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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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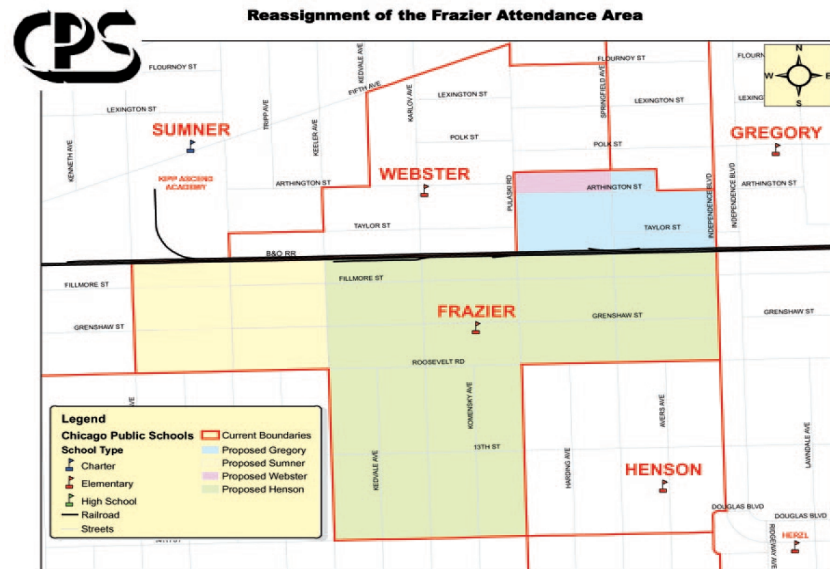
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March 15- March 28, 2006

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

IL STATE HOUSE PASSES BILL TO COUNTER RENAISSANCE 2010 SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Wilbert Bledsoe



On March 2, the Illinois House of Representatives passed a bill that requires the Chicago Board of Education to notify the public about possible school closings 6 months in advance and provide public hearings before voting to close schools.

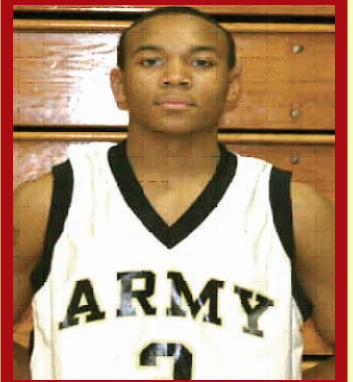
House bill 2012, co-sponsored by Representatives: Calvin Giles (D- 8th District) and Cynthia Soto (D- 4th District), mandates that if any party objects to a school's closure, the Board and the

objecting parties must meet with a federal mediator. If no resolution is reached within 60 days, then the Board of Education cannot close the school until the proposal is presented to voters in the school's local attendance area and voted on in a general election and approved by a majority of voters. If voters do not approve of the proposal then the Board cannot close the school during the current school year or the next school year.

The bill is presently in the Illinois Senate. The Senate had not voted on the measure at press time. The bill will become state law if the Senate approves of the measure. Representative Giles was

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WINS EVENT FOR
THE BLACK
KNIGHTS: DUBBED
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MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANNED FOR THE WEST SIDE

Wendell Hutson

After years of neglect the North Lawndale community on the West Side can expect new, affordable housing units thanks to the city taking control of 1,100 units set for redevelopment.

The Chicago Department of Housing recently transferred the Lawndale Restoration and Douglas Lawndale Buildings to 23 developers who will redevelop the properties into affordable housing.

"Our goal is to rehabilitate over 1,100 units of housing and to preserve them as quality, affordable housing," said John G. Markowski, commissioner of housing. "This plan is about community revitalization and quality of life for the residents of North Lawndale."

The City approved a plan to turn control of the 104-building

complexes over to an approved mix of non-profit and for-profit developers.

The Lawndale Restoration development was originally a 100-building, Project-based Section 8 development. Three buildings were demolished leaving 97 buildings with 1,048 units of housing. Douglas Lawndale is comprised of seven buildings with 57 units. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



See Housing page 12 Some of the buildings along Douglas Boulevard at Albany to being set for redevelopment

SEVEN RECEIVE "SPIRIT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AWARD"



Awardees and attendees of the "Spirit of Youth Awards" held at the Douglas Park Cultural Center

Harris Bank and the Steans Family Foundation presented the "Spirit of Youth Development Awards" to Nicole Cabell-Pope, Tiffany Childress, Tommie Jackson, Angela Mason, Sheila Oliver and Stanley Ratliff. The award recognizes people who have significantly contributed to the overall health and well-being of North Lawndale youth. The awards to the winners were handed out by Mary Houpt, executive director of the Harris Bank Foundation.

The luncheon for the event was dedicated to the memories of Gloria

Jenkins and Rosie Lee Brown. Gloria Jenkins who was the Executive Director of WACA, the Westside Association for Community Action and Rosie Lee Brown, the leader in the organization Women for Social Change which provided alternative activities for youth. Both Ms. Jenkins and Ms. Brown recently departed this life earlier this year.

Awards were also given to the nominees, Novella Bates, Willie Brooks, Ann Elizabeth Bunch, Maurice Campbell, Ted Christians, Anna Cook, Jared Cooper, Will Daley, Sandra Glenn, Carlan Jones, Pamela McCain, Cedric Pope, Mary Quinn, Myra Sampson, Willie

Smith, Steven Space, Robert Stuart, William Tolbert, Carolyn Turner, and Dr. Nicole Turner-Lee. Robin Steans was in attendance and handed awards to the nominees.

The idea was brought to Reginald Jones, executive director of the Steans Family Foundation, by Mariame Kaba, the Program Officer for Education and Youth Development. "Since Harris Bank Foundation has been involved in North Lawndale for sometime, I just brought it to Mary Houpt at their Foundation and asked would this be something that they would support," said Mariame.

Harris Bank Foundation gave
See Seven page 17

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

THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is published bi-weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to us 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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**North Lawndale Community News
Winner of the
2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award**

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

**Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
Residents of the 7th Congressional District**

# NLCN 2006 Focus Health, Education & Welfare

The primary focus for SHS/ NCLN during 2006 will be Health, Education, and Welfare. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness especially in an economy driven society. Welfare is unavoidable in showing man's humanity (love) toward man. All year long NLCN will concentrate and focus on more articles related to health, education and our welfare through our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

There is a great disparity in the statistics of the health of a majority of our community areas. This announcement of newsprint is too small to go into great detail, but some resources that can help affirm the state of our health can be found in a survey conducted by the Sinai Health System titled Improving Community Health Survey, "The State of Black Health Care" published as a health supplement in a special edition of the Philadelphia Tribune and the Chicago Tribune in November 2005 and "Natural Cures" at www.naturalcures.com. Our articles and links will point to other resources that will go into greater detail because health, education and welfare are their core missions, ours stands as messengers. The natural cures, an interestingly new area to the masses in our society leads to solutions that have been overlooked by mainstream medicine and some corporations maybe because of the love of money or closed minded doubt to even investigate better ways to better health, or not get sick.

Education can reduce and minimize high rates of unemployment and underemployment, produce healthier citizens, and reduce the dependency on traditional welfare. The Westside is changing but not always in favor of the less fortunate who have lived here for years. Throughout the year, we will connect North Lawndale resident with resources in these areas. The North Lawndale Community News will continue to provide news and information on people, issues, and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus for the previous years. Becoming an intelligent people we can also participate and benefit in making our community a model neighborhood. We hope by reading our community newspaper you become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life.

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# RE-ELECT REP. CALVIN GILES



"Representative Giles is a tireless worker and a skilled leader. When I served in the Illinois General Assembly, I knew Calvin to be a colleague you can trust. On March 21, I urge you to re-elect someone who has earned your confidence.

Vote for a proven leader.

Re-Elect Calvin L. Giles,  
A Clear Choice."



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MARK #22**

**MARCH 21 • 2006**



## To Your Health

### New Senior Medicare Plan Creates Confusion and Chaos

Kabuika Kamunga

Despite the widespread confusion and administrative chaos, one-fourth of eligible senior citizens have signed up for the new Medicare prescription drug plans and are enjoying their promised benefits.

Some are seeking help at pharmacies and senior centers to choose a drug plan, while others prefer to decide on their own, browsing the Medicare Web site.

Medicare Part D is an insurance plan for prescription drugs. It's for folks 65 and over, many of whom have high drug costs, regardless of their income or health status. Individuals with limited income may qualify for financial help, such as through the Illinois Cares RX program. People must select their own plan from a bewildering variety of offerings by various insurance companies. Premiums, deductibles and coverage vary substantially.

"We have signed up in early December," said Harrington, a 78-year-old resident of Libertyville who chose the Medicare AARP drug plan. "It came into effect January 1."

During a trip to New York in January, Harrington fell sick with bronchitis.

"I had a letter from our insurance because the card had not yet arrived," Harrington said in a telephone interview. "I just used my letter for identification and they gave me a discount at the pharmacy." "One of the prescription drugs for bronchitis was \$98 and we paid \$26," Harrington said. "So that was quite a savings."

Harrington said it was not easy to decide looking through Medicare booklets; she and her husband discussed the different options for about a month.

Another way to sign up is online. The Medicare Web site has a step-by-step prescription drug plan finder, listing 43 plans available in Illinois.

An online instruction demonstration uses VCR-like functions to pause, rewind and play the presentation. Instructional tips are written in bold, large print.

Out of the 42 million people eligible for Medicare, 20.4 million already have drug coverage through military and federal coverage (3.1 million), retiree coverage (6.4 million), managed care coverage (4.7 million) and Medicaid coverage (6.2 million), according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Of the remaining 21.6 million seniors eligible to enroll individually in Medicare Part D, only 24.5 percent, or 5.3 million, have signed up. Nearly 298,000 Illinois residents have signed up. Many have not.

"We have not signed up because it is too damn complicated," said William "Ned" Lauterbach, an 84-year-old resident of Evanston, Ill. "I may just go to Blue Cross & Blue Shield and say 'o.k. I'll sign up with you.' That's about where I stand."

At The Lawndale Christian Health Center, Insurance Counselor Benjamin Rubio helps 20-30 seniors per week sign up to the various Medicare drug plans.

"The most confusing thing about these plans is they don't all cover the same medication," said Rubio, whose center has been busy informing seniors. "Seniors are looking for a plan that covers all their medication and [takes] less money out of their pocket."

Rubio said few seniors in the Lawndale community have actually saved from their drug plans.

"They're not happy at all with Medicare Part D," he said. "Some of them used to pay less before and now they have to pay a premium and a co-pay."

With several seniors in the Lawndale community living on social security income, Rubio urged them to apply for extra financial help for the Medicare drug plans.

According to Rubio, to qualify for extra help, "you have to be making less than \$11,500 per year if you're single or widow and less than \$23,000 if married."

Florence Jacobson, an 80-year-old resident of Evanston, signed up promptly to take advantage of the drug discounts. She urged people who do not have a drug plan to sign up for the cheapest plan before the May 15 deadline. "You have to take a plan," Jacobson said. "If you don't take a plan, every month you don't take it, they add 1 percent."

With three more months to go before the May deadline, elderly people are trickling down to pharmacies and senior centers to get help with their

decision.

The Lawndale Christian Health Center will organize two seminars on April 6 and April 11 at Advocate Bethany and Mount Sinai hospitals. For more information, you can contact the center at 773-843-3000.

"A lot of seniors might get left out because they don't know what plan to choose," Rubio said. "So we want to let the word out and encourage [them] to go and apply. I would hate to see seniors get penalized."

*Kabuika Kumunga is a native of the 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.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

### FRESH PRODUCE IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH AND THE COMMUNITY

Todd Thomas

You've heard it all before – "eat your veggies," or "an apple a day keeps the Doctor away." Those old adages you heard as a child are starting to crop up in adult conversation more frequently these days as people learn about and respect the health benefits of fresh produce.

