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

Davis Eyes Run to Replace Stroger

Travles R. Lane

The gumbo of candidates stewing up the 2010 election for Cook County Board President got a little spicier Sunday, July 5th when 7th District U.S. Representative Danny Davis all but threw his hat into the pot. Flanked by a throng of supporters in the shadow of the old Cook County Hospital building at 1825 W. Harrison St., Davis announced he is forming an exploratory committee to plan a run for the seat currently held by Todd Stroger, the incumbent son of the late president John H. Stroger, the man for whom the county hospital is now named.

Davis, 67, who has represented Illinois' 7th District since 1996, cited polling data that showed a vast majority of likely voters say "it's time for someone new" to lead the \$3 billion bureaucracy that is the Cook County government. In his opening remarks he said the county has "experienced a crisis in leadership" since the death of John Stroger in 2006, which paved the way for the current president's tumultuous tenure.

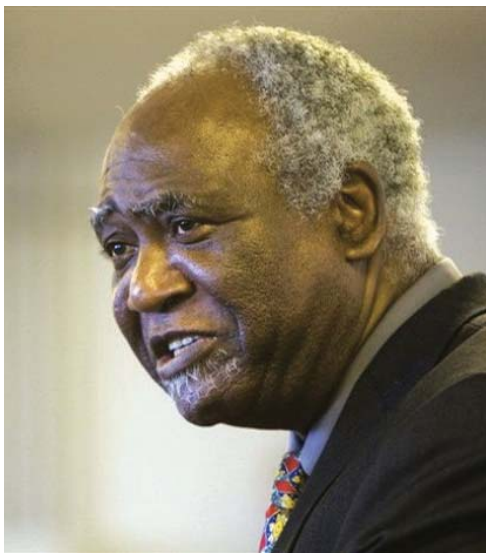
Davis finished second to Todd Stroger three years ago when

Democratic committeemen anointed him to succeed John Stroger, who suffered a stroke before winning the Democratic primary.

According to Davis' pollsters, Todd Stroger, whose administration has been hammered by scandal and bad press, is a wounded incumbent with only a fifteen percent job approval rating. With Cook County earning dubious distinction among the highest taxing county governments in the nation under his leadership, many doubt his ability to survive the Democratic primary at the polls next February.

"Taxes are high and citizens in Cook County believe their government is going in the wrong direction and the current leadership will not be able to turn it around," Davis said.

Davis' announcement brings the long-time Chicago politician a step closer to joining a Democratic field that so far includes Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown and 4th Ward Alderman Toni Preckwinkle. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart has



7th District U.S. Representative Danny Davis

also been mentioned as a possible candidate, as well as Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin and Cook County Assessor Jim Houlihan. Presumed frontrunner Cook County Commissioner Forrest Claypool, removed himself from the fray last month.

A longtime ally of John Stroger prior to his death, Davis said he

worked hard to get Todd Stroger elected in 2006. "Todd was my candidate," he said.

He added his decision to now take up a possible candidacy against the incumbent "is not personal."

"I'm motivated by what's in the best interest of Cook County, and who best represents the needs and hopes and aspirations of the people who are served by county government.

"[Stroger] has done the best he thought he could do. But the County Board needs a big shot of leadership."

Davis, a recognized healthcare expert and staunch President Obama ally, currently serves on the House Committee of Ways and Means and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the 111th Congress, said he has no misgivings about leaving behind Beltway politics in Washington, D.C. should he ultimately decide to run and win the Board presidency.

"I'm sure there are a number of talented and capable people in the

7th District who are eager to have my job," he said. "At least two of them are here right now."

State Representative Shawn K. Ford quickly raised his hand at that comment, adding he has worked extensively with Davis before and since his own election to the Assembly.

"Congressman Davis and I are very close on the issues, and he's laid a great foundation during his terms in office. [If Davis' seat became open] there would be no need for me to stick around in Springfield. I would like to build upon that foundation."

The news conference was also attended by longtime Chicago mayoral candidate William "Doc" Walls, who added he's "100 percent" behind a possible Davis candidacy. Currently in the midst of planning a run for Illinois governor next year, Walls said Davis' complete understanding of healthcare, his work to support ex-offenders and addicts, and his ability to "implement President Obama's programs" on a local level "brings a new dynamics" to the race for the next Cook County leader.

PROTESTERS SHOUT OUT ON MAINSTREAM REPORTING

Tamms Year Ten Protesters Speak Out Against False Reporting on the Conditions in the Tamms Supermax Prison

Krista Christophe

On Wednesday, July 8, protesters from the organization Tamms Year Ten gathered in front of the Tribune Building located at 435 N. Michigan Ave. to protest inaccurate reporting on the Tamms C-max Prison in the mainstream media. Dressed in esoteric, "before common era" garb, members of Tamms Year Ten braved the rain to deliver "The Ten Corrections" to Chicago Tribune officials.

The lists of ten grievances cited ways the prison could improve and included a call to "make no false assertion that men go to Tamms for only violence and disruptions." The group was turned away by a security guard when they tried to enter the Tribune Building. Many of the activists included mothers of longtime inmates of the facility located in southern Illinois, 360 miles from Chicago.

