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PUBLISHER : STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES

VOLUME NO. 12 - ISSUE NO. 12

ISSN 1548-6087

April 1- April 7, 2010

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

FROM THE WEST SIDE TO WASHINGTON DC: KEEPING THE YOUTH ACADEMICALLY ABREAST DURING SPRING BREAK



youth of Better Life will be visiting Howard University, George Town University, George Washington University, George Mason University, and Galludet University in Washington DC, Morgan State University in Baltimore Maryland, Bowie State University in Bowie Maryland and Hampton University in Hampton Virginia, doing a White House tour and having lunch with President Barack Obama. What a difference it makes when our youth chose education over alcohol, parties and over indulging in horse play---the results are tremendous.

Before the departure to Washington DC on Thursday, March 25, 2010 the youth of Better Life had a celebration at Senator Rickie Hendon's office where sponsors State Senator Mattie Hunter, Dr. Earnest Thomas, Dr. George Smith, David Whittaker, Rickie Williams, Cheryl Francis and Johnnie Harris of Chicago Area Project all gave inspiration speeches to the youth to ensure them that they all made the right choice by spending their Spring break in pursuit of their future and that they were all chosen for a reason. Kelly Mitchell, a senior at Crane Technical high school said

"I feel that having the opportunity to travel and see what other schools have to offer is really important," I am so glad to be apart of this experience." Kelly adds, "Mr. Wolf has been working with me on going to college for the last three years and if it wasn't for the trips, I don't know if I would be going to college." Mr. Eugene Wolf is the Founder and Executive Director of Better Life For Youth which has been in existence for 13 years and according to Mr. Eugene Wolf each year gets better and better. Every year Mr. Eugene Wolf is responsible for helping send off at least 20 children to college on the West Side of Chicago.

Lamar Chew a freshman at Northern Illinois University is one of the students that has been mentored through Mr. Wolf's organization and as a result is currently majoring in Engineering. Lamar says "I am thankful that Mr. Wolf has given me the opportunity to visit other colleges in order to understand the differences between colleges." He feels that the college tours through Better Life For Youth has allowed him to choose the best college for his future in Engineering. Currently Ms. Chew, Lamar's mother is one of the

chaperons on the Washington DC trip. According to Teresa Plowright writer of Family Vacation Guides and veteran traveler, Washington DC is considered to be one of the top ten places to visit during Spring break for families. The National Cherry Blossom Festival takes place during Spring break. Perhaps, during leisure time, the youth could fit in another educational event, The National Cherry Blossom Festival which Washington celebrates the original gift of the 3,000 trees that were given to the state by the city of Tokyo.

Every year the youth are subject to Spring break from school in order to celebrate the Easter holiday, but what type of decisions are parents helping the youth make in the process. Do they allow them to engage in activities that are not beneficial to their future, let them sit around the house and do nothing, or inspire them to make the right choices and focus on their futures? According to a Youth -Alloy/Harris Interactive study the youth/college students spend over \$200 billion dollars a year which is an indication

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What are your children doing for the Spring break? The Youth of Chicago's West Side organization "Better Life For Youth" are off to a ten day college tour in Washington DC preparing for their futures. As many young teens are spending their vacations in places like Aruba, South Beach, the Caribbean and many other places where their parents sit

at home with their fingers and toes crossed praying that their children aren't engaging in pre-marital sex, under age drinking and other ill matters that would result in a horrifying Natalie Holloway tragedy. Fortunately for the youth of Better Life, they will be fully chaperoned everywhere that they go during their ten day stay in Washington DC. The

Art Turner, #2 of 16 for Lt. Gov Democratic Nominee Sheila Simon, Chosen to Replace Scott Cohen as Quinn's Running Mate Nicholas Short

Sad but not broken, supporters for Arthur Turner as the Democratic nominee for Lt. Governor listened as Turner himself spoke to them on their campaign bus, thanking them for their efforts before they returned to Chicago. He urged them not to be upset about the choice Illinois's Democratic legislators made. Though the majority of the Democratic State Central Committee voted for Sheila Simon over Turner for Lieutenant Governor, On March 27, he wanted them to persevere, to not be bitter, and to keep fighting.

Turner and Simon were two of the 16 candidates that appeared at the Inn on 835 in Springfield, Illinois, hoping to be nominated by the 38 members of the committee for the Lt. Governor position after the primary winner, Chicago pawn broker Scott Lee Cohen, gave it up following disclosures about his personal life. In a final attempt at becoming Governor Pat Quinn's right hand man—or woman—for the general election in November, each candidate performed a speech.

Outside the inn, before the

vote, Turner supporters stood in anticipation as they waited to be asked inside. Turner welcomed and shook the hands of as many of them as he could as he walked passed them to enter the inn. Inside, reporters typed on their laptops, camera crew members set up their equipment, and people in charge of arranging the event completed the final preparations while popular songs were played loudly in the background. Immense amounts of chatter, created by a blend people who were either talking on their cell phones or socializing with each other, flowed throughout the room.

Once they were allowed in, Turner's supporters, who rode a bus to Springfield to provide backup during his turn at the podium, sat behind the committee with their posters while wearing campaign T-shirts. They cheered uproariously for him as he spoke about his family, his accomplishments and what can he do for Illinois.

After the speeches, it was time for the voting to begin. To be a winner, according to the rules, a candidate had to gain 50 percent of the weighted vote cast by



Sheila Simon at podium giving her appeal for Democratic Nominee for Lt. Gov to State Central Committee as Art Turner waits as last speaker out 16 candidates.

committee members based on the votes cast in each congressional district in the Feb. 2 primary—a number equaling 959,522 votes. But despite support from Cong. Danny Davis, Jesse Jackson, Jr., and several others, Turner did not receive enough votes. Simon, the daughter of the late U.S. Senator Paul Simon, received 1,092,845 weighted votes from committee members while Turner gained second place with 581,813 votes.