Desiring fresh produce is one thing; acquiring it is another, as there is not an abundance of fresh produce available in inner-city communities like Chicago's west and south sides. Solutions to this dilemma are there for those willing to make an effort and many options were presented at this past weekend's Family Farmed Expo at the Chicago Cultural Center downtown.

Events like these used to attract few African-Americans but many were present at the expo and former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun

was one of the keynote speakers. Moseley Braun, who is now out of public service is opening an organic food store (Good Food Organics) on the south side in May.

Several workshops at the expo focused on how to obtain healthy food in the community. Topics included: Community Gardens, CSA food baskets, and supporting local farmers.

**Community Gardens:** Community Gardens are neighborhood gardens where people in the community grow plants and vegetables that are then sold within the community or at least within the city. The West Side has an abundance of gardens that fit this description and 15 are in North Lawndale. Some of the benefits of locally grown vegetables are freshness, better taste and reasonable prices. The

**See Produce page 13**

## A PROSTATE SCREENING CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

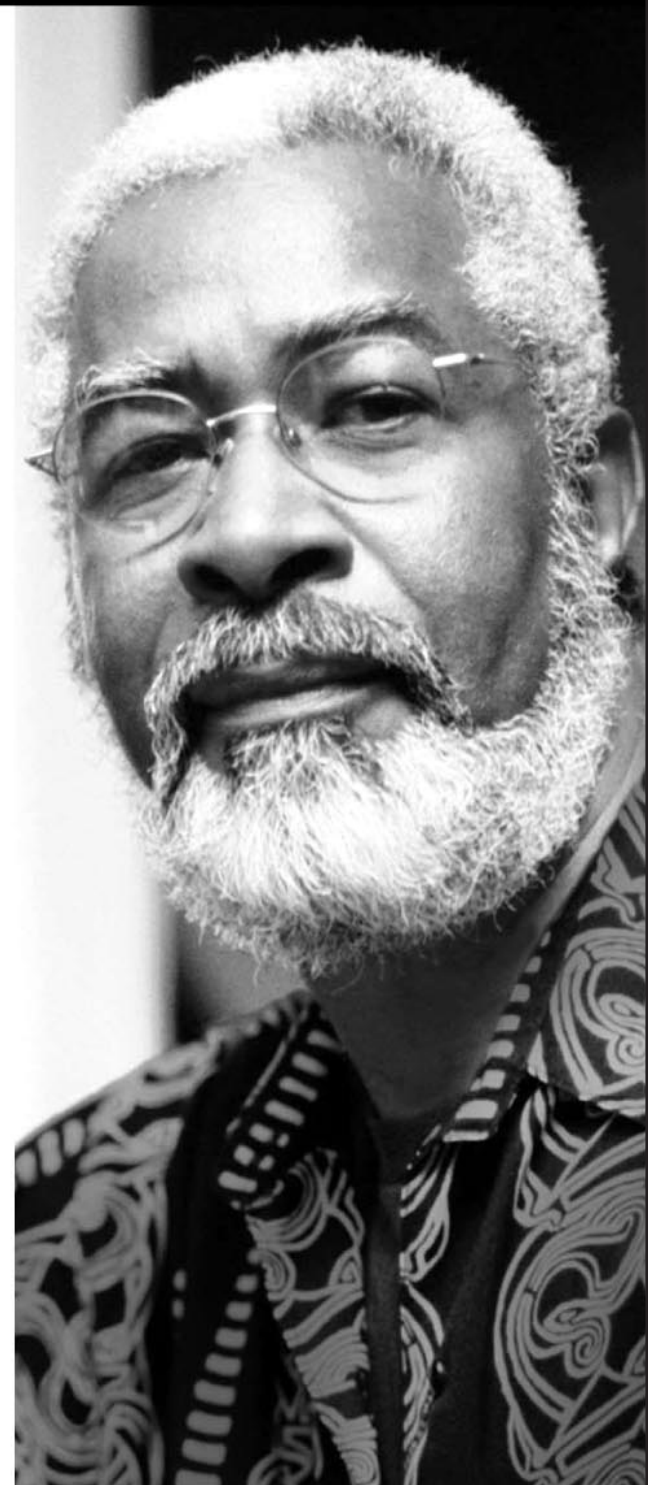
### Are you overdue for your prostate exam?

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men in the U.S. with an estimated 220,000 new cases each year. Yet, when detected in the early stages when cancer is confined to the prostate gland, there is an excellent chance for a cure.

That's why West Suburban Medical Center, in conjunction with Sisters Embracing Life, is offering men aged 50-75 a FREE prostate specific antigen blood draw and blood pressure screening.

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# La Shawn K. Ford



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## Is a life-long resident

La Shawn K. Ford is a life-long resident of the 8<sup>th</sup> District. He is now a leading contender and candidate for the State Representative of the 8<sup>th</sup> District, as a Democrat. Ford attended Loyola University Chicago and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, with a minor in political science.

## Served as a school teacher

After serving as a public school teacher at Bridge Elementary School, Ford continued to have a serious interest in education. Ford taught history and served as a basketball and softball coach.

## A successful business leader

Ford, a successful business leader in Chicago and Oak Park. Ford is the founder of Ford Desired Real Estate. In 6 years, Ford built a successful real estate firm starting with only himself and one other real estate agent. Today, Ford Desired Real Estate has 4 offices and over 50 professional real estate agents and brokers.

As the Chairman of Learning through the Arts Society, Ford is working with developers, clergy and Congressman Danny K. Davis to rehab HUD foreclosures that will greatly benefit the public.

## Legislators must advocate

Ford believes that in today's trying times, in addition to passing laws, legislators must advocate. As a result, Ford will also lead a public advocacy campaign to bridge public and private collaborations to help the district's schools. Ford will convene regular Town Hall Meeting to hear from residents about their concerns.

## Involved in community activities

Ford has long been involved in community activities. He is the founding organizer of the Zawadi Youth Group, Vice-President, Changing a Generation Foundation, Board of Directors, Austin YMCA, Member of 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Housing Committee, Founding Chairman, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Hurricane Katrina Relief Committee. Ford is a member of the Chicago Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

## Educating the business community

After growing up in Chicago's inner city, Ford understands the challenges that people with criminal backgrounds are confronted with. As a result, he is also educating the business community and general public about hiring people with criminal backgrounds that are no longer a threat to society.

## Recognized by his peers

Over the years La Shawn K. Ford has received recognition from his peers in the real estate arena as well as in community life. Ford received the "Outstanding Achievement Award" and the "Realtors Excellence in Performance Awards" from the Chicago Association of Realtors. Ford also received the "Business Owner of the Year Award" from the African American Business Network Association, the "Outstanding Community Service Award" from Changing A Generation Foundation and the Office of State Senator Don Harmon, and the "Christifideles" Award presented by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Ford has one daughter, Tia.

- ✓ **Honesty**
- ✓ **Integrity**
- ✓ **Accessibility**
- ✓ **Leadership**

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**La Shawn K. Ford said, "As Your Representative, I Will Stand for:"**

## Education

- Working with School and Law Enforcement Officials to Provide Safer Schools and School Grounds
- Reducing Dependence on Property Taxes for School Funding
- Supporting Funding for Early Childhood Education
- Improving the Quality of Teachers through Funding for Continuing Education Development for Teachers
- Placing a Legal Limit on Class Size
- Supporting Scholarships for Higher Education Through Private-Public Partnerships
- Creating Programs Matching Public and Private Dollars to Improve the Quality of Education

## Public Safety

- Improve Illinois Department of Corrections
- Improve Rehabilitation of Incarcerated Individuals
- Establishment of pre and post assessment of incarcerated individuals to help facilitate their rehabilitation
- Support comprehensive reentry initiatives

## Health Care

- Affordable and Quality Health Care for All People
- Improved Access to Prescription Drugs, especially for Seniors
- Increased Health Education Programs that prevent diseases like HIV/AIDS
- Prevent Obesity in Kids with Nutritious Lunchroom Food in Schools.
- Comprehensive Mental Health Programs

## Quality of Community Life

- Work with the Entire 8<sup>th</sup> District to reduce crime and reach out to youth to prevent crime
- Working to improve air quality for all
- Promote the arts in all communities
- Improving the Quality of Life for Nursing Homes.
- Work to Protect Working Families and the Poor by Restoring LIHEAP Funding

## Economic Development & Housing

- Affordable Housing for Seniors and Low-Income Residents
- Support Preferred Contract Status for Creating New Jobs
- Stimulate Economic Development on Main Arteries throughout 8<sup>th</sup> District
- Good jobs that must be protected by strengthening the worker's right to organize and collectively bargain.
- Protect the rights of workers

A copy of our report is on file with the State Board of Elections.

**www.vote4ford.com**

**Punch 21**



# RE-ELECT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21



## ARTHUR L. TURNER

*Democrat • State Representative*

A 23-YEAR VETERAN OF THE  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

**ARTHUR TURNER HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN A CHAMPION FOR THE  
PEOPLE.**

### EDUCATION

- \$110 million more for Chicago schools
- Increased college financial aid by \$6 million
- Extended early childhood learning to 8,200 toddlers
- Working to increase state funds for Chicago Public Schools

### THE ECONOMY

- Backing property tax relief for homeowners and renters
- Opposed SBC's \$160 million hike in phone rates
- Provided \$66 million in tax relief to 750,000 workers

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Voted to close the gun show loophole
- Supported new laws to stop identity theft
- Passed new law to stop the spread of AIDS
- Supporting expansion of state health insurance programs

### CIVIL RIGHTS

- Enacted legislation to end racial profiling
- Passed landmark Death Penalty reforms
- Guaranteed equal pay for equal work for women

**PUNCH**

**21**

**PUNCH**

**21**

RE-ELECT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21

## ARTHUR TURNER

*Democrat • State Representative*

Paid for by Citizens for Arthur L. Turner



**Leroy Burton**

A copy of our report will be filed by the  
State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.



## Education &amp; Employment Training

# There Is No "Right Way" To Close A Chicago Public School: RENAISSANCE 2010 OR "REDLINING 2006?"

Derrick B. Harris, Commissioner of Education - North Lawndale Accountability Commission

Renaissance 2010 was presented to the public in 2004 as a solution to the problem of "failing" schools in Chicago. The plan was developed by the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, and supported by Mayor Daley and the Chicago Board of Education. Renaissance 2010 was hailed in the media as an innovative initiative to close 60-90 of Chicago's failing schools and open 100 "new" schools (one-third as charter schools, one-third as private contract schools, and one-third as CPS "performance" schools).

From the beginning, Renaissance 2010 has been met with widespread community opposition because everyone is not convinced that closing schools is the way to improve student academic achievement, nor community schools. Perhaps that explains why the Chicago Board of Education is one of the few districts in the nation that regularly closes low-performing schools. More importantly, and generally speaking, low-performing schools are in poor, black, and disenfranchised communities—and, high-performing schools are in rich, white, and privileged communities.

Renaissance 2010 is a bad policy with multiple harmful effects on black children because of the emphasis on closing schools. There is nothing in the research to suggest that closing schools improves student achievement. In fact, the opposite is true: school closings have adverse effects on children academically and socially. There are volumes of research to support this conclusion. Further, the process of school closings is fundamentally flawed, because it is not consistent with the four common-sense pillars of "No Child Left Behind"—especially, "an emphasis on doing what works based on scientific research." Renaissance

2010 also violates ESEA Title IV (Safe and Drug Free School Act) because it demonstrates a "reckless disregard" for the safety and security of (black) children.

There is no "right way" to close a Chicago public school: if the goal is to improve the academic achievement of students who are presently attending the school, then closing schools is not the best approach. A cost-benefit analysis clearly yields this conclusion—the "cost" of closing schools (i.e., safety & security problems, mobility, stressful academic & social adjustments, et al.) is not justified by the resultant "benefit" to the children who attend those schools. On the other hand, if the goal of closing schools is to improve educational options in "redlined communities"—while promoting gentrification, then perhaps one could rationalize: "the end justifies the means."