Mary Johnson, West Garfield resident and the mother of eleven year inmate, Michael Johnson, lamented the treatment of her son and other incarcerated individuals in the Tamms facility. Johnson stated that her son was placed in the supermax prison because of his involvement in a gang truce. Because he was a

very public in the dealings, Johnson was a target in the investigation. "He just had that kind of charisma," Ms. Johnson stated, "they targeted him and the 'jail house' lawyers that were involved in the case."

Though the trip downstate is tiresome and expensive, Ms. Johnson counted herself as lucky to able to visit her son though she can't have physical contact with him. She saves money and monitors her diabetes carefully so that she go on a regular basis. "Some people can't even afford the trip down there...the thing is, the whole family is punished."

Anabel Perez urged those attending the protest to sign a petition to reform the conditions in supermax prisons. Ms. Perez is the mother of Jaime Hauad, a twenty-nine year old who entered the prison when he was seventeen years old after being convicted of murder and attempted murder. "I went up to the bar they said my son was at [during the crime] - my lawyer wasn't even doing that! The video tape [from the bar] wasn't used in his case."

Ms. Perez has hired four different investigators to dispute the evidence used to convict her son. With the help of the Northwestern University Center of



Tamms Year Ten Protester marches in front of the Tribune Building in downtown Chicago

Wrongful Convictions, Ms. Perez is trying to get her son's case back into court. She will go for a "post-conviction or clemency."

Every person in the Tamms facility is held in solitary confinement without contact visits, phone calls, or communal activities. Tamms Year Ten protests long term isolation, solitary "cold storage" confinement, and the lack of due process for those transferred to the facility. The organization urges

citizens to support Illinois House Bill 2633, a bill that "establishes transparency, accountability and standards in determining how prisoners are transferred to and from the supermax prison in Illinois."

For more information on the conditions in supermax prisons and Tamms Year Ten, please visit www.YearTen.org.

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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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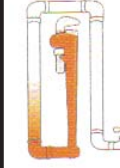
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# June Stats Show 12% Decrease In City Homicides

Ferman Mentrell Beckless - [beckless@yahoo.com](mailto:beckless@yahoo.com)

Statistics released by the Chicago police department indicated a 12.7 percent decrease in homicides and a 10.4 percent decrease in total crime from last year's rate. Stats also indicate that crime dropped in 24 of the 25 police districts within the city's limits, with fewer incidents of violent and property index crimes in every category. This, police say, is a result of a number of new policing strategies employed by the department.

For the first time in recent memory, Chicago exited the month of June with less than 200 homicides for the entire year. The last five years (2004 - 2008) were Chicago's lowest five-year totals for homicides on record and Chicago is below that pace in 2009.

"While our ultimate goal is to see the number zero for murders in Chicago," police Superintendent Jody P. Weis, said, "the 12.7 percent drop in homicides through June is a positive sign that our efforts to curb violence are having an impact."

At the same time, police reached a sobering

milestone, surpassing the 4,000 mark in the number of recovered guns this year. As of June 30, the department had seized 4,031 guns, including 181 assault weapons. That averages out to 22 weapons a day, nearly one every hour. Last year's total through six months were 3,467 weapons, including 134 assault weapons.

"As we have said time and time again, the availability of firearms for use by criminals must be addressed by our leaders in Springfield if we are to solve the problems," said Weiss. "The police cannot successfully address this issue alone. Weiss said the arrival of summer and the end of the school year leads to more late night activity, and more opportunities for young people to become a victim, or offender, in a crime. Chicago police will continue to focus on curfew enforcement.

In June, officers issued nearly 2,600 curfew violations, so parents must step up, know where their children are and who they are with at all times.

# POLICE ROUNDUP: Separate Area Shootings Involving Police Under Investigation

Ferman Mentrell Beckless - [beckless@yahoo.com](mailto:beckless@yahoo.com)

The Chicago Police Department's Independent Police Review Authority continued its investigations of two separate police-involved shootings, one in which claimed the life of a West side man.

In that shooting, which occurred at approximately 9:15 p.m. Thursday (July 2) in the 1900 block of South Spaulding Avenue, officers from the city's Mobile Strike Force Unit said they observed three men, one of which was wearing a mask with a firearm in hand. The officers told officials that they pursued the unidentified man and two others across a vacant lot on foot.

In a statement released by police, the unidentified officers said they ordered the man to drop his weapon, but he refused and pointed his weapon in the direction of the officers. One officer then fired his weapon, striking the gunman, who eventually was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. A firearm was recovered at the scene, according to police reports.

In an unrelated shooting less than 24 hours earlier, officers from the Area 5 Gang Enforcement Team told investigators they observed a vehicle with three occupants driving erratically near the corner of Madison and Whipple Streets.

As the officers curbed the vehicle, two occupants exited and fled on foot. After a short pursuit, one man displayed a weapon and fired at the officers in pursuit. One officer returned fire, striking the unidentified gunman in the leg.

