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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PUBLISHER : STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES

VOLUME NO. 10 - ISSUE NO. 2

ISSN 1548-6087

January 9 - January 15, 2008

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

Home of Life, CDC Receives \$1 Million Dollar Grant Upward Bound Program to Increase African American Male Elementary School Teachers



Standing for a press conference after a roundtable discussion on education are Congressman Davis, Brian Samuels, Rev. Johnny Henderson and staff of Home of Life Development Corporation and other community stakeholders from various community backgrounds, Cong. Davis announces grant of \$1 million dollars to Home of Life.

After having an educational roundtable discussion, Congressman Davis commended the Home of Life Community Development Corporation for receiving a one \$1 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will be used to help steer young African American males (starting at 9th grade) on the West Side and Western suburbs to become teachers in the elementary schools, recruiting them out of the 8th grade through a selection process. Present were educators, principals, teachers, counselors, community activists, faith-based institutions and churches. "Every component of a community is actually, joining forces to try and deal with the issues of education. We believe that

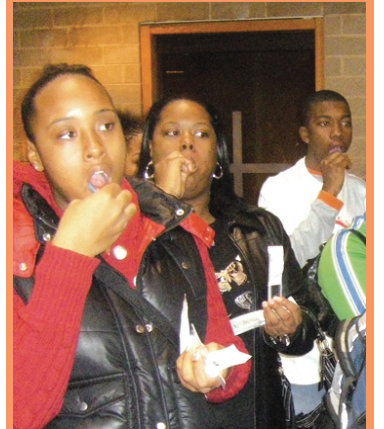
education is the absolute key to success in life in this country at this time... Unfortunately, many of our young people are not accessing some of the opportunities that exist," said Congressman Davis.

Out of 13,000 teachers, only 707 African American male teachers, teach at the elementary school level. The statistics are relative on a statewide and national level. In South Carolina, there are 20,300 elementary school teachers, less than 200 are African American males. South Carolina also has a similar program "They Call Me Mister" which has become a model and also received national recognition.

Home of Life, CDC's President is Rev. Johnny Henderson. He is

See Home page 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NATIONAL TEEN
HIV/AIDS TEST
DAY
PAGE - 4

Starks: 'I only wanted to be 1st Deputy'

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

While Chicago Police Department Superintendent-elect Jody Weis was undergoing an old-fashioned grilling by various city councilmen/women in his quest to become superintendent, Dana Starks was somewhere preparing to pass the baton to Weis after only five months as Interim Superintendent.

Starks made it clear that he had no aspirations to head the department. "When I was named First Deputy over four years ago," Starks said during a hat in his office at police headquarters, "I made a public statement then that everyone who has known me for an extended length of time, that the only job I ever wanted was the job as the First Deputy," he said.

"Because the First Deputy is

the person that runs the department on a day-to-day basis; I didn't want to be the individual that has to fly all over the country. I wanted to be the individual that was here working internally to better the organization."

"The First Deputy's role in a 17,000-member organization is to be in constant contact with command-level people and the operations of the department; The First Deputy confers with the superintendent on a regular basis to brief the superintendent on the items he needed to be briefed on," said Starks.

In spite of his statements, several activists in the African-American community has recognized the job he has done since taking over for Phil Cline, who in some insists, was forced to

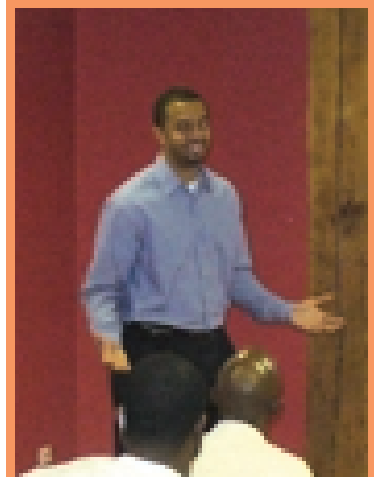


Dana Starks

step down as superintendent. They noted Starks' presence on the streets since August of last year during

some of the most tumultuous times for the department.

See Starks page 10



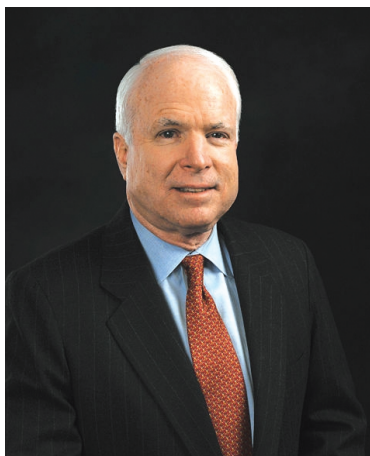
FINANCIAL
DESTINATION
HOLDS SEMINAR AT
NLCN
PAGE - 10

2008 Presidential Primaries: An Unusual Election

James Glover



Democratic presidential candidate Hilary Clinton



Republican presidential candidate John McCain

The national political scene in 2008 has intensified recently with

the Iowa Caucus, (won by Senator Barack Obama on the Democratic

side and Mike Huckabee on the Republican side), as well as the New Hampshire Presidential Primary (won by Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator John McCain) having taken place. Up next will be the South Carolina Primary and Super Tuesday (Feb. 5th this year), which is widely regarded to be the key day in a candidates campaign because they need to do well on Super Tuesday to have any real shot at gaining their party's nomination. Among the states that will have primaries on Super Tuesday are Illinois, New York, California, Arizona, New Jersey, Minnesota, Alaska, Tennessee and Colorado among others. In total, there will be 24 primaries or caucuses on

February 5th.

According to the United States Constitution, a presidential election is to be held once every fourth year. The process of electing a President and Vice-President begins long before Election Day. Candidates from both major and minor political parties, and independent candidates, begin to raise money and campaign at least one year in advance of the general presidential election. In order to officially represent a political party, a candidate must be nominated by that party.

The nominating process officially begins with the first state primaries and caucuses, which usually occur in the month of

See Primary page 3

ALSO INSIDE

LETTER TO THE
EDITOR
PAGE - 3

PROGRAM OFFERS
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES TO
STUDENTS
PAGE - 4

