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# 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

## MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM HELD AT BETHEL AME CHURCH

Nicholas Short

With Mayor Richard Daley's seat up for grabs, candidates have begun gathering voters and supporters. On October 16, they went to Bethel AME Church with their campaign to speak to the attendees in order to gain support from African American voters.

Over 1,000 people attended the church, located at 4440 S. Michigan Avenue, for a political forum that provided them with an opportunity to witness who is running for various federal, state and city offices, including the office of mayor. The room was filled with curious African-Americans who anxiously listened as each candidate stepped up to the church's podium and preached reasons why he or she is the perfect candidate to take the place of Mayor Daley, who has decided to end his term as the mayor of Chicago after 21 years of service.

Chicago Coalition for Mayor hosted the event, which started at 1 p.m. The Coalition, which was created soon after Mayor Daley announced that he will not be running for a seventh term as mayor, is comprised of elected officials. These officials include the Chicago Aldermatic Black Caucus, Illinois

State Representatives, State Senators and Cook County Officials. Other members of the Coalition included members of the business community, clergy, labor, fraternities, sororities, professionals and over 50 community organizations.

Among the people who spoke is 5<sup>th</sup> District Senator Rickey Hendon, Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL), former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun, 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Sharon Dixon, U.S. Senator Roland Burris, and community and political activist William "Dock" Walls III. Other candidates, such as Fredrick K. White, claimed that they were not allowed to participate in the event. White, upset about not receiving his chance, said that he thought that the forum was an "open" forum.

"We're not aware of anyone that was turned away," said Tracy Austin, a member of the Coalition. But she was told by others that there have been people who have not been interviewed by the Coalition who tried to join the forum. Before a candidate is allowed to participate in the forum, that person has to be interviewed ahead of time. "There was a process that has been put in place well over a month ago that

allowed every candidate that was interested to actually be interviewed by the committee." The screening was important to the Coalition, she added, because it helped them learn more about their candidates—their credentials, their past, etc.—and determine who would be the right candidate.

News media outlets such as ABC News and CBS News attended the event but were also not allowed to be a part of the event. They were moved to a separate area for the church by church officials. After the event, members of the news media received an opportunity to ask candidates questions.

Austin, who is also president of Danielle Ashley Communications, said the press was transported to another area to make the forum more even. The press, she explained, has traditionally been biased towards other candidates during elections, giving more time and attention to some candidates than others. She and the rest of the Coalition believed that all of the candidates were distinguished and accomplished and they "didn't want that to be distorted." and the coalition decided that every candidate received a fair chance.



Bethel AME Church located at 4440 S. Michigan Avenue housed Chicago Coalition for Mayor on Saturday, October 16.

A meeting was also held on October 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parkway Ballroom, located at 4455 S. Martin Luther King Drive, to determine which candidate would be chosen. The Coalition originally was going to announce the candidate on Tuesday, October 19, 2010. According to Ms. Austin, the announcement would take place by

the end of the week.

For more information about the Chicago Coalition for Mayor, people can go to [chicago-coalitionformayor.com](http://chicago-coalitionformayor.com), or send an e-mail to the organization at [info@chicago-coalitionformayor.com](mailto:info@chicago-coalitionformayor.com), or contact Danielle Ashley Communications (312) 714-8339 or (312) 532-0585.

## LANE CHANGE: Coalition for Black Mayor

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane - [thelane@yahoo.com](mailto:thelane@yahoo.com)

I lost my reading glasses last Saturday afternoon (Oct. 16) shortly after hearing from the slew of Black candidates vying to represent a unified African American community in Chicago's upcoming mayoral election in February. But by the time I discovered my specs missing on my way back home, I really had seen enough.

Nearly 2,000 Black people filled the pews at historic Bethel AME Church at 4440 S. Michigan Ave. that day for what was called the "Coalition for Chicago Mayor Meet the Candidates Forum." The event was billed as the capstone to a selection "process" that would chose a single Black stand bearer in the race to succeed Mayor Richard Daley since he announced Sept. 7, he would not seek re-election to a 7<sup>th</sup> term.

Shortly after that stunning development (less stunning when you consider the problems that awaits the next mayor), a coterie of Black politicians, preachers, businessmen and others dubbed themselves the Chicago Coalition for Mayor. The group, which also includes representatives of Black labor, fraternizes, sororities, professionals and over 50 community organizations according to its Website, was ostensibly formed to select a consensus African American candidate from among themselves to



Wasting Time: Nearly 2,000 people packed Bethel AME Church only to still be waiting for a Black unity candidate more than a week later

serve as standard bearer for the city's Black community in the race.

