before fleeing on foot. Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest.

### DRIVE-BY WOUNDS MAN

A 25-year-old man was shot while walking in the 4000 block of West Jackson Boulevard, leaving him hospitalized in critical condition while being treated for multiple gunshot wounds.

Paramedics rushed the unidentified victim to Illinois Masonic Hospital just after the 9 a.m. shooting last Wednesday morning. He was reportedly standing on the street when an unknown gunman in a red vehicle fired several shots before fleeing.

Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest.

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

## October 24 Black Facts



Langston Hughes

\* On this date in 1935, Langston Hughes' "Mulatto" opened. Mulatto was the first Black-authored play to become a long-run Broadway hit.

\* On this date in 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia. American Blacks held mass meetings of protest and raised funds for the Ethiopian defenders.

\* On this date in 1972, Jackie Robinson, first African-American player in Major League Baseball, died in Stamford, Connecticut at the age of 53. Robinson professional baseball's color barrier on April 15, 1947 when he appeared at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers

\* On this date in 1948, Rep. Kweisi Mfume was born in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1996 Mfume became president of the NAACP.

## Murphy Hill Gallery A Unique Addition To Lawndale

Toya Goldsmith

Inside the historic Sears and Roebuck building is one of Lawndale's best kept secrets. Murphy Hill Gallery, located at 3333 W. Arthington, is a gem ready to be discovered by the community.

Since opening its doors in November of 2006, one weekend a month, the gallery presents various forms of art such as paintings, photographs, sculptures, performing arts, independent films and documentaries. It is a taste of art and culture presented in a way that many residents have never seen. There are families who live on the West Side that have never visited an art gallery, making Murphy Hill Gallery a unique addition to the Lawndale community.

Every month there is a featured artist. The artist of the month for October was Steve Fisher, a gifted painter who created some very large paintings of magazine covers. One of his pieces featured Oprah Winfrey on the cover of "O" Magazine.

"I have been painting for at least 40 years and I enjoy doing what I do," said Fisher.

Founders Ralph Murphy and Bill Hill are the creative force behind Murphy Hill Gallery. The original concept for the gallery was to showcase student's work. The gallery has now evolved into featuring artists of every kind. Murphy Hill prides itself on creating opportunities for artists who would not normally be seen in a gallery setting.

Murphy and Hill together had the vision to bring an art gallery to an inner city West Side neighborhood.

"I'm from the West Side," Murphy said. "We knew that we needed to create an outlet for our young people."

Murphy believes that art allows individual expression. Hill is a gifted photographer who also felt a need for an art gallery in Lawndale which gives more clarity as to why Murphy Hill Gallery was created.

For more information on featured artists, gallery details, or upcoming classes, contact [www.MURPHYHILLGALLERY.com](http://www.MURPHYHILLGALLERY.com) or call 773-638-1262.

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

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# JERWANE FORD -From Collins to College

Todd Thomas

Former Collins football player Jerwane Ford has done an admirable job using his success in football to further his athletic and academic goals. He played for Collins High School from 2000 to 2004 and he's now in his senior year at North Park University, where he plays football and studies communications. Ford is also the defensive captain for the North Park Vikings.

Ford started all four years for the Collins Cobras and was a team captain for the entire time. He was also voted the team's MVP in 2003 and 2004. He played on the defensive and offensive line, as well as linebacker, but he's slimmed down from 225 pounds to his current playing weight of 205.

"When I came to North Park I started off as an outside linebacker like I was in high school, but I lost a little weight, became more agile and athletic and moved to strong safety where I became more of a playmaker," Ford said.

Fords has been starting for the Vikings since his junior year and he's seen significant playing time since his sophomore season. He finished fourth on the team with 54 tackles last season, to go along with two sacks. He got his first career interception this season and he loved the feeling of his first pick.

"That's an indescribable rush," Ford said of his interception against Carthage, which he returned for 7 yards. "When you get an interception it seems like everything moves slower. You can feel people around you and without even looking at them you know exactly where they're at. It's a great feeling knowing you have an opportunity to make points on defense."

North Park is a pretty talented football team, but they play in the highly competitive CCIW Conference and wins have been hard to come by. As the team's defensive captain Ford shoulders a lot of the responsibility as far as team morale is concerned, but he's been doing it since high school and he knows what his role is.

"Being a captain is a lot of responsibility and you're not always liked by the rest of your teammates because of the simple fact that you've got to make them do stuff that they don't want to do. Even when you're losing you've got to make them keep pushing themselves," Ford said. "You've got to show leadership and patience, and you've got to be able to keep your morale up, and boost other people's morale," he said.

He's been up to the task as a team captain since his years with Collins and his former head coach, Anthony Andrew, recalls a young man that had the innate qualities of leadership.

"He had a good attitude about life and would do whatever it took to make the team better," said Andrew. "He would do whatever he could to the best of his ability and he also has the gift at being good at conversation."

The struggles Ford and the Vikings have had on the field are a little different from his experiences at the high school level with Collins where he won the conference championship as a sophomore and won many more games than he lost, but in his eyes there is more to the football experience than winning and losing, as he explains.

"It's the love of the game, you've got to love football. You don't come on the football field only to win. That's the main objective,

but football is much more than just a sport, it's about building a family and I enjoy every chance I have to come to the field and play with the rest of my brothers on the team. I consider everyone in the locker room as brothers, and that's fun in itself."