Reporters quickly went to

Turner to get his response to the voting results. Surrounded by tape recorders and video cameras, he responded "It's an open process. We tried the best we can do. The committee made their selection and we'll move forward." In regards to the large amount of votes Simon gained over him, he said, "Let me say it was hard keeping a running count" because it was difficult for him to know "who was in the game."

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SETTINGS,
BEAUTIFULLY
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NLCN

2010 Focus

Youth & Reflection

The North Lawndale Community News has ten years has completed. Much has happened since October of 1999 when we put out our first newsletter. Many have contributed, supported, volunteered, written, taken photos, done research, and/or completed our workshops. We have helped many and many have helped us.

When the North Lawndale Community News began in October of 1999 as the North Lawndale Community Newsletter, a focus was established. First, we thanked God for making the newsletter possible. We stated that confidence in the good of the people was the motivating force behind it. Many resources and events are available to us and our neighboring communities and the role of this newspaper is to provide you with that information. Since then, the newsletter has become a newspaper, larger in newsprint size and organizational size.

In 2001, our focus targeted the "Revival of the Family". Many of us were then and are now concerned about the state of the family in our community. We focused on providing helpful and useful suggestions to strengthen and restore vitality to the family unit.

In 2002, we targeted "Wholistic Wellness". Our hope was that everyone in our community join us as we moved in the direction of creating a balanced life in which family, work, recreation, community participation, and spiritual endeavors worked together in harmony.

In 2003, we targeted "Education and Training". As a community, we are dominated by results of low educational levels, high unemployment, a hostile economic environment, and unbearable crime and murder statistics. Still, we pushed forward to improve life in our community on many levels and by many people from within the community, as well as concerned people from outside the community.

In 2004, the North Lawndale Community News focused on helping our community acquire a better quality of life through higher levels of reading and responsible wealth creation.

In 2005, it was Technology, Business Development, and Employment. We chose to include a strong focus on providing information and articles on resources in those areas because there was a growing unemployment rate in North Lawndale and some of its neighboring communities that are among the highest of all the 77 Chicago communities.

In 2006, the primary focus for SHS/ NCLN was 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.

In 2007, the primary focus for SHS/ NLCN was People and Education. Our history of people is great. People have strived to create progress in our community, raised their families, created businesses, triumphed over adversaries, and worked in the community. All year long NLCN focused on articles related to people and education throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

In 2008, the primary focus for Strategic Human Services and the North Lawndale Community News during 2008 was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. There are many problems that face North Lawndale and its neighboring communities. Anyone of them are the most important to any individual when it is his, her, or their biggest battle.

In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NLCN was 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 selfcare practices.

In 2010, our primary focus will be to live and reflect on our previous years of focus, as we progress to a better quality of life.

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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Circulation: 15,000 copies
Drop Site Distribution: Reginald Lewis and Johnny Ray Lewis, Dominique Mack, distributed weekly over 280 dropsites, and over 340,685 potential readers throughout North and South Lawndale, East and West Garfield, Humboldt Park, Austin, Pilsen and the Near West Communities.
Weekly Mail Subscription Rates: \$20.00 for 3 months. \$35.00 for 6 months \$60.00 for 1 year \$110 for 2 years

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North Lawndale Community News
1211 South Western Avenue, Suite 203
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The North Lawndale Community News is funded by the dedicated work and support of the community, and made possible with grants from The Steans Family Foundation, The John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, Harris Bank Foundation The Leo S. Guthman Family Fund (Lynne C. Rosenthal), The Soderquist Family Foundation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), J-Lab Institute, AfterSchool Matters , SBC (now AT&T), The Illinois State Board of Education (State Senator Rickey Hendon), State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. DCEO through Sate Rep. Art Turner, The McCormick Tribune Foundation, the National Black Caucus of States Institute, Advocate Bethany Fund, and contributions from our community, advertisers, and readers. The North Lawndale Community News was started with a grant from the North Lawndale Small Grants Initiative now known as the Small Grants Human Development Corporation, and the Steans Family Foundation.



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

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LANE CHANGE: 34-year-old Hatchet Buries Turner's Quest for Lt. Gov.

A Commentary BY TRAVLES R. LANE - the1lane@yahoo.com

When his Captain Ahab-like quest to become Illinois' first African American lieutenant governor was torpedoed by the state's Democratic Central Committee's selection of Sheila Simon last Saturday (Mar. 27) to share the ticket with Gov. Pat Quinn, veteran Westside lawmaker Art Turner remained ever the gracious second place finisher.

The 38-member committee, in a vote that split among racial lines, chose Simon on the first ballot with nearly 1.1 million weighted votes based on the Feb. 2 Democrat primary election returns. Turner, who was runnerup to disgraced primary winner Scott Lee Cohen in February, again was second best last weekend with just more than a half million weighted votes.

Clearly disappointed at losing a prize he tenaciously pursued in a saga that seemed to just dangle the nomination within his reach while holding the final decision beyond his grasp, Turner vowed to campaign for the Quinn-Simon ticket.

But for all his magnanimity following another bitter defeat, the longtime 9th District representative whose own son will now fill his post when his term expires in November, has to wonder just how much his present political fortune became a casualty of his own personal past, and got cut short by a generation old hatchet.

That's because more than 30 years ago, just as Turner was embarking upon the political career that would see him represent the District 9 in the Illinois House for three decades, Turner crossed paths with a future legislative colleague who has been a proverbial thorn in his side ever since.

