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THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Chicago Board of Education Approves Second School at Pope Elementary

Wilbert Bledsoe



Protester at Pope Elementary

The Chicago Board of Education approved the establishment of Burroughs II Elementary School and

the recommended site at Pope Elementary, located at 1852 S. Albany in North Lawndale.

The new performance school, scheduled to open at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year as part of Chicago Public Schools' (CPS) Renaissance 2010 program, will share space with Pope through the 2009-2010 school year and then move to its permanent location in Brighton Park.

Parents, teachers and school administrators at Pope, however, disapprove of the Board's decision because the move would hinder Pope's academic progress and force the school to reduce vital programs. Burroughs II will occupy the third floor of the building.

"We don't need no more kids here. This school is just enough for our kids. We have only one floor, all those kids don't need to be here. There won't be any room for all those kids. The school only has a hundred and something kids it used to be

about 300," said Vivian Green, whose daughter and granddaughter attend Pope.

"The Board made the decision for Burroughs II Elementary School without considering the impact on impact of their decision on Pope's programs," said Pope Principal Jacqueline Baker. "We have been able to provide an environment that is conducive to learning. We have been able to prepare our children to be competitive in the world outside."

Baker said that during her 11 year tenure the school has made significant academic gains. Pope, according to Baker, was in the bottom 10 schools among CPS Elementary schools. The school's progress, said Baker, would be hindered because Pope's successful technology, reading and art programs, located on the school's

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Happy 100th Birthday – Garfield Park Conservatory (1908-2008)

Priscilla (Perci) Lucas

Garfield Park Conservatory celebrated its 100th year on the Westside of Chicago by combining a lively theme of "Blues and Greens."

The Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago, Illinois is one of the largest and most stunning conservatories in the nation. Often referred to as "landscape art under glass," the Garfield Park Conservatory occupies approximately 4.5 acres inside and out, and includes cold frames where thousands of plants are grown each year for displays in city parks and spaces.

In 1905, Chicago's West Park Commission's general superintendent and chief landscape architect, Jens Jensen, demolished the three smaller greenhouses in Humboldt, Douglas and Garfield Parks to create what was intended as "the largest publicly owned conservatory under one roof in the world" in Garfield Park. Many of the

original plantings came from the three smaller Westside conservatories.

Jensen conceived the Conservatory as a series of naturalistic landscapes under glass, a revolutionary idea at the time.

Located in the midst of historic Garfield Park on Chicago's redeveloping West Side, the Garfield Park Conservatory is one of Chicago's best kept secrets and is one of the nation's botanical treasures. It ranks among Chicago's most unique sites, attracting visitors from a variety of cultures, disciplines and interests.

Garfield Park Conservatory celebrated its 100th year on the West side of Chicago on April 13 as hundreds of people of all ages, races and communities flowed through the brightly colored Azaleas beautifully planted amongst rare and plants as the "Robin Watson Blues Band," music swept through the halls.

Visitors munched on an endless supply of popcorn, hotdogs and



People at the celebration

cupcakes and children decorated birthday hats, created a birthday terrarium and seed shakers along with volunteers for storytelling at this

bubbly event.

A birthday banner was on display

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High School Summit Agenda II

Zaki A. Muhammad

April 10, 2008 at Chase Plaza on the 57th floor Catalyst Chicago, Illinois College Access Network and Chicago Public Schools presented High School Summit II. Catalyst is a publication of Community Renewal Society. It reports independently on urban schools.

Rev. Dr. Calvin S. Morris, Executive Director of Community Renewal Society, opened the meeting, introducing Veronica Anderson, Editor and Chief of Catalyst Chicago. Jay Matthews, Education Columnist and Writer of the Washington Post, presented a "National Overview" and then John Myers, Data and Research Editor, and Sarah Karp, Associate Editor at Catalyst Chicago High

School Transformation at Marshall High School, Citywide data co-presented the publications findings.

CPS CEO Arne Duncan spoke about the progress and challenges of High School Transformation. Concluding the program was a student panel of Tevela Bass from Roberson, Dion Dawson of Gage Park and Skyler Dees of North Lawndale College Prep on the dais for questions and answers with Sarah Karp moderating and Ms. Deborah Harrington, President of the Wood Fund a Philanthropic, organization making the closing remarks.