The coalition had several meetings, interviews and other interactions with prospective candidates by the time 10 of them took to the pulpit at Bethel AME to tout their credentials before a packed crowd of potential Black voters last week.

Let's see, there was U.S. Senator Roland Burris; U.S. Rep. Danny Davis; Illinois senators Rickey Hendon (D-5<sup>th</sup>) and James Meeks (D-?); Illinois Rep. Annazette Collins (D-10<sup>th</sup>) and former U.S. senator and American ambassador to New Zealand Carol Moseley-Braun among the politicians. And of course, William "Dock" Wall was there

hanging his hat on his connection to the bygone days when Harold Washington became the city's first Black executive.

Among the newcomers was Christopher Cooper, a civil rights attorney who trumpeted the fact he, like Wall, had actually entered

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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  
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 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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# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ON THE EDUCATION FRONT?

Valerie F. Leonard

The Chicago Public Schools has been under Mayoral control for the past 16 years. Under the Mayor's leadership we have had School Reform, Renaissance 2010 which called for school closings and reopening them as charter schools, and attempts to qualify for the national Race for the Top (which seems to have been modeled after the local Renaissance 2010 initiative). The changing of the guard in City Hall could have serious implications for the direction of education in Chicago.

The Chicago Tribune ran an interesting article regarding the fact that the State's standardized tests have been made increasingly simpler over the last 5 years. ("Students Can Pass ISAT With More Wrong Answers", October 17, 2010 online edition, <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/education/ct-met-isat-answers-20101018,0,308277.story>). It should be noted that the article does not mention the fact that Chicago Public Schools lobbied the State to simplify the test 5 years ago.

At the same time, the Chicago Tribune's Editorial Board is urging the next Mayor to continue the course that has been laid by the current Mayor, and suggested that the new Mayor keep the current CPS CEO on board to continue the reforms that have been made. ("Reform on the Ropes?" October 17, 2010 online edition, <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-rhee-20101018,0,6816965.story>).

Reading the editorial and the article causes me to think about a number of questions. 1) Should the next Mayor continue the same course in education, including keeping the same staff in place? 2) How has North Lawndale fared under the current school reforms? 3) Can we believe the headlines we have been reading over the

past 16 years telling us that the schools have improved? 4) Do we need more of the same policies, or do we change course?

While there is a case to be made for keeping the current team in place to minimize further disruption of the school system, I believe the next Mayor needs to hire his own team. This would increase chances of loyalty to the new administration; increase the likelihood that the new cabinet members will fit within the new Mayor's vision; and increase accountability to the new leader, who will in turn, be accountable to the public. Under the current system, the Mayor's team would include the CPS CEO.

The best performing school districts in Illinois are headed by a duly qualified Superintendent, with a doctorate in education, with significant experience with the business of running schools. Members of the business and civic community that are most influential in shaping our public school policies typically send their own children to school systems headed by educators. I believe that over time, Chicago should have an independently elected school board headed by a duly qualified Superintendent with a history of real success in school improvement. I also realize that meaningful future school improvements will not be completed over night, as it took several years for Chicago Public Schools to go from one of the best systems in the country to where we are now.

CPS ISAT data reflect that on average, 49.21% of CPS students met or exceeded state standards in reading in 2005. In 2006, the year the test was changed, 59.66% met or exceeded standards in reading. CPS students have been making steady "gains", as the required number of points to pass the test were steadily decreasing over the years.

By 2009, the CPS school performance data showed that 66.2% of CPS students were passing the test. It should be noted that Illinois ranks 46 of 50 states in terms of academic standards.

What has School Reform meant for North Lawndale in recent years? One indicator is test scores. The data show that even though North Lawndale schools' performance continues to lag behind the rest of the City, our schools were making greater "gains" than the students citywide. CPS data show that 36.4% of North Lawndale students met or exceeded standards in 2005; 48% passed the test in 2006 and to 55.5% met or exceeded standards in 2009. Some North Lawndale schools have made significant one year gains--as high as 8 percentage points between 2008 and 2009.