It seems that CPS does not understand that difference between "an excuse," and "a reason." The justification for Renaissance 2010 in general and school closings in particular has evolved from "underutilization" to "low-performance." According to one education writer, "the board has already made a number of changes to reduce the drama and frustration: 1) it announces school closings earlier in the year, 2) has clarified the criteria for closing schools, and, 3) gives kids the option of transferring to much better schools outside their immediate neighborhood. But the process remains way more disruptive and contentious than it has to be."

Renaissance 2010 is a social experiment initiated by Mayor Richard M. Daley, and the Civic

Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. In fact, "Renaissance 2010" is to education, what the "Tuskegee Experiment" was to healthcare, in the black community. Renaissance 2010 also disturbs many people because it primarily targets black children, causing irreparable "heart and mind damage." This is not only reprehensible, but also unacceptable.

From its inception, Renaissance 2010 has not been an open and transparent process. There was not meaningful parental involvement, no local community control of the process, nor was there any accountability to students, parents, and

the community. The North Lawndale Accountability Commission concludes: there is no "right way" to close a school—if the goal is to improve student academic achievement. We also believe that Renaissance 2010 will be Mayor Daley's snowstorm in 2007!

*Derrick Harris is a founding member of the North Lawndale Accountability Commission. He is recognized citywide as an education thought leader on Renaissance 2010, school reform issues, parental involvement and local community control of schools. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.*

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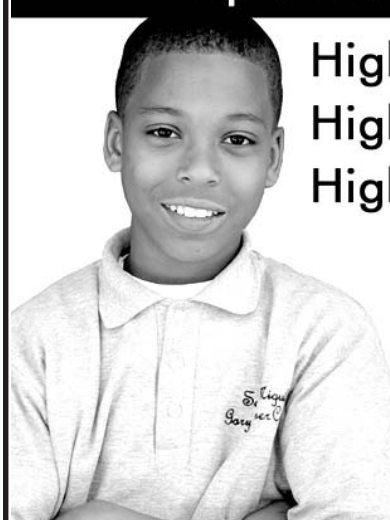
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# In the Mind of One: We Must Move Patiently

With Myleson Collins



Never did I think that I would have to stand here today on the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

To bring back a reality that was set 41 years ago, In which Dr. King enabled us to witness one of the greatest sources of motivation ever given, All for the better of our living.

But, still, sadly to say, at the turn of the century...we are still weary souls who are still wishing.

So I thought!

And realized!

The dream was given then.

Now we must carry out the mission.

He started the motivation.

Now I must be the one to bring it to a collision

With reality

With the flesh

With the mind

So the sun cannot only rest upon the outside, but from within we will shine.

Still at the turn of the century we consider

moving in the direction that sits opposite to the ground

That was given to us:

The ground that gave us the ability to dream

The ground on which we gained each other's trust

The ground that allowed us to be true and not move on lust

And the same ground that on a God Blessed day allowed chains, manacles,

Handcuffs and shackles

To rest on our weak bodies.

But OOOHHHHH!!!!

As a young boy I can't help but to speak in reminiscence

About those sad stories on 13<sup>th</sup> and Independence.

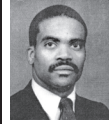
No longer should we allow each other to sit down on cracked concrete

And splintered wood steps

While pointing at people across the street like

See Patience page 16

# INTELLECTUAL HELOTRY (Part 2 of 4)



Julius Goodman

The origin of the secret began in America under the disguise of physical slavery in the 17th century. Around the year 1619 it is believed that the first 20 negars (original spelling of niggers) arrived in Virginia. Much of how the physical enslavement of black people began is a matter left to historians for continued debate. What is important for you to understand here is that slavery happened! A nation of people were taken from their homes, kidnapped, stolen, tricked, shackled and dragged to a whole new world for the purpose of servitude and bondage for their entire life.

This nation of people was called Africans, the ancestors of Black Americans. During this period of physical slavery, Black Americans were not allowed to develop morals and values. Their mentality was reduced to animal nature. The will to live life as human beings was taken away. They were called lazy, ignorant and stupid. These were the ethics of American society. Laws were passed to reflect these ethics. The social order was designed to enforce these ethics.

As America prospered, the needs of society began to change and slavery became a social problem. Society was divided with different interest groups. These interest groups represented pro and con attitudes toward the continued physical enslavement of Black Americans. However, the social interaction of these two interest groups resulted in laws that were passed to keep social control of Black Americans.

These laws were called Jim Crow laws that enforced social segregation. These laws became the reason that society was satisfied with just releasing Black Americans from physical bondage. It was not important to help Black Americans regain their mental strength. Jim Crow's end result: the legal

principal of slavery survived as a weapon of social control. And yet society expected Black Americans to adjust to the generally accepted social ways. But they could not adjust, they did not know how. When laws are designed to "keep them in their place", and society's actions enforce these laws, what reaction does society expect. This form of social disorganization created an imbalance in society. As long as society is not in balance it cannot fully prosper. To offset this imbalance, society had to justify it's actions, by blaming the problems of Black Americans on Black Americans. This resulted in social and psychological discrimination, mental slavery, and intellectual genocide for Black Americans. Racism was magnified and written into law.

The secret, hidden from the eyes of society; cleverly covered up; is the main cause of all social problems that emanate from the base of racism. And Black Americans are one of the direct targets of racism in America. The problem is nothing more than brain washing a nation of people into believing they can never be more than society allows them to be. Throughout history, for the most part, society has labeled Black Americans as lazy, irresponsible, cunning, rebellious, untrustworthy, and sexually promiscuous. And because of this deeply rooted societal value, the majority of society has convincingly instituted policies, symbols, and laws toward the degradation and continued social control of Black Americans.

Julius Goodman is poet and motivational speaker. He is also a student at National Louis University majoring in Behavioral Science. This article is Part two of a four part series. If you missed part one or would like to comment on the series visit our weblog at: [www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org) or call Mr. J. at: 773/ 387-5600.

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**Bill from front page**

unavailable for comment.

The bill comes on the heels of 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler's resolution asking the Board of Education to place a moratorium on school closings until more research is completed that measures the effectiveness of school closings on academic improvement. At a March 8<sup>th</sup> hearing before the City Council's Education Committee, more than 40 people testified in support of Chandler's resolution, but the committee did not vote on the resolution.

According to Committee Chairman, 40<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Patrick O'Connor, the city council cannot enact a direct moratorium on Chicago Public Schools or the Board of Education. The key point presented to the Education Committee was the harmful affects of school closings on children and their communities.

"To CCH any effort to improve the educational system must first and foremost take into consideration the children who are affected. Remarkably, that was not a concern of the Chicago Public School in crafting Renaissance 2010. Prior to the announcement of Renaissance 2010 in the summer of 2004, no study or evaluation was done by CPS to determine the affect that school closings would have on the academics of children who are in these schools; the children I call: "current learners," said Laurene Heybach, Director of the Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. "Renaissance 2010 is all about promises for the future."

Heybach, who represents homeless children in Chicago, said research indicates that student mobility,

**See Bill page 16**



## BETTER LIFE FOR YOUTH



Phil Costello, Executive Director of Youth Communications, which publishes New Expressions, a teen newspaper, giving a presentation to Better Life for Youth teens about journalism opportunities.

The Better Life for Youth organization is in the final stages of the taking their trip to historically black colleges in the Atlanta area. Recently, they received two donations that will help them in financing their educational tour and programs for the youth. State Senator Mattie Hunter of District 3 gave them a check \$10,500 to help them with taking 35 youth to visit all the historically black colleges in the Atlanta area.

On Friday March 10, a check for \$1,000 was presented to them by State Representative Ken Duncan of the 5<sup>th</sup> district. This was done at a press conference in the Cabrini Green Area. Staff, volunteers, and the kids that are going on the trip were in attendance.

"Better life for youth helped register up over 500 kids for healthcare for all kids in

Illinois sponsored by Governor Rod Blagojevich", said Wolf, Executive Director of Better Life for Youth. They accomplish this by helping the youth pre-fill out the necessary paperwork to take to their parents.

An upcoming for event for Better Life for Youth is a talent show that will be held at 2252 W. Washington on Friday March 21<sup>st</sup>. There are currently 15 different groups including rap groups, gospel groups, and singing groups. The prizes for the talent show are \$200 awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, and for 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners they will be awarded \$75. They are also planning a trip to Great America. To contact Better Life for Youth for more information on the talent show, the Great America trip or their other programs for youth, call 312 2343-9730 or 312 671-1026.

## Congratulations BROTHER'S BARBER AND BEAUTY SALON March Business of the Month



Left to right manager Cheryl Hunter, four of five employees, Deondre Burnett, Allen Vaughn, Shandell Washington, Duane Vaughan and customer Monnell Dean

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor Brother's Barber and Beauty Salon as March's North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month. Brother's Barber and Beauty Salon is located at 914 S. Western Ave. Hours of operation are 9am to 9pm Tuesday thru Saturday.

The business was started three years ago by Tyrone Hunter, when he was only 24 years-old. "My mother and my grandfather inspired me," said Tyrone who is married and has a 9 year-old son named after him. "I knew I had to do something."

Cheryl Hunter, Tyrone's mother said she was happy when he told her he was starting

the business because he could have been on the streets. The Hunters have always lived on the Westside of Chicago. Ms. Hunter said they came from low-income status where they lived on Lexington and California but they have always worked hard. "We struggled," she said.

Tyrone chose the business of hair since his childhood friends used to talk about doing hair when they were younger. A couple of those friends work in the salon that buzzes customers in and out. But in the beginning he had a problem getting more employees, even with advertisements, due to the recent crimes in hair salons.

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# NATZ CLOZET CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson



Steeve Kidd Debra Ray Audley Reid Merry Green and Steve Flowers

Saturday, March 11 was a wonderful day for proprietors, Steeve and Natalie Kidd. The weather was bright and sunny and the couple celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of their retail and consignment clothing store, NatZ CloZet, 2420 West Roosevelt Road. To commemorate the anniversary of the Apparel & Consignment Boutique, the co-owners thanked the public for its patronage by providing live entertainment.

Saxophonist, Audley L. Reid played tunes from his current CD: *A Plays E*, and flutist, Steve Flowers played tunes from his latest CD: *Play Time*. Flowers also played melodies, such as the Black national anthem: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and Whitney Houston's *Greatest Love of All* for the children that were at the store.

The co-owners also showed customer

support appreciation by giving 10 to 20% off selected items, in addition to its 25 to 50% off sale, they served Hors D'oeuvres and cold drinks to anyone who walked into the store that day, and Natalie gave special 'thank you' gifts to customers who have shown outstanding support of the small business.

Besides commenting on how orderly the items were arranged throughout the store and how great the prices are, people had other pleasant words to say about

NatZ CloZet and its owners. Audley L. Reid, a businessman himself, said he has known the Kidd's for over ten years. "I'm happy to see them both go out and pursue their dreams. Anytime you become a business owner there is always that immediate pressure of surviving in the business world . . . you have to enjoy that entrepreneur spirit.

"One thing I like about Steeve and his wife is that they have an emotional touch with their customers." Merry Green, of V103's Expo for Today's Black Woman, accompanied her friend Debra Ray. "I think it's wonderful," she said of the store, "because it has a combination of new items, current items, and it also has some resale items. And some



Natalie with Donnie, Andrea and Rhaema Brown

wonderful vintage clothing that you can't find in the stores anymore . . . at a good price."

She commented on small businesses saying, "I think it's really important for us to support black vendors and black businesses, so when I heard about it I said let's go see what they have.

"We felt welcomed when we came in. Everybody greeted us and made us very comfortable." She said sometimes when you're shopping downtown and in other stores you don't get that kind of greeting. "You felt they were glad to see you," she said of NatZ.