North Park University is located on the North Side of Chicago on a beautiful well-tended, and well-funded private campus. Ford grew up on the West Side in the area known as K-Town and like most young men there he had to avoid the pitfalls of the street life that always lurks nearby. The neighborhood was tough and challenging but he was never discouraged by it. He's also naturally gregarious and that helped him out growing up.

"The toughness of the city had no effect on me wanting to leave and go to North Park. I'm a social guy and I was friends with just about everyone," Ford said.

He didn't live in isolation from the violent crime, however, and he attributes his well being to his faith and his focus on his goals.

"I try to live my life without worrying about it. With God on my side I wasn't worried about a stray bullet. I was just worried about going to school and getting the grades. My Mother supported me 100 percent and that's all I needed," he said.

This is Ford's last year of collegiate



Jerwane Ford

football and he plans to keep studying and get a degree in communications in spring 2008. He's been able to move steadily toward his goals and he has some advice to pass on to high school athletes and students who want to move on and attend college. He stresses

**See Ford page 9**

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz



Toby Maguire in Spider Man 3

**SPIDERMAN 3 (\*\*\*)** Even though this trilogy retains most of its dazzling, visual appeal; there is still a bit of a letdown compared to the previous films. From the script showing slippage into occasional soap opera scenarios in a movie that shows us it's flashy while just being adequate.

Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire)'s positive popularity as his superhero alter ego takes a bow that nearly turns this movie into and "Everybody Hates Spidey" outcry.

When his heroics makes him neglect his girl, Marty Jane (Kristen Durst) in her legit acting debut on Broadway; witnessed by Parker's sympathetic best friend, Harry Osborn (James Franco) plotting revenge on Spidey for killing his father (Willem Dafoe).

While Spiderman interferes with an escaped convict (Thomas Haden Church) who suffers an accident with the powers to rob a bank for the money to help his ill daughter and an aggressive street photographer (Topher Grace) who stricken by a parasite from outer space that makes a triple threat of evil using Mary Jane as their

pawn to confront the webslinger.

PG-13; 139min. Sony Pictures Home Video: Available: Oct. 30

**NEARING GRACE (\*\*1/2)** A typical coming of age story of a young teenager, Henry Nearing (Gregory Smith) trying over come the death of his mother that leads to his strained and different relationship with his father (David Morse) who hasn't

gotten over his loss becomes a 70's flower man-child.

While Henry is unable to notice the natural match he has with his observational gal pal, Merna (Ashley Johnson) over spirited and sexy, cool Grace Chance (Jordana Brewster) that opens him up to the confusion in love and relationships.

Aptly handled along with the rock and soul music pieces by director Rick Rosenthal in this variation to a John Hughes-type 80's teen angst melodrama. R; 105min. First independent Pictures/ Whitewater Films/ Vivendi Visual Entertainment

**Coming Soon to Home Video:** SNL regular Adam Shambert stars in "Hot Rod" (Nov. 27); "Shrek the Third" (Nov. 13); "Chappelle's Show: The Complete Series Collection" (Nov. 20); Will Arnett and Will Forte star as "The Brothers Solomon" (Dec. 26); "Monty Python's Life of Brian" makes its DVD debut (Nov. 20); Lindsay Lohan stars in "I Know Who Killed Me" (Nov. 27)

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

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# Economic Forum Educates African-Americans About Financial Literacy

James Glover



Thom Bacote, Executive Director of NBCSI presented Strategic Human Services, Executive Director Isaac Lewis, Jr. with a check for \$5,000 to help provide financial literacy in its adult and youth programs.

Last week, the National Black Caucus of States Institute held its Illinois Economic Empowerment Forum at the House of Hope located at 752 East 114<sup>th</sup> Street. The focus of the event was financial literacy and the need for the African-American community to become informed of the financial battles they face, the economic war in the background and ways to

succeed in an increasingly difficult financial market.

“The idea that a dollar doesn’t last in our community but only fifteen minutes should concern citizens,” said State Representative Art Turner, 9th District. “Either we carry them out or we send them out but we never shop in our community, we don’t financially support our

community and that’s a problem we need to educate ourselves on.” State Rep Turner is also treasurer on the board of the NBCSI. Also present was State Senator James T. Meeks and State Representative Constance Howard.

Bijesh Tolia, PhD. CFA from Chicago State University talked in depth about Basic Financial Education in Underserved communities. “I’m sure that everyone has seen, heard of and seen concrete evidence of the disparity that exist between the African American and White communities when it comes to the difference between not only the availability of credit and the balance of credit that is made available,” said Tolia. “Therefore, we should be pushing financial education, which empowers us to make decisions that will eventually allow the African-American community to make strides towards not being manipulated when it comes to the rules of the game. If the lenders and banks can change their strategy and adapt, so can we as consumers.”

Financial literacy among youth was also a major point. The message to be more intelligent with money and keep credit in tact was emphasized. Bill Cheeks of the program JumpStart Financial Smarts for Students educated the audience about educating their minds about financial responsibility and its long term importance.

“The goal is to educate kids not just about cost cutting techniques but about the long term benefits of having things like a clean credit record

and a reputation for on time bill pay. Those are things that matter in today’s society and the African-American youth especially sometimes destroy credit before they know what it is and lose out on so much opportunity because of that,” Cheeks said.

