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

SENATOR RICKEY HENDON'S "FIGHTING FIFTH" SOFTBALL TEAM CAPTURES 4TH ANNUAL 16 INCH INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

The Honorable Rickey R. Hendon was named MVP (most-valuable-player) as he lead fifteen of his softball mates to victory over the Southside "Bushwackers" to win the Fourth Annual 16 Inch Highland, Indiana, Invitational Tournament on Sunday, September 6th in Highland, Indiana.

Nine teams competed for The Highland Indiana Invitational Tournament's coveted trophy. It required that the "Fighting Fifth" win four games over the course of two days beating Southside Chicago teams; "Rolling Dice"(7-3), "Line Drive" (10-2), and then whipping "The Bushwackers" (8-5) in the semi-finals and again (11-3) in the final for the championship crown.

"The Fighting Fifth" had an incredible season compared to last year where they finished dead last. The turn-a-round from cellar to championship season came about as a result of good hitting and solid

pitching. Rickey Hendon lead his team in hitting by garnering seven hits out of ten-at-bats during the tournament. The solid pitching of Sherman Martin held "The Bushwackers" to a mere seven hits in the championship game and he also came through big with a three-run-homer in the fourth inning thus securing for him and his team a win.

Tournament placement for the top four positions was as follows: THE CHAMPIONS – "The Fighting Fifth", followed by "The Bushwackers," the "Westside Outlaws" and then the "CTA."

"The Fighting Fifth" is named in reference to the district that Senator Hendon currently represents. Previously it was called



(L-R) Umpire Ken Beaty, the Honorable Senator Rickey R. Hendon, Umpire Larry (Butch) Danley, team manager Steve Kirby (who has partnered with Rickey Hendon over the years to make the team possible and nominated for the ASA 16" Softball Hall of Fame) and 72-year-old Will Beene who pitched for opposing team "Rookies & Veterans."

"The Fighting 27th" in reference to his work as Alderman of Chicago's 27th Ward.

Rickey R. Hendon's passion, besides serving his constituents in the Fifth Senatorial District of

Illinois is softball. He lives and breathes softball and has joyously fielded teams for over twenty years.

ETARE NEGED TRIUMPHED CANCER ALBUM SET TO BE RELEASED

Etare Neged (pronounced: e-TAR-e ne-GED) is a life-force energy. His name is also formed from the word degenerate, which is split in half and written backwards.

He is a fusion of fire and ice, light and dark, the medieval and the post-apocalyptic, the interpolation of pain, pleasure and rage. He was born on the outskirts of Chicago, in Arlington Heights Illinois. He was raised in Indianapolis, only to return to Chicago as Etare Neged, Artist/MC/Producer.

What NLCN found special about Etare is that he is a man who has survived the evils of cancer and sinusitis as a child. Etare had a rare form of cancer called Nasopharyngeal carcinoma. Nasopharyngeal carcinoma is a rare tumor in the nasopharynx. The nasopharynx is located right behind the mouth and above the throat connecting to the nasal passage, this is in laymen's term. It accounts for fewer than 1% of cases of childhood malignancy.

Whereas almost all adult nasopharyngeal cancers are carcinomas, only 20-35% of nasopharyngeal malignancies (growths) are carcinomas in children.



Etare Neged

In the pediatric population, most nasopharyngeal malignancies are rhabdomyosarcomas (muscle tissue) or lymphomas (immune system).

His ordeal with cancer has steered his psychological road map with music. As a note, he began playing music after being attacked by sinusitis. When he was asked if his illness with sinusitis was related any to him receiving cancer later, his response was "it may have". His sinus illness steered him to playing music.

"My first introduction to music is closely related to my first near death experience which was when I was in sixth grade" said Etare. I was in the hospital for one month



NLCN publisher Isaac Lewis interviewing Etare Neged with Krunchtime Production owner Tom Hayes and staff, Veronica.

and half of that time I was blind and I had two surgeries because of the sinusitis," he said. After he got out of the hospital, he went to the store with his parents and a keyboard caught his attention. He has been connected with music ever since.

What also is unusual about this rapper is that he is a Northwestern graduate. He has three sisters, who have masters or better and they are helping with his music career.

