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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

COMMUNITY BANK OF LAWNDALE IS NOW COVENANT BANK



Pastor Bill Winston of Living Word Christian Center, his daughter and granddaughter

Community Bank of Lawndale, originally an African-American owned bank established in 1997, now is no more. It is now named Covenant Bank as of June 1, 2008. It was purchased by Covenant Bancshares, Inc.

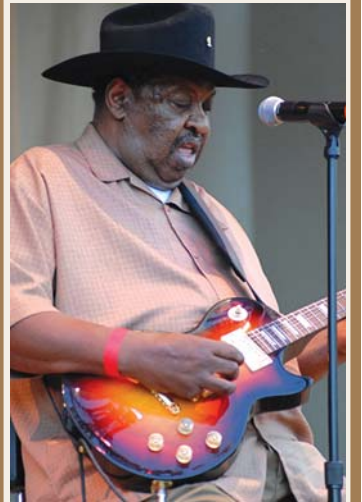
It has been a seven year quest of Bill Winston, Pastor of Living Word Christian Center to own a Bank. "Something came in my heart about how to spur entrepreneurship in Chicago. Especially in some of the areas that I felt for reasons that prosperity has not been as great. We need to put a wealth tool that people can use to help spur entrepreneurship and that is a bank to help with financing projects that people have a vision for that maybe some of the major banks cannot quite catch the vision. That's what

happened to me when I came into the city. I went to the biggest banks and they wouldn't finance the shopping mall in Forest Park. But I went to a small bank on the southside, a black bank, and they said they'll do it for me.... The result of that is we grew the whole shopping and its created 400 jobs. So I said if we could do the same with a bank, and that bank can help me out like that. How much more, that bank in Lawndale can help out people having visions like that to rebuild in the city," said Pastor Winston. Pastor Winston is also the Chairman of the Board of Covenant Bancshares, Inc...

Community Bank of Lawndale went through financial difficulties because of low revenues and

See Covenant backpage

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**CHICAGO BLUES
FESTIVAL 2008
PAGE - 5**

16 STUDENTS MISSING AT KELLMAN CORPORATE GRADUATION

Megan Sieberg

On Tuesday, June 10, proud friends and family assembled in the auditorium at Manley Career Academy to watch students from Kellman Corporate take the step from middle school to high school during a lively graduation ceremony. But from an 8th grade class of less than 40 students, it was impossible not to notice 16 students were missing.

On June 4, parents of 16 middle school students from Kellman Corporate were notified that their children were not eligible for graduation because of their failure to receive a passing grade in mathematics. The families were caught completely off guard, having already purchased caps and gowns for the ceremony.

"Parents are understandably angry and the students are

distraught," said Derrick Harris, President and Founder of the North Lawndale Local School Council Federation, at a press conference in front of the Mayor's Office at City Hall last Monday.

Harris stood in protest with an aggregate of angry parents at City Hall arguing that students at Kellman Corporate are the "cream of the crop." According to the protesters, students who are being denied graduation have fallen victim to both bad school policy and teacher negligence.

"This issue is more a reflection on the teacher and the policies of the school on the local school level than it is on the students," said Harris.

Due to a new CPS Elementary Promotion Policy, students without a report card grade of C or better in reading or math are not eligible for



Kellman Corporate students, their parents and Derrick Harris, President and Founder of the North Lawndale Local School Council Federation, protest recent schools decision to deny graduation to 16 students in one class.

graduation. This suggests students can graduate as long as they have a passing grade in one subject or the

other.

However, Harris maintains the

See Kellman page 4

FOUNTAIN VIEW APARTMENTS MULTI UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING MAKEOVER



Alderwoman Sharon Denise Dixon, Pastor Wayne Gordon, City of Chicago-DOH Commissioner Ellen Sahli and Chicago Housing Authority's CEO Lewis A. Jordan, and Pastor Wayne Gordon of Lawndale Community Church and others during the ribbon cutting ceremony

On Wednesday, June 10th community leaders and residents gathered in the park area across from Herzl Elementary School on Douglas and Independence Blvd. to announce the grand opening of the Fountain View Apartments across the street, to celebrate the completion of a 10 million dollar project that provides 45 quality rental units to the North Lawndale Community.

"Fountain View is a community where forty-five families live and are able to raise there families here with nice new amenities. They have new everything including central air conditioning. They also have the opportunity to go to school right

across the street," said Kim Jackson, Executive Director of LCDC. "It's a great opportunity as our community is growing and expanding and from now we'll just see where god takes us with it."

Community housing has been a great concern in the North Lawndale community over the past few years, especially in regards to the many vacant and boarded up buildings alongside Douglas and Independence Blvd. Last year, tenants residing in properties owned by Holsten management, just one block east, where unhappy about poor living conditions, something that the community hopes will

See Apartments backpage



**POET RETURNS
HOME TO NORTH
LAWNDALE
PAGE - 5**



**AFTER SCHOOL
PROGRAM
PAGE - 8**

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

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~~~~~  
North Lawndale Community News  
Winner of the  
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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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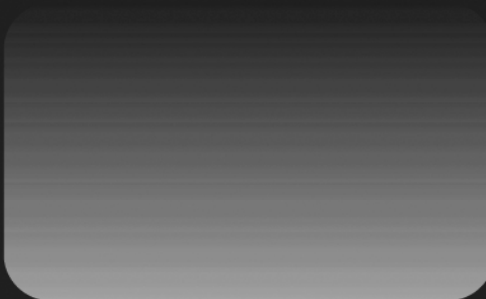
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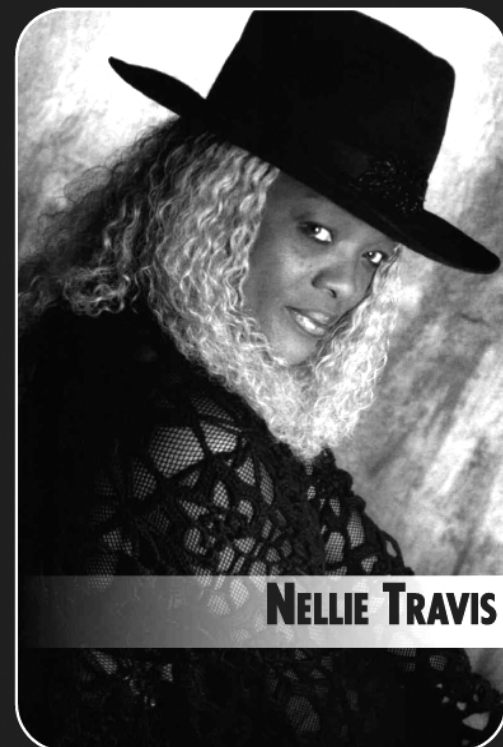
## *Jazz and Blues* **UNDER THE STARS**



