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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

Jaye Morgan Williams Selected by Stroger for CFO Of Cook County

CHICAGO, IL – Cook County President Todd Stroger has announced his selection for Cook County Chief Financial Officer: banking professional Jaye Morgan Williams. Williams spent more than 25 years in financial services, with most of those years at JP Morgan Chase's predecessors First Chicago and Bank One, where she was Senior Vice President.

"Jaye is widely experienced in financial services and strategic management. She's worked through a range of business cycles and understands the challenges they present," said President Stroger. "Her history of successful engagement with new initiatives, combined with her extensive experience in corporate finance, strategic management, and project management make her an outstanding selection for the position of Cook County's Chief Financial Officer."

Williams was senior banker to large energy companies in the earlier stages of her career. While in corporate banking, she was engaged in management roles in University of Illinois at Urbana/

leveraged buyout advisory services, acquisition debt syndications, treasury management electronic banking, credit and portfolio management, product and project management, private investing and lending, and international banking. She took on the nationwide community development business activities of the bank and served as President of Bank One's Community Development Corporation.

In her philanthropic endeavors, Williams has focused a on a wide range of projects and initiatives, including educational programs, community and economic development, and mentoring of young professionals. Among her current activities, Williams serves as Board Member to the educational project Facing History and Ourselves, as Board Member and Steering Committee Member of the University of Chicago Women's Board, and as a member of the Economic Club of Chicago.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the Champaign and an MBA in finance and accounting from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

"Cook County is fortunate to be on good financial ground compared to literally hundreds of other state and local governments across the nation, and I'm committed to preserving and improving our financial stability," said Williams. "I'm also committed to ensuring that County executives are provided with precise information – without bias – about the County's fiscal bottom line, as well as strategies and best practices to improve financial performance, allowing them to make policy decisions that serve the best interests of the people of Cook County. It's vitally important that we focus on the financial integrity and performance of the County, including financial accountability and fiscal integrity, while preserving, and where possible enhancing, our bond rating. The hallmarks of operating efficiency and service quality as critical drivers to the budget process are



Jaye Morgan Williams brings 25 years of experience in banking, corporate finance and strategic management to the position of Cook County Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

key, and I look forward to furthering the performance-based long term financial focus that President Stroger has brought to Cook County's budget process. I'm

thrilled at the opportunity to serve the public trust as Cook County's Chief Financial Officer."

Davis: Delay No Confusion

TRAVLES R. LANE

I had a phone conversation with U.S. Congressman Danny Davis recently to ascertain his reaction to the perceived lack of political clarity created by his circulation of parallel petitions for the upcoming 2010 election season.

Davis, (D-7th), who has done all but publicly declare his candidacy for the Cook County Board President race, is also canvassing for 1,200 signatures to keep a "birdin-hand" option of seeking reelection to his current post. Considering the domino nature of politics, especially Chicago politics, many people—especially some local politicians— are reported to be "confused" by Davis' seemingly coy move.

The Congressman, however, is crystal clear in his assessment of complaints about the delay in the declaration his intentions.

"They are not confused," Davis said from his 3333 Arthington St. office Monday (Aug. 17) evening night. "If they are confused, they should not be running for anything because they don't know what to do to represent people."

The 30-year veteran of Chicago's bruising brand of election politics added the (candidates) who are seriously contemplating a bid for his congressional seat or any other office aren't really waiting for him

to act on their own. Those who are waiting are simply "lazy" because they shouldn't be connecting their decisions to his. They should be out working hard and late as he was doing in his office on the night I

"The ones who are real aren't waiting," Davis said. "The one's too lazy to circulate a petition for just 1,200 signatures (regardless of what I do), I would not want them to represent me in a block club.

'If you want to run, do what you have to do. I am going to be doing what I see best to allow me to represent the people who need representation in Cook County."

Davis went on to add he is "not pondering" his options for 2010 because his mind is made up to "make sure there's the highest level of unity" among Democrats in producing the most viable candidate in either race. He also has no doubt about who that candidate is as he strives to winnow the field of likely competitors by showcasing his political mettle and resources so as to discourage a free-for-all scrum that would damage the chances of retaining the presidency in the black community.