Steve Flowers said he met the Kidd's, "some years ago. We made a connection and became friends." He also commented about



Tiffany and others doing some serious shopping



Will & Loretta enjoying the festivities



Donisha choosing her size



Shaunlanda Brooks and Kim Jackson with Audley Reid



A couple of happy customers



James and Stella Preuitt

black-owned businesses saying, "I believe in supporting friends and African-American businesses, especially if they are good businesses. "I love quality; it's like good food. I don't mind spending money for quality. . . I'm a big cat. Steeve has some 3x's and 4x's. I will buy a shirt or two." It turned out that NatZ even had some 5x' and 6x's too!

James and Stella Preuitt who just celebrated their 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of marriage this month, stopped in to say hello to the Kidd's. They have been

customers of NatZ's since August of 2005. Ms. Preuitt told a cute little story of how she discovered NatZ. "My husband and I were driving down Roosevelt when I spotted this store. I said, 'we need to go in there one day. It looks like it has some very nice things. He said, 'okay we'll go.' But we didn't come back by here on the way back home. We went another direction.

"A few days went by and he comes in here by himself. He told them I didn't want to come, but that's a lie because he knows I love clothes," she said. "He comes in here and gets a suit. He comes back home with a nice suit and he says, I stopped up there in that little store. Here's a card. This is the name of it. So you know that ain't right," she laughed. "He put [the suit] on and wore it to church that Sunday and he advertised NatZ's little place," she said. Steeve said there is an instant connection and rapport with our customers. "This inspires us to open up daily," he said. Shanka Falls, a Chicago Public School music teacher said that day was her first time in the store, and that she will be going back again. "The store is inviting," she said. "The quality of the clothes is superb. There is something for everyone." She left saying NatZ is a well-kept secret.

Shawn and Donisha Crump also stopped in. Mr. Crump said there is always something there for him and that he never leaves empty handed. He wished the owners well and said he is "glad they made it through the first year."

Lanetta Smith, a friend of Natalie's, said it is a blessing to be a blessing, referring to the Kidds. She said that when she decides take something to the consignment store it is a donation, in keeping with the spirit of being a blessing.

Natalie gave special gifts to Linda Jennings, Tiffany Childress, Robert and Georgia Brown, Shaun Crump, and James and Stella Preuitt for their outstanding support and patronage throughout the year.

"I had in my mind that on [Saturday] there [were] particular people that blessed us in different ways through referrals, coming to our events, or they just stop in the store to say hi. I wanted to express our appreciation with a gift, said Natalie."

Amazingly, they already have plans of expanding the one-year-old business. "One of our goals is to hire two employees and begin to open a second store, said Steeve."

The Kidds want to thank the community and every customer they have had this past year. "We had an unexpected and wonderful turn-out Saturday," said Natalie. "We give everyone a heart-filled thank you. We would not have made it this far without your support and the love and guidance from our Lord Jesus," said Natalie. Steeve agrees.

NatZ CloZet is open Tuesdays & Fridays 10 am - 6 pm, Wednesdays & Saturdays 10 am - 5 pm, and Thursdays 10 am - 7 pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. The contact number is 312-226-7878.

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson is a poet and writer for NLCN and Residents Journal. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).



# REGGIE LEWIS Making the Most of His First Year in College



Reggie Lewis

North Lawndale College Prep graduate (class 2005) Reggie Lewis wasn't aiming to go to college early in his high school years. But with encouragement from his baseball coach and support from his parents he

eventually decided to pursue his education, enrolling at Hesston Junior College in Hesston, KS on a baseball scholarship in 2005.

After starting slowly Lewis is now the leadoff hitter for Hesston's baseball team. He leads the team in RBI's and batting average.

"It was tough at first because I sat out a year – I had a couple of kinks to get out but now I'm back on track," Lewis says.

Lewis says he wants to move up to a Division 1 school as soon as possible and he might wind up going to Western Illinois

University or Alabama A&M, two schools that his former coach at North Lawndale Prep, Brandon Lenore, says are interested in him.

Lewis says he would love to play pro baseball but he's not banking on it and academics are his top priority. He currently has a 2.6 GPA.

"I would play professionally if I get the chance but I'm not focusing my whole college career on it," he says.

Lewis will be majoring in engineering and currently he is getting his required courses taken care of. His days are full but he says playing sports and studying are working out fine.

"I have more than enough time to do my work after practice and the games," he says.

The biggest problem for Lewis thus far is the relatively small size of the town, which has a population of only 3,635, and some aspects of the school itself. Hesston College is affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA. The religion is a lot different than the churches he went to in Chicago.

"There are a lot of things they do

differently," Lewis says with a laugh. "It's not the same as a black church – I don't really enjoy it like I would a church back home."

The school also requires that students attend a 30-minute chapel session 24 times each semester. Lewis says he's not enjoying that too much either.

"If you miss a session you still have to listen to it on a CD and also write a one-page paper on it. Last semester I had to write 17," he says.

Another adjustment has been the lack of African-Americans on campus and in the town. Hesston's population is only 1.5 percent black. There are a few blacks on campus and Lewis already knew most of them from North Lawndale Prep. He has not had any racial problems of any kind and the people have been friendly, it's just a lot different than the West Side of Chicago.

"You can literally count them (black students) on your hand," Lewis says. "But everybody is nice – they talk to you and make you feel comfortable."

Finding excitement and fun, as any college

student would, has been a little bit of a challenge however. The nearest major city is Wichita, KS, which is a 40-minute drive. .

"That's where the problem kicks in – the social life down here is terrible," Lewis says. "We don't have our cars and we're stuck in our rooms and we're not used to that."

Lewis compares Hesston to a small town TV show that most people are familiar with.

"It's a small town like on the Andy Griffith show and it's like a suburban Chicago neighborhood – real quiet." To illustrate this he points out something hard to believe. "They actually have only one police officer on duty – It's a small town with no trouble," he says.

The town of Hesston does have some redeeming qualities as Lewis also notes. "It's a little quiet for me but sometimes it's kind of peaceful, and you feel safe as well," he says.

A typical day for Lewis pans out something like this: 7:30am Breakfast, 8:00 Microeconomics class, Back to dorm room for a nap, 11:00 Chapel, 11:40 World

See Reggie page 16

## Housing from front page

had foreclosed against the former owners.

In a federal foreclosure sale the two developments were sold to the City for \$10 each, transferring them from the former owners that owed \$51 million in outstanding debt. Federal grants of over \$35 million have been provided for the renovations.

Cecil Butler, founder of Pyramidwest Development Corp., was among the former owners. Butler did not return phone calls.

He had owned the Lawndale Manor complex at 4327 W. 18th St., which was damaged in 2004 when a car accidentally crashed into it.

Following the accident a judge ordered nearly 200 families to vacate the three-building complex after city officials found more than 300 code violations including missing fire extinguishers, water damage, exposed wiring, roach and rodent infestation, missing light fixtures, loose plumbing fixtures, and loose floor treads.

Markoski said the buildings will remain affordable for 20 years and that a portion of the units will be converted into affordable homeownership opportunities. And any building or units converted to homeownership will be restricted to buyers below 115 percent of the areas median income. The new developers will receive HUD rental assistance subsidies under the Project-Based Section 8 Program to provide current tenants with rental assistance and assist those tenants in need of temporary housing during the renovation.

"Our strategy will lead to the turnaround of these buildings and ensure that they remain in the hands of responsible and capable managers," he added. "The residents' well-being is our most important concern and final goal."

History of Lawndale Manor

In 1971 a group of businessmen and a minority-owned bank acquired property from the Coca-Cola Company in order to build Lawndale Manor. Lawndale Manor consisted of three buildings containing 192 units for low-income persons.

Pyramidwest Development Corporation sponsored the construction in 1981 of the federally subsidized Lawndale Terrace, which is currently located at Roosevelt Road and Kedzie Avenue. The \$7 million complex was part of the economic development corporation's five-year plan to bring more than 2,000 new residential units to the community. In addition to its housing program, Pyramidwest has developed two other projects: the Lawndale Plaza Shopping Center at Roosevelt and Kedzie, and the creation of an industrial park at the former International Harvester site at 26th Street and California Avenue.

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

## 2006 North Lawndale Spirit of Youth Development Award

### Nominees:

Novella Bates  
Willie Brooks  
Ann Elizabeth Bunch  
Maurice Campbell  
Ted Christians  
Anna Cook  
Jared Cooper  
Will Daley  
Sandra Glenn  
Carlan Jones  
Pamela McCain  
Cedric Pope  
Mary Quinn  
Myra Sampson  
Willie Smith  
Steven Space  
Robert Stuart  
William Tolbert  
Carolyn Turner  
Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee

### Winners:

Nicole Cabell-Pope  
Tiffany Childress  
Tommie Jackson  
Angela Mason  
Shelia Oliver  
Stanley Ratliff



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## 2006 SOUL SLATE PRIMARY 2006



Danny Davis  
Rep. in Congress  
Touch 10



John H. Stroger, Jr.  
Cook County Commissioner  
Touch 29

"Don't vote with emotion,  
vote with your  
SOUL Slate"

Don't lay me down, pass me on!



Deborah Sims  
County Commissioner  
Touch 37



Bobby Rush  
Rep. in Congress  
Touch 10



Sylvester Baker  
Cook County Sheriff  
Touch 32

Vote with  
SOUL Slate



Cassandra Lewis  
Judge Appellate Court  
Touch 52

Vote with  
SOUL Slate



Joy Virginia Cunningham  
Judge Appellate Court  
Touch 61



Darryl Smith  
State Representative  
Touch 32



Sharon Latiker  
State Representative  
Touch 22



Calvin Giles  
State Representative  
Touch 22



Lovana "Lou" Jones  
State Representative  
Touch 21



Marlow Colvin  
State Representative  
Touch 21



JoAnne Guillemette  
Circuit Court Judge  
Touch 67

Vote with  
SOUL Slate

Soul Slate  
2006

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Pamela E. Veal  
Circuit Court Judge  
Touch 80



Carl Anthony Walker  
Judge of Sub-Circuit Court  
Touch 90



Diane Shelley  
Judge of Sub-Circuit Court  
Touch 91



Melanie Nuby  
Judge of Sub-Circuit Court  
Touch 91



Arthur Sutton  
Judge of Sub-Circuit Court  
Touch 95



Eugene Moore  
Democratic Committeeman  
Proviso Township  
Touch 99



James Harris  
Water Reclamation  
Touch 47

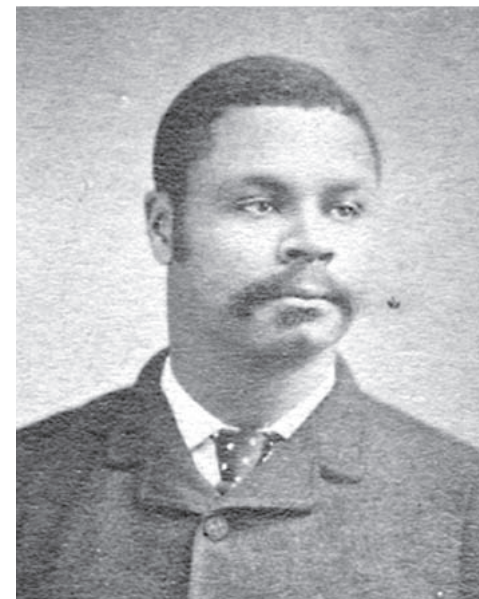


Pat Horton  
Water Reclamation  
Touch 45



Attorney Lewis Powell  
Water Reclamation  
Touch 50

Don't lay me down, pass me on!

MARCH 15  
BLACK FACTS

George Henry White

\* On this date in 1896, George Henry White became a member of the 55<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress as the only African-American member. White, a former slave, served in the House of Representatives from 1896-1901. In 1899, White proposed anti-lynching legislation that was easily defeated. White was the last African-American elected to Congress until 1928.

\* On this date in 1933, Leon H. Washington founded the African-American newspaper the *Los Angeles Sentinel*.