One of the points also stressed at the event was the fact that income levels were playing a minor factor in loan acceptance rates, as the loan approval rate for African Americans has gone down in recent years regardless of income levels.

At the Event, Strategic Human Services was presented with a five thousand dollar check by the NBCSI. SHS which publishes the North Lawndale Community News will also incorporate financial literacy into NLCN’s after school programs and its other youth programs. NBCSI’s Executive Director Tom Bacote presented NLCN with the check.

“It was very informative, I definitely learned a lot of new information and they refreshed my memory over again with information that I had previously forgotten about. Personally, I feel it needs to be repeated frequently so that these practices are not forgotten and they will help you position yourself for a secure financial future,” said Fred Little, accountant for SHS/NLCN who attended the event.

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

## North Lawndale YMCA Celebrates Program, Honor Local McDonald’s Owner

James Glover

On Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> Ron Lofton, owner of McDonald’s located at 3200 W. Roosevelt Road for honored as part of National Lights on after School. Lofton was honored for his partnership with the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. At the McDonald’s, Lofton provides a great location for after school programming, meals for each child who successfully completes their homework and encouragement for any student looking for assistance to succeed in school.

“We’ve been doing the program here at McDonald’s for about a year now and so far we think it has been to the great benefit of the children participating,” said Kimberly George, program director for the YMCA/McDonald’s Program. “The children get placed in an

environment conducive to education, yet beneficial because they do have a fair amount of social interaction. It’s been a really great partnership and definitely something to thank Mr. Lofton for.”

The YMCA Chicago/McDonald’s partnerships supplies children with school supplies catered to their grades levels through a sponsorship from kitsforkids, as well as computers the children can use for such things as internet research and typing reports. The can also learn to improve typing skills and occasionally view education videos.

At the event, Ron Lofton Jr., accepted the award of his father’s behalf and took note of all the good work the children have been putting in. A young girl, Tamira, presented the away and

followed with a speech, saying “We would like to thank Mr. Lofton and McDonald’s for giving us a place to study and have fun. Also, thank you for taking the time with homework and giving us a better chance to succeed.”

“I’m holding this award but this program is really about the effort and the hard work these children put in on a daily basis, understanding the value of a great education and putting the time forth to accomplish their dreams. You can look at these children and know that obviously they are going to become quite successful. Providing the things that we do here is the least we can do and we’re more happy to work alongside the YMCA and these wonderful children.” The program is currently at about eighteen students, with a maximum capacity of

thirty. Although the program seems to be doing quite well, George says that they are always looking for help from the community. “We could always use tutors and people to help with computer techniques for the children. The best way for children to learn is in an environment full of diverse personality who helps with different aspects in a child’s life.”

DeVonte Woods, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader participating in the program said “Its good to know we have somewhere to come to where we can focus away from all the bad stuff that goes on in the neighborhood. I’m happy that I can come here and I’ve made some new friends that I would’ve have if I wasn’t allowed to be here every day. I hope that we can keep doing the program, because I’ve learned a lot.”

## Summit from front page

families to all areas to listen to guest speakers, attend workshops and talk with representatives.

Representatives included City of Chicago Colleges as well as Robert Morris, DePaul University, University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Loyola University as well as both the University of Chicago and Champaign-Urbana.

“We see education as a never ending process that starts at birth and continues throughout the life of a child. With this summit we are trying to establish a lifelong connection with the families attending this event,” said Alvaro Obregon, NCP manager of The Resurrection Project. “Our goal is to help make the transitions between preschool, grade school, high school and college smoother for students and parents by connecting them with the resources in the neighborhood, ensuring the best educational experience possible.”

Amongst the guest speakers at Saturday’s event where Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan, Chair of Education of the Illinois State Board of Education Jesse Ruiz, City Clerk Miguel Del Valle, Alderman Danny Solis and Dr. Sylvia Ramos, president of Daley College.

Students and their parents were advised to take in the presented information, communicate with the guest speakers and hold discussions with the children about the proceedings. With the PES, community and school leaders want children to not only hear about the value of maintaining a quality education, but be able to have access to leaders who can clear up any questions or concerns about the education process.

“Schools are at the heart of every thriving community and we want parents to know that our schools provide resources that go beyond the normal school day,” said Chicago Public Schools

Chief Executive Officer Arne Duncan. “This summit offers families a chance to learn about what our schools in the Pilsen area have to offer so they can become involved in the lifelong education of their children.”

The Educational Summit was organized as a family event where parents and students were able to meet one on one with local organizations to ask questions and receive assistance.

“What makes this event unique is our intent to create lasting relationships with parents that attend. Our message is that this event will not end when families walk out of the door on October 20<sup>th</sup>,” said Martha Monrroy, principal at Cooper Dual Language Academy and chair of the Pilsen Educational Summit. “We will be following up with families through home visits and telephone calls. To continue providing them with the resources to help make their child’s continued educational process a life long and enjoyable pursuit.”

Victor Calinte, a single father to four children, says the education summit really provided a way to get the information he needed as a single parent of a household full of school-age children. “I have children that cover the whole educational map from high school to grade school so to have access to so many people and so much information is a true blessing,” said Calinte. “Now I know that is just a little less pressure on me seeing as how I know that the school system has my children’s best interest at heart and that they are going to cooperate with me fully to make sure that they are receiving the best possible education. The knowledge and support offered here today was priceless.”