Thus, the 67-year-old six-term U.S. legislator has been busy throughout the summer hobnobbing with the movers and

See Davis page 7

Cong. Davis Back to School Parade



Flood Brothers Disposal employee Vance Ross and members of his family gather to march and distribute school supplies in Congressman Danny K. Davis' 30th Annual Back to School Parade held on August 15, 2009 in on the West Side of Chicago. Flood Brothers Disposal is a family-owned and operated business that has served residential and commercial customers in the Chicagoland area



A Flood Brothers Disposal team member hands out school supplies to West Side parade goers at Congressman Danny K. Davis' 30th Annual Back to School Parade

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

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NLCN 2009 FOCUS

HEALTH & THE ECONOMY

One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of self-care practices.

Self care is personal health maintenance. It is the care taken by individuals towards their own health and well being. Self care includes the actions individuals take in their role as care givers for their children, their families, and others to stay fit and to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Extreme self care means making choices and decisions that honor our soul in everyday living. It means feeding ourselves whole foods, moving our bodies every day, balancing silence with activity, and surrounding ourselves with supportive, likeminded people who are committed to improving or restoring health and uplifting the quality of their lives as well.

More than 75% of people surveyed in the United Kingdom said if they had guidance or support from a professional or peer they would feel far more confident about taking care of their own health. Research shows that supporting self care can improve health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. Our intention is to support individuals, families, institutions, and communities in their efforts to practice extreme self care. During 2009, the North Lawndale Community News focuses on cost-effective ways you can improve your health by practicing self care.

The Economy has made itself the number one issue with gas prices reaching almost \$5.00 per gallon and having a domino effect on everything else sold, except housing stock which experienced a terrible decline with the high rate of foreclosures. The Chicago metropolitan area reported 5,821 new foreclosure filings in December, a foreclosure rate of one new foreclosure filing for every 499 households — more than twice the national average. That brought the area's fourth quarter foreclosure total to 16,949 and its 2006 foreclosure total to 57,706, according to Realty Trac.

Even transportation on the CTA went on the rise with one day passes increasing by seventy-five cents and monthly passess increased by \$10.00 from \$75.00 to \$85.00. Those are just a few of the increases.

The North Lawndale Community News this year is expanding on last years financial focus to give attention to its broader parent the economy. Saving and making smarter shopping decisions will help stop us losing through wasteful choices. Finding new ways to increase our income is a necessity for many in an area where gentrifrication is not going to stop.

One of the hardest things to change is behavior. Modifying behavior seems to be easy when it comes to pain. Social pain lack of money has to be extreme for many to change. 2009 should be different for many and of course many will continue toward economic mistakes and financial ruin.

But in today's information society there is no excuse for not making smart choices. Financial literacy alone is not enough. Look what happened to Lehman Brothers and what's happening to many other financial institutions let alone individuals, families. and small businesses.

Solutions come to the internet, books, economic experts, financial counselors and experts, the media and your economical neighbors.

The North Lawndale Community News will tap into resources and share them with you, our reader. So to help you improve your health and your economy keep reading The North Lawndale News. We say yours because some may not modiy their behavior, except when the pain comes and still some won't change.. Your imput is also welcome If you have some information that is beneficial please submit it. Let's make smarter health and economic moves for life in 2009.

THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/ or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203

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LANE CHANGE

Our Children Will Stop Dying When We Stop Sacrificing Them

A Commentary BY TRAVLES R. LANE - the1tlane@yahoo.com

As another school year approaches with the promise of the annual litany of student murders and anti-violence rallies throughout Chicago, I think it's time we stop all this

And set our shoulders and hearts to the really hard task of truly changing the fundamental conditions that have created jungles of our communities and prey upon our opportunity to nurture our children in peaceful neighborhoods.

Because marching is easy.

What's not so easy is admitting to ourselves that we have all been silently complicit in fostering the cultural toxins at the root of the violence and death that we so desperately say we want ended . By embracing the requisite survival tenets of the jungle in our pursuit of so-called "prosperity" and "progress" in America, we sow our own sorrows in this land which markets and profits from division, death and destruction.

In a society where greed greases the engines of economics and everyone is encouraged to "get mine" by any means available, are we really surprised by the sacrifice of lost lives and abandoned hope that make Black children collateral damage in an allconsuming war for wealth and riches?