JOINT REVIEW
BOARD APPROVES
OGDEN/PULASKI TIF
PAGE - 8

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

~~~~~  
**North Lawndale Community News**  
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**7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2004**  
**Education Champion Award**

**Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &**  
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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.org](http://www.nbcsi.org)

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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**Circulation:** 15,000 copies

**Drop Site Distribution:** Todd Thomas, James Glover, Reginald Lewis and Phillip Lewis distributed weekly over 280 dropsites, and over 340,685 potential readers throughout North and South Lawndale, East and West Garfield, Humboldt Park, Austin, Pilsen and the Near West Communities.

**Weekly Mail Subscription Rates:** \$15.00 for 3 months.  
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The North Lawndale Community News is funded by the dedicated work and support of the community, and made possible with grants from **The Steans Family Foundation**, The John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, **Harris Bank Foundation** The Leo S. Guthman Family Fund ( Lynne C. Rosenthal), **The Soderquist Family Foundation**, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), **J-Lab Institute**, AfterSchool Matters , **SBC (now AT&T)**, The Illinois State Board of Education (State Senator Rickey Hendon), **State of Illinois Depart of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**, (Digital Divide Program under Gov. Rod Blagojevich) and DCEO through Sate Rep. Art Turner, **The McCormick Tribune Foundation**, **the National Black Caucus of States Institute** and contributions from our community, advertisers, and readers. The North Lawndale Community News was started with a grant from the North Lawndale Small Grants Initiative now known as the Small Grants Human Development Corporation and the Steans Family Foundation..



Circulation Verification Council is a third party agency that audits and verifies our circulation which is currently at 15,000 issues per publication.

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**Writers' Meetings!!**  
**THE NORTH LAWDALE**  
**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Where:** 1211 S. Western, Suite 203  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Date:** January 17, 2008  
**Free Training in Community Journalism!**  
**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Guest Speaker:** Photo Journalist and Professor at Columbia College, Billy Montgomery, will be speaking on topics in Photo Journalism!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 312.492.9090**



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Joint Review Board or Rubber Stamp?

I think there is a disconnect between the stated purpose of the Joint Review Board meeting and what actually happened during the meeting of January 4. The meetings are supposedly convened to notify taxing bodies that could be potentially impacted by the TIF that the TIF would be implemented. However, the (Interim) Joint Review Board Chairman stated that by law, the Joint Review Board is only required to vote on whether or not the TIF fits the eligibility requirements set forth by State Code. It would seem to me that there would be a requirement to do an impact study, and publicly disclose the result, on how much money the taxing bodies such as the Chicago Public Schools, Chicago City Colleges, Cook County, Chicago Park District and Chicago general fund would not be

receiving over the next 23 years because of the TIF. The impact to the various taxing bodies should be the main focus of the meeting.

There are over 160 TIFs in the City of Chicago. Together, they have generated over \$500 million in revenue during the year 2007 alone. This money, which is not disclosed in the City's annual financial statements, cannot be touched for general City operations. It should be noted that the City of Chicago just passed a record high property tax increase to cover a projected \$217 million budget shortfall for FY 2008. The Chicago Public Schools had to increase property taxes \$55 million last fall in order to fund the projected CPS 2008 budget shortfall and program expansion. Chicago Public Schools has raised

taxes for 11 of the past 13 years. Cook County still has not closed the projected \$307 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2008. Local citizens will be asked to pay higher property taxes and fees to close the gap.

We have voiced our concerns to Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele, who promised he would do what he could at the County level to make sure the Proposed Ogden-Pulaski TIF works in the best interests of the local tax payers. One of our requests of Commissioner Steele was to ask the Cook County representative to withhold his support of the TIF until the outstanding issues could be resolved. The Cook County representative voted along with the other representatives.

Finally, I would really liked to have seen the people representing the North Lawndale

Community take an active role in making sure that the interests of the community were being met. I would have liked to have seen Ms. Jackson (the public representative) ask questions about how the TIF would impact North Lawndale. Likewise, I would like to have seen Alderman Dixon ask questions regarding the broad range of issues her constituents have raised regarding the plan over the past seven months. (Most of these issues have not been addressed). This approach would have given Alderman Dixon the optimum leverage to make sure the plan was truly reflective of the desires of the community.

Valerie F. Leonard  
Lawndale Alliance

## Primary from front page

February of the election year. It is at these local events that voters are given their first chance to participate in electing the nation's next President.

There are many factors that influence who will ultimately become the candidate for a party. The public's perception of the candidates is influenced by such things as media reports, public opinion polls, candidate preference surveys, and advertising.

The spring of an election year is characterized by intense campaigning for primaries and caucuses all over the nation. This process reaches its peak at the national conventions of the political parties. Once

at the national party conventions, the delegates from the states cast votes for the person who will represent the political party in the November general election. In order to secure a party's nomination, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes from the delegates. It is not unusual for delegates to vote several times before one candidate secures the majority of the votes and officially becomes that party's candidate for the election to determine the next President of the United States. The candidate for President then must choose a vice-presidential candidate.

Super Tuesday will be especially meaningful this year because, after February 5, over 40 percent of the nation's delegates will be assigned to a candidate, an unusually

See page 11

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be no more than 300 words. Longer submissions may not be considered. All letters should have the person's name, address and contact phone number (for verification, not print). Anonymous letters may or may not be considered. The North Lawndale Community News reserves the right not to publish certain letters submitted. ALL ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. You can send your submissions to the North Lawndale Community News by mail to:**

Attn: Editor

The North Lawndale Community News-1211 S. Western Ave. Suite 203-Chicago, IL 60608, Or by email to: [nln1@yahoo.com](mailto:nln1@yahoo.com)

(email is post preferable),

Or by fax to: 312/492-7162

Letters submitted will be checked for author verification

Young Adult Job Workshop

**When:** Thursday, January 24, 2008  
Noon-2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Lawndale Community Church  
3827 W Ogden  
Chicago, IL 60623

**Who:** Young Adults 17-24 who want to earn \$9.25/hr

**Presented by: Roger Peden, Jobs for Youth, Director of Employment Services.**

Please RSVP by Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Shaun Brooks

773-762-8889 x40



CHICAGO CHRISTIAN  
INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE

Career Fair

**When:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
9:00 am-12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Chicago Christian Industrial League  
2750 W Roosevelt Rd  
Chicago, IL 60608

**For more info contact:**

Shaun Brooks

773-762-8889 ext 40

*Hosted by:*

Alderdwoman Sharon D. Dixon



CHICAGO CHRISTIAN  
INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE





## Education and Training

## Program Offers Career Opportunities For Students

Wendell Hutson

Recognizing that not all students want to go to college or the military after finishing high school, the Education for Careers program offered at selective Chicago public high schools has become a viable alternative for many students.

The vocational training program offer hands on experience for such careers as auto mechanic, carpentry, information technology, agriculture, health science, and culinary arts to name a few.

And in October the Education for Careers program hired a new director. David Blackmon, 37, a former chef for the Blu 47 restaurant at 4655 S. King Drive on the South Side in the Bronzeville neighborhood, was hired as the new director after previously working as a guest speaker for the program. The Education for Careers program is offered at 21 high schools, which include Corliss, Dunbar, Julian, Simeon, Hyde Park, Englewood, Chicago Vocational Career

Academy, and Tilden on the South Side and Manley, Marshall and Crane on the West Side. The program is not offered at selective enrollment high schools such as Whitney Young, Gwendolyn Brooks, Jones, and Walter Payton because the majority of its graduates often attend college after high school.

A contest for students studying culinary arts was recently held with students at the winning school, Chicago Vocational, which is set to prepare lunch for a day at all CPS high schools. A high school fair was held in September at the McCormick Place for competing schools participating in the culinary arts contest and former U.S. Sen. Carol Mosley Braun was among the judges for the contest.