Turner recently said he remembers first encountering Rickey Hendon in 1976, when he was in the midst of evicting the future state senator from a dwelling at the corners of Douglas Boulevard and Central Park Avenue. And while he said that event—“(Hendon) was the just the second person I ever evicted”—was mostly “uneventful,” a rift between the two men as wide as the Grand Canyon seems to have evolved from that fissure of so many years and elections ago.

The rivals went their separate ways from that apartment building with Turner earning a seat in the General Assembly in 1981. They were reunited in Springfield in 1992, when Hendon earned his first term as senator of Illinois' 5th District. Sparks between the two have flown ever since, with no end in sight. Hendon also followed Turner into the lieutenant governor race last year, and his presence on the ballot denied Turner support he may have received against anyone else but “Hollywood” Hendon.

Turner wound up with 22 percent of the primary vote in February while West Sider Hendon garnered nearly 14 percent in winning most of the black precincts. Cohen edged Turner out with only 26 percent. The results only exacerbated a relationship residing well beyond distant for more than three decades.

And that was evident at a gathering of local politicians and the governor recently at a West Side eatery following the primary when the two men barely acknowledged each other and avoided even shaking hands.

And while Turner has not yet responded to requests for comments regarding Hendon's campaign and its impact on Turner's fortunes in the race, Senator Hendon readily expressed no regrets recently.

Much to the contrary, he said he faulted Turner for his own third place finish and implied that his support from the black community was an indication that Turner was not fully serving their interests.

“I take no satisfaction from [Turner's loss],” Hendon said when asked about the primary results. “Winning would have been satisfying.”

“I feel his running took votes from me and the black people. I won all the black wards.”

“That's who I represent, and I'll never deny that. I'm not afraid to be black or to say that's who I represent.”

For his part Turner has said he harbors no ill will toward Hendon and is proud to have worked with him in Springfield. He added the General Assembly “needs people” who wear their passions on their sleeves the way Hendon does.

“He's a tree shaker,” Turner said on his longtime nemesis. “He stirs things up and makes things happen.”

“But when he's finished, someone has to pick up the apples. Someone has to make the applesauce.”

Despite his seemingly conciliatory tone, however, Turner, too shares in the blame of stoking the flames of the two men's disagreement—whatever its origin. He openly disdained shaking Hendon's hand in my presence recently, prompting an air of tension throughout what was meant to be a celebratory affair that included Gov. Quinn.

And though the bad blood between the two, who represent nearly identical areas in their overlapping legislative districts, has become a well-known source of amusement for state pundits and politicians, the impact of their spat on the community they serve is hardly a laughing matter.

Because this baffling feud, in my view, truly cost the Lawndale community, the West Side and the South Side, the opportunity to

have a representative of their own just one step away from the governor's mansion. And that's an opportunity they truly deserved, for symbolic reasons if nothing else.

Lord knows the people in these communities need some victories from wherever they can get them.

For despite all the angst at the prospect of a Republican win in the governor race in November, the truth remains that Illinois is firmly Democrat country. And who the hell is going to vote for candidate who would advocate euthanizing stray dogs?

I know I wouldn't.

Unless, of course, Scott Brady pledges to introduce a bill as governor that would mandate the burying of 34-year-old hatchets.



Irreconcilable Differences: Chicago politicians Rep. Art Turner (left) and Sen. Rickey Hendon remain divided by an old feud.



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Artist's colorful vases complement home, office settings beautifully

Donald Lee



Artist Anne Williams

If you are a lover of fine artistry, a collector of the most exquisite of items, or you're simply looking for that captivating something that would take your interior decorating skills to another dimension of elegance, Anne Williams — a Sour Lake, Texas, artist with an impeccable gift to paint vases — provides a service that complements your taste to a tee.

"My company is based on the belief that everyone searches for that one piece of art, furniture, glass, jewelry, etc., that no one else has," Williams, 41, says. "Each vase is hand painted and unique in its own way. No two are the same. This is what makes these vases different and special."

Williams is founder of Only One Vases, a business that specializes in custom-

painting vases using elaborate patterns that remarkably match the color schemes of her customers' homes or offices. The business name is derived from the fact that each of the vases she designs is different from the next.

You never see the same pattern more than once in any of her vases.

And that's precisely what Emma Greer, a repeat customer, loves about Williams' work.

"It looks like we're still buying vases from her. The vases are absolutely gorgeous. You're not going to see three or four vases of the same thing in the gallery," Greer says of Williams' gallery in the Mildred Building at 1455 Calder Ave. in Beaumont, Texas.

"We're going to get her to make some vases for our (two) daughters-in-law," Greer said, noting that she and her husband, Oliver, are huge fans of Williams'.

"People are asking about the vases," Greer, a Beaumont resident, says.

"I like the unusualness about

them, the uniqueness about them, and they stand out," she says. "They tend to pick up the color scheme in your room."

One of her vases has a lid to it and one will make a great floral arrangement, Greer says.

"I'm going to get one that will set on my floor," she says. "I've got two on my (fireplace) mantle."

"He's the one who bought the first one," Greer says with an outburst of laughter when asked what her husband thinks about the vases. "And then I bought one, because I couldn't be outdone. They are absolutely gorgeous."

On her Web site — www.onlyonevase.com — Williams has a page that shows the various sizes and shapes of her beautifully crafted artwork.

Included on the page is the "Cotton Candy" vase (item No. 00490), a 12-inch vase that has an elaborate mixture of pink, blue and purple colors that bring to mind images of the cotton candy treat one would eat at a state fair or carnival.

There's also the "Green Wonder" vase (item No. 00210), which is 10 inches tall and painted with green, blue and maroon colors. The colors can take on the characteristic of a chameleon, meaning they allow the vase to blend well in any setting.

Williams says she doesn't actually make the vases. She gets them from other places and then she paints them.

It can take up to seven days to paint the inside of a glass, or vase, Williams says, explaining that she waits for one color of paint to dry before she mixes in other colors.