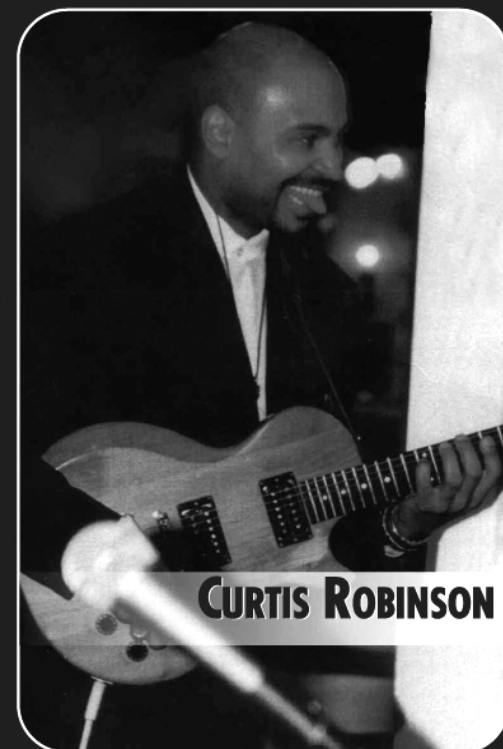
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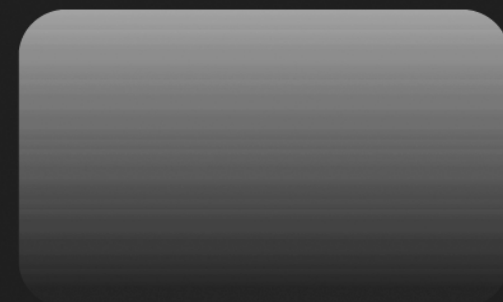
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## POLICE ROUNDUP



Ferman Mentrell Beckless - beckless@yahoo.com

### Teen charged in beating at Crane Tech

Chicago police announced they have arrested and charged a 17-year-old, West Side teen, in connection with the March 7 beating of a 15-year-old student at Crane High School.

Police allege Lucian Meeks, of the 4300 block of West Adams, struck the unidentified 15-year-old victim with a blunt object during an altercation that occurred near the school. Meeks appeared in bond court earlier this week. Word of his bond was not available as of late Tuesday.

### Woman shot, critical

A 30-year-old woman was listed in critical condition at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center after she sustained a single gunshot wound to the abdomen. The unidentified woman told police she had stopped her vehicle in the 300 block of South Pulaski Road early Monday when the unknown occupants of a vehicle fired shots from another vehicle before fleeing. The gunman immediately fled.

Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive as of late Tuesday.

In an unrelated shooting in the 5400 block of West Augusta Boulevard, an unidentified victim was transported to Loyola Medical Center after sustaining a single gunshot wound to the head.

The circumstances surrounding that early Monday shooting were not available late Tuesday. Area 5 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive.

### Man succumbs to fire

A 45-year-old man sleeping in his motor home that was parked in the 400 block of North Ridgeway was pronounced dead on arrival at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Centers. Police records indicate an electrical fire originated in the driver's compartment of the motor home. The incident remained under investigation by the department's Bomb and Arson Squad. It is not known if foul play is suspected.

### Motorist charged

A 23-year-old motorist has been charged with leaving the scene of an accident and filing a false report in connection with the hit and run death of a pedestrian in the 4900 block of West Superior Street recently.

Chicago police identified the motorist as Jephious Morris. Police said Morris reported his vehicle stolen after he struck the unidentified victim. Morris later turned himself into officers at the Far South Side's 22<sup>nd</sup> District and was charged early Friday. He appeared in bond court over the weekend.

## Cook County Clerk Dorothy Brown

### Hosts Expungement Summitt

James Glover

On Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, Cook County Circuit County Clerk Dorothy Brown presented an Expungement Summit for both Adult and Juvenile offenders in an effort to assist those with criminal records and help place them back into the workforce without fear of rejection due to criminal records.

"A large number of males in our minority communities have admittedly made some mistakes, however we certainly feel they deserve

every opportunity to reintegrate themselves back into society and through expungement they can now go and confidently look for employment with out having the fear the application when it asks 'have you been convicted of a felony'," said Richard Cavon from the Illinois Bar Association.

Along with Dorothy Brown in sponsoring Saturday's event was Judge Richard Devine, the

See Summittpage 11

## Kellman from front page

policy at Kellman is in conflict with the district policy because it requires students to receive a passing grade in both reading and math in order to graduate, instead of in one or the other.

CPS also requires that parents receive notification by mail in addition to quarterly reports if their child is failing a class. Parents of

the pending graduates at Kellman claim they received no such notification. Antoinette Mitchell, mother of Ireal Mitchell, says if she had known about the problem, she could have addressed it.

"I was not properly notified. I feel like my parental rights have been violated. They did not afford me the opportunity to correct a problem if there was one. I knew nothing of a C average in math."

In addition, the math teacher in question was allegedly absent 19 days in the third quarter of the 2008 school year.

"My third quarter grade was an F because he wasn't there at all for like 19 days," said Amber Fields, a tearful pending graduate. "He issued that grade while he wasn't at the school."

Amber received A's in all her other classes and has been accepted into Walter Payton High School, which she planned to attend in the fall. She had a passing grade in math until the third quarter.

"My grades were average that year but the F really brought me down so now my



Kellman Corporate student Amber Fields and Ireal Mitchell

average is a D and I can't graduate," she said.

According to parents, students at Kellman work hard all year. Harris referred to them as being North Lawndale's "best and brightest." Graduating on to high school is important to both the school's students and their parents.

"This is why they go to school everyday," said Mitchell. "This is why we send them to school everyday; so that they can receive this goal that they've worked for. This is a stepping stone for them."

Efforts were made to receive statements from Kellman's Principal, but she was unavailable for comment.

Currently, Harris is reaching out to city officials for help. Although help did not come in time for Amber, Ireal and 14 of their classmates to participate in this week's graduation ceremony, the students and their parents hope it will come before summer plans and plans for next fall are ruined.



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North Lawndale Community News

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# Chicago Blues Festival 2008

Veronica Harrison

Mayor Richard Daley took our breath away last weekend during the Annual Gospel Fest, and he has done it again! From Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> until Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>, downtown Chicago's air was filled with the soulful sounds of blues music.

This year made the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the annual Chicago Blues Festival. The festival took place at Grant Park where thousands of blues lovers gathered to embrace a genre of music that holds very deep meaning. Vendors filled Columbus street where people bought food, played games and enjoyed the city. However, no person there could say they were not there for the blues.

"Its historical music," said Jay Nelson, a 38-year-old Chicago resident. "The blues and black folks are part of our life," Nelson added.

Blues music is definitely an enormous aspect of the African-American community. It emerged in many African American communities in the United States from slave's spirituals, field hollers, shouts and chants. Traveling all the way from the south to Chicago where it echoed off of large skyscrapers, blues music holds a special place in the Black community.

Bobby Johnson, 63, claims to be a big fan of blues music. Even though he didn't make the first three days of the festival, he was sure to come out the last day to show his love to a music that means so much to him.

"It's the soul, it's the feeling," said Johnson commenting on blues music. As he sat in the audience at this year's blues fest, he tapped his toes and bobbed his head to sounds of Otis Taylor, Magic Slim and the Teardrops,



Legendary BB King performing at Chicago's 25th Annual Blues Festival. Photograph by Billy Smith

and Little Willie. When asked who he was there to see that day, he, like everyone else, had one quick answer: B.B. King.