With few exceptions, when we move past the headlines and review CPS school performance data, it is difficult to see where we are making real improvement. The data show that elementary school students are making significant gains in performance on standardized tests, yet only 38% of North Lawndale students graduate high school (CPS 2004). Our top performing community based high school had 17% of its students passing the reading section of the Prairie State Achievement Test in 2009. Only 3% of African American students going through CPS were graduating from college in 2004. At the rate we're going, our children will not be able to compete for jobs in a global economy, and very few, if any, world class employers will re-locate to North Lawndale given the

skill level of our workforce. This situation is not helped by the fact that the City Colleges have scaled back on remedial courses.

What we have learned over the past 16 years is that, regardless of what policies CPS puts in place, schools will only truly improve when the community begins to value education again. Most importantly, we must take responsibility for our children's education. Then, we must hold CPS accountable to educate all children, regardless of what school they attend, or their skill level.

Furthermore:

1) While tests are important indicators of performance, schools should stop teaching to test and focus on truly educating students. When students graduate high school, they should be prepared for the rigors of college or the global workforce.

2) Parents and guardians need to be more involved in their children's education. Students whose parents or guardians are engaged in their education are more likely to perform well in school.

3) Community leaders must engage CPS and local citizens in public discussions around education policy. Communities

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**Save the Date: February 22, 2011  
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**For further information** contact Valerie at 773-521-3137, or [valerieleonard@msn.com](mailto:valerieleonard@msn.com). Visit the campaign website at <http://vote4valerie.voterspace.com>. Visit the campaign blog at <http://vote4valerie.blogspot.com>. Follow Valerie on Facebook, MySpace, Scribd, and Twitter.

## Elmhurst Students, Chicago Residents To Fight Hunger Together Partners for Peace will share food, music and worship with North Lawndale community

ELMHURST, Ill., Oct. 19, 2010—Members of the Elmhurst College community will spend the weekend of Nov. 6-7 working and worshipping with residents of Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood during the College's second annual Partners for Peace program.

Partners for Peace, started by Elmhurst College's Niebuhr Center, is an intensive, hands-on effort to address social justice issues. Last year, Partners for Peace held an anti-violence rally in Chicago's Austin neighborhood to call attention to gang and gun violence there.

This year, Partners for Peace will address hunger and poverty. On Nov. 5, students and volunteers will load a cargo van with donations of canned food, which then will be taken to the Christian Valley Baptist Church, 1237 S. Homan Ave., in the North Lawndale community

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, buses will take Partners for Peace students, volunteers and members of the Elmhurst College Jazz Band from Elmhurst to North Lawndale. Students will give away food until 2 p.m., and then the Jazz Band will perform. Guest speakers at the event will include Rev. Dr. Marshall Hatch and Illinois Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-Chicago). Aim Company will present two gospel mime presentations, and the gospel choir Joshua Troop will

close out the afternoon. On Sunday, Nov. 7, Elmhurst students will return to the Christian Valley Baptist Church for an intercultural worship experience. Rev. Dr. Ronald K. Beauchamp, director of the Niebuhr Center, will be the morning speaker.

To join students and volunteers on the trip to Chicago on Nov. 6, or to donate nonperishable food items to the Partners for Peace effort, please contact Trudy Sulita at 630-617-3492 or [trudys@elmhurst.edu](mailto:trudys@elmhurst.edu). The Niebuhr Center is funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc

Partners for Peace is part of Still Speaking: Conversations on Faith, the College's yearlong exploration of the issues that unite and divide people of faith. Still Speaking marks the centennial of the graduation of two of Elmhurst College's most esteemed alumni, Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr.

Elmhurst College is a leading liberal arts college located eight miles west of Chicago. The College's mission is to prepare its students for meaningful and ethical work in a multicultural, global society. Approximately 3,400 full- and part-time students are enrolled in its 22 undergraduate academic departments and nine graduate-degree programs.

## ON VIDEO Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz

OCEANS (\*\*1/2)  
A continuation to commemorate the annual eco-awareness of Earth Day; "Oceans" is another

Disney acquired French made nature documentary filmed globally that captures the known and rarely seen aqua inhabitants of the sea.

Well narrated by Pierce Brosnan, "Oceans" is sort of the usual excursion into the aquatic world that is pure mediation. Some insightful data and light humor, and later demonstrate the environmental concerns depicted by the man made pollution and those that are trying to reverse the abuses that is endangering species. Good enough to fascinate young kids. G; 84min. Disneynature Home Video

Coming Soon to Home Video: Will Farrell and mark Wahlberg in "The Other Guys" arrives Dec. 14...

