



# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

## PIONEERING WOMEN OF NORTH LAWNDALE CELEBRATION

Julius Anderson & The Men for a Better Lawndale organization held an award Celebration to honor some of the Pioneering Women of North Lawndale. Among the attendees were Ms. Eloise McCoy, Ms. Mahalie Somerville, Ms. Doris L. Spencer, Ms. Mary Collins, Ms. Doretha Penn, and Ms. Dorothy Ferguson. The absentees names Shirley Fountain, Odessa Clay, Edna McMillan, and Arlene Purdue

Ms McCoy who has been providing services within the community over several years at the McCoy House of Rehabilitative Services, a Building named in her honor located at 4650 W. Van Buren still maintains a rigorous lifestyle, serving coffee and helping with daily activities. She has been in North Lawndale since 1947 on St. Louis near Ogden and attends Clarr Christian Methodist Church. When asked what improvements she would like to see happen, she stated "there's still a lot of garbage and debris that needs to be cleaned

up and made to look decent." Also was informed of ground-breaking for another wing to her building.

Ms Somerville who worked for many years with nonprofits and formed the Action Now NFP, has worked with all the former alderman including the present, with pep rallies and get out and vote drives. She believes that early education of our youth in skills and manners is important to the community. She states "drugs & shooting, politics in schools, and early education of Black American History are some things I want to see addressed."

Ms. Spencer who has resided at the same address for over 50 years, located at 1307 S. Kildare also worked for Speigel Dept.store. Believes that there should be more programs given by the Chicago Park District for after-school projects for kids, clean-up of vacant lots, and pothole issue should be addressed by the alderman.

Ms. Collins – Daughter of Ms. Spencer and volunteer at Hughes elementary school, worked with Mr.

Anderson during his employment as principle, stated "when an Alderman is invited to attend a function they should show up instead of sending representatives that can't address community issues." She was very displeased with the actions of the current Alderman and not being accessible to the public.

Ms. Penn lovingly called "the Mayor of Polk St." has been involved with the CAPS program and with the Lawndale Gardening program, is still actively keeping in touch with precinct captains and other community leaders to do battle with street vendors and local gangs to keep the neighborhood safe for all. She states "the 3600 block of Polk is in dire need of re-pavement. The drain is caved in and there's lots of unstable pavement between Lawndale and Central park." When asked if she expressed this to the current Alderman she says not yet but she will.

Ms. Ferguson had no comment but worked with Ms. Penn to establish the Lawndale Gardening



From left to right: Dorothy Ferguson, Doretha Penn, Doris L. Spencer, Mary Collins (behind her Julius Anderson), Mahaley Summerville

program. Truly enjoyed the dinner and being honored.

Also in Attendance was LeAlan Jones- Candidate for U.S. Senate Running under the Green Party. He gave a tremendous speech

to motivate the attendees and gave appreciation for all the Seniors that were in attendance. Unfortunately Ill Rep. Danny K Davis was tied up

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### 10TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION HELD A TOWN HALL MEETING FOR NORTH LAWNDALE RESIDENTS

Nicholas Short

Valerie F. Leonard, the Lawndale Alliance, and other community members continue their quest to lift the people of North Lawndale out of poverty and help them succeed. Officers of the 10<sup>th</sup> District supported their efforts by allowing them to gather at their station to discuss problems that are currently plaguing their neighborhood and exchange ideas and opinions that might lead to effective solutions.

On June 16, an audience of concerned community members watched PowerPoint presentations from Leonard, the facilitator; consulting engineer Dorothy Williams; Dorothy Goldsmith, executive director of the Lawndale Restorative Justice Collaborative; and many others. The presentations were for the first meeting of the Community Awareness Series which was created by the Lawndale Alliance and the North Lawndale Community News. Divided into two panels, the presenters offered facts and revelations relating to such issues as education, restorative justice, and violence among in North Lawndale's youth.