Yes, after 25 years the legendary B.B. King performed at this year's blues festival. For over a half a century, Riley B. King (better known as B.B. King) has constructed the meaning of the blues for a global audience. Since the 1940s, King has released more than fifty albums and most of them are considered classics. He knows all about the blues having been born on a plantation in Mississippi. He has been given the title of the Father of Blues and he wears his crown well.

Tom Rogers, 52, is a Chicago guitarist who was also there to see blues legend B.B. King, known as the most important electric guitarist of all times.

"B.B. King invented the blues," said Rogers.

The moment that everyone was waiting

for finally came. After a phenomenal opening by his band, B.B. King graced the stage and awed thousands of fans.

"For forty-five years, Chicago has been giving some of the best blues fest," said King.

He tore the stage up, down, left and right. Kings sung some of his classics, including "Three O' Clock Blues," "You Don't Know Me," "Please Love Me," "Sweet Sixteen" and his most popular crossover hit in the 70s, "The Thrill is Gone."

Sorry B.B., but the thrill was everything but gone at this year's blues festival. There were people there of all races, all backgrounds and all ages. Surprisingly, several young people were there to indulge in the blues.

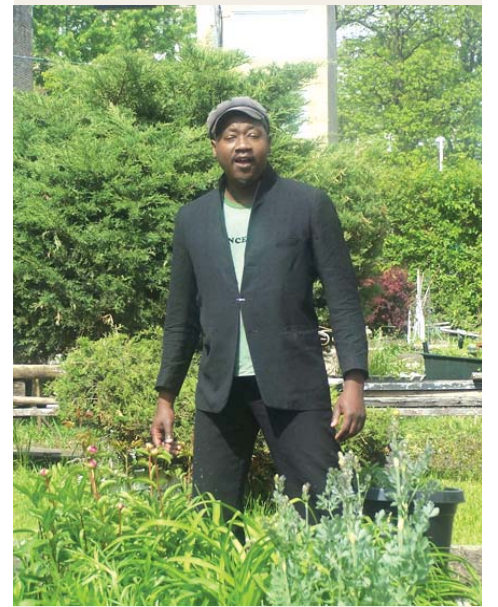
"A lot of you are so young you don't know about the early tunes," said King. However, he mentioned that he was extremely proud to see so many youngsters out enjoying the sounds of saxophones, guitars, drums, keyboards and soulful lyrics that travel from the mouth straight to the heart.

After giving props to Barack Obama, Mayor Daley, Ko Ko Taylor, James Brown, Muddy Waters, his band and his family, B.B. King continued his performances for thousands of fans who would forever remember that special day.

King shouted out to his fans, "Everybody, let's have some fun. You only live once and when you're dead you're gone." After saying that, thousands of people let go and enjoyed the freedom of blues music as they remembered the importance of it and embraced its roots.

## POET RETURNS HOME TO NORTH LAWDALE

Shemuel B. Israel, D.C.



Marvin Tate.

One of North Lawndale's progeny returned home Thursday, May 29 to film a documentary for WTTW Channel 11's one-hour entertainment special CenterStage. Family, friends, and curious onlookers watched as Marvin Tate walked through the Slumbuster's Garden performing the song "City Promenade" – one of the songs from his first solo CD, *Family Swim*. "The song is about gentrification," said Tate.

Gentrification is the displacement of lower-income residents in a neighborhood by higher-income residents, generally occurring when an older

See tate page 9

### Let's Go to the Zoo A community field trip to **BROOKFIELD ZOO**



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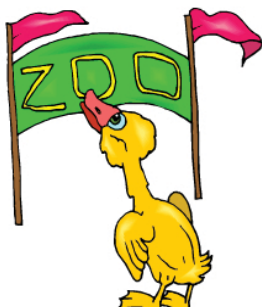
**Children, Parents & Grandparents  
Let's go and visit the animals and  
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Zoo while the weather is still good!**

**When: Saturday, July 5, 2008**

**Where: Buses Depart from 1870 S. Kedzie**

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## Congratulations FAST WASH COIN LAUNDRY June Business of the Month



Fast Wash Coin Laundry located on the corners of Roosevelt and Kedzie

the new owners. Since taking over the business 14-months ago, the brothers have installed new machines, counter tops, televisions, and a blend of music that has made going to the Laundromat a pleasant experience.

"We decided to make it more comfortable for mothers with small children who spend a lot of time here doing their laundry," Pandi said.

To better serve the community, the Jafenica brothers have also turned their laundry mat into a 24-hour business with free dryers and for many residents who work at various hours, finding time to wash their clothes can now be stress free.

To read the full article see the North Lawndale Community News June 5, 2008 issue.

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank was proud to honor "Fast Wash Coin Laundry," as North Lawndale's Small Business for the Month of June. Fast Wash Coin Laundry is located on the corner of Roosevelt and Kedzie, which has been a staple there for many years.

Working with WashPro for several years, Pandi Jafenica was told about this laundry mat and along with his brother decided to become

## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

Man, is R Kelly going to jail?

In the R Kelly trial, after two days of testimony and 12 witnesses, the defense rested its case Monday. Wednesday, the trial continued because the prosecutors wanted to bring back the video expert to verify the mole allegation. There is supposed to be a mole on the man in the videos back. R Kelly also has a mole on his back. The defense's video expert testified that the alleged mole is actually a black spot that is called video noise that comes from making a copy of a videotape in low quality. The defense used the copy when cross examining their video expert. Many legal experts are saying the defense should call for a mistrial, because they should have been using the original. Prosecutors and Kelly's defense team met in private and disputed this, not information is given on how they came to an agreement. Kelly was asked if he wanted to testify, before the final testimony, and he said, "I decided not to testify." There will be closing

arguments on Thursday. I don't know what the outcome of this will be but you have to admit it doesn't look good for the R&B King.

QUICKIES:

Rumor has it that Matthew Knowles is in talks with people over at Bad Boy to make Kelly Rowland the new lead singer of Danity Kane. I don't know how true this is in fact, I don't even care.

Alicia Keys, who is allegedly getting married to some producer has been put on blast by Mashonda. Yeah, that is the wife of Swizz Beatz. She recently filed for divorce from Swizzy allegedly because he was sneaking around with Alicia Keys. Mashonda recently said in Hip Hop weekly that: "Alicia Keys is her own woman and she has made her own choices. I don't have a problem with her. I will say this though, I am not a scorned woman. I have a responsibility to raise [my son], he's my

See Biz page 9

## Wise Counsel For Men; Don't Let Distraction Entice You

Donald Lee

The New Living Translation of the Bible reads like this in Proverbs, chapter five (verses 1-23): My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel. Then you will learn to be discreet and will store up knowledge.

The lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. But the result is as bitter as poison, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. For she does not care about the path to life.

She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't even realize where it leads. So now, my sons, listen to me. Never stray from what I am about to say: Run from her! Don't go near the door of her house! If you do, you will lose your honor and hand over to merciless people everything you have achieved in life. Strangers will obtain your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor.