At one time Etare says, "I became lost a soul with no focus, no direction, no spirit and worse yet, no way to channel this endless

rage. He was almost completely consumed by the darkness until one day amidst all of the sorrow he found the light of music seeping up from the dungeon below which was his experience with cancer.

And now, through High School sports, college, and now working for a major pharmaceutical company Etare is ready to explode onto the music scene with his first major solo release, "Date with Destiny" on September 29. To view a taste of his album cover lead single "Date with Destiny" go to <http://www.myspace.com/etareneged>.

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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, like-minded 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 passes 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 gentrification 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 modify their behavior, except when the pain comes and still some won't change. Your input 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 LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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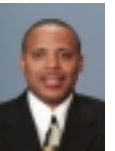
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“WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?”

Fr. Larry Dowling, St. Agatha, North Lawndale

After reading a recent editorial “Already Far Behind” describing the way our children living in the City of Chicago are being short-changed on their education because of fewer and shorter school days, I have to ask, “Where is the outrage?” Our children living in Chicago are just as important as any child living in the suburbs. We try to tell them that. Our good teachers and administrators and clergy try to affirm in them that they are important and are to be regarded with the same dignity as other children in wealthier parts of our metropolitan area and beyond.

But then there are those who do not seem to care: teachers who consistently put down children in the classroom; a teachers’ union that cares more about its teachers than about the kids; a business community that seems okay with the fact that Chicago is producing only a very small percentage of their future workers; a political establishment more concerned about hosting an Olympics highlighting international athletic excellence than, beyond lip-service, supporting a school system that provides and encourages local academic excellence; a black and Hispanic church community that somehow seems to be okay with the status quo for our children, willing to settle for ‘less than’ while at the same time preaching the hypocrisy that our children can achieve ‘more than’; and, of course, a state government mired in self-interest and corruption who don’t have the *pelotas* to do what is right for every child in this state.

As this is happening, some charter schools are being opened which are meant to offer something better. In some cases they do; in some they don’t. Ironically, the schools that do offer a quality education that happen to also have the benefit of a basis in faith and morals, are the ones who are faltering. They are failing, not because of poor education, but because of the cost to parents and to the Catholic Church and the Big Shoulders Fund

in general. Catholic Schools continue to provide a quality education in a safe atmosphere for many poor students in our city. I would venture to say that if the Catholic Church could provide a free education to the children in our city, especially those in poor neighborhoods, we would; it is at the heart of who we are and what we teach and try to live. But the reality is that there is a cost. Parents alone cannot often afford the costs, despite significant assistance provided from several sources based on their financial condition.

What’s wrong with this picture? Catholic schools are getting it right for our kids. Some charter schools are getting it right for our kids. A few public schools are getting it right for our kids. But so many, too many of our kids have to settle for the scraps: while some teachers ask to work fewer hours and get paid more; while teachers are pressured to change grades; while state testing standards are lowered so that we can falsely say that our kids are doing better; while those politically connected send their children to private schools or impose their clout to get their child into one of the few high-achieving schools in Chicago; while most ministers sit back and continue to allow the children in their congregations to be under-educated; while parents continue helplessly to encourage their children to excellence knowing full well that it will only be by their efforts and the grace of God that their child will achieve.

If only we could all work together to be that ‘grace of God’ for our children. Until the desire for every child to have the opportunity to achieve their God-given potential takes root in the collective consciousness of the people in this city and state and results in substantive change, our children – at least those in poor communities in Chicago – will continue to suffer greatly from our failure to really fight for them and, if they live into adulthood, will have a much harder life because of our failure.

The Hoofers Club West



A new seniors program has come to the Westside of Chicago. The Hoofers Club West is a chair Tap aerobics class for seniors. The Program is Free. The Hoofers Club is designed to preserve the cultural heritage of Tap dancing and its music while providing Fun and Fitness for today’s seniors. The class is an introduction to Tap for new participants and a refresher course for those who have had Tap before. The program is a chair Tap class but can be done standing for an increase aerobic workout according to the senior’s ability. When the instructor Brenda Starr Woods named the program chair Tap aerobics class she thought that putting aerobics in the title would attract more seniors. She was surprised to learn that all of the seniors who joined said it was for the Tap. In fact one said she remembered watching Shirley Temple as a child and she always wanted

to tap.