Williams, for instance, spoke to the audience about current statistics of elementary reading and math scores of North Lawndale's children. With concerned looks painted over their faces, the audience witnessed the statistics, which revealed that, in 2009, only 55.5% of North Lawndale student met or exceeded standards in the reading portion of ISAT reading scores, nearly 11 percent lower than Chicago's average. For the math portion of the test, 60.2% of North Lawndale students managed to meet or exceed standards—nearly 12 % below the city average. North Lawndale students, the presentation adds, has been trailing behind the city average in ISAT math and reading scores by at least 10% since 2001.

But the presentation was not entirely negative: Between 2008-2009, North Lawndale gained 1.3 points in reading and 4.5 points in math. Some North Lawndale schools received special attention for their gains, including Frazier International Baccalaureate Magnet School, a

See Safe page 6

### La Shawn Ford Reveals His Ideas for a Better Future

Nicholas Short

La Shawn K. Ford is not done with the 8<sup>th</sup> District yet. Despite his hard work and achievements, the Eighth Legislative District Representative understands that there is still work that needs to be done in order for his district to be wiped clean of crime, unemployment, and various other major stains that the district's people cannot except.

Despite his rough upbringings—he was born to a teenage mother, was adopted by his grandmother at birth, and grew up without a father—Ford worked hard to become the first in his family to attend a four year college. He began his education at Niles College Seminary, but entered Loyola University after a year. There, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in Political Science

After two unsuccessful attempts at running for Illinois State Representative (1998 and 2000), he became representative of the 8<sup>th</sup> District in the House of Representatives in 2006. He earned several awards for his work in the 8<sup>th</sup> District, including the Austin Business Owner of the Year Award and the Archdiocese



State Rep. LaShawn Ford

of Chicago "Christifideles" and "Augustus Tolton" awards.

Here are some of the accomplishments he completed for the 8<sup>th</sup> District, according to his website (www.lashawnford.com):

- In the area of education, Ford has gathered major support from community leaders as they advocate for a new high school for Austin, and he continues to work for expanded early childhood education and improved quality

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

North Lawndale Community News  
 Winner of the 7th Congressional District 2004  
 Education Champion Award  
 Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
 Residents of the 7th Congressional District

# NLCN

## 2010 Focus

### Youth & Reflection

Much has happened since October of 1999 when we first published the North Lawndale Community News more than eleven years ago. 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 it has become a newspaper, larger in newsprint layout 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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# JOHN MARSHAL ALUMNI'S 9TH ANNUAL PICNIC

Nicholas Short



Long after they have graduated, members of John Marshal Metropolitan High School Alumni Association still contain the same commando spirit they possessed when they were students and use it to inspire others. Years ago, they banded together to continue supporting their school, and their latest effort was their 9<sup>th</sup> annual picnic.

Alumni members shared laughs and food on Sunday, July 18, at Brookfield Park Reserve (Groove 1), where the picnic was held. Most of them resided within the picnic area, hiding under the area's roof from the hot sun, but still feeling its strong heat. They ate, drank, danced, and had an amazing time. Sitting at picnic tables covered in plastic gold and maroon table covers, attendees enjoyed various forms of food: grilled hot dogs, Italian sausages, and hamburgers; fruit salad; cakes; cookies; chicken wings; and more.

People dined and danced while a DJ played music that ranged from R Kelly to

classics from the 60s. Some also lounged in beach chairs on the grass under the trees, chatting with each other. Kids were playing football out in the sun. One man was calmly performing Tai Chi relaxation exercises in the sun on top of the grass. And he did so despite the various sounds that roamed through the area. The blend of thunderous music and fiery conversations created a bright, cheerful atmosphere that shined across the field of Brookfield just like the sun's golden rays.

Many alumni wore alumni association t-shirts, which came in either gold or maroon, that carried the words "Proud to be Commandos" and a soldier sticking one finger in the air with pride. The Alumni matched the pride of that soldier by occasionally screaming out football chants and sitting the school song without hesitation.