Afterward you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body, and you will say, 'How I hated discipline! If only I had not demanded my own way! Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why didn't I pay attention to those who gave me

*"Can't we agree that it feels good to be able to ride in the car with the wife and not worry about sweatin' bullets when the cell phone rings (and it's the 'immoral woman' on the other end of the line)?"*

instruction? I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace."

Drink water from your own well — share your love only with your wife. Why spill the water of your springs in public, having sex with just anyone? You should reserve it for yourselves. Don't share it with strangers. Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving doe, a graceful deer. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love.

Why be captivated, my son, with an immoral woman, or embrace the breasts of an adulterous woman? For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his incredible folly.

Today, ladies, I've got a word specifically for the brothers. But don't kid yourself into thinking this very same scripture reference can not apply to you and how you conduct yourself in your own marriage. And if you're not married, I highly recommend you ask the Holy Spirit to give you revelation on how this column applies even to you. Trust me when I tell you there's enough Word in Proverbs chapter five to last us all an eternity.

Brothers: As you read this column, cross-reference what I've written with what is written in your Bible. And then cross-reference that with what the Lord already has written in your heart. What you will find, if you're honest with yourself, is that everything you ever need in a woman is in the very one you're married to.

See Wise page 10

# FAST TASTE OF NORTH LAWNDALe

## 7th Annual

## "A Taste of North Lawndale"

## SAVE THE DATE:

## Saturday, August 2nd

This an open invitation to North Lawndale residents, organizations, and businesses to partner with us for a successful event

## Community Resources

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# AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



Edward Norton in *The Incredible Hulk*.

to use Bixby's catch line, "You wouldn't like me when I'm angry!"

The film opens over the credits with the campus experiment gone awry that Dr. Brenner tried on himself that left him with the "ultimate mood swing" and being wrongfully accused of murder by the determined military general, Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross (William Hurt) in a

cover-up to save his career at any cost.

It was Ross who never fully disclosed his intention from reactivating "Project: Super Soldier" that gave Dr. Banner gamma ray poisoning. Banner realizes too late that Ross wants to use his data to create a "human" weapon.

While being a globe-trotting fugitive, Dr. Banner has been trying to find enough data to send from his internet chats stateside with another scientist trying to find the right antidote that would allow Banner to destroy his discovery from its military combat purpose.

Almost the entire proceedings ranges from unintentionally funny to a premeditated move to counter the film's supporting cast that recognizes too late the script voids any black assistance to the white central characters.

William Hurt's misguided general role has a chance at redemption after his career and plans are ruined. As General Ross is left to drink away the rest of his life at a tavern, the door burst open amidst the corny theatrics of white glowing smoke to reveal industrialist-playboy Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr. without his metal suit) with a proposition that might insure The Hulk cinematic life as part

of the Avengers.

It sounds like the filmmakers and studio executives are trying too hard to work too many angles to help make this "Hulk" meet the audience approval. Sometimes too much help can do the most harm.

PG-13; 114min. A Universal Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

**KUNG FU PANDA (\*\*\*)** There is plenty of scenic splendor that helps give this film a look of an animated spectacle that adds to the authenticity exhibited toward being a half hearted homage to those kung fu movies accented through its dazzling and precise human movement to the animal characters' martial arts action sequences

"Kung Fu Panda" utilizes one of the key story elements in those movies that we were first introduced to back in the 70's with the Bruce Lee films and other movies like "Five Fingers of Death" and "The Street Fighter".

In those movies like in several recent animated films, this is another example of the spirit of the underdog who finds and faces his destiny through combat and adversity for his village, people and/or country.

Even though this film plays up more to the buffoonery of its lead character through his girth played for laughs, Po (well voiced by Jack Black), a fun-loving but clumsy panda bear who is a kung fu fanatic who tries to hide his true passion from his step father goose, Mr. Ping (James Hong) who thinks his son will follow into his noodle restaurant business.

Still, Black's vocal persona and the character's innocence and wonder connects well with kids and gives "Kung Fu Panda" its energy and distinction and visually the animation here provides something different and not with a somber tone like Disney's "Mulan".

But this movie did recall an early animated feature with the same underdog mentality and Asian influence (even though it was dubbed with American talents like Jonathan Winters, Arnold Stang and Frankie Avalon ) that might have had some indirect inspiration here from the 1961 Japanese made full-length cartoon feature, "Alakazam the Great".

And yet, "Kung Fu Panda" can stand on his own as the lead character realizes his own capabilities and delivers the drama as well as the humor at a high pitch level that reflects a homage to those early 1970's kung fu imports; "Five Finger of Death", Sonny Chiba's "The Street Fighter" and of course Bruce Lee's "Fists of Fury" and "The Chinese Connection."

The proud yet dangerous Tai Lung felt betrayed by his master plots destruction on the valley, for being denied his entitlement as the next dragon warrior that would have receive immense power from the ancient Dragon Scroll

News spread of the tournament to the Valley residents who rushed to see the event. Naturally, Po's every attempt to get inside the palace to see the tournament and his idols in action; tends to showcase Po's obesity problem played for laughs.

This also could have a psychological effect on young, self-conscious kids' about their size and shape from viewing this movie that parents need to observe and be mindful about. Not to mention the current atmosphere toward the bias attitude against fat people and the health scare for a nation that is predominantly overweight.

What isn't smart enough within its dialogue humor for the adult viewer; While the kids enjoy the film's comedic slapstick nature. The difference is reasonably brought up by its visual authenticity that remind us of

**See Flicks page 11**

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROJECT

Zaki A. Muhammad

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." These words apply to the program sponsored by the Department of Human Services Independent Living Program that has been in operation for a number of years and has undergone an overhaul.

Director Julius Union has been at the Garfield Branch of the Department of Human Services for the past 7 months and has taken the program to another level by stressing "It is more than a shelter" adding, "It is a program with definite objectives that help the men focus on obtaining employment, life skills, housing and a new direction to become self sufficient with the goal of returning their independence. That is the number one goal. It has been revised with new procedures and programs." Having been involved in Social Services for over 28 years, it is now his time here on the Westside to make things happen and he has initiated change that gives the entire system of dealing with men in the program and the workers who assist the men a new and improved attitude.

Beginning with Alfredo Hernandez hailing from the Humbolt Park area he found himself in need of the services after having been married for 18 years and undergoing a divorce. Mr. Hernandez at age 44 now wonders why his wife did not leave him sooner. He relates the reason that the relationship ended was due to substance abuse. Having been at Roberto Clemente and being a fairly good athlete that was attracting attention from scouts from Northern Illinois University he subsequently

succumbed to peer pressure and began drinking alcohol after games and ended up dropping out of school and suffering job loss after job loss. "For 22 years I was looking for something", he stated. When asked what, he stated hope. He continued by saying "It starts with the parents. My father had a drinking problem and my mother was somewhat naïve and it allowed me to get away with a lot, today though, I have surrendered myself. As for his advice to young people, he said, "Find a church that has good morals and is involved in the community.