The gunman was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he

was being treated for a single gunshot wound to the leg. A second occupant of the car was apprehended nearby without incident. Police said they recovered a handgun at the scene. The third occupant was able to elude the pursuing officers and was still being sought late Sunday night.

## Lawndale man charged in sex assaults

A man believed to be responsible for two separate sex assaults was arrested and charged accordingly.

Chicago police identified the man as Damario McNeil of the 1900 block of South Avers. He was charged in the June 29 assault of a 29-year-old woman in the 2000 block of West Charleston Street and the Feb. 2 assault of an 18-year-old woman in the 2300 block of West Moffat Street.

In the June 29 assault, McNeil faces charges of attempted first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and aggravated kidnapping-armed. In the Feb. 2 assault, he is charged with criminal sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping and armed robbery. McNeil appeared in bond court late last week. Word of his bond was not available.

## Biker shot dead

A 19-year-old man riding his bike in the 1900 block of North California last Tuesday died of multiple gunshot wounds when an unknown assailant approached him and fired several shots. Paramedics rushed the victim to Illinois Masonic Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead shortly after 7:00 a.m. last Wednesday (July 1).

Area 3 Homicide investigators were without an arrest or motive in the shooting that occurred just after midnight.

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Letter to the Editor

How essential is your community healthcare provider? How reproductive health care is dealt with in national health care reform is no small matter. And who provides this care is still to be determined.

For communities like the Lawndale neighborhood, local health centers are where many people turn for trusted health care. Community health providers, like Planned Parenthood, often serve as an entry point for essential health care needs. And Planned Parenthood of Illinois isn't the only health center women rely on for preventive care.

Today, one in four women who receives contraceptive care does so at a women's health center. One in six who obtains a Pap test or a pelvic exam does so at a women's health center, as do one-third of women who receive counseling, testing or treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

This basic health care is essential, particularly during difficult economic times, to give women the tools they need to protect and support their families. This is particularly true when you consider that women of childbearing

age spend a remarkable 68 percent more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men, in part because of reproductive health-related needs.

As Congress works to enact health care reform, they must make women's health a priority and ensure that reproductive health care is covered. While this fact should be a given, the truth is that family planning and reproductive health care are still not fully part of mainstream health care, even though 98 percent of women use contraception at some point in their lives.

Two recent reports underscore the need for women's health to be an integral part of health care reform.

A recent report by the Department of Health and Human Services titled "Roadblocks to Health Care: Why the Current Health Care System Does Not Work for Women" places an important spotlight on the impact that the nation's health care crisis is having on women, particularly women of childbearing age. The report states that "women are more vulnerable to high

health care costs ... [because] women's reproductive health requires more regular contact with health care providers, including yearly Pap tests, mammograms, and obstetric care."

And a 2009 survey conducted for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists found that women are delaying their annual exams as a result of the economic downturn. These reports demonstrate the importance of ensuring comprehensive health care reform that meets the needs of American women and their families. To do this, health plans participating in any health insurance exchange must include community health providers in their network.

Protecting community health providers is fundamental to solving provider access issues that will come with expanding coverage and ensuring Americans can access trusted providers wherever they live. Each year, Planned Parenthood health centers across the country perform nearly one million Pap Tests, identifying 93,000 women at risk of developing cervical cancer. And we provide

more than 850,000 breast exams a year. In Illinois alone, Planned Parenthood of Illinois provides these preventive health care services to nearly 80,000 patients each year.

Under health care reform, women must have access to reproductive health care and their women's health provider. Women cannot be worse off after health care reform than they are today. How essential is your community health provider? The answer is simple — if Americans want real health reform, community health providers must be part of the plan.

Your help can make a huge impact locally and across the nation. Congressman Danny K. Davis (IL District 7) sits on the House Ways and Means Committee and is playing an integral role in important health care decisions that are currently taking place in Washington DC . Contact Congressman Davis today to ensure his support for access to essential reproductive health care services.

Steve Trombley, President and CEO  
Planned Parenthood of Illinois

NORTH LAWDALE EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS: READING AND MATH

Valerie F. Leonard

A cursory review of the performance of North Lawndale schools over the eight years ending June 2008 reveals that only 2 of North Lawndale's 22 elementary schools performed as well or better than City average in reading, with 68%-78% of their children passing national reading exams. Four of the 22 schools performed as well or better than the City average in math, with 69.4%-89.8% meeting national standards. On average, North Lawndale Schools had 54% of their students meeting national standards on reading tests

as compared to the citywide average of 65% of the students meeting or exceeding national standards. Likewise, North Lawndale schools, on average, had 57% of their students meeting national standards on math tests, as compared to citywide averages of 69% of students meeting or exceeding national standards. At the same time 79% of Illinois elementary school students met or exceeded standards on national exams.

Results for national reading tests (2008) for the two North Lawndale high schools reveal that 7.9%-15.3% of the students performed as well as the national averages, as compared to 21% for the City as a whole. Results for national math tests for the two North Lawndale high schools range from 3.6% -21.2% of students meeting or exceeding national averages, as compared to 20.9% for the City as a whole and 75% for the State of Illinois.