The group also consisted of new staff

members that were added to John Marshal due to a turnaround that was initiated by Chicago Public Schools. Glen McCarthy, Officer of Family and Community Involvement at CPS, also attended the event with a camera crew to record the event as the alumni partied with the new staff members.

A raffle was held as the event came to a close. The main prizes were a 15" flat screen television, a microwave, and a DVD player.

Cornelius Longstreet, an alum who attended the picnic, has been a member of the alumni for nine years and graduated from John Marshall in 1979. He loved the event. To him, the event was a great way for alumni and others to socialize, have fun, and at the same time, repay the school for what it has done for them. "We're trying to give something back to the school and also give former students the opportunity to meet each other," he said.

Valencia S. Shelton-Nelson, another

alumni association member, enjoyed the picnic as well. She lends her support and appreciation to John Marshall whenever she can. "I wanted to give back to Marshall. Marshall has given me so much since I graduated," she said. An alum for about a year, she started with Marshall during her junior and senior years. She gained tremendous benefits from Marshall's career classes and college courses.

Shelton-Nelson is very proud to be a member of the alumni association. "It gives you an outlook of what's happening in your school that you left years ago," she said. Being a member gives her a chance to let current students know that they can make it regardless of their surroundings.

For more information about the alumni, go to <http://www.cpsalumni.org/school/marshall%2C-john-marshall-metropolitan-high-school> or <http://www.marshallmetro.cps.k12.il.us/alumni.htm>

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All is welcome to come together as a family for the 9th Annual Taste Of Lawndale, come out and support.

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# AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz

## RAMONA AND BEEZUS (\*\*)

Based on Beverly Cleary's series of Children's books, "Ramona and Beezus" is a sweet movie that doesn't get too saccharine, while being a bit mundane. The film is about personal annoyances and growth in a child's development and the effects of real-life family crisis.

Surprisingly, this popular book series since 1955 and thirty books later only now spawns a movie that sort of plays like a Lifetime cable TV movie for the Nickelodeon channel crowd. Through its episodic mishaps and its semi-nostalgic feeling; the film is about on two kid sisters growing up in a suburban family in Oregon (Even though the movie was shot in Vancouver, Canada).

The first half of the film is lightly amusing yet honest in its emotional depiction. Ramona is the younger of the two, played by newcomer Joey King, a nine yr old third grader with a vivid imagination that accompanies her day dreaming thoughts that she envisions herself in exaggerated situations.

But most important, Ramona is trying to grow up and away from her reputation for being accident prone. She's regarded nicely as being different, but she doesn't like it. Because of the unintentional havoc these mishaps brings on herself and others

As the film's centerpiece, Ramona represents that awkward time in a young child stumbling through her life that is initially viewed by her parents and older sister with tolerance and teasing.

The daughters' father, Robert (John Corbett) usually returns home from work with enough energy to be playful with his daughters and jokes around with his wife



before dinner.

These particular scenes sometimes annoy me a little because of my inner city sensibilities. Films like "Ramona and Beezus" tend to suggest how we are supposed to act with our children more than the way we really do.

The second half of the film becomes kind of a downer or sorts that neatly offer a ray of hope and optimism. Just as construction begins to expand their home; Robert returns home, wearing the fatigue look of a bad day. Because he announces to his family that his company is downsizing that leads to him being laid off from work.

The domino effect continues in varied

episodic forms that seem like they were culled from several books (Perhaps, the studio testing the waters, but sensing not enough support to warrant a potential movie franchise here.)

Each incident Ramona somehow is involved and/or feels responsibility for. While her father searching for work has more time to spend with his kids. His wife, Dorothy (Bridget Moynahan) has to do "double up" on her duties. While the film spots itself through each mishap and incident.

A van in the garage gets an accidental shower of multi-color paints that belong to family friend, Hobart (Josh Duhamel) who se the old (?) flame to Aunt Bea (Ginnifer Goodwin), and serve as modest interest for adult viewers.