Through Catalyst's efforts, a story emerged that became the focus of the "Spring" issue of its magazine with the

same title, "Catalyst Chicago." It started with the information that after initial registration the numbers of incoming freshmen quadrupled at Marshall High School. From 85 ninth graders pre-registered as of the 1st day of school on Sept. 4, the number had grown to 332 at the end of the month. Attendance "Creep" is the official term for students failing to be on sight at the school for the first full day of classes. This condition exists throughout CPS.

This year there was a problem with the computerized accounting system. School officials readily admit that they saved money on purchasing computer memory, resulting in a computer

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

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# NLCN 2008 Focus

## Spirituality & Financial Literacy

The primary focus for Strategic Human Services and the North Lawndale Community News during 2008 will be Church, Financial Literacy and Technology. There are many problems that face North Lawndale and its neighboring communities. All are the most important to any individual when it is his, her, or their biggest battle.

Many people believe in God. Churches, Synagogues, or Temples are good places, albeit not the only places, to develop a connection. There are many churches on the Westside and in Chicago, with the Faith based Initiatives, they have developed more outreach into the communities with programs and advocacy. We want more people to know that church is a great resource that helps improve the lifestyle of individuals and families.

There is still a great economic inequality. Being financially, unwise and uneducated, has created an uncountable loss for many in our coverage area.

The National Black Caucus of States Institute.(NBCSI) recognizes that while personal finance is important to everyone—lack of personal financial knowledge, increased debt and access to financial services has had a negatively disproportional impact on families—particularly African American families with limited resources.

Data indicate the overwhelming gap of economic resources as African Americans lag in home and business ownership, lack of savings accounts and lower credit scores.

There are alarming statistics that help frame these concerns:

- According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development 60% of African American families have zero or negative net financial assets.
- The average Black household has 54 cents of income and 12 cents of wealth for every dollar earned and held by whites.
- In the United States, 10% of the families control 90 % of financial wealth.
- A consumer with a low credit score of 560 compared to a consumer with a high credit score of 720 will pay approximately \$400 a month more or \$4,800 more a year—if they qualify for a loan.
- A disproportionate number of low credit scores are found in predominantly African American communities.

If there is going to be long-term improvement in this situation, NBCSI believes that it will begin with economic Education. From the Economic Empower Forums of the National Black Caucus of States Institute website. www.nbcsi.

SHS believes becoming financially literate can help solve the challenges above, and others, while also helping to create a better community for all.

We also will continue using technology to help educate, connect you to these resources. Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. Check out our website and links such as the Lawndale Beehive. 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 a God connected, financially 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 wisely, overcoming 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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Guest Speaker: Photo Journalist and Professor at Columbia College, Billy Montgomery, will be speaking on topics in Photo Journalism!

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## THE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

This program seeks to promote resident participation and leadership through neighborhood-based projects. In order to encourage and support the work of resident-based groups the NGP continues to award grants to projects that address neighborhood concerns; demonstrate strong neighborhood support and collaboration among residents whose mission is to improve the quality of life in North Lawndale.



### Program Guidelines:

- Mission of the project must be a charitable purpose that addresses neighborhood concerns
- All projects must be resident-led (collaborations with community-based orgs are permissible)
- Must focus within North Lawndale community boundaries (Eisenhower to Cermak; Cicero to Western)
- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is not required
- Organizational income/revenue must not exceed \$50,000
- Current applicants and prior year recipients of regular Steans Family Foundation funding may not apply

An information session will be held at Homan Square\* on April 28; 6-8pm and applications are due on May 15 by 7pm. Applications may be submitted in person on May 15 from 12-7pm at Homan Square\* where qualified staff will be on hand to answer questions. Applications also may be submitted directly to Goodcity at 5049 W. Harrison St., Chicago, 60644 (312-322-3000)

\*The Homan Square location is at 3333 W. Arthington; 2nd Floor Room C.