"Twilight: Eclipse" shines Dec 4...Steve

Carell lends his voice in the animated feature "Despicable Me" due out Dec. 14...Scott Pilgrim Vs. the World" arrives Nov. 9...Disney/Pixar's "Toy Story 3" due out Nov. 2..."Cats and Dogs :The Revenge of Kitty Galore" arrives Nov. 16... Angelina Jolie stars as a CIA agent on the run when a defector tags her as a double agent for the Russians in the action packed, "Salt" due out Dec. 14

Jack Clark's Family & Sunlight of the Spirit Presents:  
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## TEACHING THE YOUTH TO PRACTICE WHAT THE ADULTS PREACH FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Tali Bakhit

Respect is a major factor in directing the youth in such a way that will help them to become great contributors of society. Whether that respect be for themselves, their class mates, their peers, elders, or community streets, it is most important for our youth to understand the significance of it's stature. While modern times hold dearly different rules according to our youth for the word "Respect," according to many elders what is being held up in the the light as respect isn't respect at all. As a matter of fact, that which is being honored as respect to many of the youth is one of the major reason why, our youth have fallen so far behind. For example: One child holds the gun of a another older child who has shot and killed another child. The child who holds the gun is considered to be the child who has much respect for the murderer (the older child) because he holds the gun and if he would have denied the holding of the gun this would be considered a lack of respect for his elder. This level of so called respect is considered modern day respect, and according to many elders not respect at all. So how do we teach the youth the significance of the word respect and how to honor it's meaning in modern times?

Some say by the adults and youth practicing what the adults preach, and others say that it is almost impossible to get the youth back on track, but as a witness to positive change in many inner cities throughout the country and world, one would identify the pure fact that anything is possible. However, there are many adjustments that need to be made in order that the youth could understand fully what respect is and how to put the the seven letter word in place. It becomes quite challenging for the youth when a major part of the leadership is not exemplifying what the word respect really means. Our school systems are full of disrespectful teachers, our political race is full of politicians who name call and disrespect each other openly on national television, our communities are full of afraid elders who won't speak up when they see a child out of place, and those who we use to look up to as police officers and protectors of society are at war with the youth, completely blocking out the ideology of a village raising our children. The adults speak but don't move forward on their words. They are teachers trying to

teach the children but molesting and sleeping with them at the same time, which leaves our youth vulnerable to the word trust and respect in general. So who do they trust and how do they respect without knowing how to? The youth of our contemporary world completely neglect anything that the adults preach due to the untrustworthy patterns of behaviors that the adults have enforced upon them. With the exception of the few who haven't been violated, the trust and respect that has been nurtured inside clings to their being and they are examples in our world. But what about the other 99.9% who have fallen by the wayside and need to be nurtured? Do we just leave them behind or do we re-evaluated, re-build, and re-teach what we preach and allow for the youth to see the difference in our behaviors. As living as an example is the best way to teach anyone.

Below are a few ways to help the youth in this journey of resepect and as well to help adults to practice what they preach in order that the youth may practice as well.

1. Never make promises that you know will be broken.
2. If you have made a committment to a child stay committed.
3. When you say that you are going to be there for a child, be there and don't leave them stranded.
4. Always be respectful, never call anyone out of their name.
5. When speaking about adult business, make sure that children are not present.
6. Never call a child out of his/her name.
7. Don't allow for children to watch adult programs or programs with profanity and murder in them.
8. Talk to your child about the differences in behaviors so that they feel comfortable speaking to you if an adult is making sexual advances, has raped or has sexually molested them.
9. Always communicate with your child in a respectful manner, so that they can do the same in their dealings.
10. Have an ethics talk with your child so that they can understand the difference between morals and values.
11. Allow your child to understand the importance of respect and why everyone should be respected.
12. Meditate, this really helps when you are going through a difficult time as a parent, meditation allows one to speak from the heart and not out of anger.

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# ELEGANT EVENING AT THE ART GALLERY

Glenn Ragans

As fall settles in North Lawndale, the inside events begin to take place. One such event that brings a flare of sophistication to our community is Murphy Hill gallery. Located on the third floor in the historic Sears & Roebuck Building 3333 W. Arthington St. They held a fundraiser for the not for profit division called Art Forms 22 visual, Media & performing Arts Center. Art Forms 22, a fellowship of professional Artist that teaches classes to elevate the cultural awareness of Artist through education and exhibition.

