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

Youth On The West Side Of Chicago Are Doing Great Things

Tali Bakhit

Besides the Bulls, there are a few young men on the West side of Chicago showing the city that they are doing some great things. Ms. Lauren Foster, youth coach of the "Get On My Level," 11 and under basketball team on the West side of Chicago decided to share with the community an All Star game that took place on Monday, May 16, at 7PM. All were invited to see eight young men show their learned strategies of strength, patience, and the ability to overcome challenges on the basketball court.

The "Get On My Level," team consists of young men throughout the city of Chicago, ages 11 years old and under and no one on the team is taller than 4ft.11 inches. Ms. Foster also has a varsity team which consists of young men who are 5 ft. to 5 ft. 2 inches in height.

The organization is considered to be a guard oriented organization, and is specific to helping youth within the organization handle the ball.

The children who played in Monday's game are not only from



"Get on My level" All-star youth and coach Ms. Lauren Foster at Franklin Park gym.

the Get On My Level team but from different teams around the city like the Foster Park Pirates, Robert Taylor Panthers, and Marquette Park Small Fry's. Many famous players have been a part of the organization Small Fry like, Derrick Rose who plays for the Chicago Bulls, Kathy Poindexter who plays for the New

York Liberty's, and Jerome Randle who played for the University of California. Ms. Foster, says "I've been a very blessed black female coach because I have touched the lives of a lot of young men and women in the sport of basketball."

Get On My Level is not just a basketball organization but it is an



"Get on My level" all-star basketball youth at Franklin Park for their all-star game.

organization that helps to build a family atmosphere. Foster adds, "This organization is for young men to learn how to become respectable, educated and free."

The young men received awards, plaques, and felt the wonderful experience of winning a contest due to the practice, participation but

most importantly hard work. Milton Wordlow and Andre Brown won the three point competition, while Rhys Logan won the free throw competition. The young men walked away with a sense of appreciation and love for the game and Ms. Foster after receiving their awards. Player

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28th Ward Cleanup Gets One Day Boost

Travles Lane



Neighborhood Helpers: 1 By Youth volunteers clear debris and trash at the Bethel Lutheran Church.

Days before he was officially sworn in downtown May 16, as Chicago's newly elected 28th Ward alderman, Jason Ervin got a tremendous boost to his stated priority of cleaning up the ward.

Like an answer to Ervin's prayers, more than 600 volunteers from churches of various denominations from Ohio and around the country descended on the West Side ward May 7 for an intense day of picking up trash, mowing lawns, doing home repairs and providing an infectious spirit of brotherhood and a can-do effort that inspired those they came to help. Visiting as part of the 1 By Youth nonprofit organization's "One Day, One Community, One

Impact" 2011 spring campaign in cooperation with Lutheran Church Charities, the contingent of most young people cleared vacant lots and other eyesores in different teams at locations throughout the ward during the daylong effort.

Similar groups duplicated the effort in the 37th Ward after a welcoming event hosted by Ald. Emma Mitts.

The cleaning up began early in the morning and culminated in an evening block party opened to the public at Bethel Lutheran Church at 4211 W. West End Avenue. Hot dogs, burgers and snacks and entertainment by 22-year-old singer/guitarist Ronald Roman highlighted the party, which continued Bethel's



Afterwork Block Party: Fun, food and song rewarded a long day's work in the church parking lot.

own annual Rachel Day program of community service.

Marcia Turner, a Lutheran Church Charities consultant, said the cleanup with 1 By Youth is planned to become an annual event. "This was the first one, but we hope to continue it every year," she said.

Ervin, who spoke to the group at the block party, said, "We are very grateful for the help and support they (1 By Youth) have given us and all the work they have done."

"I mean we send people out to do this stuff all the time in this ward. But when you can get four or five hundred people to work one day at one time, it makes a real impact on cleaning up in this area."

"And it works right in there

with what we've been talking about exactly. Clean, clean, clean, clean."

According to its website, 1 By Youth provides "dynamic short-term mission trips and service events that help children, youth, and adults connect to Jesus while serving people in Christ's name."