\* On this date in 1933, the NAACP began a coordinated attack on segregation and discrimination, filing a suit against the University of North Carolina on the behalf of Thomas Hocutt. Hocutt lost his case on a technicality.

produce in Chicago, but many are not in the community so you'll probably have to drive or take CTA.

Eating healthy, fresh produce is critical, said holistic family physician Dr. Jifinzu Wright, MD., M.P.H., who along with her husband has co-founded Black Oaks Center for Sustainable and Renewable Living, a farm in Pembroke Township, IL. Their farm will utilize the permaculture method of farming which is described as a holistically designed system that uses the principals of nature to make our environment healthy for plants, animals and people.

"Fresh produce is important because it contains a healing force. Not only are there fresh enzymes in it but from a holistic perspective it has a life force in it," Dr. Wright said. She said that if you put something in the ground and it doesn't grow it's probably not good for you. "If you put McDonalds or Burger King in the ground it wouldn't grow. But seeds and plants ... if you put them in water or the ground they would grow. That should be the guide for everyone when questioning what they're eating," Wright said.

Wright also recalls that family members chastised her when she became a vegetarian but changed their tune when they saw the results.

"I'm the only one of my sisters of diabetic and hypertensive parents who is not on medication and has not been in the hospital." Several of her siblings now eat a plant-based diet, she noted.

**Just what is the definition of organic:** Food that is produced without chemical fertilizers, pesticides or any other chemicals. It is food that is grown naturally in healthy soil.

**Why is it better than factory farmed food and food that is produced with chemicals:**

1. Fresh organic produce contains on average 50% more vitamins, minerals, enzymes and other micronutrients than intensively farmed produce.

2. Organic is the only way to avoid eating genetically modified (GM) food.

3. Organic food is better for your body and the environment because chemicals that are often poisonous do not enter the body or the environment.

4. Organic food tastes better.

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

## Produce from page 4

produce does not have to be transported and it's usually sold the same day or within several days of being picked. Community gardens are also good for teaching people how to grow things and to respect the earth.

Ken Dunn, director of the Resource Center, a non-profit urban gardening and recycling organization, has been involved in urban gardening since 1967 and operates several community gardens in the city. He firmly believes that urban gardening not only provides great produce but also helps improve communities.

"The food system is broken and urban farming can help rebuild communities by providing job training. It's a great way to get back into the workforce," he said.

Dunn also says that working with soil is a "grounding experience" and that people tend to make better decisions in life when they are grounded.

"We live in a world of images and fluff and we need to get grounded to make better decisions," Dunn said.

North Lawndale also has an urban gardening program that has been producing fresh vegetables

and providing employment in the community for several years. The North Lawndale Greening Committee converts vacant lots into flower and vegetable gardens. Local youth are employed at the gardens during the summer months and the food is sold in the neighborhood or at a farmer's market in Humboldt Park. They strive to be organic and don't use any pesticides in the gardens.

Greening Committee coordinator Velma Johnson sees several benefits of community gardens, including beautification of the neighborhood, health and education—especially for the youth.

"[The youth] had no idea how to grow vegetables and no idea where anything came from, that was a driving force to go into growing vegetables," Johnson said.

Chicago's growing season is rather short, but Johnson finds ways to get fresh, organic produce in the area year-round. She goes to a vegetable market on North Avenue across from Home Depot and she shops at the Dominick's on Roosevelt and Canal, which has an extensive organic selection. When shopping, she says she notices a lack of fresh produce in young people's grocery carts.

"I have a problem when I go into the grocery store and they have everything in their cart except vegetables—none whatsoever," Johnson said. "We need to talk to our kids about eating," she adds.

Other ways to get healthy produce include:  
**CSA – Community Supported Agriculture:** usually involves purchasing food baskets from community gardens or local farmers on a weekly basis. This is another great way to get fresh, affordable produce that is often grown organically. Another benefit is that it helps support small farmers who provide the produce. The Garfield Park Conservatory has a farmer's market on weekends and they also have a food basket program. It is important to note that many CSA's accept WIC and Link cards.

**Farmers' Markets:** These markets offer an array of quality, locally-grown produce. The food is often organic and it also helps keep small farms in business. Several African-American farmers in Illinois bring their produce to Chicago-area farmers' markets. Since there aren't many stores in the community that sell quality produce, they are a great option.

**Shopping at Stores with fresh/organic produce:** There are several stores that sell organic



## Entertainment &amp; Sports

## Kenny Saffold Jr. Wins Event for the Black Knights: Dubbed Rookie of the Year in Patriot League!

Fred Mitchell



(The USMA's equivalent of college level Olympics.) and he is doing North Lawndale proud.

Kenny Saffold Jr., a freshman at USMA and recent graduate from the United States Military Prep School, is well on his way to academic and athletic greatness. Kenny is participating in the USMA Patriot League

reign as conference indoor champions.

It marked the 11th indoor conference crown for Army in the last 13 years. The 47-point margin of victory is the largest at the Patriot League Indoor Championships since Army won its last title by 82 points over Lafayette in 2003. In addition to claiming the team title, Army athletes picked up two of the three major awards. Sophomore Brandon Lewis, who vaulted Army into first place by winning the heptathlon, was named the meet's "Outstanding Field Athlete." For the second time in as many years, an Army freshman walked away with the "Rookie of the Meet" award, as Kenny Saffold Jr. picked up the honor a day after winning gold in Saturday's long jump event. Michael Peck snared last year's award as the meet's top first-year athlete.

Army head coach Jerry Quiller, who picked up his fifth indoor track "Coach of the Year" certificate, was ecstatic about how his team performed today.

"I thought our team really 'brought it' today," remarked the Army mentor, who has won 30 Patriot League "Coach of the Year" awards, spanning indoor and outdoor

The North Lawndale community may be loosing the "Collins High School closing" battle here at home, but in spite of it all, some young men who have been appointed to the United States Military Academy are moving ahead in spite of the odds. The recent service corps nominees from North Lawndale include Eric Tavon Anthony and Christopher Sean for US Naval Academy. Chris Lamont Pryor is a nominee for the Air Force Academy. Who says students aren't making the grades in North Lawndale?

*Fred Mitchell is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org)*

Kenny Saffold Jr. captured gold in the long jump to lead the Army men's track and field team into first place after the second day of competition at the 2006 Patriot League Indoor Track and Field Championships at Halsey Field House. The Black Knights amassed 53 points after six scored events and were 25 points ahead of second-place Lehigh.

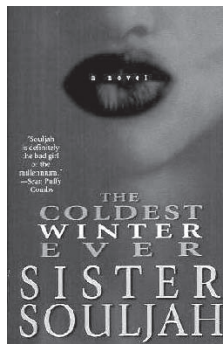
Saffold Jr. led an Army sweep of the top three positions in the long jump event. The freshman leapt a career-best distance of 23 feet, 2 1/2 inches to pace Army's contingent, while Lewis (22-10) and junior Rudy Mejia (22-8 1/2) finished second and third, respectively.

Ryan Collins won a pair of sprinting events and the Black Knights won gold in five other disciplines as the Army men's track and field team torched the field en route to winning the 2006 Patriot League Indoor Track and Field Championship at Halsey Field House. The Black Knights racked up 188 points and finished 47 markers ahead of runner-up Navy. Army's victory effectively snapped Navy's two-year

## Faulty Black Womanhood

Book Review: *The Coldest Winter Ever* by Sister Souljah Pocket Books, \$7.99

Angelic Jones



Winter Santiago reins queen of Brooklyn and master of no one in *The Coldest Winter Ever*, a classic tale of urban survival. Born of a crafty, drug dealing father, Winter Santiago is a beautiful well-cared for teenager in this linear tale that follows the destruction of her father's street empire and the carefully controlled world that Winter comes to enjoy. A sad story of the lengths that a person will go to stay on top, *The Coldest Winter Ever* is a harsh look at the state of black women in America. Author, Sister Souljah, eviscerates notions of womanhood and takes readers on a step-by-step trip through the mutilation of a beautiful girl's self-esteem.

Winter's self-image is created as she grows up in a deceptive drug world. Her father, Ricky Santiago, showers Winter and her mother with jewels and clothing, treating them as if their worth is tied to items that he can purchase through his illegal lifestyle. Winter's friends envy her status as the drug kingpin's rich daughter and men lust after her as a prize. Santiago threatens any man with interest in her. Winter builds herself up in other's eyes as the person who has everything with herself on a level that is unattainable for women and men around her.

Sista Souljah sets her lead character up for an inevitable fall from grace. When the power dichotomy shifts in the hood, the Santiago's lose everything when the cops maneuver for a bigger cut of cash than Santiago's been paying. While Santiago goes to jail, the typical enslavement for black males, his women-a house full of black

females-are left to suffer with the effects of having learned nothing and earned nothing of their own. When their possessions are stripped from them, as illegal goods typically are during arrests, the women turn to drugs and prostituting themselves to the next and the next and the next man coming in their life that might have money to care for them.

Winter is revered as a strong black woman by many black women who have read her survival story over the years. Instead, Winter is an example of faulty black womanhood. She is trained in poor self-image and esteem from birth and, therefore, is totally unaware and unwilling to accept getting an education and working as a way of life when her illegal kingdom is stripped from under her. Instead, she finds her way to Sista Souljah who has inserted herself as a character in the story. Souljah attempts to teach Winter, through her lectures, jail visits, and womanhood and manhood classes to make choices that will build herself up as a black woman and will help her build others up in her community. Winter rejects the help of Souljah from beginning to the end of the novel, refusing to use knowledge as power to free herself from her pitiful life.

*The Coldest Winter Ever* is a novel with a lesson packed into every page-Sista Souljah's main intent. Her novel teaches lessons about self-love and community. She also encourages that her readers contact her after reading her story and her information is listed at the back of the book.

*Angelic Jones is owner of Writing Solutions, a writing, editing and creative consultation company. She is currently working on "Complex" for thesis for an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia College. She can be reached at [ajoneswrites4u@excite.com](mailto:ajoneswrites4u@excite.com). To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## AT THE FLICKS

By David Schultz. Film critic



Hugo Weaving as V

**V for VENDETTA (\*\*\*\*)** Based on the graphic DC/Vertigo comic book series, "V for Vendetta" has been script-adapted by the Chicago-born Andy and Larry Wachowski who turned "The Matrix" trilogy into a "Fight the Power" anthem (without even using the Public Enemy song) that draws parallels to today's moral concerns through a totalitarian, near-futuristic London. The movie shows us a Dostoevskian society where the people have given up their rights and liberties for a government that restricts them and hides the truth, while promising to protect them from terrorism.

But the terrorist government is led by John

Hurt as an iconic dictator, Sutler is a mysterious yet theatrical Zorro-type avenger (in an unseen yet remarkable performance by Hugo Weaving) who wears a Guy Fawkes mask that visually symbolizes his political outcry, "Remember Nov. 5" and is skillful with his knives as weapons. The latter provides some flashy to stylish crime fighting moments in the film.

As polar opposite this film is toward the real world, the dialogue works just as hard to connect with it. With this masked avenger being the catalyst of extremes who lectures the citizens of his concern. This is what he does when he takes over a government-controlled British TV network, where he suggests oppressed citizens should rally with him a year later to destroy the House of Parliament; that begins to make the politicians nervous and chief investigator Finch (Stephen Rea) tries to uncover the masked man's identity. But prior to this, the masked avenger's introduction comes from rescuing a woman, Evey Hammond (Natalie Portman) from a pair of sex hungry, government officers claiming to be enforcing the curfew law. It turns out Evey not only works at the TV station, but her deceased parents were "radicals" murdered for their beliefs by the government.

And yet, Evey doesn't understand why she involved herself into V's crusade. When she saves his life at the TV station, in exchange, V takes her to his underground lair. The filmmakers are clearly on the vigilante's side. Director James McTeigue and the Wachowski brothers' script allow viewers enough room to question his motives and methods in obtaining his goal, which is uncharacteristic to most comic book heroes

made into movies that provides a novel approach to invoke some food-for-thought.