The program started last year in South East Chicago and was a huge success. The program is sponsored in part by a Neighborhood Arts Project Grant from the City of Chicago Dept of Cultural Affairs. The Program is Free. The Program also has a music appreciation

Components where the class will be given information on the different styles of music such as Jazz, Gospel, R&B, Reggae, and Hip Hop with sing along Karaoke, and Name that tune. The program is held at Homan Square Park, 3559 W. Arthington on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30. Did I mention the Program is Free? For more information contact Jackie Guthrie Park Supervisor

312-746-6650 or Brenda Starr Woods 773-902-7391.

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FROM SISTA TO SISTER: CPS Lunches, What Are Our Children Eating?



Tali Bakhit

P o t a t o chips, soda pop, fried chicken and Cheetos red hot are amongst the food selection that school children have in the Chicago Public School vending machines and lunch lines. However, did you know that eating healthy is a direct correlation between the grades that students are bringing home and their everyday interaction with people, and themselves?

With ADHD, obesity, and diabetes on the rise amongst our youth CPS administrators express that they are trying their best to help our youth eat healthier lunches by replacing old lunches and vending machines with a healthier selection of food in order to re-direct unhealthy eating habits. But according to retired school teacher Michael Michelle, prior employee for the Chicago Board of Education “The quality of food that a child consumes is based upon ones social economic background, even though the city has tried to provide healthier lunches for all of CPS ‘s students.”

But what most don’t realize is that what is considered healthy to one may not be considered healthy to another based on studies done by

organic food experts which challenges the FDA’s food pyramid. Where one may believe that pizza opposed to fried chicken is healthy, and chocolate milk to replace soda pop will build strong bones and provide better nutrients for the body, studies done by organic food experts differ. Martha Boyd, Program Director of Urban Initiative for the Angelic Organic Learning Center says “We get the proper amount of nutrients by eating organic foods— ADHD and a lack of concentration is caused by foods full of pesticides and residue which leave children less able to learn.” So how do we bridge the gap between organic and healthy eating in the school systems verses the conventional way of eating? In effort to building academic success Martha works on projects in different communities to help build the bridge by linking relationships between local organic farmers and schools through the Urban Initiative.

Kevin Trudeau author of “Natural Cures They Don’t Want You To Know About” indicates that obesity and disease stem from a lack of proper digestion due to the chemicals like hormones, pesticides and insecticides which are in the food. While recent studies done by the *F As In Fat Report’s* on obesity in children being over 30% in 30 states. Which raises a major problem according to the American Diabetes Association because obese children do not get enough magnesium from the foods that they eat which can cause insulin resistance and later turns into type 2 diabetes.

As a result CPS has incorporated programs like “Great Body Shop” for children in kindergarten through 6th grade where younger students learn about healthy meals and older students learn about weight gain,

eating disorders and fad diets. But with questions being raised about what’s in the food, does CPS have a responsibility to invest in organic foods for students in order to help with the success of academic advancement, and help to cure obesity?

According to Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture in a report provided by the ad council “Combating childhood obesity and encouraging all Americans to balance healthy eating with daily physical activity is a top priority for President Obama and me— ultimately, eating well and exercising is a question of public health.

Overcoming this epidemic of obesity requires that we work together at all levels — parents, teachers, community and business leaders and government — to achieve healthier lifestyles. USDA’s MyPyramid.gov provides a number of tools and resources to help all of us move to a healthier lifestyle.” So if our government and CPS is indeed looking to move forward on healthy lifestyles for students in order to gain academic success and cure obesity should Chicago Public Schools System invest in organic foods for students? For more information on healthy and organic eating for our youth go to www.learnrowconnect.org.

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.

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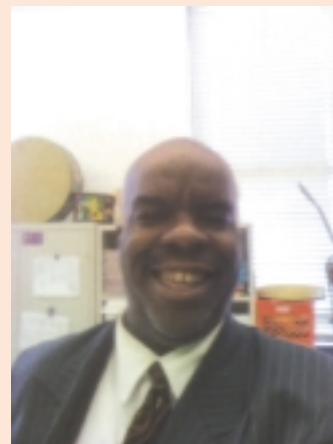
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Local Minister Announces Candidacy for State Central Committeeman for the 7th Congressional District!

Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, a local minister born and raised in the North Lawndale area in Chicago’s West Side announces candidacy for Illinois State Central Committeeman for the 7th Congressional District running against incumbent Congressman Danny K. Davis who currently holds the public office. This would be the first time that the minister ran for public office and statewide office.



Rev. Henderson believes that we need more common folk that can identify with poor and working class families that are struggling in public office. Rev. Henderson says, “I too is struggling to make ends meet and I can identify with those who can’t find work and are in despair. I have a Masters and a PhD degree and I and cannot find permanent work. I do not have health insurance either and I can identify with those who do not. Again, we need more of those who can relate to the common

person and families that are struggling in public office. But more importantly elected public officials shouldn’t lose touch with their constituents.”

With all the issues of rising unemployment, foreclosures, and hopelessness, Rev. Henderson feels that the local public officials should be held accountable and there should be transparency. Rev. Brian Henderson says, “I feel that the current public officials and the community should work together to find solutions to the problems that is plaguing our community all over the 7th Congressional District. “I’m concerned about the rising crime in our area and it has to do with no jobs in our community for working adults, as well as young adults and teens. I feel that we need more jobs in our community and more social programs.” Part of the state central committee member’s job is to slate and endorse candidates that represent the best interest of our community. I will not continue to slate or endorse candidates that don’t bring jobs, programs, and services to our community.” I want the residents of the seventh Congressional District to know that I will fight for jobs, programs, and services to our communities. I also want to build relationships with all our elected officials. Also, I want to have community meetings and reach out to constituents to relay concerns to all elected officials.”

person and families that are struggling in public office. But more importantly elected public officials shouldn’t lose touch with their constituents.”

Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson is a community leader on the West Side and has been active in the community. He is currently an active member of the Boy Scouts as Unit Commissioner in the Western Trails District. He has been active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, several other community organizations. He’s currently an associate minister for First Baptist Institutional Church located at 4220 W. 18th St. Chicago, IL, under the leadership of Pastor Rev. Aaron Brasfield Jr. There is a committeeman and committeewoman elected for a 4-year term for the office. Darlene Burnett is currently the State Central Committeewoman for the seventh Congressional District. For more information about Rev. Henderson’s Campaign for State Central Committeeman or to get involved, please contact Henderson for State Central Committeeman 7th District, P.O. Box 24855, Chicago, IL 60624. Alternatively, call 773-521-0566.



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Marian Elizabeth. Mays-Beckless. She made her transition on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 7:40 a.m. after a lengthy battle with a variety of ailments.

Born January 9, 1932 in Griffin, Georgia, she was 77 at the time of her transition. She is the mother of North Lawndale Community News' Police Roundup columnist Ferman Beckless.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the C.B. Taylor

Funeral Parlors, 63 East 79th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The funeral will be held on Friday morning, 10:00 a.m. at the same location. Interment will be at the Mt. Hope Cemetery, 115th and Fairfield on Chicago's Far Southwest Side.

Communications should be addressed to:
Ferman M. Beckless
9304 South Harvard Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60620
beckless@yahoo.com - 312446-2202

GO TEAM!



From Left to Right: Marcie Hill, president of From Goodness to Greatness, Otis C. Monroe III, CEO of the Monroe Foundation, and Valerie Leonard, consultant to nonprofits and principal facilitator of Capacity Building Blocks, join "victory hands" to demonstrate a successful Southside nonprofit outreach meeting held on Saturday, September 12th at National City Bank, 87th & Cottage Grove. The Southside Nonprofit Outreach meeting connected 30 organizations to federal grant opportunities through Illinois ResourceNet and training through the Capacity Building Blocks program.

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When Money is the Solution The Church is the Problem

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane - the1tlane@yahoo.com

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise from men more than praise from God—John 12:42-43.

Men may worship God, yet they serve money.

I cannot recall if this is a quote from some famous or distinguished person in history, but I do know no truer words regarding religion has ever been uttered.