When we admit that that is how we live in the U.S. and ultimately, that is the environment we create for our children to grow in, what good will marching do if we do not also commit ourselves to establishing a better environment in which to nurture them?

I am not talking about a better environment in the form of more money and things. We are already reaping the bitter fruits of that pursuit in the sounds of gunfire and sirens and the sights of drug deals, drug use and hopelessness we live with on the West and South sides everyday.

What I am talking about is a complete and total shift in the paradigm of what we have been telling ourselves and our children about who we are and our place in the world.

As living descendents and 21st century

products of America's violence, greed and hypocrisy, the Black community—that community which has and still suffers the most from the death and violence that keep us marching almost daily-has a natural and heroic responsibility to help this country change its

I would even go so far as to say we have a God-given duty to bear the burden of redeeming this nation from its historical and present foundation of seeking material gain at any and all costs. Violence is simply an industry in America—and a most profitable one— to the munitions makers, law enforcement, corrections and others who benefit from the shattered lives and grief accompanying their deadly trades.

And we cannot change that simply by striving to achieve the trappings of success that define that duplicitous apparition called the American Dream. As the current economic upheavals on Wall Street and Main Street attest, American prosperity is merely the product of a more than 200-year-old confidence game—a shell game that has been played so long, no one now even knows where the pea is let alone which shell its under. Who can believe in the promise or morality of a system that could bankrupt our children and march around their graves. General Motors?

Our children will stop dying when we stop sacrificing them upon the altar of material pursuits. That remains the true American slave

How much further do you think black folk would collectively have been along the road to true freedom in America by now if we had invested our energies and endurance into the task of creating a black culture of unity and community that rejected the divisive greed and violence that brought us to America instead of embracing a false freedom that is merely an "equal opportunity" to participate in the con game that continues to profit from our misery?

In a nutshell, violence plagues our communities because violence is our national heritage and a product of national policies. Sans the propaganda about honor and due process, killing and taking is an ingrained ingredient of our national identity. Violence is responsible for stretching this nation from "sea to shining sea." And as long as Black people foolishly play the "getting" game our country demands as a prerequisite of success" in America, we will continue to bury

READING/RIGHTING/RHETORIC COMMENCEMENT FOR 2009 SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The **Reading/Righting/Rhetoric** project of Pathfinders Prevention Education Fund (PPEF) will host its Commencement Brunch and program on Thursday, August 27, 2009, from 12 noon to 2:00 pm at Roosevelt Place, 1401 West Roosevelt Road.

Also acknowledged at the event will be participants in the Pathfinders Summer Youth Employment Program. Both activities were funded by the Steans Family Foundation. Additional youths were funded by the City of Chicago's Youth Ready Program, through the Garfield Park Conservatory

Pathfinders' project provided leadership and communications skills training for young students from ages 12 to 19 years of age. The core curriculum centered on HIV and AIDS prevention facts versus fiction, the history of AIDS, and developments in HIV testing, treatment, and resources for people living with HIV or AIDS.

Pathfinders Prevention Education Fund is a nonprofit, community-based organization, established in 1998 to provide HIV prevention education services on Chicago's West Side, Near West Side, and in the near western suburbs.

Located at 3333 West Arthington Street, PPEF provides outreach, on-site/external trainings, referrals, special community forum activities and counseling for pre-teens to golden-agers.

Additional information can be obtained by calling Brenetta Howell Barrett, founder, president, and chief executive officer, at (773) 533-5755.

From Sista To Sister:

On Aug 15, 2009 I decided

"Speaking Of Desperate" Tali Bakhit

to go to the bank and make a withdrawal from the ATM Machine at the MB Financial Bank here in Chicago at 1420 W. Madison. As I walked up something seemed