- All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of community stakeholders
- Grant awards will range from \$250-\$2,500
- Grantees must adhere to strict grant reporting requirements

**To download an application , please visit our website  
[www.goodcitychicago.org/NGP](http://www.goodcitychicago.org/NGP) or call 312-322-3000**

This Program is generously funded by:  
*The Steans Family Foundation*

# AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic

## THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (\*\*1/2)

The latest Asian legend given a western treatment on celluloid is a wondrous and entertaining action adventure that offers the first ever screen participation of Martial arts superstars Jackie Chan and Jet Li in the same film (with each doing dual roles) and the acrobatic action sequences from choreographer Wo Ping and vivid cinematography by Peter Pau who each brought distinction to "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon". Now has made "The Forbidden Kingdom" the perfect jump-start to the upcoming summer blockbuster movie season

Michael Angarano portrays Jason, an average teenager with a yen for kung fu movies who rents videos from a pawn shop run by its kindly, old Chinese owner, Old Hop (Jackie Chan in very heavy makeup). Where Jason happens to observe a secret room full of ancient artifacts and becomes attracted to a golden staff stick

When Jason awakens from the fall he discovers he's been transported to ancient China where he's befriended by a quartet of varied martial artist misfits, a drunken warrior, Lu Yan (Jackie Chan on a role he duplicated from one of his early imports, "The Drunken Master"), an vengeful orphan girl (Li Bing Bing), and a soldier monk (Jet Li) who teams and teach the American youth proper kung fu defense technique. While they journey through the desert, fight off a female bounty hunter and her massive army into the mountains in the clouds. In order for the youth "to fulfill the prophesy of the morals" and return the staff to its rightful owner

Derived from the traditional Chinese tale, the staff is the power source to the playful yet skillful Monkey King (Jet Li) who was tricked and turned into a stone statue during his battle with the evil Jade war lord (Collin Chou) who felt the intruder was a threat to the kingdom he was line to take over.

Jason along with his Asian cohorts can save

the kingdom by returning the staff that would free the imprisoned Monkey King and ultimately help Jason to return home.

Even though the youth achieves a better life for himself in ancient China than in his current N.Y. life, and yet, upon his return back to his own world, Jason is given a "Karate Kid" moment by surprising chief bully, Lupo with his "acquired fighting skills."

Although entertaining enough and a dazzling action -adventure spectacle that helps further the directorial skills of Rob Minkoff of "The Lion King" and Stuart Little" fame, "The Forbidden Kingdom" is a bit too formulated and cliché with its casting and situations.

Even though kung fu movie fans are given a pictorial homage in the opening credit to Bruce Lee and others in their fighting poses and rewarded in the script by a physical and intricate fight dance between Jackie Chan and Jet Li. Naturally, their exchange becomes a draw when it's revealed they are on the same mission with the American youth.

Still, I could not help but wonder, Why in these type of movies is the "chosen one" always an Anglo-Saxon sent to help free an oppressed race or nation? This is so familiar to the 1970's black films that suggested Blacks didn't overcome their circumstances without the help of some heroic White person leading the way. PG-13; 95min. A Lionsgate Films Release - Presented at selected theaters

**FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (\*\*\*)** "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is one of the funniest movies of the season that fits well into the current crop of hit comedies about relationships and male humiliation from producer Judd Apatow who gave us "Knocked Up", "Superbad"...

Jason Segel stars in his own script that seems



Mila Kunis and Jason Segel in Universal Pictures' Forgetting Sarah Marshall

to be cloned from personal pain and experiences he's. He plays Peter Bretter, an unfocused slacker who is a love sick composer of incidental music for a TV crime series that stars his sexy looking actress-girlfriend, Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell) who unknown to him, has become tried of trying to change his lack of motivation.

Sarah returns to their apartment to announce her decision to end their relationship. Instantly shattered by the news, Peter Bretter represents the current trend in movie heart throb roles, a needy guy who is lacking in every way, but still retains an awkward charm.

The news of their break-up makes Peter an "emotional cripple" to the point of being unable to function without thinking of her. Peter takes the advice of his married best friend, Brian (Bill Hader), in hopes of overcoming his depression via a "getaway vacation" alone to Hawaii where unfortunately he checks into the same resort that Sarah is staying with her new boyfriend, Aldous Snow (Russell Brand), a scanty and lazy, self absorbed British rock singer.

Unable to control his anguish and stalking the couple from a distance, Peter is looked upon

See Flicks page 6

## Conservatory from front page



for all to sign and historic tree walks, led by Jim Dehorn, took visitors on a splendid tour of the famous trees and the story of how they came to be at the conservatory.

Sports fans stood in line to meet Chicago Bears' Jerry Azuman, who signed countless autographs for the crowd of adoring fans.