The site goes on to say that since 1977, nearly a quarter of a million participants have provided more than 6 million hours of volunteer service directly to people in need.

The organization also participated in One Day clean up events in St. Louis, MO; Denver, CO; St. Paul, MN and Indianapolis, IN as well as in Manassas, VA and Nashville, TN.

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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 2011 Focus Health and Education

Ten Years has past since the New Millenium scare of the year 2000, a time of uncertainty. In 1999, we began by thanking God for making the newsletter possible. 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. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness in an economy driven society.

In 2001, our focus targeted the "Revival of the Family". In 2002, we targeted "Wholistic Wellness". In 2003, we targeted "Education and Training". 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. In 2006, the primary focus for SHS/ NCLN was Health, Education, and Welfare. In 2007, the primary focus for SHS/ NCLN was People and Education. In 2008, the primary focus for was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NCLN was HEALTH & THE ECONOMY. In 2010, our primary focus was to live and reflect on our previous years of focus, as we progress to a better quality of life.

So many things remain a high priority in our life. As we struggle to enjoy life, many have neglected the necessary choices that preserve and extend a healthy and abundant, spirit, mind, and body. So along with health, there is education (knowing) and the need to have the resources to act upon the knowledge for a better quality of life.

The North Lawndale newspaper was and is created to help fulfill the mission of Strategic Human Services. That mission is to provide information on resources and events that improved the lifestyle of individuals and families. This is our primary objective under that are all of the sub-objectives that help to reach the primary objective. There is a saying that if your're not sure where your're going, your're liable to end up someplace else- and not even know it.

Even though tough times are among us setting positive objectives and staying committed to them will be the focus of our news for this 2011 year.

Writer's Meetings!!

The North Lawndale Community News

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Time 6:00pm

Date June 16, 2011

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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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THERE WILL BE NO SUMMER COOLING.

LANE CHANGE: THE BOTTOM LINE IS KEEPING OUR CHILDREN ON THE BOTTOM

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane

The talk of children as the "bottom line" of local and national efforts to improve public education in Chicago and nationwide has been all the rage in speeches and programs lately. I just wonder how much difference all this talk about "real reform" and "getting our money's worth" when it comes to teaching children will truly make in actually elevating the performance of our schools and our children from the bottom.

Now, I did not get the opportunity to attend Mayor Rahm Emanuel's inauguration downtown last week, when he announced that improving public education in Chicago is among the highest priorities of his new administration.

But I was on hand several days earlier when the new Windy City boss addressed the NBC Education Nation's "Job One: Preparing America to Compete in the 21st Century" panel discussion at the Chicago Field Museum.

The May 5 event, which focused on the need to improve education in Chicago and around the country for the sake of making America more competitive in the global economy, was held as part of the 2011 edition of the NBC Education Nation initiative begun by the television network last year.

Veteran NBC News reporter Andrea Mitchell and NBC 5 Chicago's Lisa Parker moderated the program, which included opening remarks from Emanuel. Jean-Claude Brizard, the new mayor's choice lead Chicago Public Schools and spearhead the effort to improve its embarrassing record, also spoke from the audience of more than 1,000 people.

Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley also attended and spoke at the reception outside the assembly before joining the crowd inside to hear five panelists discuss

the challenges and opportunities presented by Chicago's and America's failing education systems.

To much applause, Daley, who has presided over closings and consolidations of CPS neighborhood schools and the rise of charter schools paid for with public money during his 22 years in office, concluded his remarks with, "Remember, the kids are the bottom line here. It's not about us (politicians, businessmen, union leaders or government leaders); it's about them."

Alternately responding to questions from Mitchell, Parker and audience members, the panel included City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Cheryl Hyman, Groupon, Inc. Co-Founder and Director Brad Keywell and recently named Chicago Board of Education member Penny Pritzker, the Chairman and CEO of Pritzker Realty Group. Ariel Investments Chairman and CEO John Rogers and State Farm Insurance CEO Edward Rust were the other two panelists.

The "kids are the bottom line" mantra echoed throughout the speeches and comments as these political, business, academic and civic leaders grappled in the conversation about how to maximize the return on investment in education in this city during a time when cutting education dollars and programs is also the rage here and around the nation. All seemed to be saying we will have to better with less of everything—except parental involvement.