Afterwards, Ramona realizes she has made contributions that have helped not hurt others that redeem her self esteem. It's all nice and tame amidst all the hoopla of most summer movie fare these days

Under its honorable intentions as well as an alternative to most summer movie blockbuster fare and a few bumps along the way, "Ramona and Beezus" is a relatable, harmless human comedy drama that might serve for minimal bonding between mothers and their youngest sibling, but that's about it.

**PG; 103min. A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Picture Release – presented at selected theaters**

**SALT (\*\*1/2)** By now, you might have heard that this movie was originally intended for Tom Cruise that has been retailored for this publicly declined Bond girl who rather play Bond herself as this American undercover agent thought to be a

Russian spy.

Regardless of some of the real life headlines involving spy swapping; Part of the fun in "Salt" solely belongs to watching Angelina Jolie do most of the stunt work as she kicks ass all over the place.

While the other half doesn't fare as well, because of this artificial script that becomes riddled with gaps of inaccuracies and the lack of creditability that makes the plot look inconceivably ridiculous.

Even though, Jolie proves her physicality well fulfilling her female James Bond fantasy better than this overall implausible espionage escapade.

And at the outset, the film gets our initial attention. With the brutal and bloody opening sequence involving Jolie as Evelyn Salt, an undercover spy taking a serious looking beat down from her North Korean captors.

Until a swap is arranged under the supervision of her close associate, Ted Winter (Liev Schreiber) and the persistent influence of her new found love interest, a German arachnologist, Mike Krause (August Diehl).

Two years later, Krause and Salt are happily married within their occupations of spider research and a smooth operative agent living in D.C. Love can lead to strange bedfellows that are made hard to believe here.

The young couple's anniversary plans that Salt is trying to rush home to, are interrupted at her job site. When her and Winter receive word of a breach in security from a Russian defector that has infiltrate their CIA cover building, Rink Petroleum, whose been captured and needs to be

**See Flicks page 7**

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# ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz



**THE RUNAWAYS (\*\*\*)** Strong performances bring distinction under the usual sex, drugs and rock and roll in this underrated rock biography drama on one of the 1980's most influential girl rock groups and the volatile nature between members Joan Jett (Kristen Stewart) and

Cherie Currie (Dakota Fanning) along with their svengali and hippie-type manager Kim Fowley I (Michael Shannon) who had the vision

*Coming Soon to Home Video: Robert Downey Jr. Don Cheadle, Mickey Rourke in "Iron Man 2" arrives Sept. 28*

and just funding of our schools. Ford backs plans to reduce the reliance on property taxes to fund education.

In his first term, he established a committee to improve education in the Eighth District, and has held a summit of school principals. Concerned about disparities in health and showing his abilities to bring together groups that are concerned about HIV, Ford also authored and led the fight for landmark legislation with nationwide implications that became law, making it easier and less intrusive for patients to be tested for HIV in health care settings while preserving the rights of those being tested.

Ford is very aware about the unflattering opinions of politicians. "Everyone has the right to their opinion." He believes that government officials—including himself—must work extra hard to show them that they have their best interest.

He is also aware of the issues that are terrorizing the 8<sup>th</sup> District and the rest of Illinois. Here are his views on most of these issues:

**Unemployment:** The best way to increase employment is to provide assistance to small business owners to help them flourish. The owners, in response, will provide jobs. Ford wants to help the owners "be all that they can be" when it comes to services that they can provide for the community.

**Health:** Illinois is currently waiting on Washington who is having trouble implementing its healthcare bill. Until then, he places his faith in county hospitals, including Cook County Hospital. "It's important to know that the county provides great service and that we have to

make sure that we support the county in every way that we can because that is a proven system that has been taking care of people for years," he said. He wants to keep them strong and vibrant in order for them to provide care.