quite strange because there was a man parked by the ATM machine standing on the side of the machine. So, of course out of courtesy and curiosity, I asked the man if everything was alright and if the machine is working? His response was "Yes everything is fine, I just got finished working on the machine." So, without any further questions I swiped my card and tried to withdrawal my cash, but to no avail, I was declined the services and no money came out. I scratched my head and said "Something has to be wrong with this machine because I know that the funds are there." The older guy that was still waiting for some odd reason "I don't know" witnessed that I did not receive the funds. So strangely he decided to try and swipe his card to see what the problem was. I did not trust that because everything at this point seemed a little unusual. He stood there as I swiped my card once again, and with the same results to no avail. I then decided to walk into the bank to find out what the problem was, As I approached the window a young lady by the name of Sheila Jacksonso rudely decided that she wanted to communicate with me by screaming across the floor from the drivers admittance in order to solve my problem. How unprofessional. Now I'm beginning to believe that this whole situation is a scam because she watched the whole transition from the banks window. Speaking of desperate measures at such a time that our economy is going through turmoil, it is a shame that we can't even trust those that are supposed to be 'legitimate' businesses.

What has made me even more frustrated about this situation is that this young lady by the name of Sheila, had the audacity to say to me "There is nothing that I could do about this situation, I suggest that you withdrawal the money from the remaining funds in your account." Unbelievable! And you call this customer service. Now, I'm really upset, and trying my very best to hold my composure, which I must admit at the time was very hard to do.

I had already made some obligations with the funds and now, I'm out of \$420.00. Not only am I out of \$420.00 but I have to wait until Monday morning in order to speak with someone, and fill out paper work, and oh, after an investigation is done I may get my money back. I beg your pardon "Not?" And to light the candles on the cake, after speaking with manager Diane Alatore at the main branch on Halsted and Madison, she had the nerve to call me "belligerent" because I am upset about my money. How rude and insensitive! Belligerent? I say call it what you want, but the bigger you are the harder you fall, and if you want to gain your riches by stealing from innocent civilians expect to fall. Because the Law of the Universe will not allow for anyone to get away with such a horrific way of dealing. And speaking of desperate measures, I'm just wondering how many people MB Financial Bank and other banks have done this too. First the housing nightmare, and then this. What Next? Yes, it is the understanding of our nation that we are going through a financial crisis but for banks and businesses to stoop so low, and take such desperate measures it is my opinion that "We The People" are to stand up for our rights. So, to end this story my Sisters I ask that you keep your eyes wide open so that such a situation doesn't happen to you.

Don't let the works of "Darkness" steal your joy, Peace & Light my Sister's,

Tali Bakhit is a visionary journalist, writer, entrepreneur, and owner of her own company Bon-chic Productions. Born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia, she knows the struggles that young African American sisters go through on the everyday basis. As a writer for the the North Lawndale Community Newspaper, Tali has made a loyal commitment to give back to the Sisters and prove yes we can all get along and create a since of loyalty. Peace & Light My sisters.



I.A.M A.B.L.E Center for Family Development's "Preserved For Excellence Program"

I. A.M. A.B.L.E'S Preserved For Excellence Center Is Having an

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Please R.S.V.P By August 20th, 2009 773-826-2929 Ext 215 Ask for Juanita Williams

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Come and joks up tar a eight tilted with fun, laughter and entertainment as we coinbrate this accordistanced with our young people.



STATE OF

This Event will be held at Douglas Park Field House, 1401 S. Sacramento Chicago, Illinois



All proceeds from this event will benefit the programs and services offered at I. A.M. A.B.L.E.

We are asking for a donation of \$30 for individual adult tickets, and \$200 for a table of 8.

Please consider purchasing a table for youth. All donations are tax deductible.

preserved For Excellence



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HOMEWORK HELP ARTS -N- CRAFTS



I. A.M. A.B.L.E.'s New "Preserved for Excellence"
Program, located at 3408 W. Roosevelt is dedicated to
strengthening families and the community. Through the federal
government's department of health and human services, we have
been provided an opportunity to offer free training on healthy
relationships, violence prevention, self-esteem building and other
sensitive issues that youth are faced with each day.

This fall, (through our 'Preserved For Excellence'' program), we will offer teenagers and adolescents the opportunity to participate in something productive and educational. Some of those opportunities include dance, arts, crafts, sports and much more. The program will run Monday thru Friday from 3 00pm-6:00pm. During these sessions students will engage in these character building activities. They will also have the opportunity to be intored and assisted in any homework assignments they have. To register, contact us at 773-826-2929 ext. 206.