Sammye Barron a westsider found himself in need of services after leaving Roberto Clemente high school and seeking to gain the fast money he saw his friends get from the sale of illegal narcotics. After becoming a guest of the state in a correctional facility he returned home to participate in a treatment program that was not suitable to his progress. Today he is drug free and credits his change in attitude, "I made wrong choices and had bad behavior because I had not believed that I was created like other men in God's image." He further stated, "I just became a practicing Deacon at my church, True Life Missionary Baptist Church" concluding his take on the changes that brought him to the program, he said, "I enjoy the fact that we have a curfew and have to pass random drug drops. We also have NA, AA, and CA meetings that we attend. I call my new place my sanctuary."

Willie Maddox came to the program from Cornell Intervention and admittedly said that he "was tired of being homeless." And attributed his need for services directly related to substance abuse. A Thornton high school graduate he did extermination and

**See Living page 10**

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# After School Program

David Tenorio



Mary Wallace and her assistant Sylvia Williams work with kids at the center.

Illinois State Board of Education, Wallace started the after school program designed primarily to work on Saturdays during the school year. With summer fast approaching, the MBC program will expand to more hours on Saturdays and maybe late

proper space and we'll be all set to go."

Although the after school program is located in North Lawndale, Wallace lives in and commutes back and forth to Arlington Heights daily. "I was raised in Englewood which, economically, is very much in the same situation North Lawndale is in, and I wanted to set up a program here that would benefit the children of this community," Wallace said. "Sure, I live in Arlington Heights, but I haven't forgotten my city roots and the youngsters of North Lawndale desperately need all the help we can provide for them."

She added, "I started up the MBC Recreational Center primarily to help the children

in North Lawndale and if I can help just one child out of 100, then I'll consider my program a success."

Wallace also added that she is on the look out for funding for her program as well as a permanent location. "We've been blessed to be allowed to work together with the Refuge of God Church, but we are also looking for a building we can move into or even property which we can purchase and use for our programs in the future."

Anyone interested in the after school program, either enrollment or possibly as a funder, may contact Ms. Wallace by email at [mbcrecreational@yahoo.com](mailto:mbcrecreational@yahoo.com).

North Lawndale children and youth will not have to spend the summer months absently doing nothing this summer if Mary Wallace has her way about things. Ms. Wallace, president and CEO of the MBC Recreational Centers, Inc., has begun "Phase two" of her after school program for community youth and children in North Lawndale.

MBC, which was started by Ms. Wallace in 2004 operates a multi-program center located in the basement of the Refuge of God Church at 1444 S. Keeler. The first phase of her after school program began in February and included computer after school and weekend training for neighborhood youth. Currently the program has approximately 25 students enrolled, the youngest eight and the oldest 11-years-old.

"In our computer program, we give the children hands on training on how to start up and operate desk top computers and they use these skills to view and download games, especially musical videos as part of their music instruction," Ms. Wallace said. "Most of these children are so smart they pick up the basics of computer operations very quickly, faster than most adults."

With the aid of a \$20,000 grant from the

afternoon programming one or two days during the week.

The computer training classes are just the first program Wallace has placed on her MBC agenda for the future. "Eventually we hope to expand our program to include GED training classes, HIV awareness, counseling, abstinence classes, dance, gym and ballet classes and hopefully CDL license classes," Wallace said. "We have plans for the future in North Lawndale, all we need to do is get the adequate funding and

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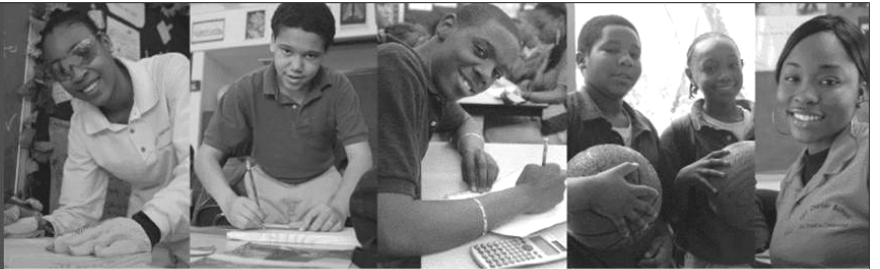
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### Contact Information

Joseph J. Pruitt

Director, Minority Contractors Cooperative

Phone: 773-265-1370 ext. 115, Fax: 1866-339-5100,

Email: [jpruitt@breakingground.net](mailto:jpruitt@breakingground.net), Web Page: [www.breakingground.net](http://www.breakingground.net)



## Tate from page 5

neighborhood is revitalized. "I like poetry that tells stories that are uplifting as well as stories about family," said Tate's Aunt, Gussie Dye. "Some stories can be depressing."

Tate's journey into reciting the spoken word and performing began 38 years ago on the Crown School yard where he would entertain friends, foes and strangers with poems by the late Chicago poet, Gwendolyn Brooks.

Tate was born in 1959 and lived in the second floor apartment at 1938 S. Trumbull. "I could have done this shoot

anywhere, but I had to come back here," Tate said, as we walked in the Slumbuster's Garden on the 1900 block of South Trumbull. The documentary was also filmed on the steps of 1934 S. Trumbull with family members and neighbors. "Marcella Oglesby commented, "There are three generations here.

Trumbull has always been a close knit block." The documentary will air at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, on *Center Stage* - a program that showcases a wide variety of talented musicians, dancers and storytellers from throughout the state of Illinois.

Tate's career quickly took off as he discovered Chicago's booming "Performance Poetry" scene. In 1993 he met multi-instrumentalist LeRoy Bach (formerly of Wilco, 5ive style), and they began a musical partnership that continues strong to this day. Bach's insight and deft musicianship perfectly compliment Tate's wit, imagery, and keen story telling. During that time Tate also formed and led the

hyperbolic soul band D-settlement. The band's live shows combined raucous soul, spoken word, performance art, punk, and ghoulish gospel. Dubbed by Mos Def as Chicago's own P Funk Poet on HBO's Def Poetry Jam (season 4, episode 7), Tate is an innovative performer, a visual artist, and an author. His first book of poems, *A Schoolyard of Broken Dreams* was published in 1994 by Tia Chu Cha Press.

D-settlement shared the stage with Ken Nordine, Bernie Worrell, Euphone, Antibalas, Kelly Hogan, the Last Poets, the late Wesly Willis, and members of the AACM until its disbandment in 2003. Tate has also performed with Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, the late Malachi Thompson, Annie Sprinkle, The Eternals, Tim Kinsella, Bernie Worrell, the late Oscar Brown Jr., and many others. He has also appeared on National Public Radio and This American Life.

## Biz from page 6

*number one priority and everyday I strive more for him and of course my music."*

Actress Stacey Dash has broken three ribs on the set of a new reality show that she is part of called Celebrity Circus. Two other people on the show have had injuries also. What was they thinking of when they joined this show anyway. Check it out of Fox, I think. Ireally don't feel like looking it up to make sure.

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

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

## EAR HUSTLIN' The Continued Mis-Education of the Negro

Joe Castro

I used to be a special teaching assistant for a school district in Central Illinois; so when people talk about the dismal state of education in Chicago, I know personally that most of these concerns are shared throughout other school districts in Illinois.