With a graduation rate of 38.8%, North Lawndale ranked 69<sup>th</sup> of Chicago's 77 community areas in terms of the number of students graduating from high school in 2004. The city average at the time was 56.6%. The most effective community-based employment training programs include basic skills training to remedy any academic shortcomings. It should also be noted that the education sector will receive significant funding under ARRA (Stimulus Package).

North Lawndale Elementary School  
Trends in Reading Scores 2001-2008 - Ranked by 2008 Performance

| School Name             | ISAT Reading  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                         | % Meet Exceed |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|                         | 2001          | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  |
| 1 LEARN CHARTER         |               | 52.0  | 46.7  | 66.7  | 81.0  | 71.8  | 60.0  | 78.8  |
| 2 PLAMONDON             | 27.7          | 38.4  | 38.2  | 54.8  | 56.7  | 69.8  | 63.5  | 68.5  |
| 3 HUGHES_C              | 33.3          | 35.3  | 37.5  | 37.0  | 53.4  | 64.2  | 53.6  | 62.2  |
| 4 DVORAK                | 36.7          | 42.3  | 48.5  | 49.7  | 51.7  | 55.0  | 50.9  | 60.7  |
| 5 FRAZIER INTL MAGNET   |               |       |       |       |       |       |       | 58.5  |
| 6 MASON S               | 21.6          | 20.6  | 21.4  | 29.0  | 29.7  | 38.2  | 43.6  | 56.7  |
| 7 HERZL                 | 34.0          | 34.1  | 27.5  | 36.1  | 35.8  | 48.7  | 47.2  | 56.1  |
| 8 WEBSTER               | 26.5          | 39.4  | 33.2  | 41.1  | 36.0  | 54.1  | 44.0  | 54.5  |
| 9 LEGACY CHARTER        |               |       |       |       |       |       | 50.0  | 54.2  |
| 10 POPE                 | 22.8          | 20.0  | 27.3  | 30.4  | 34.8  | 47.1  | 44.2  | 54.0  |
| 11 GREGORY              | 18.3          | 25.2  | 19.8  | 24.6  | 33.2  | 45.2  | 51.2  | 51.7  |
| 12 PENN                 | 23.2          | 19.7  | 22.4  | 28.3  | 28.8  | 44.7  | 50.0  | 51.5  |
| 13 PADEREWSKI           | 21.9          | 36.6  | 28.9  | 30.1  | 28.9  | 32.7  | 39.1  | 50.6  |
| 14 CHALMERS             | 19.8          | 17.5  | 24.2  | 25.3  | 24.4  | 40.0  | 43.7  | 50.3  |
| 15 LAWDALE              | 25.9          | 22.0  | 22.7  | 36.9  | 28.8  | 43.7  | 40.8  | 50.0  |
| 16 CROWN                | 24.8          | 27.3  | 24.5  | 25.7  | 22.9  | 44.7  | 43.5  | 49.4  |
| 17 HENSON               | 14.9          | 23.0  | 25.7  | 24.4  | 30.5  | 48.5  | 41.5  | 49.0  |
| 18 CATALYST CHRT HOWLND |               |       |       |       |       |       | 39.1  | 48.4  |
| 19 JOHNSON              | 29.3          | 34.9  | 21.5  | 38.5  | 25.4  | 37.8  | 45.9  | 48.1  |
| 20 LATHROP              | 30.4          | 16.0  | 14.6  | 21.3  | 16.7  | 29.3  | 38.0  | 43.2  |
| 21 FRAZIER PREP ACAD    |               |       |       |       |       |       |       | 41.6  |
| 22 BETHUNE              | 21.7          | 17.5  | 25.5  | 22.0  | 21.2  | 29.6  | 39.5  | 38.8  |
| North Lawndale Average  | 25.5          | 29.0  | 28.2  | 34.6  | 35.5  | 47.0  | 46.5  | 53.5  |
| City Averages           | 40.33         | 42.55 | 43.22 | 47.56 | 49.21 | 59.66 | 60.55 | 64.91 |

North Lawndale Elementary School  
Trends in Math Scores 2001-2008 - Ranked by 2008 Performance