"V for Vendetta" is a cinematic rarity that enlightens as it entertains, that emerges into one of the best early blockbusters of the year that is stylish, bold and different. R; 131min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

**ASK THE DUST (\*\*\*)** Set during the Depression era, "Ask The Dust" is writer-director Robert Towne's ode to old Los Angeles about down and out characters who themselves have trouble establishing bonds. From John Forte's classic 1939 novel, Colin Farrell adds more dimension to his acting repertoire as Arturo Bandini, an Italian mistaken for Mexican who is a struggling writer from Colorado living in a rundown boarding house.

Fortunate for him, Arturo is surrounded by the city streets filled with enough lonely desperate souls to eventually supply him with material to write about. Down to his last nickel, while owing back rent to landlord, Mrs. Hargraves (Eileen Atkins), young Arturo is in need of inspiration to write a masterpiece that he can sell. He wanders into a small diner, where he meets a sexy waitress, Camilla Lopez (Selma Hayek), who served a spoiled cream in his coffee.

They get off to a bumpy start being a Mexican princess against an uptight jerk, but that doesn't distract from their fascination for each other. Still for the time and place that it was, there was racial stigma to overcome, but not as much as Bandini's shortcomings from his actions, or lack of tact and manners. This makes us wonder what Hayek's character really sees in this guy. Or is it

that she draws to guys that are perplex and struck in their own indecision. But that is part of the fascination writer-director Robert Towne employs that accents the enormous effort to recreate 1930's Los Angeles with a brownish, desaturated look and detailed background constructed from scratch in South Africa.

It's a remarkable recreation that adds the bittersweet nature of these lost souls. Selma Hayek does not look as cheap for the era as she should be in her role, but her acting skills blossom to capture the doomed nature of her character. Colin Farrell rekindles the youthful performances he exhibited in "A Home at the End of the World" but within a character that doesn't create much apathy for his behavior. His role becomes a hard sell for viewer to feel sympatric toward. Still, dramatizing people caught in a different place and time who seem to feed off the misery of the era, Towne offers a unique character study of people and a city lost in time that is worth of our interest and time. R; 120min. A Paramount Classics Pictures Release – Opens Fri. March 17 at selected theaters

**THE SHAGGY DOG (\*\*1/2)**

Tim Allen could easily mint himself another movie franchise like he's already done with "The Santa Clause" through this updated remake of Disney's first slapstick comedy with a delightful fantasy premise. "The Shaggy Dog" is revamped from its 1959 original and 1976 sequel that separately starred Fred MacMurray and Dean Jones. This time around amidst familiar family themes of career ambition and parental neglect. Allen co-produces and stars as a workaholic deputy DA, Dave Douglas, in line for a promotion from his mentor and attorney, Ken (Danny Glover). He is assigned to a high profile

See Flicks page 18



# Legacy Students Call on Legislators for More Charters and Equal Funding

## INCS holds Charter School Day in Springfield

Students, parents and teachers from Legacy Charter School traveled to Springfield this week to ask elected officials for critical charter school funding and legislative reform. They joined more than 300 charter supporters from 18 Chicago schools participating in Charter School Day, sponsored by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS).

The day began with chants of "Charter Schools are Public Schools" and "Equality's our Right" during a rally at Springfield Ball Charter School. Representative Art Turner received INCS first annual Trailblazer Award for his continued support of charter schools.

Parents, students and teachers spoke about the benefits Legacy offers as an alternative to traditional public schools, such as smaller class sizes and increased parent involvement in school curriculum and activities.

Charter schools are achieving incredible results despite receiving substantially less funding than traditional public schools. Illinois Charter School Law requires the state to provide \$525,000 each year for charter school start-up funding. The state has failed to allocate these funds for the last three years resulting in Illinois charter schools losing \$8 million in federal charter grants.

"Charter schools are making great strides

despite limits in Illinois' approach," said Elizabeth Evans, Executive Director of INCS. "Our work today will make sure Charter schools are not overlooked in Springfield anymore."

Following the rally, the charter supporters headed to the capital where they met with more than 30 legislators. Students focused their conversations on the need for more charters and direct state funding.

Currently, 16,000 Illinois students attend charter schools, and more than 6,000 sit on charter waiting lists. In the most recent Chicago Public Schools high school report cards, the district's eight charter high schools ranked among the top five in two-thirds of the categories scored including graduation rates, post secondary enrollment and average daily attendance.





Chicago students told legislators about their incredible teachers while also telling stories of overcrowded classrooms, not enough textbooks, and a lack of basic resources such as libraries and gymnasiums.

"The bottom line is equity," Evans said. "All public school students deserve high expectations and public investment, especially when they continue to perform as strongly as the students in our charter schools."



LEGACY CHARTER SCHOOL  
is now accepting applications!

Applications are due by Friday, April 14th for the 2006-2007 school year. There are openings in the following grades:

|                                                                                     |                  |                                                                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|  | Pre-Kindergarten |  | 1st |
|  | Kindergarten     |  | 2nd |

The Admission Lottery will be held on Saturday, April 22nd.

What makes *Legacy* unique?

- Individualized instruction
- Small classes and small school
- Teaching responsible citizenship
- College preparatory focus
- Extended school day and school year
- After-school programs

As a charter school, *Legacy*:

- Is a public school
- Has no tuition
- Is open to all children in Chicago
- Has no entrance exams

Please visit our website @ [www.legacycharterschool.org](http://www.legacycharterschool.org)

## The Write Event: Access Granted

Angelic J. Jones

This week, March 12- March 17, 2006, marks the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Story Week at Columbia College Chicago. The anniversary theme, *Fighting Words: Stories of Risk and Rebellion*, defines the true essence of what Story Week means to fiction writers.

Columbia College's Fiction Department is an extraordinary program that combines education with opportunity. Not one student studying creative writing in this program can say that they don't know the tale of the legendary split between the English Department and what is currently the Fiction Department. Fiction students study the Story Workshop Method, a way of seeing and telling a story. Developed by John Schultz—former Columbia English teacher, this method differs largely from the Iowa Method, which is taught in universities throughout the country. The Story Workshop approach has been so successful that it spawned a literary event of the magnitude of Story Week.

Over the course of one week, give or take a few days, writers and poets, literary agents, and editors flood the city of Chicago to speak on panels designed to help writers improve their skills through listening to some successful authors and listening to agents and editors describe what they want to see from a writer. Writers are encouraged to attend open mic sessions, question and answer sessions and staged readings to experience the writing life.

Pay Per View

I pay for the opportunity to learn the Story Workshop Method. As an undergrad at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, I became familiar with the Iowa Method of writing, which is standard. I came to Columbia College specifically because I wanted to learn the art of writing. The Story Workshop Method makes an art of writing. The program has helped me develop as a creative writer, but has also helped me in my career. Since starting the program and attending Story Week, I've actively submitted my work to newspapers and magazines. I'm the editor of a magazine, *SalonSENSE*, specifically because of my experience in this program. And I use my writing skills for a

writing business that I've started since taking the Small Press Publishing tract that the program offers.

Story Week is valuable because it offers a writer the opportunity to make connections. And it is not exclusive to the students in the program. It is open to the public and most events are held on the Columbia campus or at local bars and theaters. If you are new to the program and unfamiliar with what might benefit a new writer/attendee call 312-344-7611 or visit [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu) for detailed event information.

Beneficial Events

Wednesday, March 15

1:30 pm, Women As Writers, Women As Editors with former *Paris Review* Editor and Author Elizabeth Gaffney, *Metropolis*; and *Other Voices*/OV Books Editor and Author Gina Frangello, *My Sister's Continent*.

Host: Ann Hemenway

Columbia College, Ludington Building, Film Row Cinema, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1104 S. Wabash Avenue

Thursday, March 16

10:00 am, Conversation: What Editors Want, With Marcela Landres

11:00 am, Future of Publishing Panel: Elizabeth Gaffney, Author, *Metropolis*, and former Editor, *Paris Review*; Marcela Landres, Publisher, *Latinidad*; Donna Seaman, Author, *Writers on the Air: Conversations About Books*, Associate Editor, *Booklist*, and WLWU *Open Books* Host; and Johnny Temple, Publisher, Akashic Books; and Robert Weil, Editor, W.W. Norton.

Host: Jotham Burrello

Both at Columbia College, Ludington Building, Film Row Cinema, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1104 S. Wabash Avenue

Feel free to attend events Sunday, March 12 through Friday, March 17 and ask questions about writing and publishing that may be beneficial to you.

Angelic Jones is owner of *Writing Solutions*, a writing, and editing and creative consultation company. She is currently working on "Complex" for thesis for an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia College. She can be reached at [ajoneswrites4u@excite.com](mailto:ajoneswrites4u@excite.com). To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org)

## It's Time To Bring Katrina Failures To The World Stage

Richard Muhammad

From people desperately clinging to rooftops surrounded by water, to survivors pushed onto planes with no idea of their final destination, the horror of Hurricane Katrina survivors wasn't simple bureaucratic bungling. It was a series of human rights violations that are drawing world attention in mid-March as the United Nations reconvenes on New York.

Rev. Daniel Buford, co-founder of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and vice president of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, said that the United States violated human rights pacts in at least 17 different areas.

Major violations were seen in the U.S. government's failure to protect life, and to stop threats against people fleeing for their lives. People were shot at and families were ripped apart, said Rev. Buford.

The mountain of evidence of immoral ineptitude and corruption also continues to mount some six months after the storm. Video footage from a teleconference the day before Hurricane Katrina blasted past New Orleans shows President Bush, Director of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and others being warned that water churned by the super storm could top the levees. Nothing was done. In the 180-plus days since Hurricane Katrina, nearly nothing has been done to help poor Blacks and people of color hurt most by Katrina's aftermath.

53 percent of Black survivors that participated in a recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll said they lost everything to flooding. One-third of Black survivors polled said they were still separated from loved ones.

"The disaster response — both public and private — was a disaster for Latinos and other communities of color," noted Janet Murguía, president and CEO of the National Council

of La Raza. An NCLA report documented the failures to serve Latinos and Asian Americans, who had a difficult time accessing services because of language barriers. The same groups were even missing from reports that assessed what went wrong.

In the face of neglect by the federal government, communities are continuing to create solutions through nationwide organizing of evacuees, a call for international scrutiny, and novel congressional legislation to make our government "honest." The pending congressional legislation would curb wartime profiteering and vulture-like post Katrina contracts. Blacks aren't being hired to rebuild and Latino immigrants who do get work aren't guaranteed to get paid: More than 1,000 workers, mainly Latino immigrants, were allegedly cheated out of overtime as they rebuilt a court house, a hospital and university buildings for the Belfor USA Group, Inc.

Folks most hurt by deals cut based on connections and influence have been fighting to get things right all along. They have fought in the courts, in the streets, on Capitol Hill and on the airwaves. They have marched, shouted, cried, wrote, protested, and organized together as survivors, in cities from New York to Chicago, and refused to be swept aside.

Those who survived flooding must not be washed away under waves of neglect, profiteering, and politics. The world is watching, and its time for our nation's leadership to take responsibility and provide the vital relief and recovery it never did.

Richard Muhammad is a Chicago-based writer and contributor to the *Katrina Information Network*. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).



**Patience** from page 8

we are listening to our own problems and not being deaf

To sit in what we know as the hood to continue this alarming reputation and admit it to go deeper in depth.

Far too long have we allowed material gain to portray our personal character.

Too long have we worn cloths and used them for our curtains.

Curtains that we hang to hide what is truly behind, which are our lonely selves.

I often ask myself. What is bitterness?

But still thoughts of success...

But minus the flesh to do our best.

I have come to the conclusion that it's a confused person who is going east when he is thinking he's going west.

I understand that everyday is not bright

And most nights

We do not sleep like sleeping beauties and nights and gails

But that does not give you the right to look inside yourself and accept all that falls underneath the word Fail.