**Education:** "There is a level of unfairness when it comes down to the social class," Ford said. And that is why the education system is poor. Some areas have a better advantage than others. Chicago, for instance, cannot benefit from the same high property tax as the suburbs. It does, however, have the lottery. People spend millions of dollars on the lottery, and Ford believes that more of that money should be used to fund education. "The lottery was supposed to fund education and right now it is not funding education the way that it is supposed to be," he said. To him, it is important to figure out a way to bring all schools at the same level—or at least close the same level.

**Crime:** High unemployment and high dropout rates, said Ford, are the root of the problem. "When you look at communities where the dropout rate is little to none, the crime is little to none. When you look at communities where the dropout rate is high, the crime is high," he said. Therefore, action must be taken to decrease both unemployment and dropout rates.

Ford strives to be available to everyone as often as possible, though it might not always be possible. "No one's perfect," he said. He says he is available through e-mail (lkf@ilga.gov) and his doors are open from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. He also has three office locations: one in Springfield, one in Chicago, and one in Oak Park. Those who want to learn more can go to his website.

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COME IN AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN PERSON.

**The Lawndale Alliance, in Partnership with the North Lawndale Community News, Presents**

**"The Meeting Before the Meeting"**

**Monday July 26, 2010**

**10<sup>th</sup> District Police Station**

**3315 West Ogden Avenue**

**6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is seeking input from minorities into its regional planning process. Representatives from CMAP will provide an overview of the plan so that you may be better prepared to provide public input.

**We Encourage You to Attend "The Meeting"**

**Friday, July 30, 2010**

**9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

**Willis Tower (Old Sears Tower)**

**233 South Wacker Drive, Ste. 800**

You will have an opportunity to discuss the plan in an informal setting and provide your comments. You should bring a photo id, and be prepared to share your feedback. You must RSVP in advance for security purposes. Call Sef Okoth at 312-386-8729.

CMAP is accepting public comments until August 6, 2010. You may download a copy of the draft plan at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov>. **It is recommended that you review the plan (or at least the parts that interest you) before Friday's meeting.**

For further information contact Valerie Leonard at

(773) 521-3137, or [valeriefleonard@msn.com](mailto:valeriefleonard@msn.com).

Visit <http://Lawndalealliance.blogspot.com>



Tali Bakhit

Nig&er, jungle bunny, moolie, pickaninny, shvartz, coone, c z i g g e r ,

chernozhopyi, cliff ape and jiga-boo are only a few of the derogatory terms that have been used to degrade the ethnicity of a people who are yet still treated as second class citizens due to the color of their skin. As in the past and continuously in modern times, racism still exist, but the question is, how do we save the youth from such ignorance? Racism is a learned behavior and the youth are only learning these ill manners from those who teach them such as---their parents, teachers and other adults whom are considered to be role models, these are the first in line for teaching such error.

While people of color continue to fight for the balanced respect of justice on behalf of the color of their skin in society, the color of their skin seems to be the deciding factor in many cases, even amongst each other. While light skinned and dark skinned people in corporate America remain in conflict with the ignorance of not understanding the slave masters rape of ones great-great grand parents, the youth are in great conflict of not understanding the importance of their heritage and what it took for a person of color to be able to pick up a book and read.

Instead of understanding the significance of their history---the message in the music of many young African-Americans are focused on glorifying derogatory words like Nigga, Nig\$er or Niggah just to have the cheap thrill of saying that they were on TV, the radio or they have gained material things. These harsh times of creating a peaceful revolution of morals, values, ethics and words in education are becoming harder for the youth to comprehend as what was fought for so long ago---(but not so long ago) has become nothing but tales of laughter for many young African American youth who claim "I ain't from no Africa, so don't call me an African."

Driving through African American

neighborhoods all across America, display a different view of what America claims herself to be "The Land Of The Free." The public school systems that house over 90% of African American children are full of low rate computer systems, hand me down books and uneducated teachers, teaching with out the ability to to articulate a correct sentence, as the language that they speak is only understood in their own ghetto's, leaving African American children without an inkling of knowledge to compete or win in a academically and economically structured competitive world. The lack of education that they are receiving is not fit to

add substance to the neighborhood.