Ralph Murphy, curator and event host gave personal tours to most guests. Along with John Ross the Director of finance and Ms. Delores Stokes Assistant curator, the trio gave personal attention to all that attended. With striking exhibits and some of the Artist on hand, there were sculptures, abstract artistic expressions, and live entertainment given to those that attended. The gallery held a museum dedicated to the history

of North Lawndale. It gave knowledge of people, factories, and famous landmarks that are a part of our community. Mr. Ross states that "we have grade school children come to the museum and get tested on what they have learned during their visit. It is also a good place for a nice quiet date with that special someone."

The entertainment consisted of spoken-word rendition of the Marches that took place in the 1960's and the violence that had occurred during the civil rights movement. Given by a most talented actress named Anna M. Johnson-Webb (Momma Kembra). Her ability to move the audience with her dialect really captivated everyone. Also Jazz percussion soloist Ray Silkman that played wonderfully some of the classic and familiar tunes to a relaxing and smooth ambience of people mingling amongst the beautiful art and delighting conversation.

Most of the guest were not from the

North Lawndale community and were pleased to see such culture in a blighted area that is an up and coming place to live. Our community has its problems, but just like any other community in Chicago that can be changed. Curtis Walker an attendee to the gallery explained the new order of how gangs are jumping in new recruits by having them jump older citizens for no probable cause. He stated that it happen to him one night on his way home. None the less, there were positive conversations throughout the whole evening. Mallory Garner that works

with Chicago public Schools (CPS) engaged in conversation about how children act in class. Her conversation was taken to heart.

The gallery is looking for support from the residents of North Lawndale. It is critical to support the arts for they are the essence of culture, and expression of our heritage. They are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm and Thursday 10 am to 9 pm. Plan an event , pay a visit or purchase a piece of art. Your support is necessary. (773) 324-5781 www.murphyhillgallery.com

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## DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Abu Bakr Nurrudin

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) is the principal organization governing the United States Democratic Party on a day to day basis. While it is responsible for overseeing the process of writing a platform every four years, the DNC's central focus is on campaign and political activity in support of Democratic Party candidates, and not on public policy. The DNC was established at the 1848 Democratic National Convention.

The Democratic National Committee provides national leadership for the Democratic Party of the United States. It is responsible for promoting the Democratic political platform, as well as coordinating fundraising and election strategy. Shortly after his inauguration, Barack Obama transferred his Obama For America organization to the DNC, along with its 13 million person email list, as restrictions prevented him from talking it with him to the White House. Renamed Organizing For America (OFA), the organization also controls the BarackObama.com domain and website and is expected to work closely with Obama's New Media Director Macon Phillips, who will manage the WhiteHouse.gov-formerly Change.gov-website, though Phillips' duties technically fall under the White House umbrella, not the DNC.

The DNC's main counterpart is the Republican National Committee

### CAMPAIGN ROLE

The DNC is responsible for articulating and promoting the Democratic platform and coordinating party organization activity. When the President is a Democrat, the party generally works closely with the President. In presidential elections it supervises the national candidate, raises funds, commissions polls, and coordinates campaign strategy. Following the selection of a party nominee, the public funding laws permit the national party to coordinate certain expenditures with the nominee, but additional funds are spent on general, party building activities. There are state committees in every state, as well as local committees in most cities, wards, and towns (and, in most states, counties).

The chairperson of the DNC (currently Virginia Gov. Tim Paine) is elected by vote of members of the Democratic National committee. The DNC is composed of the chairs and vice-chairs of each state democratic Party Committee, two hundred members apportioned among the state based on population and generally elected either on the ballot by primary voters or by the State Democratic Party Committee, a number of elected officials serving in and ex-officio capacity, and a variety or representative of major Democratic Party constituencies.