Alicia Bautista, a mother of three, was another one of the community members that attended the full day workshops to learn more about after



At the Pilsen Education Summit, students filled up the classroom as presenters from universities like DePaul and National Louis explained the ins and outs of the college application process. Photo credit: Johanna Diaz/Afterschool Alliance

school programs and counseling services provided to her children. Ms. Bautista, like Mr. Calinte, works full time and says it can be difficult to find quality after school programs that provide affordable service. In addition, she worries she will not be able to afford college for her children.

“As a mother with a full time job, it is a challenge for me to find the time to complete all of the research necessary to help my daughters make informed decisions about college,” said Bautista. “I am so happy that I can come to a

place within my community where I can find all of the resources necessary to help them through their college applications. I didn’t go to college so all of this is very new for me, but I feel like I am walking away with organizations that I can call if I need help.”

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



## Letters to the Editor

## Letters to the Editor

I have some basic concerns regarding this article. It is clearly objective, but does not move anyone from our community to get involved. It provides a clear position of the Lawndale Alliance and our politicians. It clearly left out specific concerns that the politicians were asked, and most of the time were unwilling to answer. If they were they will need to be reminded. Send them a copy of the taping so they cannot forget.

1. Have you ever read a TIF report? All but one politician was able to raise their hand as a yes. Have you ever read 10 TIF reports? None of the politicians were able to answer yes, well then you do not understand just how much of this is a shell game or slight of hands. You do not understand how the TIF resources are moved from one TIF all the way downtown to redevelop it.

2. Changing the guidelines for how TIF resources were utilized, "Will you put in writing that if this TIF is approved that these resources will only be spent with the Ogden/

Pulaski TIF and will you put in writing the same regarding the other TIF's?" Munoz Immediately said yes, Dixon reluctantly raised her hand saying yes. Example of an exercise gym using TIF resources on State Street, and after two years does not exist any longer.

3. Affordability - currently the medium income level is measured by the AMI "Area Medium Income." which means a family of four has to make \$68,000 per year to qualify to purchase one of the new units created. Asked the community does anyone in the room make that kind of money? No. Will you reconsider the measurement tool being the NMI "Neighborhood Medium Income" in creating affordable housing units for the current resident population? The politicians did not respond to that question. They need to fire to be placed at their feet.

4. Jobs/Living Wage Income - the TIF's have not created any employment opportunities for residents in any of the TIF's yet, read the reports. Will you ensure that employment for residents

within this TIF will actually happen? Example of mother going for work, making minimum wage, her son and now her daughter go to the street corner because not enough income is coming in. They are working on a record within three to four weeks, or we will be attending their funeral. (no response to the question)

5. Your Oversight panel - is this to be a rubber stamp oversight panel that approves everything after it is decided for the community or is it an open process that is determined by the community that elected you, first to say whether or not there should be a TIF and only if it is guaranteed to benefit the people. Then if the people approve the TIF, will they be the driving force for the development/jobs/our young people needs? No response

6. Youth in this process - Those who are impacted the greatest are not even here tonight your panel our young people who are excellent thinkers and planners have not even been involved, it is apparent that is so because the room is filled but there are not any young people present. What will you do to involve

our young people? Munoz, we have youth groups in our community we pllaann (misspelled purposely - real slow answer) to involve them.

The TIF could really be a great tool for community empowerment, but instead it is a tool to develop Non-Blighted communities. The TIF facilitates an open door for developers to come in and to develop unaffordable, non living wage jobs, no community oversight for the project since it is a private developer, and our families, our sons and daughters are the greatest loser. If you ask a politician how much money is in the TIF, "It Is BROKE!" Why? Slight of hands, Shall Game that moves money to other community areas with no accountability. Lets not give a pass on our politicians - those who we voted to ensure that we benefit by the work they do to represent us! GET Involved!

Rev. John E. Stultz

Community Coordinator

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## An Open Letter to Alderman Dixon and Alderman Munoz: PLEASE, DON'T ALLOW THE TIF ADVISORY COUNCIL TO BE DISENFRANCHISED BEFORE IT'S FORMED

On behalf of the Lawndale Alliance, we would like to thank you for taking the time to address the Proposed Ogden-Pulaski TIF at our Town Hall Meeting, held on October 15 at the House of Prayer Church of God in Christ. While there are a number of issues that still must be addressed, we appreciate the candor with which you answered the questions placed before you. We also appreciate the movement in such areas as cleaning up the property lists and starting to formulate TIF advisory council. We will be following up with a letter to the Commissioner of Planning and Development, copied to you, outlining the concerns that remain outstanding.

On October 9, you and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development held a meeting on the Proposed Ogden-Pulaski TIF. The presentation team indicated at the time, that you did not know when the plan would be ready, and would not move forward without community support. You also gave the audience worksheets to provide feedback on the redevelopment budget. You said you would have as many meetings as necessary, get more community input, and create a TIF Advisory Council. The local TIF Advisory Council will be put in place by the **end of November.**

On Monday, October 15, Alderman Dixon informed us that the Chicago Department of Planning and Development plans to release a revised plan on Friday,

October 19. The plan will be filed with the City Clerk prior to its release on Friday. From a legal stand point, this will be the very first step in the approval process. If the plan is filed on or before November 2 it will be introduced to the Chicago Community Development Commission for review on **November 13—at least 2 weeks before the TIF Advisory Council is put into place.**

In order to ensure that our elected officials are moving in concert with the community, we respectfully request that you hold off on filing the plan with the City Clerk's Office until such time as

1. you meet with the community to share which of the suggestions provided by the community were incorporated into the plan.
2. you address concerns raised by the community.
3. the TIF Advisory Council is selected, participates in an orientation process, has an opportunity to read the redevelopment plan and provide informed advice.