| School Name             | ISAT Math     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                         | % Meet Exceed |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|                         | 2001          | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  |
| 1 LEARN CHARTER         |               | 52.0  | 53.3  | 63.3  | 81.0  | 80.9  | 81.7  | 88.7  |
| 2 LEGACY CHARTER        |               |       |       |       |       |       | 72.7  | 70.8  |
| 3 HUGHES_C              | 26.3          | 34.0  | 36.6  | 48.5  | 48.3  | 67.8  | 64.0  | 70.7  |
| 4 PLAMONDON             | 27.7          | 41.1  | 42.6  | 62.9  | 38.4  | 75.0  | 76.9  | 69.4  |
| 5 DVORAK                | 28.9          | 31.1  | 45.0  | 49.2  | 42.0  | 66.4  | 66.7  | 68.2  |
| 6 FRAZIER INTL MAGNET   |               |       |       |       |       |       |       | 67.9  |
| 7 POPE                  | 18.8          | 11.8  | 18.9  | 26.1  | 26.4  | 49.7  | 66.8  | 64.0  |
| 8 WEBSTER               | 30.1          | 20.4  | 32.4  | 51.0  | 36.0  | 64.1  | 66.4  | 62.2  |
| 9 GREGORY               | 13.6          | 18.0  | 16.9  | 26.2  | 23.6  | 48.8  | 61.4  | 61.8  |
| 10 HERZL                | 26.8          | 24.6  | 28.4  | 38.3  | 30.1  | 48.3  | 66.4  | 66.7  |
| 11 FRAZIER PREP ACAD    |               |       |       |       |       |       |       | 56.5  |
| 12 MASON S              | 19.1          | 24.1  | 21.3  | 26.6  | 27.8  | 48.4  | 44.0  | 66.7  |
| 13 HENSON               | 14.9          | 12.8  | 24.3  | 26.6  | 21.7  | 52.8  | 52.0  | 53.9  |
| 14 CROWN                | 18.3          | 14.8  | 31.9  | 19.2  | 16.2  | 39.8  | 48.0  | 63.1  |
| 15 LAWDALE              | 38.0          | 26.2  | 20.4  | 40.4  | 26.7  | 55.0  | 64.2  | 61.9  |
| 16 CATALYST CHRT HOWLND |               |       |       |       |       |       | 44.3  | 60.0  |
| 17 CHALMERS             | 16.2          | 11.1  | 26.0  | 20.3  | 19.8  | 40.6  | 38.0  | 49.4  |
| 18 PENN                 | 17.9          | 19.7  | 28.0  | 35.7  | 22.0  | 60.7  | 59.4  | 46.1  |
| 19 PADEREWSKI           | 7.6           | 64.0  | 38.4  | 17.1  | 24.3  | 39.4  | 60.6  | 43.8  |
| 20 LATHROP              | 24.6          | 13.2  | 19.4  | 26.9  | 18.0  | 42.6  | 49.8  | 42.7  |
| 21 JOHNSON              | 16.4          | 20.8  | 32.1  | 30.8  | 19.7  | 36.8  | 64.1  | 36.8  |
| 22 BETHUNE              | 14.7          | 10.6  | 21.8  | 19.9  | 17.0  | 33.8  | 36.9  | 31.6  |
| North Lawndale Average  | 20.7          | 24.2  | 29.6  | 34.8  | 29.9  | 51.1  | 55.7  | 56.9  |
| City Average            | 36.98         | 39.50 | 43.69 | 48.68 | 47.84 | 64.75 | 68.28 | 68.63 |

North Lawndale High School  
Trends in Reading Scores 2001-2008 - Ranked by 2008 Performance

| School Name                                | PSAE Reading  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                            | % Meet Exceed |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|                                            | 2001          | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  |
| 1 North Lawndale College Prep Charter H.S. | 19.2          | 24.6  | 11.5  | 24.1  | 28.2  | 24.2  | 35.6  | 15.3  |
| 2 Collins High School                      | 13.5          | 14.3  | 15.1  | 15.7  | 21.0  | 18.2  | 11.0  | 7.9   |
| North Lawndale Average                     | 16.4          | 19.5  | 13.3  | 19.9  | 24.6  | 21.2  | 23.3  | 11.6  |
| City Average                               | 30.58         | 31.88 | 31.89 | 31.72 | 35.73 | 31.46 | 27.43 | 24.33 |

North Lawndale High School  
Trends in Math Scores 2001-2008 - Ranked by 2008 Performance

| School Name                                | PSAE Math     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                            | % Meet Exceed |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                                            | 2001          | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| 1 North Lawndale College Prep Charter H.S. | 13.7          | 5.3  | 1.3  | 9.6  | 9.4  | 16.7 | 21.8 | 21.2 |
| 2 Collins High School                      | 4.2           | 1.0  | 2.4  | 2.5  | 1.7  | 7.7  | 1.6  | 3.6  |
| North Lawndale Average                     | 9.0           | 3.2  | 1.9  | 6.1  | 5.6  | 12.2 | 11.7 | 12.4 |
| City Average                               | 20.7          | 21.1 | 21.5 | 22.3 | 20.9 | 22.0 | 20.8 | 20.9 |

Legend:

- Indicates schools that performed as well or better than City averages in Reading
- Indicates schools that performed as well or better than North Lawndale averages, but not as well as City averages in Reading.
- Indicates schools that performed below averages for the City and North Lawndale schools in Reading.