Many reminisced about their first time at the conservatory while others marveled at the beauty of the legendary "landscape under glass."

Katherine Roach, a resident of North Lawndale brought her four children to the party and was delighted that they were enjoying the festivities and the conservatory just as much as she did as a child with her grandmother.

"Bringing my children here brings back old memories, especially when we walked through the entrance and you see all the flowers and all the greenery - it just took me back to when I was a little girl and when I was just so amazed at all the different plants; so, I hope that my experience will be the same experience for my children and that they pass it down to their children," Roach said.

In the midst of the celebration was an enlightening history presentation by Julia Sniderman-Bacharach, co-author of "Inspired By Nature," published in honor of the centennial that covers everything from the history of the conservatory and Garfield Park to the revival of the surrounding community.

Throughout the year Garfield Park Conservatory will be hosting centennial events

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# Threat of Violence Causes Unrest At Malcom X College

James Glover

Within the past year there have been many incidents involving threats or acts of violence on college campuses. First with the Virginia Tech shooting, then with the tragedy at Northern Illinois University. They were followed by the murders of two female students, one at Auburn University and the other at The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

However, even with the increase of security on campus after these unfortunate incidents around the United States and here in Illinois, students at Malcolm X college were still the victims of a school violence threat yesterday morning, which resulting in the school evacuating the 900 students who were in attendance.

"It's a terrifying situation you know," said James Beacon, a student at Malcolm X. "You can never be sure of if someone is trying to be funny or if there is really the chance that a person is going to cause the student body and staff serious harm. I remember Northern Illinois had similar threats before the shootings down there, but many people wrote it off as a person attempting to cause a scene. Sadly, you see what happened in that case."

The threat, which had been revealed by a student who read it on the inside of a bathroom stall, was said to have said "prepare to die on 4-14 til the end" was taken very seriously and prompted both the Chicago Police Department and the F.B.I. to the campus, located at 1900 W. Van Buren.

"Children should not have to be worried about the threat of death when trying to get an

education and preserve the future," said Officer Winston McCall. "You can be assured that there will be stiff penalty whenever the suspect is caught, because this kind of behavior and such a despicable act cause unnecessary stress and worry to the students and staff."

Thankfully, no weapons or hazardous materials were found after a through search by both the CPD and FBI with the aid of bomb sniffing dogs. The school then re opened at 4:30, with many students happy to be back in school, knowing that they can feel safe and focus once again on education. "It's good to know that the City of Chicago has proper response techniques to ensure our safety when another person makes an attempt to put it in danger," said foreign student Payal Chawda. "I have seen many incidents on the news but never been a part of such a scary moment and hopefully never will be again."

Some students however feel that the school should have been closed, at least for the day, to allow more internal investigation. "The school closed at 9:30 and reopened at four, how much investigation can you do in seven hours, how safe can you make the perimeter and how many fears can you ease in that short amount of time," said Jasmine Q. Stuart, a transitional student at Malcolm X. "I am all for getting back in the routine of normal and trying to get people back in the flow, but not at the expense of what could have been a later attack that could have left us injured. I just feel we needed more time, although I am happy that all ended well.



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# Garfield Park Basketball League

## Know Where Your Children Are

Todd Thomas



Park Supervisor Jim Hobson organizes the league and also referees games

The Garfield Park Spring/Summer Youth Basketball League tipped off its 18<sup>th</sup> season last week and the historic Golden Dome gym fieldhouse that has been a haven for young athletes for nearly two decades is alive once again with the sounds of balls bouncing on the hardwood, referees whistles signaling infractions, and balls successfully swishing through nets, as well as clanging off rims, not so successfully.

Whether the balls fall through the net or clang off the rim is not terribly important in this league. The goal is more focused on simply enjoying the games and doing something positive, when so many counter-productive activities loom in the nearby streets. During the four months when the league is in session, area youth have something constructive to partake in that's proven to be effective in curtailing teenage trouble and violence.

Park Supervisor, Jim Hobson, has organized the Garfield Park League since its inception, and he has seen the benefits that sports and organized activities have for youngsters. Basketball is something they love, but he's open to anything that they are

interested in, as long as it's positive. "I'm a big proponent of programming for teens and young people. The situation is such that we have to cater to things that children love to do, and sports, particularly basketball happens to be a big part of their lives," Hobson said.