We believe these actions will go a long way towards restoring transparency to the development process. Your assistance in this matter is most appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Valerie F. Leonard at 773-521-3137 or Joe Ann Bradley at 773-450-2400.

**THE LAWDALE ALLIANCE**

## Youth from page 3

Little Village are just another reason why we should keep informed. By coming together and bringing a peaceful solution amongst ourselves, this could potentially mean less police activity, which results in lower arrest totals amongst our black and Hispanic youth.

Finally, the Chicago Transit Authority is facing a major crisis that affects the youth ability to travel. With the upcoming "doomsday" fast approaching yet again on November 4th (it was avoided September 16<sup>th</sup> thanks to the state providing temporary relief), we should take notice of the increased fares so we can better plan with our money,

our travel expenses, as well as what bus lines will be cut so we can know alternate routes.

The more we become educated and both issues taking place locally and nationally, the better off we will be. Being informed is something that as youth we should take great pride in. When you know about what's going on it can raise your level of education, as you can now partake in conversations you otherwise would know nothing about. I would advise all my fellow youth to take time to read weekly at least one local, citywide and national newspaper so that nothing out there will catch you off guard.

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

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## Sports &amp; Entertainment

THEATRE REVIEW: MiLK

Mike Cook



Five-O spreads magic

The strengths of IPAAC, “African Centered Theatre”, make them one of the finest companies in Chicago. On display in MiLK are at their mastery of myth and movement. They fold these qualities into a contemporary drama with breathtaking effects. The action centers around the courtyard of a public housing complex, examining the lives of girls for whom the projects is their universe.

Baby, Shadow and Brown are friends from elementary through high school. An

alter ego, Womac clown, is unseen to them but very much an onstage character, mirroring Baby, as a witness and spirit. Their bonding ritual is double-dutch, performed with virtuosity, even as they deliver the wonderfully poetic lines of this play.

After the death of the character Tyronda, who has mysteriously fallen from the roof, their memories of her filter through time. She was closest to Baby, who may have seen her last and has suppressed much of what she knows. Baby is vulnerable; bullied by Brown and influenced by Shadow. Becoming the object of a stalker, the vermin exterminator of the building, she cries out to her mother for protection but is victimized none the less. She cries out throughout the play, but the mother is never there.

Baby challenges her tormentor, Brown, over the affections of the dapper and wise Lee, a fellow student. Growing a tougher shell, she follows Shadow into the reefer business. Five-O is the shaman roots man, who does many things such as exorcisms, abortions and dispensing the MiLK, a potion that revives and lends courage. The women’s rite of passage, high school graduation, finds the friends musing that their memories of Tyronda are fading. As yet another passage from adolescence, their mastery of double-dutch fails them. All of the characters have rich, varied facets.

Five-O, Lee, and the Orkin Man rapist –



Bug Man stalks Baby

male characters – are drawn with fullness and wit. IPAAC’s *MiLK* is one of the plays of the season.

Nambi E. Kelley’s script is a love letter to the youth’s whose environment and realities she shared. All of the elements – plot, dialogue, and characterizations – combine for a hypnotic whole. The veteran director, Chuck Smith, is equal to the challenge. His

pacing and the performances he elicits are right on the money. It’s no surprise that Lisa Johnson-Willingham’s choreography is both virtuosic and in keeping with the essence of the play. Her work with IPAAC’s earlier triumph, *Trouble the Water*, was equally fine.

The ensemble acting made the play spin and all are to be applauded: Caren Blackmore as the conflicted Baby; Dawn Pryor as her spirit alter-ego; Ashley Olivia Jones as the slick Shadow; Ebony Wimbs as the rambunctious Brown; Anthony Williams as the very together Lee; Corey Cantrell as the shape-shifting Five-O; and Earl Alphonso Fox as the repulsive bug man. Shepsu Aakhue’s set is a dead-on evocation of the projects. Brandon Wardell’s lighting assists greatly in experiencing the movement and moments; of special note is Gullah Magic’s sound design, which was right on and perfectly off, while Sharlet Webb’s costumes emphasized the realness and placeness of the drama.

*MiLK* is running through November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse, 2257 No. Lincoln Ave. Show times are 8:30 Thursday & Friday; 8:00 PM Saturday and 3:30 Sunday. General admission is \$19.50 - \$22.50 with reduced rates for group’s seniors and students. Further information can be had at: (773) 871-3000.

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).

## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic

Morgan Freeman, Casey Affleck and Michelle Monaghan in *Gone Baby Gone*

**GONE BABY GONE (\*\*1/2)** The object in “Gone Baby Gone” is that there is more here than meets the eye than the search for a missing four year old little girl from an inner city Boston neighborhood. Writer-actor Ben Affleck makes a descent directorial debut here with his screen adaptation of “Mystic River” author, Dennis Lehane’s book that begins as every parent’s nightmare.

A grief stricken mother, Helene McCready (Amy Ryan) cries out to the media reporters and TV cameras to find her missing daughter, Amanda.