This thought came immediately to mind the other day as I was reading about the \$1.3 million advertising campaign the Catholic Church plans for the upcoming Christmas season in an effort to bring so-called "lapsed" Catholics back to the faith. If this wasn't so serious it would be hilarious.

Just think about it for a moment: The church that claims its lineage from the Apostle Peter is trying to retain/regain membership not by the power of the truth, but through the propaganda of big-money public relations. For a faith that claims Jesus Christ as its master, it seems rather unseemly for it to be relying on worldly means to accomplish the miracle it will surely need to convince anyone that a church that expresses such faith in money truly serves a heavenly purpose.

And that is not only a problem for the Catholics. Unfortunately, most so-called Christian religions today seem more intent upon serving the duplicitous dictates of mammon rather than heeding Christ's admonition that you cannot serve two

masters.

Perhaps if the Pope didn't live like a worldly king and the church spent more time truly serving its believers rather than seeking to control their faith, a better use can be found for a \$1.3 million than a public relations campaign based on worldly goals.

At a time when the reign of money in the world has never been more evident, it is time for Christianity to either provide a true alternative to its power or simply admit it too, serves the god of the almighty dollar. At least then, there wouldn't be so much hypocrisy confusing serving Christ with getting paid.

And we might not have so many silk-suited preachers running around in Cadillacs and Lear jets proclaiming the blessings of finances as sufficient evidence of preparation for life beyond worldly concerns.

Because when money is the object or the solution to a problem, Christ is already absent from the equation.

Also want to add my two cents concerning Joe Wilson's "You lie" outburst during President Obama's speech last week. Forget his apology. This man was speaking for white America when he disrespected the president. And white America has responded by donating big bucks to his re-election in South Carolina next year. If you want to know how far we have moved beyond race in this country let's see how many Joe Wilsons wind up in Congress next year.

And then let's see how truly uncivil things get in Washington and around the nation in 2012 when we have a black president running for re-election.

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Youth Training and Employment Program Gives Top Job Searching Tips

Chicago's youths face great employment challenges as more experienced applicants are now applying for entry-level jobs. Jobs For Youth, a non-profit that averages over 1,000 job placements for Chicago youths (ages 17 to 24) from low-income families every year, offers youth tips to help in their job search.

1. **Building Your Resume:** If you have never done a resume, use a resume template. They can be found easily online or in your computer software. Make sure you use spell-check and have at least three people look over your resume for grammatical errors.

2. **Phone Etiquette:** As you start applying to jobs, make sure your voicemail message is business appropriate. Let members of your household know that you are expecting calls for employment interviews so that they may also answer the phone appropriately.

3. **Network:** It is amazing who you may know who may know someone else. It is all about connections. Make a list of organizations and places you are involved with – church, school, community groups, family. Talk to them. Let them know you are looking for a job and what your skills are.

4. **Interviewing:** Be 15-minutes early for all scheduled appointments and interviews. Carry at least three copies of your resume and list of references to each interview. Maintain a neat and professional appearance. When in doubt, wear a suit. Do not bring anyone with you to interviews. And remember, everyone in the office is watching you. Be polite to everyone. Always turn off your cell phone. Remember to send a thank you letter after the interview.

5. **Congratulations, You Have a Job!** Knowing your strengths and how they are used at work can make you realize how valuable you are and therefore make you appreciate your job more. Here are a few pointers so that you can keep working. Know where you want to be with the company and know how to get there. Bring new ideas to the job, make yourself valuable. Be flexible with job requirements: tasks that look like a pain can turn out to be a blessing. Be friendly with everyone, you never know who can take you to your next step. Support your teammates, they will support you!

About Jobs For Youth/Chicago, Inc.

Jobs For Youth/ Chicago, Inc. (JFY) helps young men and women from low-income families become a part of the economic mainstream; and, in the process, provides the business community with motivated job-ready workers. JFY offers pre-employment training, GED preparation and job placement services to youth that are between the ages of 17 and 24. Established in 1979, JFY has made over 26,000 job placement to help Chicago's deserving youth enter the workforce. More information is available at www.jfychicago.org, including a short video about JFY programs and services.

AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (1/2)** Not intended to be the kind of fine entertainment cuisine as was Disney/Pixar's "Rastquille": This fourth feature length computer animation offering from Sony Pictures Animation aims for a more modest, zanier and cartoon-ish appetizer or smorgasbord out of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"

On a fictional remote island in the middle of nowhere that might have been something inspired by Dr. Seuss. The isolated sardine exporter isle, Shallow Falls is hardly Who-ville. But town is more like Amity out of the "Jaws" movies thanks to the same kind of reckless, opportunistic mayor, Shelbourne (Bruce Campbell) trying to salvage their trade to recapture the tourist business.

Flint Lockwood (Bill Hader) has always felt he was meant to do something big that

was instilled by his mother. As an aspiring inventor since childhood; Flint's "odd ideas" have only resulted in embarrassment and ridicule from the townspeople over his outlandish and malfunctioning creations. Which include the fusing of two species into "rat birds" and his lab assistant monkey with a human voice translator.

Whether it's ironic or not this instantly recalling the same device used first with better results, by the dogs on the remote isle in Disney/Pixar's "Up".

Now Flint is trying to save his town with his latest invention, a rocket machine that can turn water into actual food items from the clouds. Naturally his widowed father, Tim (James Caan) is unsupportive and hi-tech illiterate who wants his son's footsteps into his bait and tactical shop business.

But Flint disobeys his father and disrupts

the ceremonial announcement of Mayor Shelbourne's idea to revitalize his town with the unveiling of "Sardine-land" theme park led by its onetime baby mascot for the product, Brent (Andy Samberg) who seems more of a glory hound than Flint's former childhood bully'

However, Soon after Flint's fiasco; suddenly the sky begins to rain hamburgers that signals his success and popularity that leads to his potential romance with Sam Sparks, an intern who becomes the senior food-weather news correspondent.

But while Flint bask in the glory of his creation and ignores how overworked his machine is becoming. With pressure from the mayor, Flint tries to please every one, such as the strict town cop, Earl Devereux (Mr. T) who enlists Flint's assistance to create an ice cream wonderland in town for his son's (Bobb'e J. Thompson) birthday. (Although repetitive and sappy at times, whether in live action or animation; it's good to have a black father express his love toward his son on film.)

Initially, Flint is unaware how close his machine is getting closer to hazardous results. Until later, Flint notices the enormous twisters of spaghetti and the meteor shower of meatballs falling from the skies that have mutated; causing chaos and destruction

Unless Flint can somehow redeem himself with help from Sam Sparks, Brent and the monkey traveling inside a rocket ship heading to stop this disaster with a computer "kill" flash drive.

Funny enough to amuse adults. While being silly fun and inventive for a kids' imagination (and perhaps appetite) Still "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" offers a forecast that sustain itself through its humor

See Flickspage 7

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Flicks from page 6

and energy. In as much as it does visually. Regardless of the 3D effect that offers an "Animal House"–like food fight being thrown down from the skies; as well as at the movie audience.

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" may not be as filling to our palate as it should be. But on the level of fast food; to say the least, it's an entertaining snack. PG: 90min. A Columbia Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

THE INFORMANT! (***/1/2)

There will be some strange behavior from varied business executives on display in several movies this fall. But there might not be any more incredibly true and funnier than "The Informant!"

After laboring over such serious and controversial movie fare as "Che"; director Steven Soderbergh shows a softer side by providing amusing dialogue diversion while stressing some credibility to this offbeat, mischievous yet intricate comedy thriller.

But equally important as this true story; "The Informant!" achieves its quirky inspiration from the original, comediely inspired performance of Matt Damon that just might be distinctive enough to be Oscar worthy,

Matt Damon has never been funnier in being this 30 lbs heavier, mustache and glasses wearing dorky character, Mark Whitacre, a rising executive in the 90's at Decatur, Illinois -based agri-business firm, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM). Where corn goes in one end and profits comes out the other. Mark started out as a bio-chemist responsible for several profitable food additives for the company who was brought over to the business side. When Mark disapproved of ADM's operation while working alongside the big bosses.