Although it's not just basketball talent that's exalted in the league, it does play a big part and many fabulous basketball players have participated in the league over the years. Ronnie Fields, the skywalker from Farragut played in the league, as did current Houston Rocket and former Manley standout Luther Head. Sherron Collins, who starred at Crane, and recently won a national championship with Kansas is still a regular at the gym when he's in town, and the list of basketball stars who've played in the league truly goes on and on.

"Sherron Collins got his christening here," said Hobson. "But the best thing is that they always come back - these are their roots, and this league is a big part of the community."

Basketball has always been very popular in Chicago's inner city, and its appeal is undisputable. But there are a host of activities that parks can provide and Hobson is open to other activities as well.

"It's more than basketball, because believe it or not basketball is not my favorite sport, softball is," Hobson said. "We have to prick the conscious of this community and find out from our children and our young people what it is that we can provide for them that will help them stay off of these streets."

See League page 6

# IN THE SPIRIT

Julius Goodman

In your Bible, in the book of Matthew chapter 22, verse 37-40:

37 Je'sus said unto him. Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

These are some very powerful words, they seem so simple and yet they seem like the hardest thing we could ever do. In all religions, these two greatest commandments don't change. No matter how we choose to worship, you do not get the rewards or blessings if you do not do these first. It's as if you have to learn to believe and live these commandments before you can learn or live any other law. AND YET YOU HAVE A CHOICE, ITS CALLED FREE WILL. A PERSON CAN CHOOSE TO DO RIGHT OR CHOOSE TO DO WRONG. WE ALL WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND IT'S SO SIMPLE YET IT SEEMS SO HARD.

Let's try to understand the message together. Let's look at the first commandment and see how we can live it from a Christian point of view.

Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

We must first love God and what he stands for, and we must do it with the heart soul and mind... The Bible says in Romans 6:12 (get your Bible and read it) that the battle is not flesh and blood but the battle is spiritual. The battle is inside. God fights your battles for you inside and your rewards come as blessings on the outside. When you love and honor the lord thy god you do it through prayer. The Bible says a man should

pray without ceasing, which means all the time, as much as you can. You should pray for the spirit to guide you daily. You should pray that god will teach you how to stop cursing if that be one of your known weaknesses. If you are saying prayerful things then you can battle the spirit of cursing. The Bible says you bring into existence what you say out of your mouth (search the scripture) so why would you want to say bad things are going to happen to you or to somebody else... If you pray good things and say good things then eventually good things will come to you.

And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Simple it seems; look at your neighbor the person standing next to you now; the first person you see when you raise your head up from reading this. Did you see your neighbor? Not just the person next door, but every time you open your eyes, you see your neighbor and this is the meaning that Jesus is trying to convey. To love yourself is to love your neighbor because you love God.

We must first love ourselves before we can give love to others. We must accept who we are in strength and in truth. We must fight that weakness that keeps us from loving our self through prayer and the job is half done. We must also pray to learn to love our neighbor, saying good things and doing good things. Say good things about yourself and say good things about your neighbor and eventually your spirit will shine for your neighbor and when you see the spirit in your neighbor, the spirit will also shine in you... Let's get in the Spirit.

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

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# Motorists Beware: 'Roadside Safety Checks' Coming

Ferman Mentrell Beckless beckless@yahoo.com

Motorists operating vehicles in and around the North Lawndale community should be careful how they operate a vehicle this Saturday.

The Chicago police department announced over the weekend that officers will be conducting Roadside Safety Checks starting at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The checks will continue until 4:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

"The purpose of the program is to apprehend drivers who are operating vehicles while under the influence of alcohol and drugs," said Superintendent Jody P. Weiss in a press release. "The program also offers an opportunity to arrest drivers who are otherwise a hazard to themselves and others on the public way."

During roadside checks, officers slow the traffic flow, stopping cars at regular intervals, speaking with drivers and watching for signs of alcohol impairment and other violations.

The department also released the results of a DUI Strike Force patrol, in which five drivers were arrested for driving under the influence.

Police also announced that 15 drivers were cited for driving without insurance; 26 citations were issued for various license violations; 21 drivers received citations for speeding and 48 other motorists were cited for a variety of traffic violations.

During that effort, officers saturated a pre-designated area with roving police officers that continually monitor vehicular traffic for signs of impaired driving. Patrols also place emphasis on speeding, safety belt and alcohol-related violations.