I did not stay until the end.

Emanuel was sworn in as Chicago's first Jewish mayor on May 16, and he has made education reform a top priority of his new job

"For teachers to succeed, they must have parents as partners. To give our children the education they deserve, parents must

See Lane page 5

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West Side Era Ends

Goodman closes Pulaski-Lake Currency Exchange

Travles R. Lane



Bob Goodman

As pomp and pageantry downtown highlighted the swearing in of Mayor Rahm Emanuel May 16, and heralded the beginning of a new era in Chicago, a simple, hand-written message on a white poster taped to the window of a West Garfield Park currency exchange on the same day signaled the end of another. And despite having witnessed much of the worst that the notorious West Side has to offer during his more than two decades in business in one of its most crime and poverty-ridden neighborhoods, Pulaski-Lake Currency Exchange owner Bob Goodman still leaves the embattled community more impressed by the best he has seen of the people who live there. He has provided much-needed assistance to an untold number of them.

Goodman, 75, closed the doors of the exchange at 264 N. Pulaski Road for the last time Thursday (May 19) to embark on a life of retirement after 21 years of serving patrons at the Lake Street stop of the Green Line L train. Longtime clerk Gertha Williams is also retiring. During all those “interesting” years, Goodman, a West Side native who now makes his home in Forest Glen, said he came to appreciate the multitude of honest, decent and hard-working people who came daily into his store to pay their bills and for other services the exchange provided. For contrary to images of gangstlawlessness and social dysfunction that are most often used to characterize the nearly 100 percent African American neighborhood, Goodman said the great majority of his patrons are



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“good, hard-working people who mind their own business and take care of their families.”

“The average person here is not at all like the news reports you see on TV all the time,” he added, “but unfortunately that doesn’t make news.”

It is his dealings with those countless West Side people who don’t make the news that remain the far more important of the memories Goodman has acquired from his plate-glass enclosed enclave behind the store’s counter, than the violence, drug deals and other sad and sordid crimes and acts he also witnessed there for nearly a generation. A 1953 Marshall High School graduate, he has a genuine affection for the community as he leaves satisfied with the solid, respectful reputation and many close relationships he earned and nurtured among his customers. Many of those connections have filled him with pride.

“Seeing some of the young people get out of the ‘Hood, the mentality of the ‘Hood and succeed in life and come back and say ‘Hi Bob,’ ‘Hi Gertha.’

“That’s been very gratifying, because over the years, they do come back,” Goodman said when reflecting on what has satisfied him most in his long association with this part of Chicago.

“The second thing I’d mention is to watch youngsters grow into adulthood, marry or have children. And the children come in, and they call me Bob when they walk through the door rather than ‘the Honky’... or whatever other adjective they might use otherwise.

“It’s been very gratifying to have built that type of relationship.”

The father of two adult daughters and a grandson, Goodman is a lifelong entrepreneur who has owned as many as 11 currency exchanges during his career and also partnered with his brother in the bar and greeting card industries. He says he and wife Julie plans to first visit his daughters in Las Vegas before embarking on world travel with planned stops in Israel among other Middle East destinations as well as a host of European capitals.

Sighing deeply, Goodman, an aging, near bald specimen of the tall, strapping man he appears to have been in his youth, grew pensive in considering the most frustrating regret he takes from his time on the flip side of Chicago’s glittering international image. “The low point is that I can’t change the mentality of the Hood,” he said. “I’ve seen people stabbed, shot, beaten up and robbed, and being unable to make any sort of change in that. That has always stuck in my craw.”

However, he is still able to leave with a good taste in his mouth when he looks back on days that nearly parallel the 22 years of former Mayor Richard M. Daley’s administration. A time when Chicago became a cleaner, more vibrant city downtown as it crumbled in communities of color like West Garfield Park.

“It’s sort of bittersweet for me when I walk out that door for the last time,” Goodman said. “I won’t miss some of the b.s. I’ve seen. But the other part of it I will miss.

“I’ve made a lot of friends here, an awful lot of friends.”