But "The Bourne Ultimatum" scripter Scott Z. Burns adds another dimension that is a stoke of true comedy and perceptive genius through his off screen narrative comments and conversational remarks that indicates the kind of active that goes on his brain.

Mark Whitacre is such a highly intelligent individual that he's also

dumb as he is smart that doesn't leave much room for gray matter to his flat personality.

From 1992 to 2002, Mark led the FBI and his two vice president co-workers on an elusive and elaborate chase. When he reveals there is a mole within the company involved in "price fixing" in the licensing business in Japan. And there is a threat of a virus in the corn known as dextrose that an informer that mark can't reveal his name or whereabouts; who wants to be paid \$10 million to stop the virus.

But through the course of this film, Mark's story changes and grows that begins when the company agrees to let the FBI led by agent Brian Shepherd (Scott Bakula) wiretaps into Mark's company phone at home His wife, Ginger (Melanie Lynskey) wants to tell what he knows.

Instead, Mark gets caught up in the illusion of working for the FBI to the point of seeing himself as agent 0014, being "twice as smart as James Bond". But as everyone begins to fall at ADM, leaving Mark as the last man standing who with the FBI exposed a lot of incriminating stuff that made him one of the nation's biggest whistle blowers.

Yet, what started this charade turns out to be a fragment of Mark's "beautiful mind" trying to embezzle \$10 million from the company whose policies he disapproved. But it's the exceptional performance from Matt Damon in this bi-polar anti-hero that becomes the singular and ultimate "mad men" in the cooperate world that defines the film so well for what becomes Steven Soderbergh's best film in years. R; 108min. A Warner Bros. Pictures release – Presented at selected theaters

JENNIFER'S BODY (***/1/2)

Already a typically strange friendship between a dorky but protective best friend with the apt nickname "Needy" (Amanda Seyfried) who seems to always be willing to be interrupted with her patient, but concern boyfriend, Chip (Johnny Simmons), to follow whatever interest her hot and popular girlfriend, Jennifer (Megan Fox) who charms and teases her way to get any and every man.

Jennifer invites Needy to hang with her at local bar club, Melody Lane to hear an underground rock band that Jennifer has a groupie-type interest in its lead singer, Nikolai (Adam Brody) that Needy overhears talking to his band members about choosing Jennifer to bang, for a sexual fling.

Then a bit of a real-life recall, when

the band's sound system ignites a blazing fire that destroy the club, killing several students that Jennifer, Needy and the band members manage to escape. Claiming to be on an adrenaline rush from the tragedy, Nikolai invites Jennifer into the group's trailer van, against the concerns of Needy.

Naturally, Needy's fears are confirmed when initially Needy doesn't understand Jennifer's bloodied appearance and tar-like goop that pours out of Jennifer's mouth that are the results of Jennifer now being opposed by a demon force from this band from hell who later go on the radio offering their charity to the town to seek out new victims.

As the townspeople are not only in mourning over the nightclub fire tragedy, except for Jennifer's glib demeanor in school. The high school becomes even more devastated by the sudden brutal murder of their star quarterback. Also caused by Jennifer having lured into the woods, the star jock to eat his heart out and leave the bloodied remains for the gathered and waiting woodland animals. (sort of a Disney hone wild-type joke)

Since their childhood shown in flashback that indicates the pattern and influence that Needy seems to reside in Jennifer's shadow. Until, needy observes the darker transition of her friend's insatiable appetite for men. Needy has to somehow stand up for herself by rescuing the town from this pure evil in this horror comedy written by "Juno" Oscar screenwriter and Chicago native Diablo Cody who tries to mine some riffs on adolescent behavior into this movie genre that's only reflected by her sharp narrative dialogue that stresses the humor and some human insights Cody did in "Juno"

While not a total waste, "Jennifer's Body": is not intended to be a blood fest as advertised. But what it tries to achieve on a social and intellectual level doesn't fully make the grade. When Needy enacts her revenge afterwards on the band members in photo shots over the film's end credits.

The attempts to doing this film as a parody without being too obvious and avoid the predictability, kind of short circuits what's been better done before in films like "Carrie", "The Lost Boys" to name a few. R: 101min. A 20th Century Fox Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

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