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

Frazier Prep Students Going To Washington

Krista Christophe



Trip Sponsor and Frazier teacher, Camia Hoard, Eniya Westmoreland, Tehavis Smith, and Principal Lakita D. Little.

Twenty-four students from Frazier Preparatory Academy are on their way to see the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. on January 20th. Through the fundraising efforts of many parents, students, and teachers the students were chosen as part of an initiative by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Their goal was to bring elementary students from all over the country to the inauguration.

Frazier Elementary was closed two years ago and was re-opened under the CPS program Renaissance 2010 and Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele's Phase Design team. The school is a contract school sharing its space with a CPS public school, Frazier International Baccalaureate Magnet

School. The schools are unaffiliated beyond their shared space. Principal Lakita D. Little has been with the school since 2007.

The idea was the brainchild of two Frazier Prep teachers. In August, they along with Principal Little presented the board with a plan to take twenty-four students to the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States. The students would stay in the nation's capital over a week and participate in many educational events planned by the Smithsonian Institute. The school's board approved the \$36,000 endeavor in that month. Principal Little stated that she knew, "fundraising would be a challenge, but we were going to go regardless."

Frazier Prep's Parent Teacher Association was very involved in

the fundraising for the trip. They utilized bake sales, after school events and other grassroots methods to contribute to the funds that would take the students to Washington. The largest financial contributors of the trip were the McCormick and Best Portion Foundations.

The student selection process for the trip began in September. Students had to participate in a rigorous application process in order to be one of the lucky twenty-four to travel to Washington. Only fifth and sixth grade students were eligible to apply. The students were selected based on composite scores that were made up of their standardized test scores, academic performance, citizenship, an application essay, and a personal

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KWAANZA MALCOLM X COLLEGE STYLE



The Najwa Dance Corp performed African Dance numbers at the 2008-2009 Kwanzaa celebration. Every year NDC brings african culture through dance.



Nubian Malik in bronze garb, Former Malcolm X President Dr. Zerrie Campbell (Queen Mother) in white African garb, Mzee Hannibal Afrik (Founding Elder) in green, with two other members of the bolozi Wazee-shule Ya Watoto.

Each year Malcolm X College holds the largest seven-day Kwanzaa observance in the country. Partnering with the Bolozi Wazee (Council of Elders) - Shule Ya Watoto, this year's event brung over 3500 visitors. The event opened with the

Kwanazz Ritual and the Principle for the Day, followed by cultural entertainment and expressions. The outer lobby was transformed into an African marketplace for anyone to purchase art, traditional clothing, and other items. The

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SAINT ANTHONY HOSPITAL'S FIRST BABY OF 2009 TAKES "SECOND PLACE" IN THE NEW YEARS BABY RACE



Elijah Montrell Jamison and parents Chitara Lockhart and Eldridge Jamison

January 6, 2009 - Saint Anthony Hospital located on 2875 West 19th Street, came close to the record with births taking place at the hospital on New Years Eve and the during the holiday weekend. An average of 2,200 babies are born at the hospital each year. Over sixteen babies were born between New Years Eve and January 2, 2009.

Taking second in the citywide event, Elijah Montrell Jamison was born to proud parents Chitara Lockhart and Eldridge Jamison at 12:04 am. Elijah weighed in at 6 lbs and 14 oz. and is now at home in the Roosevelt Square neighborhood. According to Lisa Adamczyk, Clinical Manager of Mother, Baby and Nursery operations at Saint Anthony Hospital, seven babies were born on New Year's Eve including Elijah, three babies were born on New Years Day and six babies were born on January 2nd for a total of sixteen

babies.

Saint Anthony sees an average of 190 births a month with 5-6 deliveries a day. Those numbers alone place Saint Anthony in the top of hospital birth rates in the city.

Every new baby born in December receives a "sleep sack", booties, blankets and hats. The new moms are given some pampering gifts.