Customers are often pleasantly surprised when they show up in person to see the artwork after having seen it on Williams' Web site.

"When you have a complete stranger come in and they're mesmerized by the work, and then they realize that it's not ceramic or it's not pottery, it makes you feel good," Williams says, noting that she paints the inside of the glass, or the vases, but they have the appearance of having been painted on the outside.

Williams, who has a Bachelor's degree in financing and who was a mortgage and offshore investor for 18 years before retiring from that profession, says painting vases started out as something she'd do as a stress-reliever while living in Arizona in 2007.

"In the beginning, it was a something peaceful, tranquil," she says. "Even now, I do my best work when I'm stressed out."

Williams, who also paints and sells urns, says she sometimes uses a paint brush, sometimes she uses her bare hands and there are times when she uses a rag as her tools of the trade.

But whatever the method, one thing's for sure: Her work is a hit with customers nationwide.

Tumika Blake, 26, of Perris, Calif., prides herself on being "one of the first" to not only see Williams' work before her leisure activity turned into a lucrative business, but she was one of Williams' first customers.

"Each of her vases was different," recalls Blake, who also is a cousin of Williams'. "She was mixing different colors in the vases and I thought it was really neat. I bought that vase from her."

"And then she asked, 'Why are you buying this vase from me?' And I told her, 'Because I have two like it at home,'" Blake says, emphasizing how well she thought the vase would complement the couple she already had.

Charles Flemons, of Phoenix, Ariz., bought a couple of 48-inch-high vases from Williams and is well pleased with what he got.

"They do a really nice job of offsetting the colors. The colors that are in the paintings are also in the vases," Flemons says. "I would give her an 'A' for being unique. It's different from most of the items we've collected."

"The colors are shown through the glass of the vase, but it's coming from inside," Flemons explains. "So, as you clean the glass on the outside of the vase, you're not cleaning the color off of it. You're cleaning the glass. Therefore, it doesn't affect the color at all."

Flemons and his wife often go on cruises and usually bring home various forms of artwork.

"My wife likes different colors and different designs," Flemons says. "We bought (the vases) in terms of matching up some paintings that we have. The color schemes match up really well."

For more information about Anne Williams' vases, please visit www.onlyonevase.com or call her at (409) 454-2216. To inquire about the Rev. Donald Lee's public relations services, please call (225) 773-2248 or e-mail him at pastordonjlee@yahoo.com

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Lt Gov from front page

But he did not harbor any hard feelings toward Simon, who is a former county assistant prosecutor who now works as a law school teacher at Southern Illinois University. "Sheila's a great person," he said. "I know her family very well and so I have nothing bad to say." He added that he still considered his party to be "a good team" and that they will see what they can do in the November election. One reporter pointed out that Turner spent 30 years of his life as an elected official yet he still lost the nomination. "It's over now isn't it? You know it's really over," he said to him. "The election is over. This election is over," Turner responded.

Turner hoped that his loss will not diminish people's faith in the Democratic Party in Illinois. "I want to encourage people that we should still keep in mind the Democratic Party and what it stands for and so what happens today should not discourage people from voting [and] from participating in the process. Maybe if a few more had come out in the primary we wouldn't be here today," he said.

Turner's supporters were exhausted but were still in good spirits as they completed their 3 1/2-hour drive back to Chicago.

AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



Clash of the Titans - Sam Worthington. Credit: Warner Bros Pictures

While on a high seas fishing trip, Perseus witnesses with his family, the soldiers of Argos who topple a tall stone statue of Zeus; off a cliff as a form of rebellion against the Gods.

Soon after, the soldiers' actions bring forth the wrath of Hades (Ralph Fiennes) as some prehistoric killer birds destructing most of the soldiers.

While inadvertently Hades' response has a reaction to the sea water (I couldn't help but wonder where Poseidon was during this intrusion on his domain?) that cap sizes the fisherman's boat that drowns the family, leaving Perseus as the lone survivor

Now, Perseus is hell-bent on revenge against Hades who earlier happened to been trickled into ruling the underworld by his brother, Zeus who is also the father of the bastard son, Perseus who doesn't believe he's a demigod when told and refuses to use the powers he possesses.

Perseus arrives in Argos with the surviving soldiers who reports to King Acrisius (Jason Flemyng) who feel the opposition against Zeus could mark the new dawning of Man. While Hades has been given ten days by the Olympians to make King Acrisius sacrifice his daughter, Andromeda (Alexa Davalos) or risk certain annihilation from Hades' dreaded and massive beast, The Kraken that leads to an anticlimactic finale.

Perseus disdain for his demigod heritage and its power as his form of rebellion against his estranged father intended to strike a reflective tone in the script with the young and old moviegoers that offers a new twist in this

remake that doesn't really matter to the Gods or even us!.

Perseus learns in order to enact his revenge on Hades; he embarks on a journey quest that involves saving Andromeda from being sacrificed that becomes a race against time and obstacles that could emulate Mankind.

Thus leading to several confrontation Perseus and cohorts have to overcome an array of creatures that were initially reserved for the late Ray Hauryhausenm's stop motion special effects.

But now under its computerized effects, every encounter proves that bigger is not always better. Even though this remake thinks it saved the best action sequence for last with the Kraken.

Instead, Perseus and his group battle with the slew of giant scorpions that comes the closest to the thrills, excitement, and violence we felt would dominate this movie While, the taming of Pegasus, the winged horse and the threat of Medusa whose look can turn men into stone provide momentary interest that help move the film along

There is a cute insides joke referred to the original, when a soldier rejects among their weaponry, the golden metal owl from the initial version. This rebooted version of "Clash of The Titans" has the vim and vigor in its action sequences, but the routine script has some guts but no glory.