The DNC establishes rules for the caucuses and primaries which choose delegates the Democratic National Convention, but the caucuses and primaries

See DNC page 7



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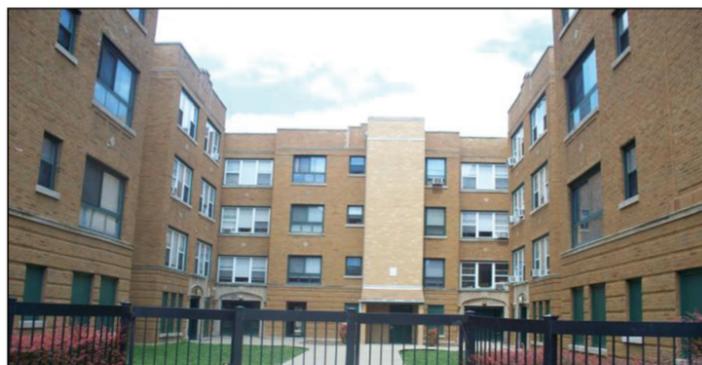
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# AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



Cecil de France and Matt Damon in Hereafter

**HEREAFTER** (\*\*\*/2) Clint Eastwood's latest film, "Hereafter" offers the iconic actor-director's take on life and morality through three separate individuals who each are touched differently by tragedy and eventually become intertwined from writer Peter Morgan who takes a breather from his usual biographical movie fare like his Oscar nominated "The Queen" and "Nixon/Frost".

At the beginning, there is an impending presence of doom that abruptly occurs to each character and their setting and situation.

Making her U.S. film debut, French actress Cecile de France plays Marie LeLay, a TV news magazine moderator on vacation with her co-worker boyfriend, Didier (Theirry Nevvic) at a beach hotel resort near the Indian Ocean.

While Didier wants to sleep a little longer in bed, Marie decides to go to the market place in pursuit of gifts for her boyfriend's kids, When she's gets swept into a Tsunami and suffers a concussion from

being knocked unconscious by a boat that leads into her having reoccurring visions that makes her co-workers feel her return back to work was too soon.

So Marie takes Didier's advice to take some time off. He promises to maintain her TV job post. While she writes a book about her near death experience. But later Marie encounters a younger rival doing her TV job and initial trouble getting her manuscript published

Matt Damon is sort of the centerpiece of the film as George Longan, a psychic who has grown reluctant and tired if his special ability from what he sees more as a "curse" who abruptly abandon doing his powers for profit to quietly live as a construction worker in San Francisco

While, George's younger brother, Billy (Jay Mohr) views his brother's power as a "gift" to help mankind..And of course, profitability that Billy tries to lure George back by helping his widowed friend,(Chicagoan and Second City alum, Richard Kind) by speaking to his deceased

wife who reveals knowing about his affair with the house maid.

But George has been there and done that" and now feels living in "a life about death, is no life at all" . As evident by his daily routine, George lives unfulfilled by the life, that has become his purgatory on earth.

The third story involves London twin brothers born minutes apart, Marcus and Jason (played alternatively by George and Frankie McLaren) who just returned from a photographer's shop updating a photo gift for their mother who is an alcoholic that the boys have to cover up for against two social workers to prevent the brothers from being split-up in separate foster homes.

But when Jason is out of the house to run an errand, he knows and yet tries to walk pass a small group of bullies who chase after him that causes Jason to run into the street and be killed in a truck accident. The tragedy shatters the older twin, Marcus more, because he also loses his mother who's forced

Into a hospital for treatment. While Marcus is placed but is unresponsive to his new foster parents. Even though I felt some of the special effect scenes were a little cheesy looking but still effective, because it's not enough that it matters to the film.

And there's Damon's character that sets out to find an emotional outlet by attending a French cuisine cooking class taught by chef Carlos (Steven R. Schirripa, best known from HBO's "The Sopranos"). Where George strikes up a rapport with new student, Melanie, played by Bryce Dallas Howard whose kind of has this quirky fun attitude that becomes an unresolved "fifth wheel" to the film

As each principle has to go through their earthly odyssey to overcome their personal obstacles that occurs through chance

encounters with each of the three characters meeting at two different intersection of this film.

When the kid spots the psychic in a mall where the psychic happens to be a Charles Dickens fan who attends a reading recital by real life actor Derek Jacobi playing himself and wanders over to another booth where Marie Lelay is reading an excerpt from her book to a crowd that George becomes infatuated by that is also noticed by the kid who hounds George to use his psychic power to communicate his lost and helpless feelings to his deceased brother

It's apparent that when the kid laments his brother not to leave him alone, Whether or not George is talking for his deceased brother, George takes pity and encourages the kid with the right words that makes him live on and eventually reunite with his recovering mother. While the kid offers the hotel where Marie is staying to George that manages to leads each of these three characters toward an optimistic yet hopeful finale.