In April 2005, Saint Anthony Hospital broke a record; in one day, delivered 18 babies within a 24-hour period. This year, the staff, under the supervision of Rosemary F. Meganck, APN, CNM, Director of Women's Services, were well prepared to receive many moms arriving in labor, ready to deliver at any time. According to Ms. Meganck, "births occur equally during the week and at all times of the day. The busiest months in the Midwest are July and October and

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

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~~~~~  
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# NLCN 2008 FOCUS

## Spirituality & Financial Literacy

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

Many people believe in God. Churches, Synagogues, or Temples are good places, albeit not the only places, to develop a connection. There are many churches on the Westside and in Chicago, with the Faith based Initiatives, they have developed more outreach into the communities with programs and advocacy. We want more people to know that church is a great resource that helps improve the lifestyle of individuals and families.

There is still a great economic inequality. Being financially, unwise and uneducated, has created an uncountable loss for many in our coverage area.

The National Black Caucus of States Institute.(NBCSI) recognizes that while personal finance is important to everyone—lack of personal financial knowledge, increased debt and access to financial services has had a negatively disproportional impact on families—particularly African American families with limited resources.

Data indicate the overwhelming gap of economic resources as African Americans lag in home and business ownership, lack of savings accounts and lower credit scores.

There are alarming statistics that help frame these concerns:

- According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development 60% of African American families have zero or negative net financial assets.

- The average Black household has 54 cents of income and 12 cents of wealth for every dollar earned and held by whites.

- In the United States, 10% of the families control 90 % of financial wealth.

- A consumer with a low credit score of 560 compared to a consumer with a high credit score of 720 will pay approximately \$400 a month more or \$4,800 more a year—if they qualify for a loan.

- A disproportionate number of low credit scores are found in predominantly African American communities.

If there is going to be long-term improvement in this situation, NBCSI believes that it will begin with economic Education. From the Economic Empower Forums of the National Black Caucus of States Institute website. [www.nbcsi.org](http://www.nbcsi.org)

SHS believes becoming financially literate can help solve the challenges above, and others, while also helping to create a better community for all.

We also will continue using technology to help educate, connect you to these resources. Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. Check out our website and links such as the Lawndale Beehive. NLCN will continue to provide news and information on issues and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus of our previous years. By becoming a God connected, financially wise people, knowing, loving and caring about each other more, we can more participate and benefit in making our communities model neighborhoods. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life wisely, overcoming adversity.

## 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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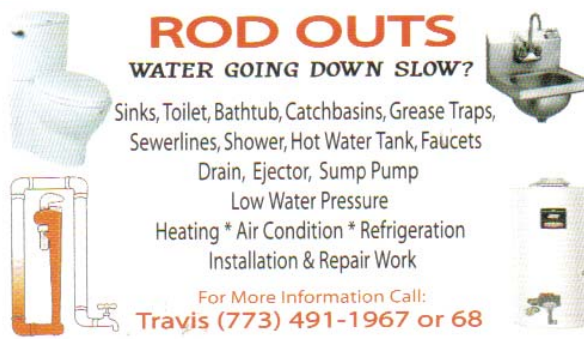
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**Time: 5-10pm**

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## NORTH LAWDALE COLLEGE PREP'S VERY OWN JERMAINE WINFIELD

Bo Hill



Jermaine Winfield

There should no longer be any doubts about who's #1 in Chicago public league basketball when tournament MVP Jermaine Winfield raised to the top as North Lawndale knocked off red-hot Foreman 57 -52 at DePaul. Throughout the tournament, Foreman relied on their three- point shooting, beating Curie and shocking last year's State Champions, the Marshall Commandos, displaying a stunning third quarter 18 point comeback, winning by the three points at 70-67.

In the championship game Foreman didn't have enough as North Lawndale defiantly set the tone for the city top competition with their tenacious defense that stopped teams in their tracks. If by some slim chance you haven't gotten to see your North Lawndale Phoenix play, now is the time to come support the neighborhood phenomenon led by coach Lewis S. Thorpe.

## At The Flicks

David H. Schultz



Morris Chestnut and Taraji P. Henson in *Not Easily Broken*

**NOT EASILY BROKEN (\*\*1/2)** "Not Easily Broken" is an urban domestic drama derived from a T. D. Jakes book that involves the personal and religious instability of a crumbling married couple. David Johnson (Morris Chestnut) is struggling to establish a business as a business contractor. He seems preoccupied with his homeboys, Brock and Tree (Eddie Cibrian and Kevin Hart), shooting hoops and coaching a little league team.