Dr. Rosalyn L. Overton, Project Director Dr. Carolyn L. Vessel, CEO/President

I A.M. A.B.L.E

Center for Family Development's

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Is Sponsoring A Back "N" School Bash

September 18,2009 From

6pm-

10pm

LOCATION:

Douglas Park Field House, 1401 S. Sacramento Chicago, Illinois

Building Nonprofit Capacity in the Age of Recovery

In these times of economic uncertainty, the competition for charitable gifts and government contracts has increased dramatically. By and large, foundations are not only looking to fund good causes, but they are looking to invest in well-run organizations that have the capacity to effect positive community change over the long term. Likewise, the Obama Administration is requiring organizations to invest more in strengthening systems of management and accountability.

In an effort to help nonprofit organizations prepare for change, Valerie F. Leonard will be facilitating *Capacity Building Blocks*TM, a 10-week workshop series for nonprofit leaders who are serious about maximizing community impact. The interactive workshops will provide an in-depth organizational assessment, and balance of instruction, case studies and group activities designed to help participants strengthen their organizations' infrastructure, and position them for long term sustainability. The workshops will take place every Tuesday, from September 15, through November 17, 2009 at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 North Central Park, from 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon.

Participants will learn how to

- start a new organization or spin off a new initiative
 - develop effective boards
- discern the differences and similarities between strategic plans and business plans, and when it is most appropriate to use each
- develop and implement program evaluation plans
- write effective funding proposals for private foundations, technology and

government submittals

- develop budgets that support the overall mission of their organizations and programs
- effectively communicate their organizations' mission, goals and accomplishments to enhance accountability and raise funds
- comply with state and federal government regulations as they relate to nonprofits

Valerie F. Leonard is a local community development consultant with considerable experience in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Prior to starting her consulting practice, she ran a small nonprofit organization. Ms. Leonard's recent projects include teaching online courses in finance and budgeting and grant writing for UIC-Great Cities Institute; peer reviewing state and local government proposals for Federal Stimulus funding and developing a strategic plan for a network of organizations addressing issues of hunger and poverty.

Ms. Leonard has a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Spelman College and a master of management degree in finance and marketing from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Ms. Leonard's professional and civic involvement includes convening the Lawndale Alliance, membership in the Association of Consultants to Nonprofits and serving as the Co-Chairperson for the African American Community Outreach Committee for the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Ms. Leonard may be reached at 773-521-3137 or valeriefleonard@msn.com.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR GAS/ELECTRIC BILLS?

Strategic Human Services is Now Taking
CEDA (LIHEAP) Energy Assistance Applications
Starting

September 1st

Seniors 60 and Over/Disabled Applicants within the household

November 1st

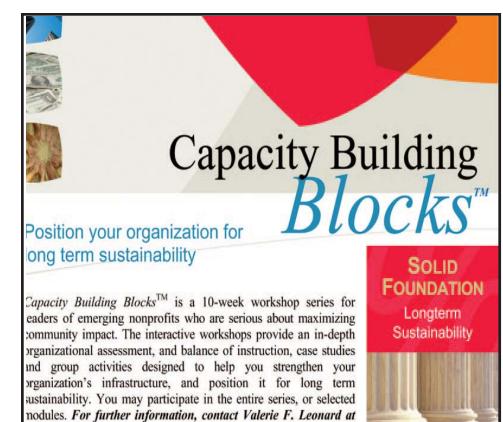
- Accepting all applications

 Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30 day period prior to the application date
- A copy of your heat and electric bills (if you pay for your home energy directly)
- * Proof of Social Security Numbers of all household members



For More Information Contact Strategic Human Services 211 S. Western, Suite 203





9/15/09	Capacity Building Block 1 [™]	Starting a New Organization	
9/22/09	Capacity Building Block 2 TM	Developing Effective Boards	
9/29/09	Capacity Building Block 3 TM	Strategic Planning vs. Business Planning	
10/6/09	Capacity Building Block 4 TM	Program Development	
10/13/09	Capacity Building Block 5 TM	Technology Planning for Nonprofits	
10/20/09	Capacity Building Block 6 TM	Budgeting and Forecasting Cash Flows	
10/27/09	Capacity Building Block 7 TM	Proposal Writing	
11/3/09	Capacity Building Block 8 TM	Marketing and Communications	
11/10/09	Capacity Building Block 9 TM	Program Evaluation	
11-17/09	Capacity Building Block 10 TM	Regulatory Compliance	