Every school year, and throughout the school year, we catch glimpses of the dire state of Chicago Public Schools on the evening news, in news articles, and in radio commentary. We hear about the budget problems, the dropout rate, truancy, and a myriad of other factors that plague our school system. A couple of weeks ago, an elder African-American gentleman who was also waiting for the bus asked me why don't people from younger generations (read: young black kids) value education anymore.

Obviously it was a rhetorical question, but I thought about it from both the perspective of a Chicago Public School graduate and as a former school district employee. Upon further introspection, I had to let the youth off the hook to a certain extent. I believe our schools' problems start at the administrative end, and trickle down to what's left of our student body. I have visited schools that have had three or four assistant principals; does anyone know why an elementary school would need so many assistant principals? Clearly, and I speak from experience, this can at times lead to confusion/differences/miscommunications about the most effective approaches to educating Chicago's students (you know what they say about too many chefs in one kitchen).

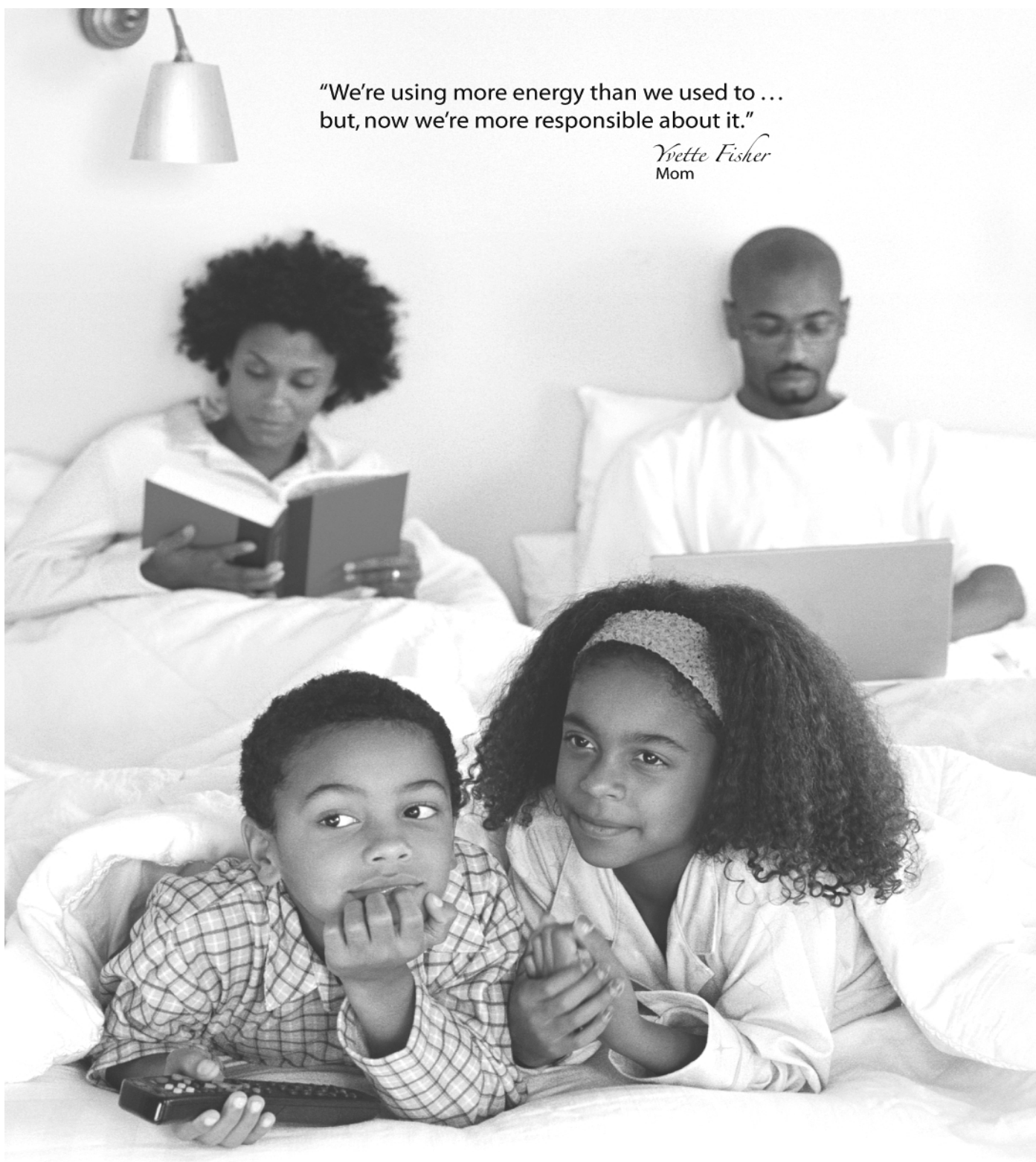
In my former teaching environment, I immediately noticed that our children were being treated like test scores and legal liabilities. There was a fight between two of my students; they were sixth-graders, and no one was injured. The students were brought into the dean's office, where one of the three assistant principals for the school, the special education director (one of the students involved possessed special education needs), and I were present. Generally speaking, little sixth-grade boys fight usually for no reason in particular; but what disturbed me about this altercation was the fact that the situation started brewing the day before when the students were involved in a shoplifting incident.

I concerned myself with expressing to the other administrators that we needed to get the parents involved for both the fight that took place during school hours, and the shoplifting which was the precursor to the fight. Silly me; the administrators were fretful that the fight may not have been broken up according to protocol, and the school may face legal liability for such occurrence. The students were ultimately punished for their fight (one day of detention), but there was no discussion of the students' after-school activities. The assistant principal (a different one than the one who was actually present for the initial conference, mind you) informed me that "no one has time" to deal with the issues that take place away from school.

Incidents such as that one, and a couple of others which I'm sure I'll get around to sharing someday, led to my potential career in education to be a short-lived one (slightly over a year). I guess I could have toughed it out, but at the time I perceived the situation to be so hopeless, that like many of the students of today, I found it easier to just drop out. I was an adult that the school system had driven away; imagine what it must be like to be a child in that school system.

"We're using more energy than we used to ...  
but, now we're more responsible about it."

*Yvette Fisher*  
Mom



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### ANNOUNCEMENT

**SUNRISE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM O'FALLON, MO** is sponsoring the Marcy Center and the Lawndale community in a "FREE" Outdoor Concert, Cook Out, Face Painting, Jumping Jack and Chicago Fire Department. Alderman Dixon, 24th Ward, Robert Steele, and Arthur Turner will be present. When: **Wednesday, June 18, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm** Location: **MARCY CENTER** 1539 South Springfield. Call 773/762-2300 (Mrs. Barbara S. Tucker)



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### Living from page 7

maintenance work and now finds himself free of the desire to do any chemicals. "Marijuana is the key to all of the problems by it being the gateway drug. Today though, I find myself doing things I haven't done in years. I at that time didn't care about myself".

Nathaniel Bell an Austin HS graduate found himself in search of something later in life that he already had. He expressed it in this way, "I retired at the age of 36. I had worked with the Jessie White Tumblers for years and began advertising as a career with the Johnson Publishing Company." He then said what had been his downfall by saying, "I became addicted to heroin in 3 tries. I would fall asleep everywhere. This led to my being sent for treatment by the company."