The latter finds David providing some special attention to an impressionable kid and minimal drama from the kid's ex-con father, Darnell (Wood Harris). Darnell is also a childhood rival of David, often criticized for not being more street savvy. David's frustrated and neglected wife, Claire (Tarjai P. Henson) provides for the couple's financial needs and suburban lifestyle as a successful real estate agent. At their wedding, the bishop (Albert Hall) places a ceremonial rope on the couple's shoulders and warns that "life will knock you down" and their union is a three way with God in everything they do. Of course, the young couple failed to take heed and constantly argue over large and small matters that result in David giving in Claire. He settles for quiet refuge in the basement with his music piped through his headphones. However, the arguments continue to intensify when David is late to drive Claire to a "realtor of the year" banquet in her honor. His rushing leads to a horrific car accident.

David receives only a few cuts and bruises in the car crash; but suffers more verbal abuse for the blame from his argumentative wife who's confined to a wheelchair upon her hospital release for a leg injury. And re-enforced ridicule from the arrival of Claire's meddling mother (Jennifer Lewis) whose interference stems from personal issues in her abusive marriage. While the mother manipulates her grown daughter (until the pastor sets her right!) is disrupting and crumbling her marriage to David.

David hires Julie Sawyer (Maeve Quinlan), a white female therapist to restore his wife's mobility. Julie is a single parent with a son, Bryson (Cannon Jay) on the swim team. This raises the interest of David's recently separated homeboy, Brock (Eddie Cibrian).

Claire overlooks the fact that David blames his outside activities on her choosing to focus solely on her career rather than having a baby. David fills the void of his lack of fatherhood by not only helping an ex-druggie father's boy, but also the white therapist's son. (I guess adoption was never an option!).

Fueled by her mother's meddling, Claire thinks David is cheating on her with Julie. There is a moment of weakness from a tragic incident that begins to throw the film slightly off course. The last thirty minutes seem to fall on the film editor to rapidly tie up the loose ends and make an adequate and optimistic conclusion.

This disrupts the intended flow and message and makes the ending feel like "Not Easily Broken" was made to be an after school special for urban adults. The film's script is missing certain nuisances within these characters.

There also seems to be a collective triangular effort between producer/author T.D. Jakes (who cameos here as a potential investor for David's

**See Flicks page 7**



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## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David Schultz

**THE WACKNESS (\*\*1/2)** This is a quirky comedy drama about a troubled loner high school grad (Josh Peck) who sells weed on the side to his psychiatrist (Ben Kingsley). The doctor offers high moral advice as a means to verbalize his second chance at being the horny youth he once was. He has failed in receiving much love from his trophy wife (Famke Janssen). The doctor becomes hypocritical when the lad reveals he is meeting and dating his worldly, popular step-daughter (Olivia Thirlby).

R; 110min. Sony Pictures Home Video

**EAGLE EYE (\*\*\*)** This nifty relentless chase thriller reunites Shia LaBeouf with his "Disturbia" director DJ Caruso. The film is an update "War Games" with a terrorism threat theme about two strangers - a copy boy (LaBeouf) and a single parent (Michelle Monaghan) thrown together by a mysterious female cell phone caller who turns them into fugitives from the law. Their mysterious controller uses everyday technology to raise havoc in their lives while they are pursued by FBI agent (Billy Bob Thornton).

PG-13; 117min. Paramount Home



Shia LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan in *Eagle Eye*

Video

**THE HOUSE BUNNY (\*\*\*)** Surprisingly funnier and sharper than anticipated, this comedy is about a Playboy bunny (Anna Faris) being chased out of the mansion by a jealous rival. She becomes a social advisor to a group of inexperienced, young, Beverly Hills sorority women. There she also discovers the beau of her dreams and

helps the sorority girls before the university shuts them down.