PG-13; 108min. A Warner Bros, Pictures Release- Presented at selected theaters

CITY ISLAND (*)**

"What is your worse secret?" that is the overall question spoken off screen by Andy Garcia in a voiceover introduction to the differences between a "muscle sucker" and a "clam digger" through the film's opening New York harbor sequence for what becomes a comedy about the family secrets we keep from each other.

Garcia portrays Vincent Rizzo, the

working class patriarch of a dysfunctional family that lives in a fishing village off of The Bronx. Off-screen, Vincent admits to withholding a personal secret. But not only does the secret become more than one. But he's not the only one living by hiding the truth.

Vincent works as a correctional officer whose suppose to have quit, but rather hides smoking cigarettes from his wife, Joyce (Juliana Margulies) who also does likewise from him. But Vincent also claims to be attending a weekly poker game.

Where he's really fulfilling a childhood dream of taking acting classes from a frustrated acting coach, Michael Malakov (Alan Arkin) who offers some amusing observations during his classes,

Meanwhile at the prison, Vincent encounters a new inmate on a short jail term due to a lack of family, Tony Nardella (Steven Strait).

Upon their meeting, Vincent realizes Tony (Steven Strait) is his long lost son Not only is it a little strange that Vincent is unable to tell Tony the truth. It's even stranger that Tony doesn't make the connection when Vincent admits to knowing his late mother that Tony has little regard for

Vincent offers to help Tony serve out his 30 day sentence as his houseguest. While Tony works off the remaining jail time by building a bathroom for Vincent's backyard shed.

But it doesn't take long before Tony becomes accidentally pervade to the families' individual secrets, First, he stumbles on the father's teen son fetish for "fat chicks" via an online website that happens to belong to their obese next door neighbor.

And then Vincent confides in Tony his acting secret that Tony instructs the guard how to act tough out of necessity and survival in prison that would his acting making convincing.

The married couple initially are excited over their daughter, Vivian (Dominik Garcia

See Flicks page 10

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Getting the Jump on Easter Bunny



Gleeful youngsters dash about last Friday (Mar. 26) afternoon they raced each other in the effort to fill their bags with Easter eggs scattered about the front lawn at Tilton Elementary School at the Corner of W. West End Avenue and Keeler Avenue. The pre-Kindergarteners were enjoying a final treat before the Chicago Public School began its 2010 Spring Break on Mar. 29. Photo by Travles R. Lane

BLACKS, LATINOS MARCH FOR SOLIDARITY, END TO VIOLENCE

TRAVLES R. LANE



United We March: Youthful marchers lead the annual Greater Lawndale Unity March into the parking lot last Thursday at the Blessed Sacrament Youth Center.

The Catalyst Schools believe that every child possesses inherent value and potential, regardless of background, educational level, or life circumstances.



Our college-preparatory schools partner with urban communities to offer K-8 students welcoming educational settings that nurture academic, social, and emotional growth. As students move on to high school, they remain vital members of the Catalyst community through our graduate support programs. We help all students and graduates discover a fruitful path to high school, to college, and to a citizenship that embraces peace, justice, and respect. We actively engage students' families and neighborhoods, striving to create strong connections between students' education and the communities they live in. Guided by this mission, we empower our students to become agents of change.

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Striving to promote peace and solidarity among Brown and Black communities throughout North and South Lawndale more than 100 young people from local neighborhood schools braved a cold, blustery grey day and marched to a spirited gathering in the Blessed Sacrament Youth Center auditorium for motivational speeches, snacks and testimonials Thursday (Mar. 25) following the Fourth Annual Greater Lawndale Unity March.

The march, led by students carrying a large, white banner emblazoned with the slogans "Support Our Youth" and "We Demand A Future," has been organized by high school students since 2006 to join participants across the divide between the African American and Latino communities inhabiting various neighborhood enclaves of Lawndale and Little Village.

With Chicago Police providing security, the multicultural rally event traipsed through several blocks near Cermak Road with young people chanting, carrying placards and to the drumbeat of upturned five-gallon buckets.

The march, meant to encourage peace among and between Blacks and Latinos, was sponsored by the Little Village/Lawndale High School Foundation and a coalition of secondary institutions in the area, including Multicultural Art High School, Social Justice High School, Infinity Math & Science Technology High School and World Language High School.

The four schools share a common campus which ferments a melting pot of African American and Latino students, and by extension, the South Side communities they call home.

Students from Madero Middle School, Whitney Young and Farragut Career Academy high schools and others were also represented at the rally focused on reducing violence and facilitating peace and cooperation among the inhabitants of Little Village and North Lawndale.

"Because we share a lot of common spaces, the idea is we (Blacks and Latinos) are facing the same issues," said Fanny Diego, a Madera Middle School Resource Coordinator. "But a lot of times we get divided as a community."

"We're working for Latinos and Blacks to learn how to be neighbors and recognized their common interests."

LBLDC Has a Magnificent Plan for Lawndale Business

TRAVLES R. LANE



technology and community partners of the organization.

“We see a bright future ahead for Lawndale, and we are very excited about the role we can play in contributing to that,” Strickland said. “We are currently involved in four expansion projects that total about \$15 million worth of stimulus to the neighborhood.”

“We want to be able to work with small business in the seven areas of the M7 plan and move business forward throughout the community.”

The incubator project envisions an employment training and business

development apparatus for Lawndale and surrounding communities and a center that will serve entrepreneurs and job hunters alike. LBLDC plans also call for locating business offices, a small business services and technology center, training rooms and the corporation’s headquarters in the site.

Constantly striving to achieve maximum impact despite its relative small size, the organization is also in the midst of recruiting students for a 12-week First Step Self-Employment Training Program. The course aims to prepare and empower aspiring entrepreneurs for success by teaching them courses in

financial management and business plan development while offering them the opportunity to apply for small business loans.