I have had it hard myself, been evicted

Saw scenes that were explicit,

Etc, all while growing up as a young black male.

To this day I still suck my thumb and bite my nails

Hope that my day is shining and won't begin to hail

But no matter what, I always keep on my train

And that is why I advise you to get up and make a move and not just accept that first-of-the-month mail.

Learn to be different and not settle into being like the crowd and saying "Oh well."

I challenge you to be self-reliant and not to fall into the trap of depending on others.

So you all came here today to pump perspiration of relief in what really is a celebration of education.

An education that not only educates us, but one that gives us a vision beyond dreaming,

A vision that teaches us to be true to ourselves Before anyone else.

Ask yourself...am I true to myself?

I'm talking about a vision that will take you far beyond the boundaries of this manifestation that has seemingly been given to us uncontrollably by our ancestors.

There is no finger to point any blame

But there is an arrow that we must point in a prosperous direction in which we as a community believe and it has already been tamed.

But we cannot feel ashamed

To step out and be confident beings.

I stand here today to reach every last one of you

To dramatize the very appalling priority we have set forth

For a future that concentrates on our well being

For the good or for the bad. You can smile gracefully...you just have to learn

But first you must earn

And have confidence in yourself

To take all the negativity into the palms of your hands.

And wash it off like germs...

But it is completely up to you to choose.

Time is not forever

So I say as a community we must move.

We must move...patiently.

*Myleson Collins is a motivational speaker and a graduate of Trinity International. Myleson talks to youth about the importance of education and setting goals for success. To comment on this article email Myleson at: Myleson@hotmail.com or visit our weblog at www.nlcn.org.*

**Bill** from page 9

the moving of children from school to school, adversely harms a child's academic and social growth. Student mobility, argues Heybach, negatively affects a student's test scores, grades, attendance, completion of high school, mastery of academic curriculum and behavior.

In 2004, Heybach and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of children and their parents displaced by the closure of CPS schools in Cabrini Green. The suit was filed against the Illinois State Board of Education and CPS. Renaissance 2010 proposes to close between 60-90 schools in the CPS system. The majority of the school closings have been in predominately African-American communities like North Lawndale and Austin.

"These people (Board of Education) are voting their economic interests, this (Renaissance 2010) has nothing to do with education and it really has everything to do with gentrification. Also, I would submit to you for consideration that all schools under Renaissance 2010 are Title I schools, however, CPS has not been complying with its own policy nor federal law in regards to meaningful parental involvement on the issue of school closings," said Derrick B. Harris, commissioner of education of the North Lawndale Accountability Commission, in his testimony to the City Council's Education Committee. "Renaissance 2010 to me also demonstrates the Chicago Board of Education's reckless disregard for the security and safety of black children. Research indicates that students are less likely to achieve in school or attend school if they perceive the school's environment to be dangerous and unsafe."

Bill Leavy, Executive Director and founder of the Greater Westtown Community Development Project and a member of the Community Coalition on the Dropout Coalition, said that he fears that many of the children are negatively impacted by the immediate closure of schools, which could result in more students dropping out of high school. Leavy argues that the problems at Austin, Wells and Clemente High Schools following the 2005 phaseout of Austin High School are the result of school closings. Leavy concludes that school closings affect not only the closed high school but the receiving schools as well. Wells and Clemente High Schools have experienced an increase in violence since the enrollment of freshman students from the Austin community.

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

**Reggie** from page 12

Civilization, 12:30pm Lunch, 1:00 Intro to Music class, 2:00 College writing course, 4:00 Baseball practice

In the evening: Dinner, Homework, Prepare for next day - bedtime. Pretty routine stuff for a college freshman, but dinner can be a bit of an adventure. The meals are often based on Mennonite customs and it's not always to Lewis' liking.

"Sometimes I don't agree with what they eat so I just eat cereal," he says. "They have strange dishes like some type of ham loaf. Sometimes they have pizza but if it doesn't look right and it's something I never heard of I just grab a bowl of cereal and I'm alright."

Lewis will be coming back to Chicago for the summer and he plans to work at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). After the summer he would like to transfer to Western Illinois or Alabama A&M, the two schools that have expressed interest in him as a student/athlete. If he doesn't transfer he'll go back to Hesston.

"I'm performing solidly on the team and I have a relationship with the coach so why not come back if I don't get a bigger chance," he says.

Lewis' first year of college has been quite a learning experience, as it always is for a college freshman. He has some advice to offer younger students who plan to go away to school.

"Be prepared for anything because a lot of things can happen and there's nobody else to depend on. When you're in college it takes a lot of independence."

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

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# LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO BENEFIT FROM HOUSING GRANT

Wendell Hutson

Illinois recently received a boost from the Bush administration when it received \$240 million from five grants to assist lower-income families buy homes, fund more affordable housing opportunities, and assist HIV/AIDS individuals with housing needs as well.

A total of 23 communities in Illinois including Chicago will share the grants in hopes of also stimulating the local economy. Alphonso Jackson, secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), said "the money demonstrates the commitment HUD has made to affordable housing especially in urban cities like Chicago."

"This Administration is committed to promoting economic development, job growth, increasing affordable housing, and helping the most vulnerable neighbors," he said. "These funds will serve as a catalyst to families trying to cross the threshold into homeownership."

Communities receiving funding include Arlington Heights, Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Decatur, Dekalb, DuPage County, Elgin, Kane County, Kankakee, Lake County, McHenry County, Moline, Mount Prospect, Normal, North Chicago, Pekin, Peoria, Rantoul, Rock Island, Rockford, Skokie, and Waukegan.

The five grants making up the funding are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG); Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA); Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME); and the American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI).

According to HUD officials, the CDBG Program has awarded over \$100 billion to state and local governments in its 30-year history. The

rehabilitation of affordable housing has traditionally been the largest single use of the grants although HUD officials said the CDBG is also an important catalyst for job growth and business opportunities. Its funds are distributed by formula around the country based on a community's population, income levels, poverty rates and the age of its housing stock. The ESG assists local communities in providing housing for the homeless. These grants also provide transitional housing and a variety of support services designed to move the homeless away from a life on the street toward permanent housing.

These grants are distributed based on the number of AIDS cases reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The grants provide rental assistance and support services to individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families. In addition, the HOPWA program also helps many communities develop strategic AIDS housing plans and fill in gaps in local systems of care. ADDI was born out of the American Dream Down Payment Act 2003 signed by President George W. Bush in 2003. The bill will allocate \$200 million annually to help approximately 40,000 families a year with their down payment and closing costs.

The bill is specifically geared toward low-income families who are also first-time homebuyers. To participate, recipients must have annual incomes that do not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, with the average subsidy around \$5,000. Bush said the biggest hurdle many Americans face when buying a home for the first time is coming up with the closing costs and down

payment.

"We need to make the home-buying process more affordable. Some of the biggest up-front costs in a home purchase are the closing costs," Bush said in a statement. "Sometimes they catch you by surprise. Many homebuyers do not have the time to shop around looking for a better deal on closing costs. You're kind of stuck with what you're presented with. And so they end up paying more than they should. So we've proposed new rules to make it easier for buyers to shop around and to compare prices on closing costs, so they can get the best deal and the best service possible."

The CDBG should work well in Illinois since lawmakers have already passed an affordable housing bill, real estate experts said. The bill encourages counties with less than 10 percent affordable housing to develop a plan to increase that percentage. The incentive for counties that meet this goal is that they will be exempt from the authority of a new state board the legislation created that will review appeals by real estate developers of affordable housing.

The Affordable Housing Planning and Appeals Act states "there exists a shortage of affordable, accessible, safe, and sanitary housing for low-income and moderate-income households in the state; it is imperative that action be taken to assure the availability of low-income and moderate-income housing; and local governments in the state that do not have sufficient affordable housing are encouraged to assist in providing low-income and moderate-income housing opportunities to assure the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens of the state."

When asked about the recipients acceptance speeches, said Mary Houpt, "The heartfelt emotion, that was tangible, was incredible. It was stunning to us afterwards, a couple of people in the community, award winners or nominees that have lived and work there for decades said that they weren't aware that all

And with so many people, minorities especially, contracting HIV/AIDS, real estate advisers said the HOPWA grant is needed to provide help fund special housing since they require additional needs such as daily medicine.

"It would not be wise to house homeless people who are also HIV positive with HIV negative homeless people because the risk of the disease spreading is too great," said Patrick Schafer, a real estate adviser in the Chicago office of Coldwell Banker. "Besides, it's important to make sure things are sterile when dealing with AIDS patients and the average homeless shelter may not have these kinds of things."

However, housing advocates for the homeless said so much attention is now on funding affordable housing that traditional shelters like the Pacific Garden shelter in downtown Chicago are being ignored when it comes to government grants.

"There used to be a time when shelters receive the bulk of funding for affordable housing now it must compete and often split funds for projects developing affordable rental and for sale properties," said Rev. Isaac Lewis Jr., associate pastor at Roseland Mission on the South Side. "Face it, every homeless person is not responsible enough to live in an apartment let alone maintain a home and a shelter may be the best place for them until they get themselves together. But if funding is reduced or cut for an affordable housing development, then the shelter may have to shut down or start turning people away. Either way, it's a lose-lose situation."

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

## Seven from front page

funding of \$1,000 for the awards. The Steans Family Foundation sponsored the luncheon which was catered by Fanfare. Willie Pickens performed on the piano and

Annie-Marie entertained the audience with her acoustical guitar.

In picking the winners it was difficult because there were so many great nominees. "The group of people was what made the difference" said Mary Houpt, commenting about the judges who decided on the winners.

these other people were also doing the same type of work. That got the wheels of thought turning that we should do this on other levels as well."

For more information contact Mariame Kaba at the Steans Family Foundation 312 467-5900.

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## Flicks from page 14



busy to attend to the needs and attention of his wife, Rebecca (Kristin Davis) and their children. Josh (Spencer Breslin) an inept jock on the football field, trying to satisfy his father. But he doesn't enjoy the sport as much as his secret passion—performing in the high school version of stage musicals like "Grease".

Meanwhile their daughter, Carly (Zena Grey) has a boyfriend who turned her into an activist protesting for their jailed teacher over the inhuman treatment of lab animals run by Robert Downey Jr. for his quad boss, Phillip Baker Hall who seeks a cure from these "experiments". Made from a stolen sacred 300 year-old sheep dog from China whose blood could be the answer to "fountain of youth"

When the teens sneak inside the laboratory to confirm the existence of the mutant creatures from the ageless dog's DNA. Carly steals the dog in hopes of convincing her father of a frame-up on her teacher wrongly accused in the animal lab case.

But when the dog bites Dave, he begins to act like a dog in a human body until he's physically transformed into a clone of the sacred sheep dog. And only able to return to human form when he falls asleep. Naturally, these "human acting like a dog" scenes from Allen are inventive and often hilarious moments that Allen plays to the hilt. Allen also depicts minor toilet humor that includes above the waist nudity of Allen and butt sniffing that is brief but not excessive enough to keep the movie family friendly.

Blending and upgrading the scripts from the initial film and its sequel. This revitalized remake of "The Shaggy Dog" retains the screwball spirit of the original while working the concept in modern, social terms that is predictable but still amiable and amusing through the "wag of its own tail". PG; 99min. A Walt Disney Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

**THE HILLS HAVE EYES (\*)** If you remember the original 1977 film that gain movie cult status and introduced horror director Wes Craven. Then you remember the initial film as a low budget gore-fest that got its distinction from its compact direction and plenty of amusing plot twists.

This remake aims to improve on the film while retaining the elements that popularized the initial film. The problem here is—

case that is investigating an animal laboratories' experimental practices. The highly publicized case keeps Dave too

Emilie De Ravin  
in Fox  
Searchlight's  
The Hills Have  
Eyes - 2006



that was then, this is now. Time and people do change through growth, standards and technology.