CPS Graduation Rate At Age 19  
In Select Communities

| CPS Graduation Rates at Age 19 by Community Area |                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Rank                                             | 13 Years Old in | 1994   | 1995   | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   |        |        |        |
|                                                  | 19 Years Old in | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   |        |        |        |
| 29                                               | Kenwood         | 55.60% | 153    | 58.50% | 130    | 51.40% | 142    | 48.80% | 125    |
| 34                                               | Chicago Lawn    | 56.10% | 631    | 53.90% | 725    | 52.00% | 688    | 54.50% | 727    |
| 37                                               | South Lawndale  | 51.90% | 900    | 50.70% | 936    | 48.70% | 917    | 53.00% | 876    |
| 41                                               | Logan Square    | 49.30% | 939    | 51.80% | 896    | 49.10% | 844    | 51.10% | 871    |
| 45                                               | South Chicago   | 53.20% | 502    | 52.10% | 434    | 54.30% | 451    | 56.60% | 475    |
| 52                                               | Lower West Side | 50.60% | 510    | 50.50% | 485    | 45.40% | 491    | 47.00% | 479    |
| 54                                               | Auburn Gresham  | 48.00% | 654    | 52.90% | 650    | 45.90% | 660    | 48.20% | 629    |
| 58                                               | Humboldt Park   | 44.10% | 1,009  | 44.50% | 1,039  | 45.90% | 994    | 46.40% | 899    |
| 59                                               | Douglas         | 43.10% | 313    | 35.40% | 311    | 36.40% | 294    | 37.20% | 309    |
| 60                                               | Englewood       | 44.30% | 725    | 43.60% | 665    | 40.20% | 661    | 40.30% | 600    |
| 64                                               | Near West Side  | 34.30% | 537    | 39.90% | 496    | 38.80% | 474    | 44.00% | 455    |
| 65                                               | East Garfield   | 42.50% | 372    | 43.60% | 330    | 46.10% | 332    | 49.80% | 297    |
| 66                                               | Woodlawn        | 41.70% | 379    | 37.00% | 341    | 40.60% | 347    | 40.10% | 349    |
| 69                                               | North Lawndale  | 41.10% | 701    | 44.20% | 719    | 43.00% | 693    | 41.40% | 696    |
| 70                                               | Grand Boulevard | 37.80% | 609    | 32.60% | 565    | 33.50% | 531    | 33.30% | 484    |
| 71                                               | Oakland         | 39.10% | 184    | 43.40% | 159    | 39.90% | 143    | 45.90% | 122    |
| 72                                               | Washington Park | 34.60% | 332    | 36.60% | 287    | 30.90% | 311    | 30.70% | 264    |
|                                                  | Citywide        | 54.70% | 21,074 | 54.10% | 20,498 | 53.30% | 20,106 | 54.90% | 19,541 |

The percentages represent the proportion of students from a given community area who were graduated from high school by age 19. The whole numbers represent the total number of students from a given community that were tracked, beginning at age 13. For example, 55.6% of 153 Kenwood students who were 13 years old in 1994 graduated by the time they were 19 years old in the year 2000. In the year 2004, the Kenwood community ranked #29 of 74 Chicago community areas in terms of the percentage of students graduating by age 19.

In the year 2004, 56.6% of Chicago's 19,398 students who were 13 in 1998 graduated by the time they reached the age of 19.

Communities with scores highlighted in yellow ranked in the top 50 percentile of the 74 community areas in the data pool. Communities with scores highlighted in a medium shade of purple ranked in the top 75 percentile. Communities with scores highlighted in the lighter shade of purple ranked in the bottom 25 percentile.

Sources: Chicago Public Schools



# FROM SISTA TO SISTER: We Are What We Eat! (Part I)

Talibah Bakhit

The pig, cow, chicken, and fish are all apart of the average American diet. Our parents fried pork chops for dinner, so now we fry pork chops for our children for dinner. Our grandparents fried chicken for every special occasion, so now we do the same. To many, what seems to be a beautiful night out on the town with a loved one is not so beautiful if we can't engage in eating a delicious well prepared, T-bone steak or Filet mignon. These things are enjoyable, but have we taken the time out to research exactly what these flesh created animals are doing to our systems? What about the make up of the body, and what the digestive system is made to digest? Did you know that meat is the major cause for heart attacks, diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis and many other debilitated diseases? According to Dr. John McDougall in his research study on "Meat and the Human Diet" the body is only made up to digest fruits, vegetables, nuts and berries. In his book, Dr. John McDougall goes into detail about the digestive system and how it is made up. He explains plainly and simply how digestion begins with the saliva enzymes in the mouth called ptyalin. This enzyme's purpose is strictly to digest complex carbohydrates which

are only found in plant food. Quite surprising isn't it? This might be especially hard to believe when our taste buds crave a mouth watering grilled steak or a delicious grilled burger during those refreshing summer holiday celebrations.

Dr. McDougall isn't the only health guru that acknowledges the importance of not eating meat. Just recently, I read a book called "The China Study" by T. Colin Campbell, PhD and Thomas M. Campbell II. I was completely taken for a loop when I began to read the educational dialog on what we should and should not eat. What was even more surprising to me while I was reading the book was that everything that I had been raised up on (in terms of eating the right foods) was the complete opposite of what I read in this book. Could you imagine five years worth of meat just sitting in your colon rotting and turning into disease? "The China Study" is amazing and educational. It elucidates the cause of disease and shows that the more meat we eat, the more diseases we intake.