Registration for the program continues to April 16, and more information is available by calling (773) 265-8500.

Currently pursuing a self-styled “Magnificent Seven” (M7) action plan that conjures up images of hired gunslingers rescuing a beleaguered town ala the old movie Western starring Yul Brunner, the Lawndale Business and Local Development Corporation (LBLDC) held its annual fundraiser Thursday (Mar. 25) evening firing off a litany of accomplishments while setting its sights on enlarging its considerable footprint on Chicago’s South and West side business landscapes.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of its founding, the LBLDC hosted a coterie of more than 100 supporters at the cavernous Murphy Hill Art Gallery on the third floor of the historic former Sears & Roebuck building at 3333 W. Arthington Street in North Lawndale. Wine and spirits were lifted high in a casual business affair catered by Homan Square Café, Inc. that shares the gallery’s address. Soft jazz music permeated the dimly lit venue as officials, sponsors, donors and partners of the non-profit organization met to celebrate its legacy of success and pledge support to its vision and continuing growth among the best community development agencies in Chicago.

Several local artists, whose works are on display at the gallery, were also on hand to share in the company, cuisine and conversations of the evening, which also included an auction of some of their creations.

Chief Executive Officer Eric Strickland evoked the comparison of the organization’s M7 business consulting strategy to the employing of hired gunslingers in describing the core focus of LBLDC’s efforts to make business profitable and prolific in Lawndale.

“We want to be able to work with small business in several key areas,” Strickland said. “We are real excited about the future.”

The M7 Consulting plan assists clients of the corporation with information technology, legal, financial and marketing expertise in addition to supplying services related to project management and government programs as well as and training and workforce development activities.

Begun in 1985, LBLDC has a goal of becoming the premier player in the business development industry in Chicago and has stimulated nearly \$60 million worth of new enterprise investment activity that has spurred the creation of more than 500 jobs in North Lawndale since 2002. The organization also succeeded gaining North Lawndale recognition as one of twelve Model Industrial Corridors in Chicago, which translate into infrastructure and other business friendly improvements.

Additionally, the organization, which serves a corridor of six West and South side wards between Cermak Road and Madison Street from Ashland Avenue to Austin Boulevard, has aided in obtaining a \$6 million Industrial revenue bond for business expansion in the area as well as securing about \$500,000 in Small Business Improvement fund rebates.

An expert in facilitating the acquisition of licenses, getting permits and financial incentive program qualifications, LBLDC is currently involved in plan to establish a small business incubator in the Sears building, a project Strickland calls its most ambitious undertaking to date. The old historic site also houses the local headquarters of U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-7th), one of many governmental, financial,



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SUNSHINE GOSPEL STRIVES TO BUILD BRIDGES, CLOSE GAPS

TRAVLES R. LANE

Despite seeming very much out of place a recent evening as the milled a around the entrance to a North Lawndale pizza joint a couple of weeks ago, the more than 100 young white people waiting to enter the Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at the corner of Cermak Road and Ogden Mar. 11 were right where they wanted to be.

After all they'd journeyed from all over the United States to get there.

Hailing from such diverse locations as Knoxville, Tennessee; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Orlando, Florida and Grand Rapids, Michigan the unlikely crowd consisted primarily of curious college students who'd journeyed to experience exposure the hard, gritty streets of Chicago's poverty-stricken South Side. The pizza party, which concluded a week of workshop-styled training, Bible study, media presentations, ministry visits and tours through troubled urban neighborhoods far removed from the bucolic and relatively serene environments in which the vast majority of the participants spent their childhoods.

Organized by the Sunshine Gospel Ministries in the South Side's Woodlawn neighborhood, the week-long incursion into real life inner city living for the young, mostly rural Christian students is part of the organization's Bridge Builders program. The program represent efforts by Sunshine Gospel Ministries to foster racial conciliation and "bridge gaps in economic, social and educational divides" that exist throughout the country.



Closing Gaps: Sunshine Gospel Ministries Bridge Builder program participants shared conversation with St. Gregory Episcopal School 4th-grader Corey Rowland at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria on the South Side.

The goal of Bridge Builders—according to the ministries' Web-site—is to let students "have an experience for themselves whereby they see the Gospel bridge racial, economic and geographical divisions with their own eyes."

The program shatters stereotypes and removes the barrier between perceptions and reality for those who participate. Students

get to get up close with the pathologies, hopes and real human needs of communities they previously had only seen on television or read about in less-than-objective media.

"When they come here, they see it's not like what they get on BET," said C.W. Allen, a Sunshine Gospel representative chaperoning the affair.

Sarah Murphy, the Team Leader of the gathering, said the outings are meant to foster a more positive understanding of what is possible and what is being done by urban ministries to deal with problems unique to urban settings.

University of Tennessee-Knoxville student and Memphis native Meredith Fowlkes agreed the experience had been surprising and rewarding for her as did fellow student Caitlin Conley of Nashville. Both are members of the Reformed University Fellowship program at their university. University of North Carolina, Cornerstone University in Michigan, and University of Central Florida students were also program participants.

"I really didn't know what to expect," Fowlkes said. "But this week dispelled a lot of false notions for me. And it has just been such a cool experience, too. You can tell the Lord is working everywhere and people are basically the same everywhere."

"They have the same needs."

Responding to the needs of the poor in Chicago since its founding by the Moody Bible Church in 1905, Sunshine Gospel Ministries became a powerful presence of Christian faith and social services on the South Side when it moved to its current location at 500 E. 61st Street in 2001. Once operating in the now defunct Cabrini Green housing project, the church is passionate about serving the poor where they are rather than from a distance.