"It's great to see students work hard at displaying their skills in a positive way," Blackmon said. "I am proud of all the students in the Education for Careers program and know that they will do well after graduating."

Students receive their sanitation certification through the culinary program, which can be used to pursue employment after graduating. According to Blackmon, students could earn between \$20,000 a year for entry-level chef positions to \$80,000 a year as a top chef at a five-star restaurant.

Among the future plans for the culinary program is to build a café at selected schools where students can go to order healthy foods rather than patronizing fast-food restaurants like McDonald's during lunch hour or after school.

Next year the culinary program will offer a free summer cooking camp for students in grades six through ninth. The camp will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June 16 to June 20 at a location still to be determined. Applications will be available in January at all Chicago Park Districts, which is a sponsor of the program, and at Chicago public high schools. For more information, please call Blackmon at 773-553-2448 or e-mail him at

drblackmon@cps.k12.il.us.

And more males are also entering culinary arts and Blackmon adds that boys make up about 40 percent of the culinary students at CPS.

"Back in the 80s home economic classes were predominately geared toward girls because it was assumed then that cooking was a woman's thing," Blackmon recalls. "Boys would be more involved in 'guy things' like sports. But now times have changed and at some schools like Julian, 80 percent of the culinary students are males."

Blackmon, a graduate of Lindblom, earned his bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Chicago State University and then attended Kendall College, a culinary arts school at 900 N. North Brach St. on the North Side.

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

## WESTSIDE CENTER OF TRUTH

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MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION \$25.00

DATE: Saturday, January 19, 2008

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: 3745 West Ogden Avenue  
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Reverend Helen R. Cooper, Senior Minister

For more information call 773.561.8701

## National Teen HIV/AIDS Test Day

Lavonte Roache



Teens give swap sample during HIV AIDS test during Teen Test Day

Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and many other diseases out there. When you decide to have unprotected sex you putting a loaded gun to your head ready to pull the trigger," said Damon Arnold (Illinois Director of public health). He also made the suggestion that parents should "talk truthfully" to their children.

Many people in the community fill we need more events like this because you can't test every child with one event, 400 hundred kids aren't nearly enough. The community needs every child to be tested and to be made aware of the dangers of unprotected sex. This is important matter because almost

70 percent of STDs among teenagers in Chicago land area are African American children.

When I asked some of the kids how they felt about being here and taking these test, they replied with, "we don't mind we just wish there was more events out their like this one". "Some of us think they are invincible and can't get a STD or worse HIV/AIDS but with the help of programs like this one they will come to realize they are just as venerable as anyone else having unprotected sex, the possibility of getting pregnant is also in that category as well because so many unaware teenagers are having once again unprotected sex, help us help them". Said group of kids at the event.

Half way through the event a skit was given by group of kids about a teenage girl who finds out she has been infected with HIV from her mother and a "hip hop detoxx". The point of the skit and the hip hop detoxx was to show the teenagers the negative, and sometimes the subliminal messages in rap music and video's. Once most of the kids got there tests done and it was close to the end of the night the hip hop concert started. The teenagers looked like they really enjoyed there self it was a great turn out for the event.

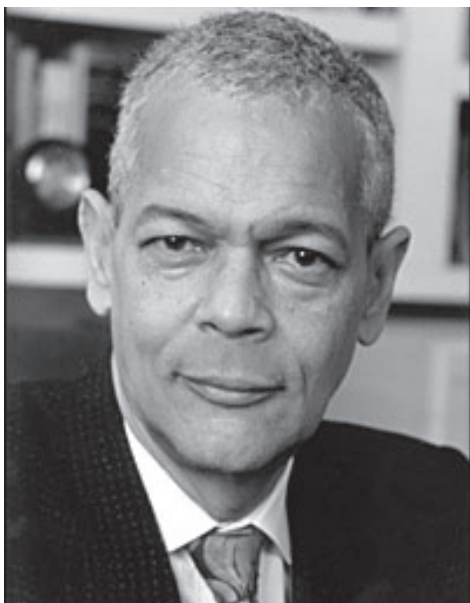
"When it comes to many diseases and health issue, teens are often over looked", said Bryan Echols, executive director of the Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization (Magic) the organizing group of Teen Test Day.

On January 5 more than 400 hundred teenagers took HIV/AIDS tests during national teen test day. They came together at the Harold Washington Culture Center, 4701 S. King Dr. This event was aimed at starting a movement among urban youth to take responsibility and know their status on HIV and to help them gain knowledge on how to prevent them from getting other STD's because they are out there and somebody has to help today's youth.

On January 4 Radio Arte, 1401 W. 18<sup>th</sup> ST. dedicated their show to addressing the problems of HIV/AIDS and many other sexually transmitted diseases killing our youth of today. Radio Arte is an educational radio station that serves the Pilsen/Little village neighborhoods. The special broadcast was a tribute to National teen test day, a full day of health screening and counseling that took place on Jan. 5. Crucial Conflict a (hip hop and spoken word artists) Malik Yusef and Dude and Em were amongst those joining DJs to spin records and talk about health issues. Teenagers who stopped by the studio during the show was given free health screenings, counseling and a free ticket to go to the hip hop concert on Saturday Jan. 5 at the Harold Washington Culture Center (a youth initiative of Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum).

"Make sure your kids know that in every sexual encounter there's a possibility that you can die. You become sterilized with

## Jan 9 Black Facts



Julian Bond

\* On this date in 1967, Georgia legislators, bowing to legal decisions and national pressure, seated civil rights leader Julian Bond in the Georgia General Assembly. The United States Supreme Court ruled in

December 1967 that the Georgia legislature violated Bond's civil rights by denying him a seat following his victory in the November 1967 election.

\* On this date in 1866, Historically Black colleges: Fisk University, Rust College (Miss.) and Lincoln (Mo.) were founded.

\* On this in 1935, Earl G. Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise magazine and entrepreneur was born.

\* On this date in 1989, Time, Inc. agrees to sell NYT Cable for \$420 million, to a group led by J. Bruce Llewellyn, the largest cable TV acquisition by an African-American.

\* On this date in 1914, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University. Among the founders were Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse and C.I. Brown. Special charter members included William F. Vincent, I.C. Scruggs and Walter F. Tebles.

\* On this date in 1906, poet and novelist, Paul Laurence Dunbar died at the age of 33 in Colorado.



## Spiritual Life

## Letter To Residents Who Need Healing

Awaken! Awaken! Hearken!

Wake Up! Wake Up! Believe The Truth And Live!

There was an affliction,  
There was a cure, but they had  
to believe to apply the cure.

The Lord Jesus Christ has blessed me to say: **“Save Your Own Life! Nobody’s Forcing You To Eat That Food!”** also, **“Run To The Health Food Store And Learn About Proper Human Nutrition And Quality Supplementation!”**

**YOU DON’T HAVE TO SUFFER!**

Colds can be eradicated!  
The flu can be eradicated!  
Viruses can be eradicated!

The product called *Oreganol* and other products by “North American Herb and Spice” company has scientific proof on its website [www.p-73.com](http://www.p-73.com) that it eradicates colds and the flu. See the research section of the website and read the “In Vitro Research”,

reports about how the products work against *Avian Bird Flu*. And see the “Human Research” reports about *Hepatitis C*.

Another product that can be utilized against virus infections is by

“Enzymedica, *The Enzyme Experts*”. *Enzymedica has a product called Virastop. “This product helps digest protein and supports immune function.” From what I understand this product eats the protein coating around the virus and the immune system then can attack the virus to eradicate it. Learn how to boost your immune system ask at your health food store or research the internet. You must read and educate yourself. Ask the Lord to help you to read and comprehend. I used Virastop and it eradicated the cold/flu like symptoms I was having! I didn’t get sick and I didn’t have to miss work!!! You must learn about this product and the other digestive and food enzyme products by Enzymedica. See their*

website at [www.enzymedica.com](http://www.enzymedica.com)

Believe the truth and run to the health food store and learn. I recommend the book titled **“Smart Medicine”** by Zand. This book gives the description of an ailment and the various recommendations to handle the ailment. It gives the conventional, a naturopathic, a nutritional and a homeopathic recommendation

on the particular ailment. You gain a good understanding of how you can work with the ailment to become well. Smart Medicine should be in every household’s

library. I also recommend books by Cass Ingram, D.O., “The Cure Is In The Cupboard” and “Cure For Killer Germs” also, “Prescription for Nutritional Healing by Phyllis A. Balch.

Awaken! Awaken! Hearken!

You can purchase these books from Borders book store or get them from your neighborhood health food store. Your health

food store and Borders can order the books for you if the books aren’t on the shelf. There is a health food store on Roosevelt near Homan and the new Whole Foods Market on Roosevelt and Canal.

**You don’t have to suffer.** You just have to educate yourself, believe the truth and apply it. We have to believe the truth about proper human nutrition and quality supplementation and invest in our health to become well. Most diseases can be cured naturally. There are many afflictions: diabetes, heart disease, etc., **there is a cure.** You must believe and apply the truth to become well. **Wake up!** Believe the truth **and save your own life!**

Love,

Karon Elizabeth Stratton

Servant Of The Lord Jesus Christ

## DISCERNMENT AMONG ATTRIBUTES PREACHER OFTEN SHARES WITH SINGLES WHO DESIRE MATES

Donald Lee