Capacity Building Blocks thanks the Chicago Independent Bulletin

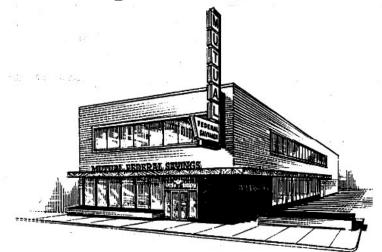
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Every Tuesday September 15, 2009 to

November 17, 2009 9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon Garfield Park Conservato





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Brad Pitt in Inglorius Bastards

INGLORIOUS BASTERDS (**1/2) Intentional misspelled, Quentin Tarrantino's "Inglorious Basterds" is his revision, violent fantasy drama about World War II as another retribution action movie that loosely borrowed its inspiration from Italian filmmaker Enzo G. Castellari's 1978 rousing action flick, a low budget "Dirty Dozen" rip-off with Bo Svenson (who has a cameo bit in Tarrantino's film here) and Fred Williamson (that was just recently re-

released on blue ray DVD). Set during the first four years in Nazi occupied France. Where after the invasion, German soldiers were ordered by Hitler to captured and exterminate Jewish residents. In the first of five chapters, leading the "Der Fuhrer' orders and nearly steals the film in every scene, Christoph Waltz plays the charmingly sinister and astute, Austria -born Nazi hired "Jew" hunter, Col. Hans Landa whose long conversation with a growingly nervous farmer leads to admit to hiding a Jewish family that leads to a lone survivor, a teenage girl, Shosanna (Melanie Laurent) escaping.

Around the same time elsewhere, redneck Tennessean Colonel Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt) whose character name is another Tarantino movie homage gesture to late actor Aldo Ray, a veteran of many WWII war movies.

Col. Raine has established an elite squad of eight Yanks named as the film's title as this guerilla army whose sole mission is to kills Nazis with extreme prejudice.

While Aldo and his men are striking fears and death to the Nazis that is building a reputation that frustrates Hitler. Shosanna has grown up into a blonde beauty under a different name, Emmanuelle Mimieux whose operate her late relatives' cinema theater in

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz

Where she ignores the advances of a German war hero. Frederick Zoeller (Daniel Bruhl) whose heroic exploits has been made into movie, "Nation's Pride" with autograph seekers that see him as a "German Sergeant York": She later encounters with Zoeller: Hitler's second in command of the Third Reich, Dr. Joseph Goebbels (Sylvester Groth) and soon after, the man who killed her family - Col Hans Landa.

Tarrantino makes" Basterds" his post-Hollywood war propaganda piece that re-imagines the crumbling of the Third Reich. A brazen alterative to mock history.

Still, while there is much to watch and enjoy. Even though, the total sum doesn't equal all of its parts for this movie. R; 152min. A Weinstein Company Pictures Release – presented at selected theaters

THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD(**) If you were expecting 1980's "Used Cars", or the cult classic status of 1984's Repo Man" or even as mundane as Robin Williams in 1990's Cadillac Man".

You might sense a few minor elements in "The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard", a serviceable comedy farce that mostly plays off a SWAT-like team of renegade car salesmen led by its aggressive and cocky leader, Don Ready (Jeremy Piven) who is nothing more than Ari Gold with motor oil in his veins.

Ready and his group are sent for by Ben Selleck (James Brolin), the patriarch of his family-owned. financially ailing auto dealership that hires Ready to motivate Selleck's ragtag team of salesmen to jointly sell the entire inventory over the 4th of July holiday

In order to keep from losing his business and property to rival dealers owner, Harding (Alan Thicke) and his boy band wannabe leader- son. (Ed Helms).

While periodically being haunted by the unfortunate accidental death he won't talk about, concerning his business partner and best friend (played by the film co-executive producer and heavily bearded Will Ferrell in a cameo as a ghostly image supported by two hefty, foul-mouth female gospel singers.

Working outside the perimeter, Craig Robinson is quite funny as the angry black d.j who militantly opposes "whitey" by not playing their requests.