"The China Study" took me back to the holy writings in the Bible in Daniel 1:1-21 when the prophet Daniel was captured by Nebuchadnezzar.

**See Sista page 7**

# ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David H. Schultz

**THE HUMAN CONTRACT (\*1/2)** Jada Pinkett Smith doesn't distinguish herself much in her directorial debut. She wrote this lukewarm drama about a successful executive (Jason Clarke) on track for a major promotion. His personal life is in shambles, as he meets a lovely, seductive and spirited woman, Michael (Paz Vega). Her influence leads to a domino effect from choosing her and her bohemian lifestyle over his boss and co-workers.

The movie was premiered at last year's Chicago International Film Festival to a polite audience response.

R; 107min. Sony Pictures Classics Home Video

**DARK STREETS (\*\*)** This film features original songs with several vocal performances from Natalie Cole, Aaron Neville, Etta James, and Dr. John along with the period music score highlighted by B. B. King. This musical drama set in the 1950s is about a naïve but dashing playboy, Chaz Davenport (Gabriel Mann) with a privileged life that includes a successful nightclub with

a blues singer sensation (Bijou Phillips) and a mysterious seductive chanteuse - a new arrival on his musical scene. When the playboy decides to investigate the circumstances that led to his wealthy father's sudden death, the story follows the murders of others connected to Chaz. Unfortunately, this leads to a muddled conclusion for a stylized movie that deserved much better.

R; 84min. Sony Pictures Home Video

**Coming Soon to Home Video:** In his own words, "Tyson" arrives Aug. 18; A young Dominican Republic baseball player's journey into self discovery while trying to break into the major leagues in "Sugar" due out Sept. 1; Mickey Rourke, Brad Renfro, Kim Bassinger, Billy Bob Thornton in "The Informers" due out Aug. 25; Paul Rudd and Jason Siegel star in "I Love You, Man" arrives Aug. 11; Idris Elba, Beyonce Knowles and Ali Larter in "Obsessed" due Aug. 4; Jaime Foxx and Robert Downey Jr, in "The Soloist" due out Aug. 4.

# AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz



Jeremy Renner as Sgt. William James in 'The Hurt Locker'.

**THE HURT LOCKER (\*\*\*\*)** "The Hurt Locker" is director Kathryn Bigelow's intense and suspenseful Iraq war dram. It's another cinematic examination of the effects of war, which is its own drug on the human psyche. This film premise may sound familiar, but "The Hurt Locker" offers a different perspective in lieu of the war already in progress.

Bigelow puts a human face on one of the most dangerous occupations in the war. The story is delivered on an unglamorized and gritty canvas that gives Bigelow her best directorial

effort in years and should not be overlooked for next year's Oscars.

The film is drawn from the personal experiences recounted by screenwriter Mark Boal through examining the mental consequences of being a bomb specialist for the Army's elite Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit (EOD). The EOD involves disarming improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that have become the chief weapons used on troops and civilians - from suicide bombers to innocent civilians strapped and locked in a vest of multi-bombs.

The movie's tone is set from the opening harrowing situation: When an army unit's mechanical device malfunctions during its attempt to find an IED. It rolls away a bomb near a bed of rocks in the middle of a village's dirt road street.

Not knowing who is friend or foe amongst the citizens watching from their nearby buildings, armed U.S. soldiers look for any glimpse of warning signs above while trying to guard over the suited-up bomb specialist, Sgt. Matt Thompson (Guy Pearce), who is exposed and vulnerable in the middle of the street trying to repair the machine.

The film's tone has been well designated and set along with the existing dangers. Then Staff Sgt. William James (Jeremy Renner) arrives for his first day with the squad. At a glance James seems like "one of the boys." Yet, Jeremy Renner gives one of the most complex and galvanizing performances I've seen so far this year. His approach to the character is that of an enthusiast. Decked out in his protective and bulky gear and formidable helmet, James moves and works to a different beat as he bounces toward the deadly target like a weightless astronaut on the moon about to make a wonderful discovery.

Renner delivers one of the most impressive and important screen performances that should be an early candidate for Oscar consideration for this incredible, bold and daring film. Director Bigelow is equally fearful in this stark and violent reality that brings out something distinctive and memorable in this modern depiction of war and its consequences. "The Hurt Locker" is an outstanding and riveting movie that should not be missed.

R; 127min. A Summit Entertainment Picture Release – Presented at selected theaters

**BRUNO (\*\*\*)** Sacha Baron Cohen's "Bruno" is clearly a distant second cousin to his "Borat" character, in terms of pushing the comedic envelope. However, the audience will see the same audacious results of ordinary

people's reactions to Cohen's characters' antics and outlandish comments.

This rendition has a little more focus and seems more familiar than what was started with "Borat." Still, Sacha Baron Cohen's "Bruno" is just as outrageous and boldly hilarious, and dares to do the unthinkable. Where "Borat" lightly touched, "Bruno" goes full tilt.