PG-13; 97min. Sony Pictures Home Video

**GHOST TOWN (\*\*\*)** Ricky Gervais gets to shine as a snarky dentist with inept people skills. He is chosen by the recently deceased philanthropist Frank Herlihy (Greg Kinnear) - hit by a bus-to carry out some unfinished business so that he and other weary souls can be at rest. He must attend to the happiness of his widow (Tea Leoni). This is truly a spirited comedy that is full of fun and clever mischief.

PG-13; 102min. Paramount Home Video

**AMERICAN TEEN (\*\*)** A compelling but routine documentary exploring the competing social cliques between students. The jock, the popular girl, the nerd, the prom queen, the rebel, etc. and their inner issues within this year-long examination of an Indiana high school may cover how much opposites attract, but there was nothing toward the racial and ethnic equation in small town America.

PG-13; 101min. Paramount Home Video



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## Frazier from front page

interview. Sixty-five of one hundred fifth and sixth graders applied.

Principal Little described the trip as fully loaded. The students will visit various museums in Washington, will have the chance to attend an inaugural ball, and will visit Howard University, a Historically Black College. The students will be accompanied by Principal Little, various teachers and a full time tour guide provided by the Smithsonian Institute.

Principal was very supportive of the trip even before President-elect Obama won the election in November. "I think schools should provide educational opportunities for students outside of the classroom... There's a lot of pride around the school in general. Twenty-four students will represent 450 students here at Frazier."

The students attending are extremely

exciting about their travels to Washington. Tehavis Smith says he is interested in the trip as a young black student. "[Barack Obama] will be the first Black president and I'm also African American. I think going will put a spark in my life."

"I felt like I had to [apply to go on the trip]. Anything the school asks me to do, I feel like I just have to do it...I think the trip will inspire me to learn more about African American history," stated Eniya Westmoreland, another one of the Frazier students going to the inauguration.

The school's inspiring story has been featured on WGN9 Chicago. Principal Little cited one school in the suburbs going to Washington by way of the Smithsonian Institute, however she knows of no other schools from the Chicago area that are participating in the program. For more information on Frazier Preparatory Academy please visit [www.frazierprep.org](http://www.frazierprep.org).

## Kwanzaa from front page



The African Marketplace vendors selling their products in the Malcolm X College lobby

program began at 12:00 pm everyday, except Sunday (2:00 pm). The College collaborated with the Council of Elders as a link between the past and the present. They are also the guardians of the culture, traditions and history of the African people. Some of the entertainment included the Najwa Dance

Corps, South Shore Drill Team, African Fashion Show, MADD Rythms, Nanette Frank, Minianka African Drum and Dance Ensemble, and Dee Alexander and TRIO. The goal of the collaboration was to expand public participation, practice and understanding of the Kwanzaa celebration.

## Help Wanted

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## Is Staying Single or Being Married Financially Rewarding?

Brandi Walker

A financially stable married couple loves to buy each other the finest gifts possible. The husband often treats his wife to name brand jewelry while the wife may splurge on the latest technical gadgets for her husband. But sooner or later, it catches up to them. More bills keep piling on and the couple accumulates more debt. Suddenly, they're no longer financially stable and arguments grow between the two of them. One of them even says out loud that they wish that they were single again so that they could be more financially in control.

Indeed, this is a cruel thing for a person to say to his or her spouse. But does the statement really make a valid point regarding marriage and finances? Financially, is it really more satisfying to stay single? Before we answer these questions, let us first examine some statistics on unmarried Americans. According to the writer Thomas F. Coleman on [www.unmarriedamerica.com](http://www.unmarriedamerica.com), "Forbes distorts cost of married vs. single living." He refers to a Business Week magazine story as stating that single adults make up half of all American households. He also states that 42 percent are employees and 35 percent are voters.

As far as how they measure financially to their married counterparts, there are some advantages and disadvantages. When you are single, naturally, you are the only one responsible for your financial duties. Also, single people have more freedom with their spending.

Single individuals don't normally share any debt responsibilities, but there are some exceptions. According to an article on [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com), "When It Pays To Stay Single," Kay Bell of [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com) gives an example of when a single person could be involved in this situation. "Don't take on joint transactions - such as helping your financially struggling partner pay an overdue loan or it could show up on your record, too," Bell says. This situation obviously applies to two unmarried people who may live together.