A well respected police captain, Jack Doyle (Morgan Freeman) addresses the media, determined to find this child as a personal commitment and void to fill since his only child was found murdered. Everybody appears to want the child returned safe and sound.

Even Helene’s cousin, Bea (Amy Madigan) involves herself with her husband, Lionel (Titus Welliver), by enlisting the service of a private investigator, Patrick Kedzie (Casey Affleck) who grew up and still lives in the area, along with his girlfriend – assistant, Angie (Michelle Monaghan).

Initially because of Patrick’s youthful

appearance and inexperience, Captain Doyle rebukes his participation in the investigation, but agrees to the exchange of information with his assigned, veteran detectives, Remy Bressant (Ed Harris) and Nick Poole (John Ashton) on the missing person case.

Eventually, what this film boils down to is a “promise” made earlier in the film by Patrick to Helene that leads to a moral confrontation with himself and the police force, who seem to have taken the place of any kind of DCFS agency in Boston that is strangely absent throughout this movie.

The conspiracy angle is one thing for sure, but where is the bureaucratic references and interference within the reality of this drama? Still, the brothers Affleck almost are able to pull this movie off. If it weren’t for these and other glaring mistakes and omissions that compromises this interesting movie to fall short by its mixed results.

R; 115min. A Miramax Films Picture Release – presented at selected theatres

**CONTROL (\*\*1/2)** Like the glorified celebrity biography movies like “Ray” or “Walk The Line”, “Control” is as potent and more uncompromising because of the exceptional acting performance from British newcomer and ex-musician Sam Riley, who just won the Silver Hugo award for best actor at the Chicago Film Festival. Riley portrays the tragic life of a promising 80’s punk rock lead singer-songwriter, Ian Curtis of the British group, Joy Division.

A band that is not commercially well known, but established a brief cult following from their recordings and live concert reputation. But it makes no difference if you aren’t aware of neither this group nor its avant garde music.

Based on the memoirs of his wife; Deborah (Samantha Morton) who endures a

Sam Riley in *Control*

lot of the personal and professional angst in their relationship. From his early teen life in 1973, Ian Curtis was a pill popping’ manic depression who suffered with epilepsy. Ian was a tortured soul who wanted something out of his life that he didn’t know how to handle – fame and recognition.

But this film stands out through its script and direction on how Ian Curtis had his own difficulties while trying to achieve and deal with his own newfound success.

But “Control” is written and acted with its own distinction as an unconventional love story that is more common and honest perspective through the performances than the traditional Hollywood treatment of the glamorized, rags-to-riches icon image of the big budget biography movie.

What is amazing about “Control” is how compelling this movie becomes displaying the essence of a rock performer’s highs and lows on this quest for fame that leads into a legendary status that also encompasses a dramatic and complete love story to its bitter sweet end.

R; 121min. A Weinstein Company Picture Release

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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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## Ford from page 6

good grades and good conduct as the most crucial factors.

“The best advice I have is you’ve got to get your grades up. You can be superhuman on the football field, but when colleges start to look at you they want to know about your GPA, and how many times you’ve been suspended or went to detention,” said Ford.

“Make sure you walk around with a respectable personality, and make sure that the teachers, the principal and your peers know you’re about business. And don’t let peer pressure get to you at any time. Peer pressure can take you off track so easily, you’ve got to make sure you stay focused.”

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).



# Local Radio Rounds Up Around Togo Election

Kabuika Kamunga



(From left to right) Kadjo Epou, Devia Koutoglo and Tete Attikossie are FM Liberté journalists who broadcasted live a marathon of the Togolese election.

Five Togolese immigrants are sitting in a small basement room in Berwyn, IL. on Sunday, October 14. They have headphones on, looking a bit disheveled in their t-shirts and sweats. Three of the men are sitting at a round table speaking excitedly into a circular black microphone hanging in the center. On the walls are several clocks showing time in Lomé, Togo, Chicago, Paris, France and New York. It is 11 a.m. in Illinois, yet none of the men have slept for the past 10 hours. They have been up since 1 a.m., when the polling

stations opened in Togo (at 6 a.m. Togo time). This is the FM Liberté team. The five men are radio broadcasting live on the internet the very first democratic elections in Togo in 49 years.

There was excitement in the air. People were calling the radio station from all over the world: from Canada, France and throughout the United States.

"Forty years of dictatorship is enough," said a Togolese caller from Montréal, Canada.

Since its independence in 1960, Togo has

been under either a military dictatorship or a one-party rule. At the 2005 election, which brought the dictator's son, Faure Gnassingbé, into power, 500 Togolese died in the election violence. This year parliamentary election was another shot at democracy.

"Our grandparents sold us to the Whites," said Komi Folly, a Togolese caller from Calgary, Canada. "Today it's the same. Those in power in our country play the same role. We want our freedom and we want to define it ourselves."

For the 1,785 listeners online, radio FM Liberté is a voice of freedom in the diaspora and in the world.

"Without this radio station, I would not be able to sleep," said Zinsou Agbota, a Togolese caller from Germany. "Without it, I wouldn't know what is going on in Togo."

When the phone rang again, arguments broke in the studio. A caller from New York wanted to talk about a political party that's boycotting the elections in Togo. The journalists quickly cut him short and the program went to a music break. Even off the air, the discussion at the round table was heated.