More information about Sunshine Gospel Ministries and its activities can be accessed on the Internet at www.sunshinegospel.org or by calling (773) 493-0656.

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Kids Learn Through Play This Summer
Registration Begins Online April 19

Start planning for summer now by making a wish list for summer day camp beginning Monday, April 5, when offerings for Chicago Park District summer day camps can be viewed on-line. Registration for day camps and other programs begins Monday, April 19 at 9 a.m. at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com. In-person registration at most local parks begins Saturday, April 24. Click here for online registration time-saving tips.

Each summer, the Chicago Park District provides more than 30,000 campers ages 6-12 with a season of supervised activity at more than 200 local parks. Children will go on field trips; explore nature, arts and culture; engage in sports and recreation; and enjoy pool time. They will also keep their learning skills sharp through reading activities and games in preparation for back-to-school in the fall.

Summer day camp hours vary for each location with typical camps running about six hours per day from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. or 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Many parks offer early morning and extended sessions as well.

Standard day camps are six-week sessions running June 28 - Aug. 6. Parents seeking programs in August are encouraged to also register their children for specialty and late summer camps.

"We're engaging youth in this year's 'It's All Fun' theme by teaching them a line dance as an enjoyable way to get them moving," said Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO Timothy J. Mitchell. "Day camp helps kids develop and learn without them realizing it because they are having so much fun."

Education and character-building components are combined with recreation at several of the Park District's specialty camps including cultural arts, leadership, sports, and urban campers.

One of the new offerings this summer includes the sailing camp. The sailing course uses state-of-the-art Sonar keelboats and offers 15 hours of U.S. Sailing-certified instruction. Participants will learn about safety and master sailing techniques and skills.

Registration for day camp and regular summer programs at most parks are conveniently offered online with payment through PayPal. The system provides email confirmations of order details. Summer day camp fees and offerings vary from park to park and many slots fill quickly.

In addition to summer day camps, the Park District offers thousands of sport and fitness, cultural and environmental programs for adults, seniors, teens and youth. Regular summer programs run June 14 - Aug. 22. For more information, contact your local park, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312-742-PLAY.

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Break from front page

of parents being a targeted provider of the funds that are being spent and if parents aren't careful, Spring break for any child could be quite expensive. Inclusive to this study it was found that 85% of the youth watch more than 3 hours of television daily which could also become a harsh reality to deal with during Spring break lending irresponsible ways to your child of just sitting in the front of the television most of the day. There are plenty of free educational activities that your child can do during the Spring break, but it is the responsibility of the parents and community organizations like Better Life For Youth to help the youth to understand the significance of education and help to lead the way. Helping the youth to understand that education is not boring but it is apart of every day life. Log on to: <http://www.comportone.com/cpo/tourist/free/things.htm#chicago>

This is why Mr. Eugene Wolf takes a college tour trip every year around the same time in order to keep the youth focused. Business owners and other community organizations sponsor the trip for each child to go. This year the group of sponsors are State Senator Mattie Hunter, Dr. George Smith, Chicago Area Project, State Senator Rickey Hendon, State Representative Anna Zette Collins, State Representative Ester Golar, State Representative Lashon Ford, Metropolitan Baptist Church, New Life Church of God in Christ and Bethel New Life Church. Mr. Wolf has also required that each child raises \$72 by selling 6 boxes of Krispy Creme donuts to family and friends in order to help the youth understand the importance of being responsible and earning their keeps.

Ninth grader Skye Hendon, Senator Ricky Hendon's daughter is one of the youth that has traveled to Washington DC in order to prepare early for her future. Dawn Hendon Skye's mother says "This is a wonderful experience for all of the children that have been chosen to go on this trip," it

really is a once and a life time experience for many of them and they should really appreciate the opportunity." Dawn Hendon traveled to New Orleans with the youth last year to visit Xavier College as a chaperon. Darwin Stewart and Cleon Williamson who were both mentored through "Better Life For Youth" currently attend Jackson State University in Mississippi and feel that it is because of organizations like "Better Life For Youth" many youth are able to make the right decisions. Darwin and Cleon both agree that organizations like Better Life For Youth are essential to the upbringing of the youth in all communities and don't know what they would be doing if they didn't have the assistance that was given by Mr. Wolf and the organization. As the parents await the return of their children and the Chicagoans of the West Side await a response from the experience, many feel that the youth should be given educational choices in order to stay abreast of what the future holds. Every minute counts in the life of a child and as long as the clock is ticking something positive and educational is needed to enhance their future. So next year if you are looking to keep your child positively occupied during the Spring break contact Mr. Eugene Wolf ahead of time and I'm sure that he'll be able to keep them on the right track and doing something educational.

To contact Eugene Wolf of Better Life For Youth Call 312-671-1026

If you would like to become a sponsor for Better Life For Youth mail all donations to: **Better Life for Youth**

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Local Teens Showcase Visual, Performing and Culinary Arts at the Legendary Chicago Theatre



CHICAGO, IL – After several weeks of intense preparation, more than 330 Chicago teens displayed their distinguished talents and illustrated Chicago’s diverse cultures on the Legendary Chicago Theatre stage during the fifth annual After School Matters Citywide Showcase on March 24.

Students honored the heritage of numerous ethnic groups through an extraordinary presentation

of culinary, performing and visual arts, the skills for which were developed during their participation in the After School Matters program this semester. Nationally recognized for offering hands-on programming that exposes teens to rewarding careers and helps them develop marketable job skills, After School Matters is one of the nation’s largest providers of after-school programs for high school students.

“The Citywide Showcase is a wonderful opportunity for teens from across Chicago to share their talents and the results of their hard work,” said After School Matters Executive Director David Sinski. “In our 450 spring programs at more than 160 program locations all over the city, brighter futures are being shaped as these young people discover and develop skills that will carry them into adulthood.”