Police vehicles equipped for speed detection were deployed to apprehend speeding violators. In addition, the BAT Mobile Unit (Breath Alcohol Testing) was deployed to allow officers to expedite the process of charging a person with Driving Under the Influence prior to transporting an alleged offender to the nearest lockup for bonding.

The mobile unit also allows for Individual Cautious-to-Cranky because of what Ludlow might do or say because of his reckless nature and previous association with his ex-partner, Detective Terrence Washington (Terry Crews) who together did their share of "dirt" on the streets. But now Washington has been talking to Internal Affairs about the squad.

Eventually leads to an anticlimactic resolution in a predictable showdown between the "star pupil" and his mentor that makes "Street Kings" a real disappointment because of the pedigree behind the film. David Ayers making his directorial debut who previous wrote "Training Day" teams up with James Elroy who gave us "L.A. Confidential". Both know enough about tainted cops that should have had substance and depth.

Both Ayers and Elroy gave us lots to chew on from those respected scripts and films. But there is something unclear in Reeves' character that doesn't complete the movie from the outset. While like what his character says in the movie, "It doesn't matter how it happens. It matters more how we (the cops) write it up".

Not only is there irony in that statement that relates to the movie itself and its writers. But hell, fellows! Tell us something we don't already know! R; 108min, A Fox Searchlight Pictures Release - presented at selected theaters

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

Recognizance Bonds to be issued at the site of the saturation.

The purpose of the program is to saturate a pre-designated area with roving police officers that continually monitor vehicular traffic for signs of impaired driving. Patrols also place emphasis on speeding, safety belt and alcohol-related violations. Police vehicles equipped for speed detection are deployed to apprehend speeding violators.

In the wake of increased violence reported citywide, the department also announced that it will be deploying more officers from administrative duty to crime hot spots where gang retaliations and random shootings are likely to occur.

The early deployment of police officers from desk duty is one of the commitments Mayor Daley announced as part of the 2008 budget and is just one phase of a larger, broader plan. Officers previously assigned to administrative desk duty will immediately take on patrol assignments focusing on areas where shootings and gang activity have spiked. Police also have accelerated the hiring plan of its next recruit class, which is scheduled to begin this month.

"Random shootings are the deadliest crimes against our youth and residents, and with the warmer weather ahead, the likelihood that violent crime will occur increase," said Weiss.

"By deploying these offices in the right place at the right time now, we can eliminate the potential for violence and begin identifying some of the crime patterns and violence anticipated during the upcoming summer months," Weis concluded.

## Flicks from page 4

with pity and sympathy by a lovely desk clerk, Rachel (an eye-pleasing Mila Kunis) who happens to be on the rebound from a failed relationship.

The film is spiced and rounded off well by semi-characters with their own agenda added as sidebar to the proceedings Jonah Hill plays as the star struck waiter trying to get the rocker to listen to his demo tape and a nerdy newlywed husband doubting his ability and seeking advice to satisfy his sex hungry wife and an ineffective surf instructor (Paul Rudd).

All that are mostly woven into a breezy and likeable pace by first time director Nicholas Stoller who delivers Segal's informal script peppered by his frontal nudity, pop culture references, show biz inside jokes and sight gags that fits the formula of success in previous Apatow produced and co-written films.

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is quite funny with some memorable lines and moments but sometimes the film is too laid back for its occasional bawdy attempts than expected. But this movie succeeds because of the honest disillusionment in Segel's role that not only makes this movie, but this is not only his story.

But it is part of everyman's DNA and his vulnerability from his misery that is made hilarious at his (Segel) expense that has core of honesty within his demeanor that connects with the audience for its insight, humor and charm. R; 112min. A Universal Picture Release - presented at selected theaters



John Corbett, Amaury Nolasco, Jay Mohr, Keanu Reeves and Forest Whitaker in Fox Searchlight Pictures' Street Kings

**STREET KINGS (\*\*)** "Street Kings" is a deliberate and gritty indictment on police corruption that compromises itself through the virtues of its lead character's sudden moral change. Keanu Reeves portrays Tom Ludlow, a veteran cop who works out of a precinct that seems to be reaching its boiling point within the squad room

The precinct is controlled by Ludlow's boss and mentor, Capt. Jack Wander (Forest Whitaker) whose success ratio is based on his "star pupil" to run reneged enough, while the captain keeps him from crossing the line. Even though the dead accused have registered merit points that Wander has used to further his career. Even though in the film's opening scene shows Ludlow going "lone wolf" using unorthodox methods and planting false evidences to nail a group of men in a house holding hostage twin Chinese girls in a small cage behind the closet.