"That caller's question is political," said Tete Attikossie, one of the veteran Togolese journalists in the studio. "We want people to go and vote."

The journalists were passionate about their politics in Africa and some flew in from Minneapolis to attend the broadcast marathon of the election.

"Let's go to Togo," said Devia M. C.

said Ansell. He also noted that the implementation of the new report will help reduce breast cancer disparities over time. The report offers recommendations for repairing the health care system based on three hypotheses explaining breast cancer disparities. The first is that black

Koutoglo, 30, as he picked up the cordless phone on the round table. Koutoglo, the chief executive officer of FM Liberté. Koutoglo, grabbed one of the numerous \$2 and \$5 calling cards on the table and dialed the pin numbers. "You have eight minutes remaining for this call," said the robotic female voice. Koutoglo grimaced, "That's not enough to conduct an interview with a correspondent in Togo!" he said and picked up another card.

The radio team contacted a dozen local journalists in Togo to feed them updates on what was happening on the ground during the elections. When the phone calls to Togo went through, they heard the elections seemed to be going well. The correspondent, Mario Attidokpo, who was located 35 km outside of the Togolese capital city Lomé, said everything was running smoothly except there were not enough ballots available.

"I don't know what calculations they made to lack voting ballots," said Attidokpo over the phone.

Some say the lack of ballots was a ploy by the current government. Despite the shortage, 98 percent of the Togolese people were coming out en masse to vote, correspondents said based on the number of registered voters.

At one point, FM Liberté President Eric K. Alover, who was serving as technician during the live program, found alarming news on the Internet and showed it to the team on a laptop during an interview. The journalists read the laptop screen and asked the

**See Togo page 11**

## Cancer from front page

fight against breast cancer," said Dr. David Ansell, vice president and chief medical officer at Rush Medical Center. "In fact, despite advances in mammography screening and

breast cancer treatment in Chicago, over the past 23 years these advances have not helped reduce breast cancer mortality for African women at all."

Calling racial disparities in health outcomes, "one of the greatest injustices in our society,"

women receive fewer mammograms than white women. The second is that black women receive mammograms of inferior quality. The third is that black women have inadequate access to quality treatment once a cancer is diagnosed.

**See page 11**

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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. D07109288 the 12th day of October 2007 Under the Assumed Name of Easy Nutrition with the business located at 1117 Leavitt, Unit 304, Flossmoor, IL 60422. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Margo M. Cusic, 1117 Leavitt, Unit 304, Flossmoor, IL 60422.

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in this State", as amended, that a certificate was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County under File. No. D07108799, on the 4th day of September, 2007, under the Assumed Name of HANOMA CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT with the business located at 8041 S. Champlain Ave. Chicago, IL 60619. The true name and residence address of the owner is: Crystal G. Overton, 8041 S. Champlain, Chicago, IL 60619

### Cancer from page 10

Overcoming these inequalities in the health care system is not impossible, explained Dr. Steve Whitman, director of the Sinai Urban Health Institute. "If they can do it in New York City," he asked, "why can't we do it here in Chicago?"

With the capacity to supply 200,000 more mammograms per year, and with the ability to provide more accurate readings, Dr. Whitman, Dr. Ansell and the rest of the Task Force believe that if their recommendations are followed, the Chicago health care system will be able to make significant improvements.

Estimating that 70 percent of white women over the age of 40 in Chicago have received a mammogram in the last two years, compared with 55 percent of black women, the report lays out several recommendations for overcoming barriers to access. Among others, the recommendations include making mammography and treatment for breast cancer available for all women in Illinois and implementing more culturally relevant community education and outreach.

Recently, Gov. Blagojevich passed a bill providing free cancer screenings for all uninsured women between the ages of 40 and 64. This, according to Deputy Director for the Center for Population Health and Disparities, Carol Ferrans, is a good step. However, she explained, unless the Governor's expansion receives proper funding, it will not succeed.

"We applaud him for the expansion, but as you know it is not yet clear where that money will come from to fund this program. So, we all need to stand behind the Governor and to encourage our Legislators to fully fund this program and to not stop until it is," said Ferrans.

Quality of mammography is the second of the three hypothesized causes for the racial disparity in breast cancer mortality. The report gives several recommendations for overcoming this issue, based on interventions that have been proven to work in the past including: reported and evaluated measurements of the quality of mammography from mammography centers in Chicago, hiring more experts who read primarily mammograms in their practices, better follow-up communication between doctors and their patients in disadvantaged communities, and more safety net institutions for women in disadvantaged communities.

The third hypothesized cause for

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racial disparity in breast cancer mortality is quality of treatment. According to the report, even when black women are diagnosed at the same stage as white women, their survival rates are lower, on average.

Some of the recommendations offered by the Task Force to overcome barriers to treatment include: expanding insurance coverage, improving proximity to treatment sources, minimizing logistical barriers such as transportation and childcare, and increasing education of cultural barriers to both patients and health care providers.

As breast cancer survivor Beverly Gavin indicated at last Wednesday's conference, the statistics given by the Task Force are frightening. The Task Force, as indicated by all of its representatives, will continue striving for implementation of its recommendations until Chicago's health care system is repaired.

"I have confidence that my fellow task force members will succeed at moving the recommendations in the report forward and systematically reducing black breast cancer mortality," said Donna Thompson, task force member and CEO of Access Community Health Network.