This new version here offers only slight modern references (cell phones) and modifications in its characters. The story is essentially the same just more violent and gory. A semi-retired rent-a-cop, Bob Carter, played by Chicago born actor Ted Levine is traveling with his family on a cross country vacation to California. The family makes a pit stop somewhere on a desert road in New Mexico at a remote shanty gas station.

Through the course of their rest stop. One of the two family dogs gets loose and runs inside and into the back room of the station. The daughter runs in the station after her dog. Where the gas station attendant (Tom Bower) thinks they might have looked inside a duffel bag on a table. Unaware by the family, but not suspicious enough to be question until it's too late. The attendant offers a short cut that eventually leads the family into having their vehicle disabled in the middle nowhere near a bunch of boulder rock hills and hidden caves. Disfigured and deformed from the radiation and stunned away from residents in a nearby small town that the mutants get revenge on the towns' people through cannibalism, which also serves as their only source of nourishment in the desert.

"This movie remake is not unlike the original, this is a graphically violent movie that is supposed to be about style over substance. Even if Wes Craven is involved only as a producer for this remake. The stylish chores falls to European cutting edge director-co-writer, Alexandre Aja who got our attention last summer with "High Tension" who manages the elements of characters and story while going "full tilt" with the visual gore

Regardless how much cinematic technique is employed by director Aja is questionable. The movie doesn't have enough creditable suspense to make us feels real about the dangers. You'll either want to watch for the mayhem or not. But I think by today's standards, most moviegoers may pass on this horror mess or will be numbed by its relentless, graphic nature. R; 107min. A Fox Searchlight Pictures Release -Presented at selected theaters

**DUCK SEASON (\*\*1/2)** This gentle and amusing Spanish

**See page 19**

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz

**CHICKEN LITTLE (\*\*)** Disney animators venture into Pixar's territory with their first computer generated animated feature that becomes an uneven mixture that is amusing and energetic but doesn't fully succeed to click. When ridiculed when the "sky doesn't fall. The paranoiac poultry has even more difficulty redeeming himself to his father. When Chicken Little and his friends try to warn residents of an alien invasion. Nice try, but it wasn't enough to put a contemporary gloss with the usual op culture references and rapid pacing for its humor. G; 81 min. Walt Disney Home Video; Available: March 21

**CAPOTE (\*\*1/2)** Phillip Seymour Hoffman received a well deserved best actor Oscar for his dead ringer portrayal of the author/playwright Truman Capote, who follows the investigation of a Kansas farm family murder. The incident would eventually spawn the bestseller novel—into—movie, "In Cold Blood" that includes discussions with one of the killers that almost leads into an uneasy relationship that ends with the killer's execution. The killer's death allows the homosexual author to complete the book and relieves him from the friendship that was doomed from the beginning. R 110min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: March 21

**MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (\*\*\*)** A beautifully photographed and well costumed screen adaptation of the Arthur Golden novel about a poor girl from a fishing village who is groomed and taught into becoming the most celebrated geisha of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that feels more fable than factual Even though its origins is Japanese, the cast is played by Chinese led by Ziyi Zhang in the title role with Gong Li and Michelle Yeoh as her rivals for the debonair businessman known only as the Chairman (Ken Watanabe who is Japanese) who inspired Zhang's character in her youth to become the new geisha

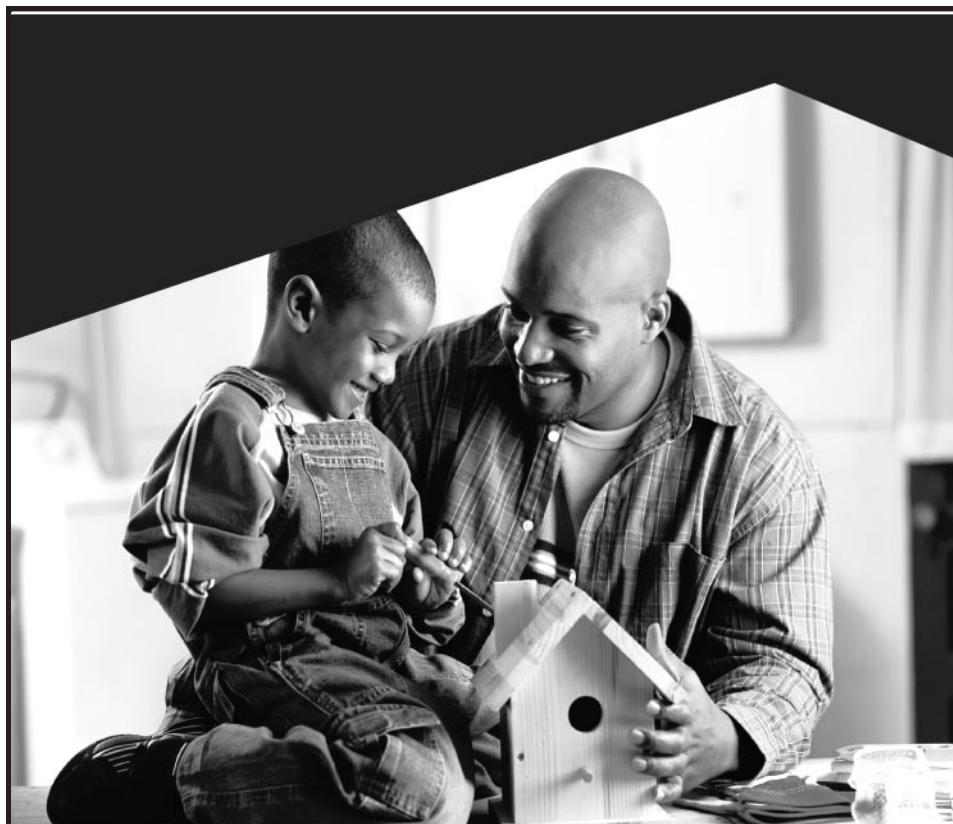


Gong Li in Columbia Pictures' Memoirs of a Geisha - 2005

who opposes her mentor —teacher (Michelle Yeoh) and the aging geisha queen (Gong Li) unwilling to give up her throne. Done with tact and beauty in the old studio tradition by director Rob Marshall who did the screen version of "Chicago". PG-13; 144min. Sony Picture Home Video; Available: March 28

**HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (\*\*1/2)** Another awesomely detailed animated achievement from Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki about an unattractive young girl made elderly by an evil wizard. She wanders into the life of a young boy wizard apprentice living in a low-flying, make-shift castle floating across the wastelands. With the country at war, the boy wizard tries to have the woman pose as his mother to avoid the King's request for the use his magical skills for the war effort that could easily endangers his life, much to the woman's concern. Far too intricate for young kids; The film's a visual wonder to a story that is interested but a little too

**See Video page 19**



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**ATTENTION!!! PARENTS, RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND STUDENTS THE FINAL DAY TO REGISTER FOR LSC CANDIDACY** is Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Interested candidates can register at their neighborhood school. For more information contact your local school administrator.

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S BAZAAR: A COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY.** Celebrate Women from around the World. The event will be held on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> at Homan Square located at 3559 W. Arthington, 1<sup>st</sup> Level The event will take place from at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Flicks from page 14

language import centers around the common universal themes and situations that evolve from one quiet Sunday inside an apartment of a housing hi-rise "project". Where best friends, Flama (Daniel Miranda) and Juan Pablo AKA "Moko" (Diego Catano) are two "latch-key" boys who are left "home alone" with their "vices" –playing videogames on the X-box system over chips and Coca Cola.

Being totally absorbed in annihilating each other during a violent video game; The boys are barely distracted enough, when Flama allows a 16 yr old neighbor girl, Rita to enter and use the kitchen to bake a cake in the oven. While she makes a general mess cutting up foods on the countertop.

But when there is an electrical black-out that abruptly stops their video game. Flama and Moko are left to fight off boredom until the power returns. The boys decide to fill in the time by ordering a pizza by phone that offers a "delivered in thirty minutes or its free" policy. Ulises (Enrique Arreola) is the delivery boy on a bicycle who travels through the streets and climbs up the stairwell to deliver the pizza on time. But when the boys claims he's seconds too late to receive payment.

This leads to a dispute that the pizza delivery boy wages a sit-in for payment before he offers up the pizza. He sits in the apartment doorway until Flama proposes a "winner-take-all" challenge over a video soccer game. Just as the game has one of them about to make the winning goal. The electrical power goes out again in the neighborhood.

This leads into a stale mate with boys spending the afternoon together making personal confessions and discoveries within themselves that develops into a friendship between the boys with Ulises who finally accepts a compromise, by accepting an oil painting. While Flama discovers

love and other intimate moments with Rita that stimulates this charming little coming-of-age comedy that any "project" dweller should be able to relate to. R; 85 min. (with English Subtitles) A Warner Independent Pictures Release Presented at selected theaters

**SHE'S THE MAN (\*\*1/2)** An adequate "gender bender", teenage coming-of-age comedy that borrows its inspiration from William Shakespeare, but "She's The Man" reworks Shakespeare's "The Twelfth Night" into a spunky yet uninspired contemporary offering with Amanda Bynes trying to pass herself off as a boy to prove a girl can play soccer on an all-boys team in a high stake rivalry game. Initially, unable to get on the boys team when the school drops the girls' team for budget cut reasons. Viola (Amanda Bynes) also dumps her boyfriend and team member, Justin (Robert Hoffman) who "fronts her off" with the coach (Vinnie Jones) and teammates over the dispute.

Coming from divorced parents that Viola and her brother, Sebastian (James Kirk) who alternate living at their parents' separate homes. When Sebastian needs Viola to cover his school absence while he's London bound to play a rock band gig (Oh sure,

like that's plausible!).

Viola seizes the opportunity to dress up to pass for her brother in his absence that leads to numerous amusing moments of Viola as Sebastian trying to be "Butch" and hip enough (like a black man!) while her feminine side slips in and out.

Obviously, Amanda Bynes is not believable as girl being a boy, but her energetic demeanor seems to help make up the difference that helps sustain this movie. Even though when the plot kicks in and becomes complicated. Whether or not, this is in her character or not, Bynes seems to be stressed and stretched out by the premise to be creditable.

After Viola grows tired of the charade, there is a moment near the film's ending that she remarks "All she wanted to prove that she "good enough". That was the same mission for this movie, but it doesn't have enough of the sharp wit and inventive humor to successfully achieve that goal to our satisfaction. PG-13; 105min. A DreamWorks SKG Pictures Release – presented at selected theaters

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

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### Nuby from page 7

Kenwood Academy where she participated in Moot Court Society activities culminating in her placing first in a state-wide competition, said Mary Nuby Faulhaber, her mother.

Residing in North Lawndale, Nuby also gets a first hand look at the problems that children are facing not only in courtroom, but in the community as well. As an advocate for youth she feels strongly about dedicating her career to helping the underprivileged and troubled. "There will be cases where hard and unpopular decisions will have to be made. I will take the time to thoroughly analyze all the information to make the fair and right decision," said Nuby.

"Melanie's work as a public defender during the past decade has prepared her well for the position of circuit court judge. She has tried hundred of cases and is thoroughly familiar with the judicial process. Most importantly, Melanie is committed to fairness to all parties involved in a case and is a true advocate for justice," said Mary Nuby Faulhaber.

*Sophia Karalexis is a senior at DePaul University majoring in English with a minor in Journalism. Sophia came to NLCN as a member of Professor Ed Lawler's Community Journalism course at DePaul. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.*

move in the exclusive area of the Hamptons in Long Island. Where the rap mogul rediscovers his once lost love (Chenoa Maxwell) he met in college who's now married to another man (Blair Underwood). An intriguing and sexy melodrama full of deception and treachery. R; 96min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: March 28

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### Video from page 18

thick and ambitious for conventional acceptance. PG-13; 119min. Walt Disney Home Video

**G(\*\*1/2)** A black version of "The Great Gatsby" that avoids the usual ethnic and social economical stigma in this contemporary retelling of this tragic love story of a successful hip hop mogul, Summer G (Richard T. Jones) whose musical empire allows him to



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