Question: Does God mind if the single man or woman expects to receive someone with certain physical qualities?

“To take the spookiness out of it, you’re going to first be attracted to the way somebody looks, whether they are fine or beautiful, got a big nose, big feet, whatever,” Dr. Lynn Morrison Jr., senior pastor of All Faiths Christian Center & Word of Faith Ministries, Baton Rouge, La., says in a humorous, yet serious way. “When you first start talking to them, you don’t know whether they are a Christian, Muslim, or whatever.

“Most people don’t have that strong sense of discernment,” he says, referencing Proverbs 7:5-27, which talks about the penalty for not hearkening unto the voice of wisdom.

Dr. Morrison and his wife, JoAnn, often talk about the importance of discernment whenever they hold singles seminars.

Dr. Morrison, a.k.a. “Doc,” offering a word on the importance of growing in discernment, paraphrases Proverbs 7:5-27, which shows a single man being lured into the bed of a married woman, in which death becomes his fate. He notes, too, that women lacking discernment also are lured by sweet, yet dangerously deceiving words.

Still answering the question concerning physical attraction, Dr. Morrison keeps it real, from a biblical yet practical standpoint.

“You can be sweet talked, smooth talked. With her much fare speech, she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips, she FORCED him,” he paraphrases, while breaking down the meaning of the scripture and what goes on in everyday life today. “So, you’re attracted naturally first. But then when you start talking, now you’re going to try the spirit (in the person you meet) by the Spirit (of God in you),” i.e. 1st John 4:1.

So, the reality of it all is that the first thing a person generally notices about someone of the opposite gender is the physical attributes. And that’s fine. But when it comes to choosing your mate, your God-given discernment, God’s enablement or ability working in you, empowers you to choose your mate based on whether they are sold out to Christ.

There are some beautiful women out there with Coke bottle-shaped bodies who don’t know the Lord, or who don’t know Him on the spiritual level that you know him, brothers. Then there are women with these awesome physical attributes who are sold out to Jesus Christ. They are on fire for our Lord Jesus. And there’s not too much

conversation you’re going to get out of them without them incorporating Him into your discussion, some kind of way.

Whether you’re in the habit of exercising your sense of discernment by the wisdom and understanding of God (Proverbs 4:7) will determine whether you end up yoking yourself together with a physically attractive, Holy Ghost-LED woman (Proverbs 31:10-31), or a physically attractive fool (Proverbs 14:1). Whether you yoke yourself with a woman who will be a blessing to your house, or whether you yoke yourself with a woman who will tear your house down, with her own hands.

Your being yielded to the Spirit of the Lord, (available) brothers, will also show you the inner beauty and majesty of an available woman who may not have a Coke bottle shape or the face of Miss Universe. These are things you need to have a great understanding of, single people.

And sisters, the same holds true for you. God wants you to have the best, His best. He doesn’t mind if you’re believing Him for a physically fine, brother. For He knows the desires of your heart. And not only that, but it is your heavenly Father’s GOOD PLEASURE to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32). Included in the kingdom is your own husband, a man after God’s own heart, who just so happens to be physically attractive (who can easily cover you spiritually, emotionally and financially).

But you limit what God is able to do in your life, if you lack in the area of discernment, or if you fail to exercise the discernment (1st John 4:1 and Hosea 4:6) that He gave you. That same scripture that tells of the man being lured by the deceptive charm of a forbidden fruit (the legally unavailable woman) applies to you, too.

Don’t be deceived. Married people aren’t the only ones who are off limits to you, and who have been gunning for you. A person merely being single or divorced does not make him/her available. If that person isn’t yielded totally to Christ, it is impossible for him to be to you what God intended for a man, your husband, to be to you. If that brother isn’t completely yielded to the Holy Spirit, then he doesn’t have the wisdom nor the anointing — the power — and the drive that it takes to meet your needs.

Just a little advice, for you singles. This is coming from me. Take it with a grain of salt, if you will. If you’re the kind of person who fervently prays in tongues daily, you need to choose someone (or allow yourself to be

chosen by someone [if you’re a woman]) who does the same or is at least open to your thoughts regarding prayer life. When you pray in tongues, God’s infinite wisdom comes upon you.

God has a certain power on reserve only for His children who speak to Him in the prayer language of the Holy Ghost. Now imagine this: Imagine you seeing things manifested in the natural through the eyes of the Holy Ghost (your inner eyes). Now imagine your

prospective spouse declining the baptism of the Holy Ghost. There then becomes a significant difference in your understanding and outlook on life, which could cause you serious problems along your journey.

Rev. Donald Lee can be contacted at [donaldj\\_lee@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldj_lee@yahoo.com) or 225/ 773-2248. Dr. Lynn Morrison Jr. can be reached at 225/ 358-0305. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

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## CONGRATULATION MOTHER'S LOVE DAYCARE JANUARY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Regina Smith, Keturah Barbee, Justin Bowen



drastically.

When developers brought the property on where her former job was located, Smith had the choice of being transferred to another location, or venturing out on her own.

She toyed with the ideal of starting a daycare and with the support of her late husband Ronald Smith, a strong motivator within her life; she

made the decision to do a service what was of great need in the community – childcare.

She also credits her husband for the name of the daycare; when they were trying to come up with a name he said, "There's nothing like a mother's love."

Operating out of her home-based business in a remodeled basement the toddlers she cares for are between the ages of one and five years old; and like many new businesses Smith is looking forward to expansion and new clients.

Smith also plans more remodeling in the backyard to build a play area so that the children can venture out doors during the summer months within an environment conducive for them.

To the residents of the North Lawndale Community Smith wants them to know that Mother's Love Day Care is safe, secure and child friendly.

To read the full version of this article see the North Lawndale Community News January 3, 2007 issue.

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor Mother's Love Day Care as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for January.

Regina Smith, owner/operator of Mother's Love Daycare located at 4046 West Fifth Avenue has had her hands full with seven toddlers on a regular basis since opening her doors in March of 2007.

For many single working mothers the task of finding adequate daycare for their children in North Lawndale can be stressful; and no one knows better than Smith who is the mother of three adult children.

"My clients can go to work and not have to worry about their kids it means a lot," said Smith. "I know that meant a lot to me when I was out in the work field and my kids were little," she said.

With gentrification still soaring in North Lawndale area, Smith and others have been finding other employment alternatives when their current positions have changed

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## MILLIONAIRE/EDUCATOR SEEKS TO MAKE OTHERS MILLIONAIRES

James Glover

Dr. Cuttie Bacon wants everyone to become a millionaire. He wants everyone to put aside the notion that it isn't possible, that they don't make enough money or that life's burdens are too hard to accomplish such a feat. Instead, Cuttie Bacon wants you to know that with some self determination and willingness to save, you too can be a millionaire.

"You can still save money and live comfortably," said Bacon. "People automatically hear 'Condo' or 'Bentley' and decide that it's too much for them but the truth is it doesn't take much to acquire whatever it is you decide that you want in life. Proper planning and educating yourself on what makes money in today's markets are the keys to financial success."

Cuttie Bacon was born in Western Kentucky and lived the first four years of his life on a farm where his father was a farmer. He grew up in Louisville, Kentucky where he finished high school and graduated from Kentucky State University. He moved to Chicago where he earned a Master Degree at Loyola University in Chicago and a Ph.D. at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Cuttie has taught at Northwestern University, Mundelein College and has led numerous seminars over the past twenty years. His administrative experience in public school started as a principal and later as a superintendent of schools in the Southern Suburbs of Chicago.

He has dealt with many children over his career as a school principal and later, school system superintendent. He has noticed the hardships that have gone on for many children, but firmly believes that any child can be educated and disciplined, if shown proper interest. Also, he is a strong believer in having a male figure in a child's life, something he has always tried to be during his school system days. "I can usually sit with a child about twenty minutes and tell if they have a male figure in their life. The child who walks in, sits up straight and responds with "yes sir" and "no sir" and generally, through the level of respect, you know that they have a male figure in their life. But cursing and head hanging, that's someone usually without a male figure," said Bacon.

In 1993, Cuttie retired from the school system, citing an unhealthy amount of stress. "I finally realized my dreams of living in a condo, and having about 5 cars and then I started seeing my friends at fifty dying of heart attacks and decided I needed a change and to live a stress free life," he stated.