However, nowadays, we have married couples who do something else to keep themselves financially safe. We all know that the majority of married couples share joint bank accounts. However, because of arguments like the one mentioned earlier, more couples are establishing separate individual accounts. On the surface, this may seem morally selfish. However, this does help if you're a thrifty person with a shop-a-holic mate.

Kristen Houston, a single South Side young woman, says, "When you get married, your mate becomes your debt." This has certainly been the case for many married couples.

Now it is time to examine the complicated issue of taxes. As far as married couples, according to the [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com) article, Bell mentions that even though they have the temporary tax relief, there are situations when being single is more of an advantage.

One case in particular is owning rental real estate. "Married couples face higher tax costs than live-in counterparts if they own rental real estate," she says. Houston, in particular, has found doing taxes to be not bad as a single woman. "Doing taxes has been easy for me as a single woman than if I were married," she says.

However, Jenny Reynolds, a married South Side woman, brings up good point when dealing with taxes as a married couple. "When you are married and filing jointly with your mate, if one person has unpaid taxes, it could affect the other person's refund," she says. She also made another point that sums up what married couples should do to be financially sound in the first place. "A friend of mine once told me that before you get married, you must check the person's credit score or else it would affect your own credit score."

So being married and staying single may be both financially advantageous and disadvantageous. But which life decision is truly financially rewarding? Which one will make your life a little easier? The answers to these questions are left up to you.



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## YOUTH/GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM

Jim Allen

I'm Jim Allen, a minister from the West Side of Chicago. I'm also the general of the Supreme Executive Advisory Council which creates, develops, and implements community programs. As a former youth pastor of three different churches I'm deeply concerned about Youth/Gang violence. I started the Youth/Gang Violence Prevention Forum to serve as a weekly question and answer forum for young adults ages 16 - 25.

**Sara - Little Village** Why don't religious, community, political, and national leaders help gang members?

Minister Jim Allen - Reverend Jesse Jackson and Minister Louis Farrakhan have tried to form coalitions and relationships with current and former gang leaders with the purposes of stopping the violence. Also, community leaders such as Bobby Gore, Chuck Spruell, Bennie Lee, Ivory Dillard, and Professor John Hagedorn have and are currently working towards positive programs for at risk youth/young adults. In the end, each and every gang member must desire and seek help. The help is there, it's just a matter of gang members and their chiefs sacrificing their egos and humbling themselves to receive help.

**Jesse - Austin** Should churches accept money from drug dealers?

MJA - Good question. I'll answer your question with a question. Should we as Americans support our troops at the cost of innocent people losing their lives as casualties of war? Should we stop wearing designer clothes even though we know it's linked to abusive child labor, sweat shops, and slavery? Should we continue to put our money and financial assets in banks and financial institutions that had direct and indirect ties to the African slave trade? Should victims of sexual abuse by clergy receive money from the Catholic Church? The Holy Bible (NIV) says

that a good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous (Proverbs 13:22).

**Mike - North Lawndale** Why do gangs have literature?

MJA - There was a time when gangs pushed knowledge and racial identity. There used to be a time when one would receive an eye shot if he or she didn't know certain tenets about the gang. Some gang literature has religious symbols and dogmas. For instance, Holy City was the area of the Lords of Islam, however, not all Vice Lords see themselves as Muslims or Islamic. Some see themselves as Christians or non-religious altogether. In essence, most groups, gangs, fraternities and sororities have literature or a code of ethics by which they operate.

**Mary - East Garfield** Why are most rappers and athletes gang affiliated?

MJA - As I've said before, just because someone is a gang member doesn't mean he or she is a gang-banger. In most cases it's gangs who provide rappers and athletes the ways and means by which they became successful. Of course, this does not take away from rappers and athletes' god-given abilities; however, most rappers and athletes are just like you and I - they grew up in poverty and drug infested communities. Through hard-work and a boost they are now superstars. Sometimes rappers use their fame and influence to affect public policy. 2pac is known for criticizing Congresswomen Deloris Tucker, Snoop Dog is known for protesting the death penalty of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, and The Game has recently criticized Rev. Jesse Jackson in one of his songs.