Still at the precinct, the fellow officers are

## League from page 5

Recently appointed 11<sup>th</sup> District Police Commander Eric Washington was present at the opening ceremonies of the league and his view on sports and youth activities concurs closely with the views of Hobson. Washington has young children of his own and he's a big supporter of activities for youth.

"So often today we see so many of our

young people wandering the streets because they have nothing else to do. We, meaning everybody, not just the Police Department or the Park District, have to provide different activities for our young people," Washington said.

Washington is also aware that it's not just about basketball, but providing an array of opportunities for the youth that is vitally important to helping them maintain a healthy

balance.

"It could be music, it could be boy scouts or girl scouts, or swimming. Basketball is not for everybody," Washington said. "Everybody is not athletic so if a kid has the acting bug, or is into dancing, those things are important too. We have to look and see what's out here and try to guide and

See page 7

## Police Roundup

Ferman Mentrell Beckless beckless@yahoo.com

### No charges in domestic-related death

The Cook County state's attorney's office declined to file charges against a West Side man who is alleged to have beaten his daughter's boyfriend to death during a disturbance at his residence. The dead man was identified by the Cook County medical examiner's office as Swantell McKinley.

Chicago police department News Affairs spokesperson Officer Marcel Bright, told the North Lawndale Community News "The victim was committing a domestic battery against his girlfriend at a residence in the 4100 block of West Harrison Street early Saturday afternoon." Bright confirmed that the state's attorney's office reviewed the case and determined that McKinley and his girlfriend's father were "mutual combatants."

The unidentified 40-year-old father was released from custody without being charged. Initial police reports indicated McKinley was the aggressor during an altercation with his unidentified girlfriend when her unidentified father intervened. McKinley allegedly attacked the father who defended himself.

Bright said the reports did not indicate whether either combatant used a weapon. Area 4 was continuing its investigation of the incident as of press time late Tuesday.

### Stabbing hospitalizes security guard

A security guard at a Western Avenue restaurant and bar was hospitalized in critical condition after a man he had ejected earlier returned and stabbed him repeatedly. The unidentified victim was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he remained late Monday while being treated for multiple stab wounds.

Police charged 26-year-old Jose Carrasco, of the 1500 block of West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, with one count of attempted murder. Carrasco appeared in bond court on Sunday. Word of his bond was not available.

Police reports indicate the victim was acting as a security guard when he removed Carrasco who was allegedly causing a disturbance late Friday night. At approximately 11:00 p.m. that night, Carrasco is alleged to have returned and attacked the security guard while he stood at the door. Witnesses described Carrasco to responding police who later took him into custody.



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### Summit from front page

overload of information that delayed registration and scheduling that was a few hours or even days for some students. Registration of students is how CPS assigns teachers to schools and how school budgets get financed. April 20 is the day the bean counters decide if the jar they are counting is half-full, half-empty or whatever. Therefore, the fact that the students were not there obviously caused problems for Marshall. However the problem

### Conservatory from page 4



in honor of the park's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. (www.garfieldparkconservatory.org) 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.

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is not with it alone, it is system-wide. The admissions dilemma creates not only financial problems for the system, but also class assignment and a myriad of other problems that over time will be solved. Education is the reason that everyone gathered together, but the story is deeper. It is a story that involves the meaning of education and how to get it to mean something to the black community once again.

Lornell Reid a student at ACT Charter School put it like this, "I think we need more one-on-one tutors. We need more psychologists and counselors. People think that we don't have problems but we do and we keep it inside and we need more people to help us solve our problems so that we can concentrate on our schoolwork."

Zaki A. Muhammad is a West Side resident and writer. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

### League from page 6

steer our young people toward those activities." In the end the basketball league is all about protecting and enhancing the lives of the youth of the west side. It's not an easy task, but with the help of volunteers and Park District staff the possibilities that activities like the basketball league provide are without limit as far as molding young people and keeping them out of trouble. And in today's often violent world actually keeping them alive.