According to Cuttie, he downsized from four homes to two, from 5 cars to three and started to exercise up to 3 hours a day regularly. To this day, he has never been in a hospital patient.

Cuttie is currently in Chicago, promoting how to become a millionaire through three free seminars taking place here on Chicago's west side.

"The things I always tell people when you talk about being a millionaire are about buying your car, get that out the way, buy some stock and then buy your building where you stay and let other people pay for it by doing such things as renting businesses or apartments."

Cuttie has written several books, most recently "How to Teach Kids How To Be Millionaires." Cuttie says that while he firmly believes that it's not too late to start becoming a millionaire at middle age, the best way to instill the values that can lead to huge financial success is to appeal to the children and teach the value of saving. "I encounter a lot of adults that they feel it's too much, or that they have so much debt that it's impossible, sometimes you think that maybe it is. However, with kids you don't have to worry about debt and credit scores and instead can talk to them about it at an early age so they can avoid the pitfalls such as credit issues later in life."

Cuttie belongs to more than twenty national organizations, but is most proud of his membership and Professional Speakers Certification with the National Association of African American Speakers; Chicago Chapter. He frequently speaks on "How to Cut Your Income Tax," "How to Live a Rich and Prosperous Life," "How to Write Your Own Book," and numerous educational topics.

He is presently co-authoring two books. One with his brother about "How to Stay Out of the Correctional System" and his second book on "Awareness, Prevention and Survival of Prostrate Cancer for African American Males."

Cuttie is an entertaining speaker and is able to see the humorous side of life in almost any subject. Amongst his many hobbies is restoring exotic and antique cars.



Dr. Cuttie Bacon in front of his Bentley automobile, after eating breakfast at the Wishbone restaurant located at 1001 W. Washington Blvd.

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## Economic Development

## JOINT REVIEW BOARD APPROVES OGDEN/PULASKI TIF

Megan Sieberg

With the Lawndale Alliance most vocal in its opposition, the Ogden/Pulaski TIF has been a point of contention in North Lawndale for several months. Last Friday, a Joint Review Board consisting of representatives from Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park District, Cook County, Chicago City Colleges and the City of Chicago, unanimously approved the plan, nudging the proposed TIF one step closer to passage into law.

Although not a public hearing, the meeting was open to the public under the Open Meetings Act. However, the public was not at liberty to participate.

Chaired by Tanya Anthony, the JRB voted on the Ogden/Pulaski TIF based solely on whether or not it met the eligibility criteria set forth by state code.

According to State Code, The Project Area, bounded by Roosevelt Road and 16<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, Albany Avenue on the east, Cermak Road and 24<sup>th</sup> on the south and Kostner Avenue on the west, qualifies as a "conservation area."

The Eligibility Report found that of the 3,

873 buildings in the Project Area, 93 percent are 35 years of age or older, which is 43 percent more than the qualifying amount. The report also found that of the 13 factors set forth in the Act for conservation areas, nine factors are found to be present in the Project Area. Of those nine factors, five are considered to be reasonably distributed, including: deterioration; structures below code; excessive vacancies; inadequate utilities; and a lack of community planning.

As of now, no residents are projected to be displaced, according to Ann Moroney, consultant with the Johnson Research Group. However, when asked by a Cook County Representative about potential displacement, Moroney indicated that 41 units are currently in danger.

Before the vote, the floor was open for questioning by authorized officials. Alderman Sharon Dixon of the 24<sup>th</sup> ward asked a question clarifying that the statistics mentioned in the report concerning displacement are mere estimates.

Alderman Dixon has been working closely

with Alderman Ricardo Munoz in support of the TIF throughout the approval process. At a Town Hall meeting last October, she expressed her belief that the TIF is a necessary step toward community development in Lawndale, and encouraged residents to take advantage of its benefits.

"There's positive stuff happening in the community," Dixon told residents. "There are companies out here that want to work with us. I challenge us to be ready for opportunity when its there."

One of the redevelopment goals of the proposed TIF is the elimination of the factors that qualify the Project Area as a conservation area. The hope is that, in doing so, quality of life will improve in the TIF district.

Some community members, however, argue they do not have enough of a voice in the process. Valerie Leonard, community development consultant for the Lawndale Alliance, was present at last Friday's meeting. She and other members

of the alliance have been educating residents on the TIF process and its implications for several months, as well as advocating the creation of a TIF Advisory Committee composed of community members.

Although unable to legally voice her concerns at last week's meeting, Leonard is determined to get her complaints about community involvement heard behind the scenes.

"I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not anti-TIF or anti-development," she said. "However, I believe that there should be increased accountability and transparency so that the local citizens may make informed decisions as to whether our limited resources are being used for the public good as a whole, as opposed to serving the interests of a few well-placed foundations, non-profits and developers."

Leonard also expressed disappointment that there was no mention at the meeting of a letter recently presented to the JRB by the Lawndale

See TIF page 11

## CHICAGO AT NIGHT

Kabuika Kamunga

When I started working nights this month, my life changed drastically. My stomach went beezurk. I could barely eat and my whole body felt as if it had been turned up side down and shaken a few times. I was sleepy through my work and completely disoriented, not knowing what day or time I was in.

After about a week in that regiment, I started to feel like a normal person again. I have developed a very simple routine: after working downtown at night, I head back home to Evanston to sleep during the day. To help my sleep, I shut my heavy curtains up and pop in my mouth a supplement called Melatonin. It helps with the new biorhythm I am imposing on my body and allows me to sleep without noticing any of the daytime sounds.

Now I actually enjoy the quietness of these late night hours. Plus, the city has a different quality to it with regulars I meet on public transportation.

I got to be very friendly with the bus driver. She is an African-American woman with short blond hair. I don't know her name, but I love hearing her life stories. Right before Thanksgiving, she described in details the dinner she was cooking for her entire family. She is a great cook, she said. And I believe her, just hearing her describe the dishes made my mouth water.

She is also a great shopper. She exposed me to the world of expert shoppers: those who hit the store at midnight to get to the Thanksgiving sales. I was amazed to hear that she shopped from 4 a.m., filled up her truck of merchandise, went home, dumped everything and then went back shopping until 9 p.m. I did not think that was humanely possible before.

Then again, I don't know how to shop. I wouldn't know which store to go to in Chicago to find a pair of slacks. I often prefer to wait until I visit one of my sisters to let them lead me on a shopping spree. They were born to shop, just like my bus driver.

"So are you done with your Christmas shopping?" I ask her as she turns the wheel onto State Street.

She turns around and says "heck no!" She plans to shop for better deals right up to the day before Christmas. With such passion, she should open a shopping consulting business. She will be good at it and people like me who don't know how to shop would hire her services.

I enjoy the camaraderie I have with the bus driver. Working at night builds more human relationships. And that makes everything more bearable. Even the trains are safer, filled with blue-collar workers. Three quarters of the people sleep during the train ride, coming back from work or going to work. We talk to each other much more freely than we would during the 8 a.m. white-collar rush hour. There is this one woman who brings stacks of Red Eye newspapers and distributes them to everyone. No, she doesn't work for the Tribune, but she does this to give reading material to her fellow train riders.

Chicago at night is truly my kind of town.

*Kabuika Kumunga is a native of the National Republic of the Congo. Kabuika is a journalism student at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and a correspondent for the Medill News Service. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## RESOLVE

Angelic Jones

Resolutions are not made to be broken but they are, frequently. Most people make a resolution on December 31<sup>st</sup> and break their resolution by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The reason most people don't stick to their guns on decisions they make is a matter of pure psychology: They hold no resolve.

Resolve is a matter of strength of character. It is a matter of choice that involves mental determination to enforce a decision of purpose. That is a lot for many to process in their chaotic lives that a decision they make should be upheld.

It's not wonder we can't stop smoking, drinking, doing drugs, having casual affairs, and cussing if we have no mental strength. How can you determine that you will write more, exercise more, read more, play less video games or go to church every Sunday if you can't resolve to be different by moving your mind in a different direction?

In order to maintain your resolutions in 2008 you must embrace progress and truly mean it. Making a resolution is sort of like a