Mr. Bell finished by saying, "I have been in and out of the facilities 8 times for the same things. But it was only the 7th time that I finally accepted responsibility for my actions, and that has allowed me to be more conscious and to know that I can now tell young people that you don't have to go through what I went to know that it is not worth your time."

Anthony Jones in his words was incarcerated for a crime he did not commit that is now under review. He was charged with Murder. He was a student at Orr high school and saw a family member who was making money. It attracted him and he began his on enterprise. Unfortunately it was the sale of illegal narcotics. At one time his take was \$25,000 dollars a week which he said was pocket change. But he was hospitalized after someone took that amount from him and left him several bullets as a souvenir or their calling card, whichever you prefer. After his release from the hospital he returned to his so called lucrative career of selling drugs.

### Flicks from page 7

Here's what I'm saying. Can't we, for starters, at least agree that there's an enormous degree of comfort — total comfort, actually — in knowing that you don't need a condom to protect yourself from a sexually transmitted disease, because you're with your wife and you're being intimate within the God-ordained parameters of holy matrimony?

Can't we agree that it feels good to be able to ride in the car with the wife and not worry about sweatin' bullets when the cell phone rings (and it's the "immoral woman" on the other end of the line)? Can't we agree that it feels good to know that you don't have to argue over why you refuse to answer that annoying, ringing cell phone? Of course we can agree.

Can we agree that it's much better to have sex, or engage in physical intimacy, with the wife than it is to be that intimate with any other woman? I mean, think about it. Is (illicit) sexual pleasure really worth the heartache and headache that it causes all parties involved — you, your wife, the other woman, the unborn child, the children you already have with your wife? Everyone is affected, and to a great degree, everyone is hurt.

Now, the issue surfaces regarding child support payments — money that should be spent on family matters instead of an obligation because of an outside affair, or adultery. And the truth be told, one must remember that the devil,

himself, has staked out many a man, becoming aware of certain weaknesses, especially where it relates to the lust issue (Judges 16:1,4; Judges 16:5,6,15-21).

In other words, the enemy, Satan, will not send anything your way that won't at least cause you to pause and consider it. If you're a man, and you're not into other men, the devil won't waste his time sending a man your way to consider having an affair with. On the other hand, if another woman can at least get your attention, the enemy will see to it that you're presented with the opportunity to taste her lips, tailor-made to be as sweet as honey, with a mouth tailor-made to be "smoother than oil" to you.

To break it down further, this woman will tell you everything you wanna hear (James 1:13-15). It all sounds sweet and captivating, but it's all part of a demonic plan to ensnare you and lure you away from God's purpose and plan for your life. (Quick message to the wives: whatever reasonable request your husband makes that you decline is the one the "immoral woman" offers to fulfill. Believe that.)

What these scriptures are saying to the brothers is, before you let your mind drift away to fantasy island, remember the wisdom that is being shared with you now. A woman who doesn't have your best interest at heart will ultimately help you wreck your marriage and possibly end your life after demolishing your once good name.

Wives, the wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands (Proverbs 14:1). Be wise.

The Rev. Donald Lee can be contacted at [pastordonjlee@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordonjlee@yahoo.com) or (225) 773-2248.

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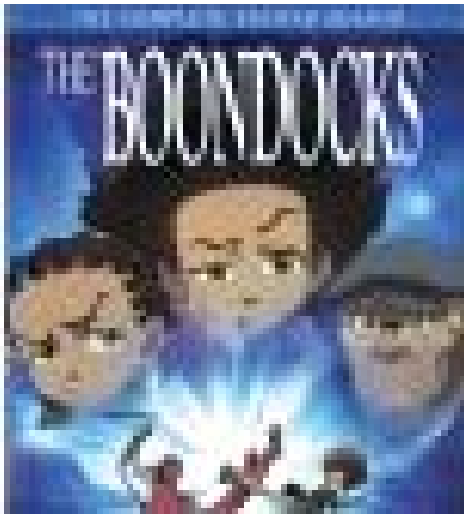
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# ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David H. Schultz



**THE BOONDOCKS: The Complete Second Season** (\*\*1/2) Chi-born cartoonist Aaron McGruder's outrageous comic strip in which two brothers, left winger Huey and rap fan, Riley continues to raise havoc and social consciousness through their experiences living in the suburbs with their irascible granddad through fifteen episodes that aired over Turner's Cartoon Network's "Adult Swim" late night block.

This unconventional series with its anime style, radicalism and satire continues to be fearful and controversial that whatever Family Guy" does to push their envelope. This series shamelessly tears theirs wide open In fact, there are two unaired episodes included in this three disc set that were critical of black oriented and co-owned cable outlet, BET as a satirical cancer destroying African Americans through their programming that led to a recent published threat of a lawsuit by the cable network.

Going one step further than his white political pundits, Mc Gruder 's topical and social nature of his comic strip creation strive on such controversy to help point up the inaccuracies in

our society from all sides, especially within ourselves. "The Boondocks" is more than leisure entertainment; it's a daring and committed cartoon series with a conscious. You might laugh a little, but you are meant to think a lot.

Most of the aired episodes provide more than their share of truth within the humor, done like a bee sting to our senses and often not meant to flatter our sensibilities. The series contains episodes here that have their moments of comedic brilliances and irony.

The Uncle Ruckus Reality Show is a clever a spoof on reality TV that shows the old man who subscribes to white beliefs, but whose suddenly made to realize he too is black. Granddad raking his boys and their friend to the movies and doing cost cutting maneuvers is like revealing a small taboo. And there are issues firmly tackled like the fear and ignorance on Black snitching.

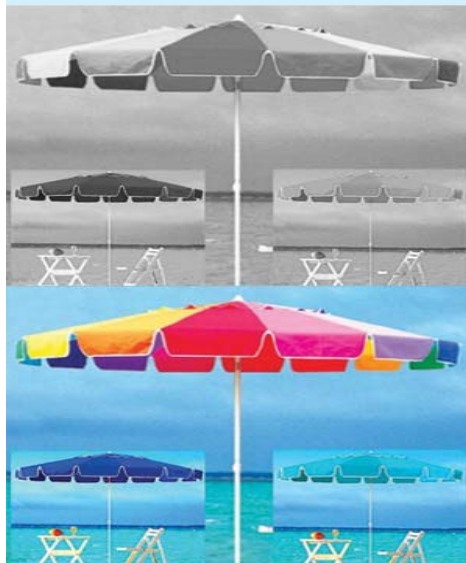
"The Boondocks" might be considered too hot. But considering the outlet animation has become and mostly is used to get away. The disc contains special features with interviews, comments that offer insight and information that enlighten the audience. The Boondocks' prolific jabs has design the perfect format into pushing its messages and concern on an imperfect society. Unabashed and arrogant by its frank attitude The Boondocks" dares to be what few live action TV series and movies are willing to say and do.

**Coming Soon to Home Video:** Owen Wilson tries to be a bodyguard to a trio of kids in "Drillbit Taylor" available July 1... Horror flick The Ruins" arrives July 8...The Rolling Stones teams with director Martin Scorsese e for their latest music documentary, "Shine A Light" due July 29...Britney Snow stars in this horror remake, "Prom Night arriving Aug. 19.