This young lady said that she would not have known the difference if her grandmother did not live outside of her neighborhood because all of the schools and stores in her neighborhood are the same and she only travels outside of the neighborhood to see her grandmother.

She also revealed that the friends that she have met in her grandmothers neighborhood---whom most of them are white, talk about all of the high tech. computer systems and sport teams that they have at their school. Miss Pretty adds "I was surprised because we don't have all of the kind of stuff that

what they have been conditioned to know and understand and the results of what they have been feed is what our world is today suffering from as it pertains to the youth.

Ways to help the youth deal with racism:

1. Teach your child that the world is full of people of different races, however we are made beautifully different and one race is not better than the other .

2. Never use derogatory language around your child about the color of some ones skin or the way that they look.

3. Allow for your child to have friends from different racial backgrounds

4. Allow for your child to see you have friends and communicate with people from different racial backgrounds (positively)

5. Openly talk about black history to your child, the past, present and the future, as the youth are the future

6. Allow for your child to understand the difference between the races if they ask questions, don't hide the truth from them.

7. If you can't talk about it openly, then don't talk about it at all around your child when it comes to race

8. Get your child involved with diverse youth organizations that have children of mixed races

9. Make a request for your child's school/teacher to give more informational insight about the different races, it's no secret that we have different colors and different cultures, this type of dialogue will help children with social awareness in a diverse world.

10. Take your child to museums and cultural events that will allow for your child to have the experience of feeling, hearing and seeing the difference.

*As children turn the war of race into gang violence and territorial matters, killing and hating one another, the rich makers and shakers of the world continue to enjoy their suburban neighborhoods and send their children to the best schools in American, those in which are predominately white schools with out ever stepping a foot in the world of chaos that has been systematically thought out by their racist attentions to keep a race of people behind.*

comprehend what society has to offer.

These results are all due to contemporary times racial imbalance, it's slithery and cunning way---comes from the under belly, as the obvious results surface by way of inner city schools, neighborhoods and the jail systems all around our country and world. The effect that such prejudice is taking on the youth is horrifying, thoughtless and selfish to say the least.

In an interview with a 14 year old young lady on the West side of Chicago who choses to stay anonymous "Miss Pretty, is what I called her," made clear that, black neighborhoods across our country are full of food deserts, that only consist of unhealthy fast/processed food, liquor stores and vacant lots, where when driving through the white neighborhoods where her grandmother lives in suburban Illinois there are pretty grocery stores, clothing stores, healthy food stores and every other kind of store that will only

my friends in the suburbs talk about at my school."

These are only some of the effects that the imbalance of racism injects into the worlds societies. From the grade school systems to the secondary school systems workings it's way through corporate American, racism rares it's ugly face.

Leaving a world so beautiful in the condition of turmoil and hate. As children turn the war of race into gang violence and territorial matters, killing and hating one another, the rich makers and shakers of the world continue to enjoy their suburban neighborhoods and send their children to the best schools in American, those in which are predominately white schools with out ever stepping a foot in the world of chaos that has been systematically thought out by their racist attentions to keep a race of people behind.

The youth only know and understand

## Flicks from page 4

interrogated.

Under questioning, the gruff talking Russian, Orlov (played by an impressive Daniel Olbrychski) sets the film's tone through flashbacks and storytelling of a present day network of "sleeper cells" from indoctrinated children from Russia by a master spy for a future mission, "Day X", that would cripple America into a "cold war" with Saudi Arabia.

Orlov makes the startling comment to Salt that she is really a Russian spy whose been awoken to kill the Russian president on U.S. soil during the funeral of the U.S. Vice president in New York. Salt is convincingly startled and denies the accusation that are witnessed through a two way glass mirror by Winter and his department supervisor, Peabody (Chiwetel Ejiofor) who share opposing views on Salt's actions while they chase after her.