come to Jesus moment. You say to yourself, "I know I need your help God. I can do anything through Christ." Right? Then you resolve to pray and go to church every Sunday and by the next weekend you are still laying in your bed. A resolution to stop smoking when you have cancer or even before then is just like that. You go, "I'm going to kick this habit this year. I can do it if I put my mind to it." Then you go to a party, meet up with your friends, they start drinking and light up and you're whipping a cigarette out too. Have you forgotten your resolve that quickly? We forget what we determine to do as a matter of course because we don't put our resolutions into practice.

How to Mentally Prepare

The best way to put your resolution into practice and actually uphold it is to write down your decision and analyze why you've chosen to make this decision. Write out your list of resolutions. Narrow down your list to practical things you truly want to implement. Then write a letter to yourself examining each

resolution and why it is an important factor in your life to make that change.

You want to write out your letter during the first week of the year. Acknowledge all of your faults and all of your strengths and why these changes will make a difference in your life. Then mail that letter out to be delivered on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December in the end of the year you're starting. (Don't ask me how to do it. You've all seen *Back to the Future* and you know that it can be done. Take the time to figure it out.) If you've been successful in mentally preparing yourself in this manner at the end of the year you will receive a letter and be proud of yourself for what you have accomplished. If you are not successful, you will of course know immediately what you need to work on.

Ask for Help

Your resolve should not be a matter of private concern but a matter for public entreaty. I don't know many people who can get out of being an alcoholic all by themselves. I do know that asking for help is

a great way to enlist a team of people to help you uphold your determination to change your life. Ask God for help. Ask your mama for help. Ask your spouse for help. Ask your best friend for help. The people you are closest to want to see you succeed so they will be meaningful in your progress to enforce the resolutions you've made.

If you have a determination to live your life differently at all, put yourself on the path to make a change and forgive yourself along the way for all the things you've done before and all the stumbling you might do along the way. Mentally prepare yourself to put your resolution into effect by writing it down and holding yourself accountable to make your change. Then ask for the help to make it through the year and the rest of your life as a different person. Take it one day at a time and enjoy seeing your changes come to pass.

Angelic Jones is a freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

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## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz

**DRAGON WARS (\*\*)** “Dragon Wars” is visually entertaining and borrows its inspiration from the Star Wars” and “Lord of the Rings” movies. South Korea’s big budget monster fest involves a young boy given radiation mist from an ancient box inside an antique store.

Where the store owner (Robert Forster) tells of the 500 yr old Chossun dynasty tale The boy grows into a LA news reporter (Jason Behr) trying to investigate an earthquake that happens to signal the return of the bad Imoogi (serpents who ant to morph into dragons) who is set to oppose the good dragon for the celestial right and to destroy mankind. The special effects are better than the story. PG-13; 90min. Sony Pictures Home Video

**EAGLE VS. SHARK (\*\*)** An offbeat romantic comedy import from New Zealand that explores the mundane life of a laid off, fast food waitress (Loren Horsley) who finds herself desperately attracted to an even dorkier video store clerk (Jermaine Clement).

The subtle yet honest humor fosters their behavior differences and responses that leads Lily may look frumpy and dumb, but she knows enough to let Jerrold win at his costumed birthday party’s video game challenge. And she goes to great length when dumped to get her brother to drive her to the family gathering to reconcile and reconnect to her reluctant soul mate. R; 87min. Miramax Home Video

**EASTERN PROMISES (\*\*\*\*)** Director David Cronenberg and actor Viggo Mortensen re-teaming from their Oscar nominated collaboration, “A History of Violence” seems to be on Oscar’s fast track again in this penetrating and violent look into the world of the Russian mob known as “vor v zakone” that is one of the year’s best.

A young pregnant woman barely survives to heinous assault, is rushed to the hospital. Where she dies after giving birth that raises the concern of a mid-wife (Naomi Watts) who also retrieved the girl’s diary



Viggo Mortensen and Naomi Watts in *Eastern Promises*

written in Russian.

The mid-wife makes the wrong choice seeking to have the book translated by a soft spoken Trans Serbian restaurant owner (Armin Mueller Stahl) used to cover his illegal operation as a powerful mob boss with an unfocused, alcoholic son (Vincent Cassel) who offsets his parental negligent through a make-shift brother from his father’s limo driver (Viggo Mortensen) who decides to help the woman when he’s doubled crossed by his employer. R; 100min. Focus Features HomeVideo

**THE BROTHERS SOLOMON (\*\*)** Funnier than anticipated based on its silliness that can grow a little on its audience. Even though the premise is stepping into the shadow of the superior funnier, “Knocked Up”

Saturday night live regulars Will Forte (who co-wrote the script here) and Will Arnett star as clueless brothers who are losers at love by their inept approach on women. But their quirky father (Lee majors) who raised them in the Arctic is hospitalized. The brothers vow to fulfill their father’s last wish to see a grand child before he dies. So the brothers set out to find a surrogate mother (Justin Wiig) in need for money and just broken up with her black boyfriend, hilariously played with attitude by Chi McBride. R; 93min. Sony Pictures Home Video *David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.*

## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

It’s always something ain’t it?

Lil Wayne is being sued by a man name LeMark deAndre and his lawyer over a 1999 Bentley Arnage. The suit, filed in California, alleges that Lil Wayne still owes \$91,000. Lil Wayne already has two lawsuits filed against him because he threw money in the audience during his performance at Morgan State University causing a student to be trampled on. Slow day for me guys!

I guess T. I. And Tiny have been doing a lot of snuggling since he has been on house arrest. They are again, expecting. The couple was expecting a child last year, but Tiny suffered a miscarriage. Next month, T.I. will see if motions to dismiss his case on procedural grounds will be successful. I guess man.

A rumor has been going around that Lil Boosie (wipe me down) was shot dead. The rumor is untrue is live and well according to his reps.

Rapper Prodigy tried to turn himself in a day early and was turned around by officials because of his medical records. He is to serve

3-1/2 years on a gun possession charge. He has sickle cell anemia, and the judge says the doctors need more time to gather his medical records. He won’t have to turn himself in until February and the judge wants him to be detained in a facility that can give him the medical attention he needs. Aww, so now they care about the inmates. Good!

Poor Britney, she had a bad year in ’07 and looks like she will be repeating it this year. With Federline awarded full custody of the kids, she lost her mind for real this time. Her craziness led to Dr. Phil saying the family needs an intervention. Spears family business manager Lou Taylor, who appeared via satellite on NBC’s “Today,” called the television psychologist’s statement “inappropriate” and his effort to get the Spears family on his program “self-serving.” “Here you have Britney, who needs to have some security somewhere that every single thing she does and every single person she has a relationship with doesn’t become an opportunity to be exploited,” Taylor said. “I

See Biz page 10

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## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson in *The Bucket List*

**THE BUCKET LIST (\*\*)** “The Bucket List” almost scraps the bottom of its barrel as a movie that, through its story about the lives and exploits shared by two socially, financially and ethnically opposites, terminal cancer patients played by Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, who make this film more watchable than it probably deserves.

The two become hospital bedroom buddies who decide to pair up without their individual bed pans, to determine how to live out their time. This endeavor stretches its moral and social tone to the point of becoming more idealistic than plausible.

Reworking the “grumpy old men” angle, Jack Nicholson plays Edward Cole, a cantankerous, wealthy public health CEO

who apparently subscribes to the “live life to the hilt and on his terms” philosophy.

Until during a board meeting, in which Cole argues and later contradicts his own rules of equal hospital treatment for all. Suddenly, Cole’s coughing reveals blood that leads to his first (and evidently, last) medical emergency.

Accompanied by his straight-laced assistant, Thomas, played by “Will and Grace” star and Chicagoan Sean Hayes, Cole is rushed to the hospital (that he owns!) but can’t receive a private room. Hayes falters as the comic relief with little to work with.

Cole finds himself wheeled into a non-private suite bed –to-bed with Morgan Freeman as Carter Chambers, an auto mechanic who’s a “jeopardy” buff who initially wanted to be a history teacher. But instead, his life has been about working to provide for his family and achieving little for himself. Cole, however, has had everything money can buy except a stable life. Married four times, he’s been estranged from his only daughter for many years.

Each man is given about a year of life left to live. As expected each men contradicts the

other on topics, dreams and life regrets. But ultimately it becomes the rich helping the poor to learn how to go out of life in style.

Throughout the course of the film, both men learn something about themselves and each other. Freeman’s character learns to live life for himself. While Nicholson discovers the value of friendship.