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

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## Summitt from page 4

States Attorney Office of Cook County, the Cook County Public Defenders Office, CAPS, The Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Bar Association, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Pastors United for Change, the Westside Ministers Coalition and the Prisoner Review Board.

"The opportunity to get these young men some help and direction in their search and quest to be treated fairly when it comes to the employment process is vital and I feel especially blessed that we're able to host programs and outings such as this one that can allow the people to gain the access to something better for themselves," said Minster William Watson, who attended the summit as a volunteer. "We are talking about men who have education, some even college and the training skills to do any job adequately but are held down by past mistakes."

Among the services provided were Adult Felony expungement, Adult felony Sealings, Adult Misdemeanor Expungement and Juvenile Record Expungement. Also on hand were workers from the Illinois Coalition on Immigration and from the Rainbow Push Latino chapter. "More and more Hispanics are trying to branch out into employment that includes more than just general labor and housekeeping and sadly, some are boggled down by past criminal records as well as being unable for certain educational benefits because of a criminal past. Therefore we want to show people the correct way to improving their lives and getting away from the negativity of a criminal past." Said Michael Granetti of RPLC.

Also there was information on Job Training for IDES for those who were looking to head off into the workforce. Kenneth Griffin from the Department of Illinois Security said "There are many possible jobs out here that we know many ex offenders are qualified for or are either looking to get into. It's our job to provide these opportunities for everyone regardless of past actions. By doing so, especially for the ex offender, we can start to affect real change and progress in our neighborhoods so I for one am definitely thankful to be here. There are more expungement summits to follow over the coming summer months, including one held by the offices of Congressman Davis and another one by the RPLC.

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## Flicks from page 7

those old kung fu movies we watched in our youth; that were cartoon-ish in their own ways (such as one versus thousands in battle, jumping from mountain top to mountain top, the ultra fast movements, etc.)

Clearly a fun movie to watch with an underscoring moral tone and an unintentional jab at our obesity dilemma; "Kung Fu Panda" is funny and exciting A simplistic family movie with visual broad appeal.

PG; 91 min. A DreamWorks SKG Pictures- Distributed by Paramount Pictures

**WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER?** (\*\*) An undermined, insecure but married man has difficulty finding reconciliation and reaching the final point in seeing normalcy in his father's behavior before his health deteriorate from cancer that eventually took away what the son knew of his domineering father.

This serves as the basic elements in this British imported, father and son relationship melodrama based on Blake Morrison's 1989 memoirs. "When Did You Last See Your Father?" is a small tearjerker made more plausible by Jim Broadbent in a fine performance as the father who lived and enjoyed "to talk his way in and out of anything."

Always the loving and concern son, Blake becomes quite somber from the news that his father is stricken and has little time left to live. So Blake begins to go on a quest for answers from others to better understand the man he love yet dominated his life

But the film shows us more points than counterpoints, as the movie falls short somewhere in the middle to a mundane level. In which everybody connected to Blake's



Jack Black in Kung Fu Panda.

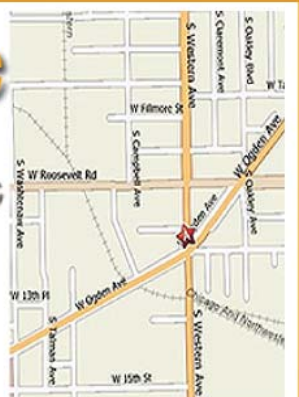
father seem to be missing the passion and energy to speak their mind. Or maybe they taught the father would pay enough attention to see the pain he puts on his loved ones.

They all seem to accept Blake's father as is. Blake approaches his mother about their relationship. She didn't like it but she lived with it. This is logical but not acceptable especially for Blake who has his father's tender and occasionally humorous abuse that seems to inhibit Blake in his own life.

This movie has interesting performances, but falls short on the emotion and tears this movie wants us to feel. The familiarity of the characters doesn't brings us enough apathy and insight. PG-13; 92min. A Sony Pictures Classics 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.*

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## Covenant from front page

inadequate bookkeeping. A few years ago it received a cease and desist order by bank regulators. It was then acquired by International Bank of Chicago.

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office in the Forest Park Mall located at 7610 W. Roosevelt Road. Also, its customers are no longer assessed a fee when using bank-owned ATM machines. They soon hope to reestablish internet banking and other on-line commercial banking service. Welcome to North Lawndale, Covenant Bank!

For more information on Covenant Bank, please call Phone: (773) 533-6900, Fax: (773) 533-8215 or visit them at 1111 South Homan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60624.

## Apartments from front page



continue to change now that LCDC and others have come along and helped to upgrade the community with projects like the Fountain View Apartments.

The Fountain View project has been in effect since 2004, when the Chicago Housing Authority selected LCDC (Lawndale Christian Development Corporation) to develop Fountain View. Up until that point it had been a 53 unit property that had been vacant for 10 years and home to much illegal activity for a lot of that time.

“That building has seen everything from drug sales to low key prostitution,” said Sally Davies, a Lawndale and Douglas Blvd. resident. “It’s good to see it improved and fixed up now so hopefully some families can make the neighborhood a little better, a little more family oriented, something we have definitely been missing around these parts.”

Fountain View is filled to 100% capacity. Two bedroom apartments are renting for about \$700 per month. Included among the 45 apartments are 21 two-bedroom units, 18 three-bedroom units and 6 four-bedroom units. In keeping with

HUD’s section 504 requirements, nine of the units on the ground and first floor levels are accessible and adaptable for persons with disabilities. A one-story lift provides accessible access to the first floor. Every apartment has been wired for cable television and high-speed Internet access. Each of the 45 families will also receive a free computer from One Economy and free training in LCDC’s computer center. Michelle Morton was on hand to make the presentation for One Economy.

Minister Tammie Simms labeled as the star resident, found out about the Fountain View Apartments through meeting Ms. Jackson serving as “Principal for A day” at Herzl School. This was at a time “when I desperately needed an apartment,” Min. Simms. She was paying \$600 previously and now pays \$700 for two bedrooms.

Community residents, city officials, and invited were allowed to view the last model apartment which was already rented out and had to be readied for its new tenants after this final showing. The apartments are really nice. They have a great view,” said Ms. Nance an endearing North Lawndale resident. Ms. Ida Walker, another lifelong community resident who also works as a leasing agent at LCDC’s resident management office was on hand for the model apartment tour after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Alderwoman Sharon Denise Dixon, Pastor Wayne Gordon, City of Chicago-DOH Commissioner Ellen Sahli and Chicago Housing Authority’s CEO Lewis A. Jordan, and Pastor Wayne Gordon of Lawndale Community Church, were part of the ribbon cutting party in front of the building.

LCDC is also working on another multi-unit project at the end of the block just east of the Fountain View Apartments. If you are interested in getting in a bid on one of these newly remodeled units, I’d say put your bid in early. Lawndale Christian Development has gained tremendous expertise and customer satisfaction from their tenants, and their clients who have bought homes. Their apartments are very nice and very affordable. For more information call 773 762-8889.