**Miguel - Humboldt Park** Why do gang members become religious when they go to jail?

MJA - I've never been to jail, even

though most of my brothers have served time in jail. It's not that I'm special; I was just a bit cleverer in avoiding contact with law enforcement. Even though I'm not a physical witness to life in jail I still have insight into the confinements of mental imprisonment. Serving time in jail or mental imprisonment allows one to either become conscious of past mistakes. Also, not everyone who goes to jail is guilty as charged. Many messengers of God were imprisoned for speaking the Good News. I sincerely honor believers and or ministers who have served time in prison want to turn over a new leaf!

**Matthew - South Lawndale** Why do some women like "thugs" from jail?

MJA - Good question. I was once told by a woman that all the fine guys were in jail, I responded by saying other fine guys are the doctors, lawyers, scientists, poets, scholars, and great thinkers. I guess by the time most guys are released from jail they are physically fit and mentally tough, which attracts the ladies. I ain't mad at cha sistas! In the end it's not a cool thing to want to go to jail. All should want to go to college!

**Destiny - Cermak & Rockwell** How can gangs be a positive force to the community?

MJA - According to the Chicago Crime Commission there are 75,000 known gang members in Chicago. Can you imagine 75,000 gang members turning their lives around and changing their perspective gangs into social, educational, and political movements? Can you imagine 75,000 gang members joining the 6 and the 5 to form the 11 and becoming a legal fraternity with members paying \$30.00 monthly dues equaling a total of \$2,250,000.00 a month? That's what I call ingenuity, social, educational, economical, and political revolution!

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## Baby from front page

on an average, more boys than girls are born. The average baby weighs 7lbs and about 85% of babies go home within a 48 hour period."

The maternity center staffs in house obstetricians, midwives and family practitioners. Saint Anthony is one of the only hospitals to provide full time midwives, all of which are Certified Nurse Midwives and collectively have over eighty years experience including dual license (RN and APN).

Saint Anthony Hospital heads the biggest maternity center in the city which provides bilingual staff and meets the cultural needs of Hispanic patients. Labor and delivery rooms foster privacy in an environment that supports new families. The center includes state of the art Level II neonatal nursery. Special bilingual classes are provided daily to assure that new parents are prepared for delivery and care.

"We are blessed to have these families come to Saint Anthony Hospital and allow us to provide healthcare services that will educate them and meet their pre-natal and pediatric needs. It is our pleasure to work with the community in promoting healthy

pregnancies and regular pediatric visits for their children. As a hospital serving the community, our goal is to express care, compassion and understanding," says Saint Anthony Hospital CEO Guy A. Medaglia.

The hospital recently unveiled a new emergency room department that is expected to serve 35,000 individuals in the fiscal year 2008. The new facility at the Catholic hospital features greatly enhanced technology and totals 6,600 square-feet, a substantial increase from the previous 3,200 square feet. As a result, "The hospital will be better equipped than ever to serve our growing population in 13 different communities, including North and South Lawndale, Lower West, Pilsen, Little Village and the surrounding neighborhoods," Mr. Medaglia concluded.

For more than 110 years, physicians and staff of Saint Anthony Hospital have provided medical care, social services, and community outreach programs to Chicago's underserved communities. Saint Anthony today provides a full continuum of care—acute, medical, primary, pediatric and surgical — to meet the needs of the communities and the patients we serve.

## Flicks from page 4

business) and co-executive producer and star Morris Chestnut. They are joined under the capable direction of Bill Duke who has handed heavier material with better results in 1992's "Deep Cover." Duke manages to keep the proceedings and characters from being broad with soap opera melodrama as in Tyler Perry's

recent films like "Daddy's Little Girls." Both films may have their differences when it comes to the religious undertone, but they are similar in their moral intentions. "Not Easily Broken" is an adequate viewing that doesn't establish ground that we haven't seen before. PG-13; 100min. A Tri-Star Picture released through Columbia Pictures  
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