Embracing a range of global influences, the showcase featured a traditional Flamenco Dance from Kelly High School, a Korean drumming demonstration from the Korean American Resources & Cultural Center, a performance by Curie High School’s Gospel Choir, a hip hop dance from apprentices at gallery37 Center for the Arts, Melange Movement from Prosser High School, a marching band demonstration

by Queen Ngizana’s Brigade, a routine by Austin Polytechnical High School’s dance program, and a musical performance by Foster Park Artist Development.

“Participating in the Showcase is a big opportunity for us to share the skills that we learned in After School Matters,” said Jennifer Nghiem, a 17-year-old senior at Lane Tech High School. “It is very exciting to perform in front of such a great audience.”

Although all eyes were on the stage, students behind the scenes were also stunning the crowd with their talents. After School Matters culinary arts programs at Hegewish Community Committee, Careers Through Culinary Arts, and gallery37 Center for the Arts assisted with the preparation and service of hors d’oeuvres and desserts for guests to enjoy. In addition, an on-site gallery featured the teens’ artwork in various mediums, highlighting painting, photography and soft sculpture. All artwork on display was made available for purchase. “It is a great honor to perform in the Citywide Showcase,” said 18-year-old Marisol Saucedo, a senior at Kelly High School. “This is a reflection of our dedication to perform at a higher level and attain excellence.”

After School Matters is one of the only programs of its size and scale in the country that provides out-of-school-time activities specifically for teens in the fields of arts, sports, science, technology and communications. According to the Chapin Hall Center for Children, teens that participate in After School Matters for four or more semesters are nearly two-and-a-half times more likely to graduate than students who did not participate. After

See showcase page 11

Flicks from page 5

Londo) return home for spring break from college, but Vivian is hiding being a stripper in hopes to regain her college scholarship.

Meanwhile at his acting class, Vincent is befriended by new student, Molly (Emily Mortimer) who helps encourage Vincent to stop running away from the truth. While Vincent stumbles with enough courage to luck into a second call for an audition for a role in a new Martin Scorsese – Robert DeNiro movie project.

However, back at home, Joyce finds Molly’ phone number in her husband’s book in the bathroom that makes her think he’s having an affair. So Joyce decides to unleash her romantic attraction on Tony. When they happen to travel to the store together for bathroom supplies that leads to a passionate kiss that Tony quickly cuts short

Most of the truths within the family as well as Tony’s discovery of his existing father becomes revealed when Tony tries to escape the family’s insanity, by taking Joyce’s car. But

when he makes a casual stop at a club that happens to be the spot where Tony catches Vivian pole dancing as a stripper.

With Tony and Vivian driving back to her parents’ house to tell on the other and Vincent rushing home with Molly as his manager to reveal Tony’s successful acting tryout. Only to be confronted by an enraged Joyce who thought her husband cheating on her. So she opens admits to falling for Tony.

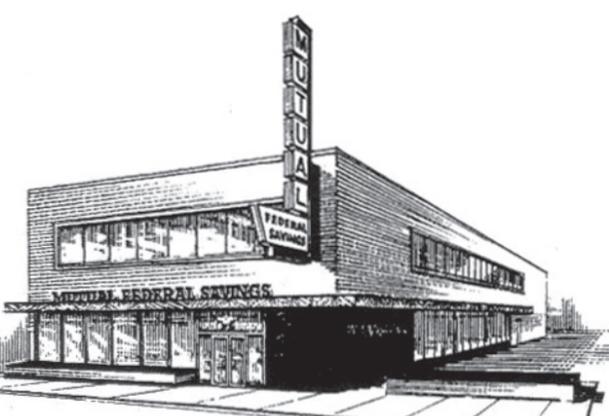
Naturally, all the misunderstandings and hidden secrets are resolved in a neat, verbally finale that is one of this film’s false notes.

Still, writer-director Raymond DeFelita brings out his story through his character’s personal traces and foibles that you generally like. Because of their quirks and the relatable tone of their performance that makes the most of this movie work that is often amusing and genuine.

PG-13; 100min. An Anchor Bay Picture Release – Presented at Landmark Century Cinema (2828 North Lincoln Ave.) and other select theaters

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Showcase from page 10

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ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS

www.afterschoolmatters.org
 After School Matters is a nonprofit organization that offers Chicago teens innovative out-of-school activities through its science37, sports37, tech37, words37 and nationally-recognized gallery37 programs. Programs are provided through a network of public and private partnerships that include the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Library and community organizations across the city. Hands-on, project-based programs introduce teens to rewarding careers and help them develop marketable job skills.

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Strategic Human Services
The North Lawndale Community News
1211 S. Western Avenue, Suite 203
Chicago, Illinois 60608

2010 Microsoft Office Training Schedule

Date	Class
April 3	Word 2007 Basic To Advance
April 14	Excel 2007 Basic To Advance
April 23	PowerPoint 2007 Basic To Advance
April 7	Access 2007 Basic to Advance
April 16	Computer Fundamentals Windows Vista
April 24	Word 2007 Basic To Advance
April TBA	Excel 2007 Basic To Advance
April TBA	PowerPoint 2007 Basic To Advance
April 21	Access 2007 Basic to Advance
April 30	Computer Fundamentals Windows Vista
April TBA	Word 2003 Basic To Advance
April TBA	Excel 2003 Basic To Advance
April TBA	PowerPoint 2003 Basic To Advance
April TBA	Access 2003 Basic To Advance

Class Hours 10AM – 2:30PM

All Saturday classes have a material fee of \$50 if employed; if unemployed or receiving any type of public assistance (TANF, SSI, etc.) the material fee is waived.*

2009 Mayor of Workforce Development WIA Approved Classes**

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- Web Development/Design Basic to Intermediate Skills Training
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