Somehow, for the sake of love and revenge, Salt uses what she's been taught and her "sleeper cell:" status on her comrades. While Peabody (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and Winter (Liev Schreiber) still debate her guilt or innocent while in pursuit. This leads the usually talented Ejiofor stuck to play off Schreiber's character through most of the film has his performance hindered by his character's "by-the book" cliché mentality.



It later becomes were worse for the all-too-brief appearance of Chi-born Andre Braugher in a throw-away role as the secretary of defense when the action shifts to the White House with more "sleeper cells" in high place trying to enact the second phase of "Day X". This allows for a predictable confrontation and for Salt to show her true colors that the audience never doubted to begin with; that makes the entire film anticlimactic. **PG-13; 100min. A Columbia Pictures Release - presented at selected theaters**

## Safe from front page

school that gained 25 points in math and 18 points in reading.

During Leonard's presentation, she discusses the distribution of funds to Chicago's schools. She addressed the city's FY 2010 Budget Summary and the city's local school expenditures from Illinois Board of Education (ISBE) Interactive Report Card. What she found out from the budget summary was that, between 2002 and 2004, over \$58.5 million in TIF funds, or Tax Increment Financing funds, were used to maintain obligation bonds issued by Chicago Public Schools.

She also learned---from an article from Progress Illinois entitled, "A Teacher's Fight to Open up Chicago's TIF Budget"---that Chicago's TIF system absorbed \$552 million in property tax revenue in 2008. This means that, since half of each property tax dollar is given to schools, about \$300 million of the revenue generated in TIF districts each year would head straight to CPS's coffers. But instead, that money was set aside by the Daley administration to use as it saw fit.

Financial profiles, she added, are presented in the FY 2010 budget for all schools, except contract and charter schools. The School Assessment database can be accessed via CPS's website (<http://www.csc.cps.k12.il.us/servlet/CIP?ASMT=Y>).

Soon, Goldsmith presented statistics of Juvenile Arrests in North Lawndale. Using sources from the Chicago Police Department, she reported that, between 1999 and 2003, over 10,000 youth in North Lawndale were arrested and referred to Juvenile Court. Seven hundred and twenty cases were pending in Juvenile court, which was the largest number of cases of every community in Chicago. Staying with North Lawndale Juvenile Justice Collaborative's mission, "to educate, advocate and organize with the community to keep youth out of the Juvenile Justice System by building and offering community based prevention and intervention alternatives that are grounded in the philosophy of Balance and Restorative Justice," declares that the youth needs alternatives to detention and Juvenile Court.

Though she was satisfied with the work that was done with the event, Leonard feels that none of the problems that North Lawndale has will be solved until more people from the community get involved in their community. A member of the Lawndale Alliance since it began in 1997, she said, "I believe that if people were more engaged in the affairs of our community, we would hold our institutions accountable, our leaders accountable, and we would probably have a little more momentum---forward movement---in the community."

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**Pioneers from front page**

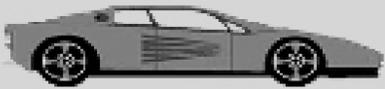
with other obligations and was not able to attend. Through the regal heights and transitional years, These Women have remained steadfast, prudent, and worked diligently to empower our community. They have been the pillar of excellence and have lead by example. They have allowed us to continue to stand and push for an extraordinary tomorrow. Some of the pioneering women honored were involved with Mr. Anderson and Men for a Better Lawndale in the stoppage of school closings, technology programs for youth and community development. Those woman that signify pillars in the North Lawndale community for decades enjoyed a fabulous luncheon, received awards, and partook in vibrant discussions with Mr. Anderson and Men for a Better Lawndale board members. The luncheon honoring the North Lawndale woman was hosted at Mr. Anderson's home in a relaxed and gracious setting.

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