Women on the West Side can receive more information on breast cancer awareness at a health forum sponsored by 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Bob Fioretti on Saturday, Oct. 27 at Revival Fellowship M.B. Church, located on 2810 W. Washington Blvd. The Breast Cancer Session will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To access the full Task Force report go to [www.ChicagoBreastCancer.org](http://www.ChicagoBreastCancer.org), or call (773) 257-5960

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.

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### Togo from page 10

correspondent on the phone if he heard that the leader of the opposition was suddenly ill.

The Togo-based correspondent had not heard. Critical news was often stifled in the country. Fortunately, the Togolese Diaspora had access to many various sources of information. The journalists got confirmation from friends and followers calling in, emailing or SMSing their cell phones.

The leader of the opposition Gilchrist Olympio had fallen violently sick the night before and was evacuated on a medical emergency to neighboring Accra, Ghana. He was in critical condition with an intestinal hemorrhage.

"I hope they did not poison him," Alover said. Although the Togolese were celebrating this new trial at democratic elections, they remained wary.

Other irregularities seemed to appear through the elections. The wife of a candidate was pushing people to go and vote for her husband right outside a polling station. At another station, four motorcyclists stormed in and tried to take off with the voting ballot boxes. Fortunately, voters who were standing in line intervened. They burned the bikes and the cyclists ran away.

When the polling stations closed at 6 p.m. Togo time, the Togolese population did not go home, said the correspondents over the phone. In each city and village, Togolese sat on wooden benches with their blankets and flashlights outside of polling stations. They were determined to make sure that the vote-counting process would be transparent and fair.

In Berwyn, Ill., the radio journalists were exhausted, but no one would even dream of stopping the live coverage.

"I am almost 50 years old," said Epou, who worked as a journalist in Togo for many years. "But this is the first time in my entire life that I am following Togolese elections live."

Kabuika Kamunga is a freelance journalist, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She has a master degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. She spends her time between the United States and South Africa. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).

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# What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

*Watcha know bout' me?*

T.I. appeared in court this past Friday and pleaded not guilty. The judge in his case denied a bond, but is considering house arrest. He could have been released but T.I.'s attorney did not meet the required specifications. He must post a \$3.7 million cash and property bond, and wear an electronic monitoring device and he has to cotract the company in connection with the device. Tiny, his longtime girlfriend, a federal agent and his children are the only ones to be allowed in the house. Any visitors must be placed on a pre-authorized list, and a full sweep of his house must be done in search of a hidden safe and any other contraband before he could move back in. T.I. has a second bond hearing this Friday (Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>) at 3 p.m. and if the judge's orders are followed he will be released on house arrest.

**HERE IS WHAT SOME IN THE HIP HOP COMMUNITY HAD TO SAY:**

**DJ Drama, T.I.'s deejay:** It fu—d me up. I was just at rehearsal with him a few hours before [the arrest] and then to see this happen. The system works in its way. I don't have enough knowledge to really speak on the case, but whatever he needs from me, I'm there for him. I know I'll be doing my part. Everybody [at Grand Hustle] is uplifting and good. This ain't the first time we've had obstacles put in our way. Whatever doesn't break us makes us stronger.

**Jermaine Dupri, Atlanta based rap mogul:** When I first heard about T.I. getting arrested, it was kinda sad for me. We got the same lawyer, so I think I knew about it before everybody. It was kinda messed up because you got a dude that's at the top of his game. He got nine nominations [at the BET Hip-Hop Awards.] He had more nominations than anybody. That award show could have potentially been that springboard to take him to the next level. For that [arrest] to happen, I think it's a tragic thing. From what I know, it ain't no chances to beat the case. There's a three-strike rule out there, and it's his third strike. I'm hoping that somebody can figure out something to change that. But from what I've seen, the way they're treating celebrities right now in this day and age, it don't seem like it's any possibility.

**Swizz Beatz, artist/producer:** I feel that [T.I.'s arrest]

is a big blow to hip-hop T.I is a good guy and I know him very well. They said he can't get bail because he has a voice that can be heard by the world. There is always two sides to a story. Hold your head, fam. You know we got you. Respect!

**DJ Khaled, Miami-based deejay:** I couldn't believe it, man. T.I. is a person that reps the community and represents hip-hop and represents the people and does a lot for a lot of people. He did a lot for me, too. He got on my record, "We Takin' Over" and made history with me. Besides music, he reps the kids, charities, all that stuff. I felt really sad because he got a family. He got kids. He's not a threat to society at all. I think that God is the best. I think he's gonna lead him forward through his trials and tribulations. So it's in God's hands. Everything is alleged. I don't know what's really going on. All I know is what the media talks about. It gets crazy. Nobody knows the facts. I think that he's innocent and he's gon' be all right.

**Chamillionaire, rap artist:** I was at the BET Awards and was getting a bunch of text messages about it. But I didn't believe the arrest was true because I saw him in good spirits at the BET pre-party the night before. I realized it really happened when he wasn't present to accept his award at the show. I didn't want to believe that something like this could happen to T.I. at the height of his career. I just think at this point, nobody knows the full story and all of the intricate details of the case. We shouldn't pass any type of judgment based off speculation. Hopefully the outcome will be a good one, and not just for the T.I. fans.

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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.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org). You can post questions for me, other writers and anything/anyone else you want to talk about.

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

Clifford "T.I." Harris

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