Such chicanery between characters is where the humor registers a hit and miss proposition that Piven's participation manages to keep the film together. But director Neal Brennen, a former co-writer for "The Dave Chappelle Show" who also wrote and helmed Chappelle's stoner comedy, "Half Baked" tries to maximize the film on jokes, which doesn't always work to this film's advantage, as the only strength not smarts this movie has.

Although like some jalopy, "The Goods" doesn't have enough where it counts the most. Cruelly amusing at times, "The Goods" in these recession times may not fit the president's "Cash for Clunkers" deal. But since the film is nothing special and only modestly amusing, such a deal might have helped this movie. R; 90min. A Paramount Vantage Pictures Release -Presented at selected theaters

DISTRICT 9 (***1/2) Not the alien invasion on earth movie we expected, "District 9" is more thought provoking and dynamic that emerges as an unexpected adventure of a lifetime, Based upon his short student film Neill Blomkamp makes a striking directorial film debut here; expanding his ideas into an impressive, distinctive cinematic achievement that makes him a true filmmaker talent to watch.

When conditions become too deplorable, a rather perky MNU operative Wilkes van der Merwe (Sharlito Copley) is documenting his new post to relocation these E.T refugees to a new remote sector. Because while seemingly showing an alien/human co-existence on earth, MNU's real intentions to learn the aliens' secrets on their ultra power weapons.

Wilkes is bit overzealous as a company man guiding his military troops and cameramen into the sector, trying to get the aliens to sign their eviction notice. Until he knocks on the shack of a father and son alien working and amidst wall to wall old computer equipment. Where they've manages to find the right liquid solution to create the fuel kept in a black tube container needed to operate their mothership to return to home and save their species.

Christopher offers to restore Wilkes to being completely human, if they join forces to retrieve the container from the lab that he needs to refuel his mothership save his species on their planet. Wilkes is put into a quandary when he ultimately learns and has to decide whether or not to accept Christopher's "promise" that would take three years to occur, after he returns to his planet and people.

While one might view "District 9" as a straightforward sci-fi adventure that is certainly enjoyable and disgusting for its visional horror and graphic. bloody violence.

Therefore, "District 9" is symbolically about politics and racial injustice formulated behind a sci-fi adventure using aliens as the counterpart to the oppressed minority. Sometimes this bothers me how Hollywood will only address racial injustice underneath the cloud of non-human animated or sci-fi characters. Because while the audience accepts and expects the entertainment value, the strength of the message and thoughts don't always seem to be loud enough to be

Well, I hope telling you the subliminal intentions upfront, I hope will stir your interest beyond expecting the usual. "District 9" is a movie with a lot on its mind. If the audience approaches the premise through the vision of its director. You will be greatly impressed, informed and fascinated. It's incredible! R; 111min. A Tri-Star Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

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intentions.

"No one's a candidate until October, when the ballot certifications are made, said Davis. Until then, I'm simply creating a healthy discussion.

"And if some are confused by that, then (October) will be an opportunity to learn and clear up that confusion."



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MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH NOT IN YOUR HAND

Davis from front page

shakers of Chicago politics to demonstrate he alone is the real deal among those seeking to replace Todd Stroger at the helm of Cook County government.

Davis said most black Chicago politicians are old enough to remember when Tim Evans and Eugene Sawyer created a big split in black loyalties when they butted heads in the mayoral race following the death of Harold Washington.

"It has been downhill for local (black) representation since then," Davis said.

And while many would take issue with the contention that the chair of Cook County Board President is a "black" seat, Davis is unapologetic in his assessment that the needs of the black community for representation in local government may best be answered by one of their own.

"I'm not saying representation has to be black or white," he said in his trademark basso sartorial style. "But when I go to the county jail, it looks like a black seat

to me. When I go to the Cook County emergency room, it looks like a black seat. When the people in Ford Heights, Phoenix, Dix Moore, Harvey and Markham are losing access to health care, it looks like a black seat."

Citing a focus on healthcare

that span the breadth of his long political career, his status as a recognized expert in the field and his proven ability to work with o t h e r commissioners, Davis said he is confident he has the edge in credentials and experience to withstand any challenge to his candidacy. He's just in no hurry to declare his



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