Hobson has worked with youth for most of his adult life, but before that he was a Combat Platoon Sergeant during the Vietnam Conflict and in 1968-1969 he led more than forty men into actual combat. None of his men under his command were killed in action and he uses some of the same principles to obtain success as head of the park's programs.

In Vietnam he told his troops: "If you listen to me and remember what we did in training you have a chance of coming back alive. Sure enough they listened to me and I never lost a man. I had 47 men under my command and I never lost a single one. I don't expect to lose any in here at (Garfield Park's Golden Dome) either."

The league is free of charge and the rules and regulations aren't extensive or hard to adhere to.

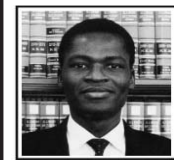
"It's free, and all they have to do is to show up. All I ask is that you come out here and act like young men and women."

Contact Information: Jim Hobson - Park Supervisor 312-746-5092

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

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### Pope from front page

third floor, face reduction due to limited space on the school's first and second floors.

At a March 19 public hearing, CPS officials stated that reports indicated that there is sufficient space for both schools. The Board made its decision based on this CPS report and its shared use policy.

According to Board policy, both schools will work with a campus manager to determine equitable use of space, so that both schools have enough space for their academic programs. Agreements are made by both principals in a memorandum of understanding in regards to school space, shared space, i.e. cafeteria and gym, designated entrances and exits, start of school day, building and custodial staff, and additional security.

"Both principals will discuss an agreement that will allow both their academic programs to succeed and maintain a safe environment," said representatives from CPS' Office of New Schools at the March 19 hearing.


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CPS representatives confirmed that Burroughs II will open with 162 students grades K-2 in the 2008-09 school year and then expand to 280 students and K-3 in the 2009-10 school year.

Wilbert Bledsoe is NLCN's Managing Editor. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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Marquita Ware

Hey everybody!

I always labeled me and my babe as the power couple. But, I have to give it to Beyonce and Jay-Z cause' they are doing their thing. The recent newlyweds not only making big headlines as the must be couple of today but as the recent event of a marriage has come about they are unstoppable. Touring, movies, money, looks, fashion, what more could you want. Their recent marriage is supposed to be a hoax, but I don't think these tow are that hard up for press coverage. So I just wanted to say congratulations to those two because I wasn't able to give you detailed coverage on the event last week.

I don't know if you all are familiar with the reality show Miss Rap Supreme, but T-Pain is supposed to have a baby with the girl name Ms. Cherry. She is the one who got into the cat fight with Khia (you know, my neck, my back) on the first episode. First of all what is Khia doing on a rap reality show to with as the best female rapper when she is already in the business. Anyways, I heard that T-Pain was also married and not to Ms. Cherry. I'll try to find out more info on this cause this source is kind of reliable.

According to British tabloid *The Sun*, rapper Eminem has been invited to perform at the 90th birthday celebration of former South African president Nelson Mandela. They also speculates that the June 27 London event will be the first official public appearance for Em since the 2006 BET Awards and the last one to be made by the iconic Mandela. Longtime Mandela supporter Will Smith and wife Jada Pinkett will be hosting the event.

**QUICKIES:**



Carmello Anthony, a basketball player with the Denver Nuggets was arrested Monday at about 4 am for drunk driving. He was pulled over for not driving in a single lane and not dimming his lights (whatever that means). His blood alcohol test won't be back for another two weeks according to his lawyer. He is due back in court May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Foxy Brown will be heading home. This Friday, she will be released from prison and start filming her new reality show. The show will be about her release from prison and the release of her new album "Brooklyn's Don Diva."

If anyone cares, the winner of the Miss USA was Crystle Stewart, 26 of from Texas. (She is black). She won the Miss USA title, a New York apartment for one year, a two year scholarship to New York Film Academy and she also will compete for a chance to win the Miss Universe title.

Giving live performances this summer are Kanye West and Gnarlz Barkley who are among the early confirmed artists for the at the Texas music festival Lollapalooza (lollapalooza.com) taking place Aug. 1 - 3. Before then, Gnarlz Barkley, along with The Cool Kids and others will join The Roots Jun. 7 at a day-long festival in Philadelphia (LiveNation.com). And before then, The Roots will tag team with Erykah Badu on her coast-to-coast promotional trek beginning May 4.

Sources: concreteloop.com www.allhiphop.com bet.com

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

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

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