Cohen portrays a flamboyant (and gay) Austrian fashion TV host of "Funkyzeit." On his program he pushes the boundaries when he travels to Milan to cover a major fashion fest, wearing a Velcro layered suit that leads to him being banned and losing his show.

Bruno travels to Los Angeles in a quest to become an uber celebrity, or, as he says, "the biggest Austrian superstar since Hitler". This begins a series of situations set up against unsuspecting real people and professionals ranging from a perplexed talent agent to Paula Abdul. The agent Bruno a TV spot where he becomes a disruptive extra in a courtroom scene on TV's "Medium."

Sometimes we are shocked beyond our amusement (just as his victims are). With each encounter, Cohen's "Bruno" goes one step too far. It's almost like it's done to see where the ordinary person's breaking point lies.

Clearly, Cohen formed the "basis of reality" comedy that pushes the limits of the late comic Andy Kaufman and his gonzo humor. However, in "Bruno," Cohen has a greater purpose in mind. The purpose is often funny and shameful, and looks at something uncomfortable. For instance, anal bleaching, a talking penis on his TV show pilot are just some of the sexually embarrassing themes in the film.

Like its predecessor, "Bruno" is a movie you've got to see, whether or not you believe in some of the captured moments that occasionally feel staged. This doesn't matter as much as the outcome.

Bruno shows us a world too preoccupied in phobias that motivate our fears and ignorance. Cohen delivers this message through Bruno's outlandish "Candid Camera" type escapades along with his often sexually explicated behavior.

Bruno risks his humor to show no matter how fair or open minded ordinary people are they are not always willing to allow freedom of expression. Bruno shows them up by going deep enough to unveil the underlined hypocrisy that exists in all of us.

R; 82min. A Universal Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters



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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

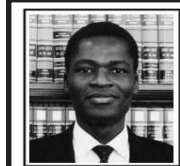
**SINCE 2004, AUSTIN'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** have been faced with the unpleasant reality of having no local public high school that accommodates all of its students. To draw attention to this travesty, the Westside Health Authority (WHA), Every Block A Village (EBV) and the Austin Community Education Network (ACEN) are leading a protest march, **"THE PEOPLE'S RALLY"** on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. from 4800 W. Chicago Avenue to 401 N. Cicero Avenue (Brach site).

**THE LIHEAP SUMMER COOLING PROGRAM** is a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location. LIHEAP will make electric bill payments on behalf of seniors, the disabled, families with children younger than 36 months of age at the time of processed application, and people with medical conditions that would be aggravated by extreme heat. Payments will be paid directly to the household's electric utility. Effective July 6<sup>th</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup> or until funds are exhausted. Applications will be accepted at 1211 South Western.

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Lanre O. Amu  
Attorney at Law

### Sister from page 6

Daniel's requested that he eat nothing but vegetables and drink water to show the results of a sacred holy diet. The results would be his daily work, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding - which were beyond what the average human could interpret. Daniel was led by the light; the light of God. So, the next time your body craves a delicious meat-filled hardy meal you should think about the long term results, because we truly are what we eat.

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## COUNTRY FINANCIAL OFFERS GRANTS To Aid Local ORGANIZATIONS

COUNTRY Financial will offer grants for the second straight year to Chicago area nonprofit organizations through its Count on COUNTRY community grant program.

In 2008, the Count on COUNTRY community grant program gave a total of \$50,000 to four Chicago nonprofit organizations. This year, the program will offer up to five grants totaling \$75,000.

"The COUNTRY grant made it possible for our organization to implement financial education workshops for businesses and their employees and a personal financial mentoring program," said Margie Gonwa of the Local Economic and Employment Development Council, one of last year's grant recipients.

The grants are part of a three-year initiative to distribute a total of \$225,000 to local organizations that share the COUNTRY goal of promoting financial security. The recipient organizations will use this funding to create programs that educate the community about financial well-being.

"At COUNTRY, we believe that everyone can achieve financial security, no matter where they are starting from," said Mike Fisher, COUNTRY new market development director. "We view these community grants as a vital component in helping families become financially secure."

Organizations which wish to receive a grant

may submit proposals outlining their intended programs. Participants must be nonprofit organizations which help families in the following neighborhoods where COUNTRY Financial has a presence, including, but not limited to, Beverly, Bridgeport, Chatham, Dunning, Garfield Ridge, Humboldt Park, Hyde Park, Jefferson Park, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, Rogers Park and the Near West Side.

The submissions will be judged based on the impact the program will have on Chicago families, its ability to promote financial security and its volunteer opportunities for COUNTRY employees and representatives.

For more information about the program and the specific eligibility qualifications, visit <http://www.countoncountryfinancial.com>.

COUNTRY Financial (<http://www.countryfinancial.com>) was founded in 1925 and serves about one million households and businesses throughout the United States. COUNTRY entered the Chicago market in 2007, and has opened 10 neighborhood offices.

COUNTRY helps families achieve financial security no matter where they're starting from. COUNTRY offers a full range of financial products and services from auto, home and life insurance to retirement planning services, investment management and annuities.



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