“The Bucket List” feels like the kind of movie that should have been made a decade or two earlier with a bigger supporting cast to bring out the humor and irony. But it’s the notion in this movie that, as charitable as certain wealthy individuals can be. It’s hard to ever imagine the film’s premise working in real life. Can you imagine Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, or Donald Trump showing their concern and using their influence and money to a “lesser” individual under these aforementioned circumstances?

I’m not saying it’s impossible, just improbable because rich people show their concern and dollars more for causes than a single individual. So the likelihood of Trump being hospitalized alongside an equally sick, lower class minority seems more adaptable in movie than in real life.

But this is part of the reason for movies, to offer escape and optimism in their story premises and notions from the reality that becomes wishful thinking to us.

PG-13; 97min. A Warner Bros. Picture Release – presented at selected theaters

**FIRST SUNDAY (\*\*)** “First Sunday” marks the overdue directorial debut of David E. Talbert, the urban stage play producer between Shelly Garrett and before Tyler Perry who could only brings minimal results to the big screen here from his 15 years of bringing ghetto life to the legit stage.

Considering the production support and a talented cast led by Ice Cube who comes close to retaining his “Boyz N’ The Hood” street rep here paired with dofus partner-in-crime, Tracy Morgan doing the same kind of schtick he did previously in the Wayans Brothers’ “Little Man” that could have been easily done with Cube’s former screen partner /comic Mike Epps.

Ice Cube and Tracy Morgan play Ralph Durrell and Lee John Jackson, two bumbling, hard luck petty thieves who can’t overcome their unemployment woes, childhood trauma and personal obligations. After botching their latest, legit job, Jackson struck a deal for the two to work for a Rasta gang to transport ten \$1200 valued and custom wheelchairs with mag wheels in a van

Again, thanks to Jackson’s hyper-mishap nature, the delivery turns into a van chase with a police squad car that lands them again before the same judge (Keith David) who sentences the duo to 5000 hours of community service as street janitors for the city.

With both men in dire straits and little

See Flicks page 11



# Financial Destination Holds Seminar at NLCN

Megan Sieberg



Sean Jones speaks to community members at NLCN.

High rates of unemployment coupled with high costs of living have many residents on the West Side seeking financial opportunity on a daily basis.

Last Monday, the North Lawndale Community News hosted a seminar, run by

Dr. Cuttie Bacon and Sean Jones, during which community members received information about a financial program that may help them find what they are looking for.

Financial Destination, Inc. is a privately held corporation with a two-fold mission to "stamp out financial illiteracy across the country," and to provide an income opportunity for its members, according to its website. Both Bacon and Jones spoke as members of

Financial Destination and encouraged those present at the event to take advantage of the opportunities the program has to offer.

"All we're looking to do is work with people who want to change their lives right now," said Jones. "The opportunity is here."

After briefing the audience on his struggle to be financially stable living on the West Side

of Chicago, Bacon played a 25 minute informational video detailing FDI and its mission.

This is how it works:

Anyone can join the company as either a Preferred or First Class Member. After doing so, a team of financial educators helps you find a financial solution to becoming debt free by plugging your information into a step-by-step plan of action.

Next, Financial Destination offers you the opportunity to make a residual income by recruiting other people to join as members. You receive money for each person you recruit, and each person they recruit, in turn. In doing so, you receive government tax cuts for running your own business from your own home.

If, for instance, you are a Preferred member, and you recruit three members who then perpetuate the recruitment seven levels deep, you will earn \$13, 173 per month. If you were a First Class member, you would receive an additional \$16,395 per month, making your total monthly income through

Financial Destination just under \$30, 000.

Jones and his business partner are real estate investors who have bought \$15 million in real estate over the past five years. Currently, they are \$1.2 million in debt, which, before joining Financial Destination, they were set to pay off in 29 years and five months. By the end of that 29 years, they would have paid \$1.6 million in interest, bringing their total to \$2.8 million.

Through Financial Destination, they are now on track to be debt free in 11 years and one month, cutting their interest to \$708,000.

"That's a \$900,000 savings," said Jones. "Who wouldn't want to plan like that?"

Bacon, also a member of Financial Destination, has benefited from the residual income offered by the program, as well as from a life of good financial decision-making. He retired by the age of 55 and now has over \$1 million.

"I believe that once you get the information and the education about accumulating wealth everybody can be

**See Seminar page 11**

## Biz from page 9

mean, when do you ever rest if you're in constant fear of being exploited, of being taken advantage of?" Spears' family let Dr. Phil visit Britney at the hospital for help, even though he was not her doctor, and they say he still should have kept his observations confidential and private. There is an order against Britney that expires Thursday, that says she must not contact Kevin by phone or send him any messages. Basically, she can have no contact what so ever with Kevin or her children or she will be arrested. Britney and Kevin have a scheduled court appearance for Monday, so I will let you know what goes down in the next issue. You know this was a slow day for me, I ended with Britney!

### WORD OF ADVICE:

I hope everybody is registered to vote for this upcoming election. Voting for our President is very important. It's like yeah, this is the person that I want to lead me and my country. So, if you have not registered I do not want to hear you saying nothing about the new president when he/she is elected, because you did not play your part in the election process.



Britney and her sons on the cover of OK! Magazine

www.bet.com www.mtv.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.*

## Starks from front page

But Starks considers his own personal goals fulfilled after 31 years as first a Patrolman, Sergeant (1988), Commander (2000), Deputy Chief (2003), First Deputy (2003) and eventually Interim Superintendent. Starks, who probably ascended to the top spot of the department from the most humble beginnings, joined the department in 1977. This, after starting his education at Carver Grammar School on the city's far South Side while growing up in Altgeld Gardens, the city's oldest housing project.

Led by a household that included a tough, no-nonsense mother, the Starks family then moved to the Englewood community, residing at a house in the 6700 block of South Emerald Avenue that is now a vacant lot. While in Englewood, Starks attended St. Bernard grammar school, De la Salle and Hales Franciscan High Schools before moving on.

Surprisingly, Starks had no military experience before joining the department in 1977. He counts Pastor Merrill Booker of the Normal Park Baptist Church as one of his influences growing up in one of the city's toughest neighborhoods.

When Starks looks back over the last five months, he can see where he's made a difference in the department. "During the time I've been Interim Superintendent," he said, "there's been what I believe to be significant inroads in reestablishing the public's trust in this department. One of the things that I think everyone knows is that I immediately began a special assessment of the Special Operations Section (an alleged corrupt group of officers) and based on that assessment, we disbanded the Special Operations Section."

"I think we did everything for that time period appropriately. We've had incidents of police-involved shootings, we commented on it. I stated that these investigations were investigations that were ongoing," he said.

One of the changes that have been made during the five months that Starks has been at the top was to see a new head to an old department—Office of Professional Standards—and an appropriate name change. Illana Rosensweig took over and renamed her department the Independent Police Review Authority. Starks said the new department and name was meant to separate that office from the police department. "Not just the name change," he said. "But remember, it is

## Home from front page

also the pastor of Home of Life Church located at 4650 W. Madison Street. "We want to show our children that there is something besides killing and something besides teenage pregnancies. There are other things we can do to enlighten our children," said Pastor Henderson.

Bertha Williams, Director of Youth Grants, at Home of Life is leading the endeavor. "We are really pleased to have a partnership with the Chicago Public School system to help us work on this problem. We are also working with the Proviso School District," said Ms. Williams.

The Upward Bound program is provides services such as bi-monthly enrichment classes, academic advising, mentoring, weekly tutoring, financial aid planning, summer college tours, residential programs, seminars highlighting the field of education, attending cultural events, and an opportunity to earn up to six credit hours at local communities colleges in the Chicago area.

"We can't fulfill the educational needs of every kid, by ourselves. We need to work with the community. We need to work with parents. We need to work with community-based agencies to provided the full scope of support that young people need to succeed", said Brian Samuels. Only about half of the students who graduate go on to college. Most dropouts occur between the freshman and sophomore years. For more information please call 773 626-8655.

the separation where it is no longer connected with the police department. In the past it was considered under the police department. Their budget was also included part of the police department budget. They do their review processes. The difference is that they make us aware. They give us a chance to respond," he said.