Continuing to charter his directorial efforts through different themes and situations; Clint Eastwood's "Hereafter" delivers a poignant film about hope and faith than addressing life's great mysteries. This is alright because the goals for his film and its characters are more simplistic. We can share in their emptiness.

Most of us are creature making our way who always don't know what we really want until we stumble upon and fully recognize what we needed all along. "Hereafter" is not a film that stands out as much as some of Eastwood's recent directorial accomplishments, but it is a movie that is as consistent and evolving as its filmmaker.

PG-13; 129min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters

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DNC from page 5

themselves are most often run not by the DNC but instead by each state. All DNC members are superdelegates and can influence a close Presidential race. Outside of the process of nominating a Presidential candidate, the DNC's role in actually selecting candidates to run on the Democratic Party ticket is minimal.

The chairperson is a superdelegate for life.

DNC FUND-RAISING

In the 2001-2005 election cycle, the DNC and its affiliated committees (which includes numerous local committees and committees formed to coordinate expenditures for specific districts or races) raise a total of \$162, 062, 084, 42% of which was hard money. In the 2005-2006 election cycle, the DNC raised a total of \$61, 141,823, all of it hard money. Most contributions came from small donors, giving less than \$250, who accounted for over 80% of total dollars raised in the first half of 2006

The DNC also relies on the monthly contributions of over 35,000 small-dollar donors through what is known as the Democracy Bonds program, set up by Howard Dean in the summer of 2005.

CURRENT DNC LEADERSHIP

National Chair: Tim Kaine, former Governor of Virginia

Vice Chairs:  
Mike Honda, U.S. Representative from California

Linda Chavez-Thompson, former Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, U.S. Representative from Florida

Donna Brazile, campaign manager for AL Gore's 2000 presidential campaign

Raymond Buckley, President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs, Chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party

Treasurer: Andrew Tobias, businessman, author, and financial self-help guru

Secretary: Alice Travis Germond

Communication Director: Brad Woodhouse

In addition, a National Advisory Board exists for purposes of fundraising and advising the executive. The present chair is Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, former U.S. Ambassador to Portugal.

Educate from page 3

that exhibit higher levels of civic engagement tend to have higher quality schools that serve their needs.

4) There should be increased quality in the local community high schools, with strong support from the feeder schools.

5) There should be a wide array of high quality after school programs geared to reinforce lessons learned in school, while providing outlets for leadership development and organized recreation.

6) Schools should regain their status as the center of community, and provide activities for parents, students and local residents during after school hours. This could include evening classes at the high school and junior college level; vocational education and job training, etc.

Valerie F. Leonard is a North Lawndale resident, and convener of the Lawndale Alliance. The Lawndale Alliance is a group of residents who have come together to address community concerns, including community development, education and affordable housing. Any questions regarding this article may be addressed to Ms. Leonard at 773-521-3137 or valerieleonard@msn.com.

Lane from front page

the race even before Daley's announcement. Tim King, the CEO of Urban Prep Boys Academy, and a third woman completed a slate that I then called the Dark Horse Ten. And after listening to each, I heard nothing to encourage me that either had a real chance to win the office they wish to seek.

That was before today, sitting here composing this conversation at 4:17 p.m. Wednesday (Oct. 20), having just been informed that the coalition candidate now will not be announced until next week. By then it will have been a week after the date the coalition's Website said a decision would be made. So now I, and presumably every other Black voter in this city, still don't know who our "unity" candidate will be despite a grand meeting Monday evening (Oct. 18) at the Parkway Ballroom that was supposed to inform the candidates themselves.

But let me be honest: Not for once did all this meeting and coalitioning and caucusing and speechifying and talking about who is going to do what if they are our candidate impress me that the Black community would emerge from this "process" more unified.

Well, I am starting to get worked up, so I'm going to wrap up by saying right now Chicago



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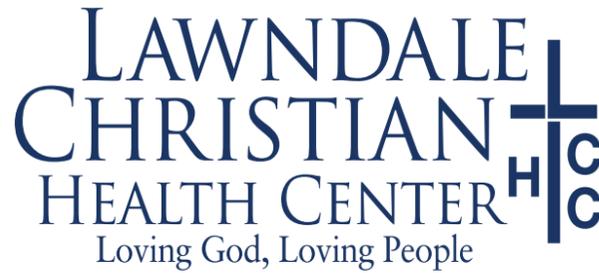


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