"They make their own recommendation as to whether or not the complaint is a valid complaint and they make their recommendation for any disciplinary action. Still, if we disagree, then it goes to the police board. We'll state in writing why we disagree. In that case, the police board will review it. That's only if we disagree," he continued.

Still, there are those, including Rev. Al Sharpton, who insists that Mayor Richard Daley and the entire police department continues to get away with murder in the minority communities of the city. Rev. Sharpton has now set up office within the city with the intent to check the mayor and the police department for alleged acts of corruption and brutality that has long existed within the department.

Starks said he has no problem with Rev. Sharpton and his activities regarding the police department. "I don't make a

## Chicago Park District Valentine Events

### Teen Valentine Dance

Friday, Feb. 8, 8-11 p.m.  
Columbus Park, 500 S. Central Ave., 773-287-7641, \$2, ages 13-17, student must show school identification card

### Daddy/Daughter Dance

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m., Humboldt Park, 1440 N. Sacramento Blvd., 312-742-7549, Admission free, ages 6-12, parent must accompany child

### Valentine Dance

Thursday, Feb. 14, 3-6 p.m., Augusta Park, 4433 W. Augusta Blvd., 312-742-7544  
\$1, ages 10-14

### Valentine Day Dance

Thursday, Feb. 14, 4-6 p.m., Austin Town Hall Park, 5610 W. Lake St., 773-287-7658  
Admission free, ages 6-12

### Near North

### Daddy/Daughter Dance

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6-8 p.m., Wicker Park, 1425 N. Damen Ave., 312-742-7553  
Admission free, ages 6-12

### Southwest Side

### Valentine Teen Dance,

Thursday, Feb. 14, 5-9 p.m.  
Shedd Park, 3660 W. 23rd St., 773-762-3168  
Admission free, ages 13-16

### Valentine Day Dance

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 5-7 p.m.  
Cornell Square Park, 1809 S Wood St., 312-747-6097

determination for another person as to how they feel they should conduct themselves," Starks said, when Rev. Sharpton's name came up. "Irrespective of Rev. Sharpton being here or not being here, my responsibility is to again improve and strengthen the public trust in the communities and the relationship with the Chicago Police Department.

"Doing the professional and correct thing to do is my mission regardless of who is in town or present saying what they need to say. I don't have any dislike for Rev. Sharpton. Everyone has a right to his or her opinion. That doesn't mean that we'll always agree."

Starks said he has not met with Rev. Sharpton and says he does not have any problems sitting down and talking with Rev. Sharpton or any faith-based leaders. "We've been actively engaged in every part of this city with every faith-based leader to sit down and talk about how we can improve this city. I don't shirk any meeting that's about trying to achieve those goals."

Though he's leaving the police department, Starks is not quite ready to go play golf on a daily basis. He'll be moving over to become chairman and commissioner on Human Relations, taking over a job

**See page 11**



# THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS'

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### Seminar from page 10

wealthy, and it does not have anything to do with how much money you are earning today."

According to Bacon, getting out of debt and seeking tax breaks are important steps in building wealth. Both he and Jones believe Financial Destination is effective in helping people accomplish these goals while also providing a source of income that could not only supplement their current earnings but, eventually, surpass them.

"If you can hook up with a system that will instruct you on what you need to do and how you need to do it, and you're smart enough to do it," said Bacon, "wealth is at your doorstep."

For more information about Financial Destination, Inc., and to view the informational video shown at the presentation, visit [www.fdidvd.com/139511](http://www.fdidvd.com/139511).

*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.*

### Primary from page 3

high amount for early February because Super Tuesdays have usually been reserved for March. Originally, only ten primaries, including the states of Georgia and West Virginia, had been scheduled but 14 other states, including many of the aforementioned, moved themselves up.

While this may cause more people to pay attention to politics as the coverage will be almost inescapable the next few weeks, many political pundits believe this will, in turn, eliminate some candidates early, without giving their campaign enough time to gain steam and more national attention.

"24 political primaries in one month is certainly a lot, especially when you consider that we're talking about the primary of just about every major state other than Texas," said Wolf Blitzer, Political Analyst and host of CNN's daily afternoon program *The Situation Room*.

"You're going to have to have a lot of notoriety prior to February 5, and also a lot of money in regards to your campaign because advertisements and visibility are huge amongst independent voters and those who have been in relative obscurity until now are going to really have to step it up," added Blitzer. "Super Tuesday has really always been a good eliminator of fringe candidates but this time I believe it can really have an effect on those who would, in previous election years, still be strong in the running."

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### TIF from page 8

Alliance outlining a list of concerns from community members within the TIF district. These concerns have also been raised with Alderman Dixon, who did not address them last Friday.

Alderman Dixon did not wish to comment after the meeting.

On February 12, the Community Development Commission will hold a public hearing before the proposed Ogden/Pulaski TIF is submitted to City Council for passage into law. Despite the absence of a TIF Advisory Committee, the TIF approval plan is "running full steam ahead," said Leonard. Before it becomes law, Leonard and the Lawndale Alliance hope community concerns about the proposed TIF are heard.

*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.*

### Starks from page 10

previously held by Clarence Woods. The father of five knows he has a huge challenge ahead. But that's a message he'd like to send to young African-American men who may question where their future lies.

"It all depends on how you view yourself," he said. "Where you come from can only be a limitation if you make it a limitation. I don't mean to say there can't be obstacles. You have to have the fortitude and the strength to push through them. The other thing, too, is, our children have to be exposed to more than the block in which they live in. They have to know that there's a world bigger than Altgeld Gardens and Englewood. You have to go to school, have to weather storms, but also have to believe in yourselves. That's the challenge in life; to keep believing in yourself. Each

hill in front of you gets a little bigger. But, you have to have tenacity, you have to have the resolve, keep climbing that hill because life's a challenge, all the way from the beginning to the end," said Starks.

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

### Flicks from page 9



Ice Cube and Tracy Morgan in First Sunday

time, Durrell and Jackson happen to check out a lovely woman that they follow into a boisterous neighborhood

Baptist church. Which leads to some inspiration from listening to Pastor Arthur Mitchell (Chi McBride) discussing the church's fund raising drive.

"First Sunday" has the potential of being more than the usual routine, underachieving urban comedy that might have been a scripted mixture of "Purle Victorious" ("Gone are the Days") meets "Dog Day Afternoon".

"First Sunday" is an under achieving, ghetto fried urban comedy that does leave much of an offering on its audience and doesn't enlighten or provide enough human authenticity of black life beyond its predictable, one dimensional caricatures and characters from this talented black ensemble cast who manage to do enough to survive this ordeal..

PG-13; 96min. A Screen Gems Picture Released through Columbia Pictures  
- 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.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

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## Malcolm X 2007-2008 Kwaanza keeps Getting Better and Better

Malcolm X College held its 13th Annual Kwaanza for 2007-2008, which ended January 1, 2008. Dr. Zerrie Campbell, president of the City College is known as the Queen mother the name having its base roots in the African village concept. The Queen mother is the co-ruler the the King for all affairs of the state. Akan Queen Mother translated means female ruler. Dr.Campbell humbly displayed the qualities of a queen throughout the celebration. Even when the event was disrupted verbally by someone in the audience, who she knew, she displayed wisdom in bringing the delightful afternoon back to order.

Also on the last day some of the entertainment was a group of young people dancing and singing to a hip hop math and spelling songs. Then a group performed tap dancing another group perform tap dancing. But the best of the day was saved for last with songstress Dee Alexander who is named Chicagoan of the Year by the Chicago Tribune. Performing along with Dee was a female celloist, a male violinist and a male drummer, who were also fantastic.

Dee Alexander is truly an extraordinary phenomenon a jazz vocalist making this year's Kwaanza at Malcolm X truly memorable. Also venders of various African wares were in the lobby for browsers to learn more about African-based products and wares. It was another cultural awareness event at Malcolm X that you don't want to miss next year.



Enjoying the African drums during Kwaanza celebration, the tone and dress was like a homecoming to Africa.



Osei David Andrews Hutchinson, Baba Hannibal Tirus Afrik, Mzee Jamila Onyeali, Mzee Aminata Short, Mzee Kalanji Pates "Dr. Harold Pates", Nana Akua Sarpong "President Zerrie D. Campbell". Speaker unknown



Water Reclamation Commissioner Patrica Horton (black and white african garb) joins others in honoring African culture



Dee Alexander

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