IHC, POWERHOUSE HIGH AND THEIR PARTNERS CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM RIDERS

Nicholas Short

Fifty years ago, over 400 individuals faced angry mobs, brutal beatings, and imprisonment in order to fight against Jim Crow travel laws in the South. On Saturday, May 21, those people will receive a tribute from the Illinois Humanities Council and several other contributors for their efforts.

From May to December 1961, the individuals, who are known as the Freedom Riders, journeyed through the Deep South on buses and trains in protest against laws that encourage racial segregation in interstate travel. They dealt with much resistance for racist whites—this is in spite of a ruling through *Boynton v. Virginia*, which outlaws segregation in interstate travel.

The Freedom Riders inspired many Americans in the North and the South to join the Civil Rights movement in an attempt to destroy racial discrimination within the country. And today they are still inspiring others to speak out against racial injustice.

The council and its partners have pulled their resources together to develop a celebratory event for the Freedom Riders at Power House High (931 S. Homan Ave., Chicago). The event, which is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., will feature commissioned performance pieces by Neighborhood Alliance, Congo Square Theatre, and Young Chicago Authors. There will also be live performances by afro-soul singer Ugochi and local singers and songwriters Ami Saraiya and Anna Soltys, who will sing traditional and contemporary freedom songs.

Every performance is inspired by the documentary *Freedom Riders*, which was produced by WGBH Boston's *American*

Experience and directed by Stanley Nelson. Nelson is a 2002 MacArthur Fellow who has produced such historical documentaries as *The Murder of Emmett Till*, which reopened the investigation of the murder of Emmett Till—Nelson won a Primetime Emmy in Best Direction for the film.

Nelson's *Freedom Riders* was based on the award-winning book *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*. The book was written by Raymond Arsenault, PhD, the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at USF St. Petersburg.

The event is part of series of Chicago performance festivals that were inspired by the Freedom Riders. One of the festivals was held on Saturday, May 7, 2011, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the DuSable Museum of African American History (740 E. 56th Pl., Chicago). Another event took place on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library (9525 S. Halsted St., Chicago).

The funders for the series are The Field Foundation of Illinois and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation—the series also received additional travel support from Southwest Airlines. Co-sponsors for the series are: WBEZ-Chicago, DuSable Museum of African American History, Neighborhood Writing Alliance, Congo Square Theatre, Young Chicago Authors, Chicago Freedom School, Center for the Study of Race Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago, Woodson Regional Library, The Foundation for Homan Square, The African-American Museum of Southern Illinois, WSIU, Varsity Center for the Arts, and Freedom Trails Legacies of Hope.

CHICAGO CAREER TECH TO WELCOME THIRD CLASS OF PARTICIPANTS

Public and private leaders gather to put Chicagoans back to work

WHAT: Business and nonprofit leaders from across the city will join nearly 300 unemployed Chicago residents for the launch of Chicago Career Tech's third class session during a special kick-off event. As part of the event, Chicago Career Tech will also honor an outstanding graduate from its second class of participants and a business partner.

The first program of its kind in the country, Chicago Career Tech offers technology-based job retraining designed exclusively for low- and middle-income unemployed Chicago residents. The six-month, six-day-a-week program features classroom training, hands-on employer- and service-based learning with a corporation and nonprofit organization, as well as career and professional development services and support from outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas. Upon completion of the holistic program, participants will have the skills and network necessary to find employment in statistically supported, high demand technology-based careers.

Several prominent Chicago-area businesses and nonprofits such as Allscripts, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, CDW, Deloitte, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, YMCA of Metro Chicago, United Way of Metropolitan

Chicago and After School Matters, among many others, have signed on to provide hands-on training for participants.

In addition to more than doubling the number of participants and business partners since the pilot program began in May 2010, Chicago Career Tech now offers 13 different classroom-training tracks. The newest option for third class participants is the Microsoft SharePoint training track. Participants in the SharePoint program will earn a Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist certification that enables job seekers to find employment as a SharePoint specialist, administrator or developer.

To date, the program has helped more than 400 Chicago residents gain new skills and the confidence to rejoin the workforce in the healthcare and technology fields.

WHO:

Shelley Stern, chair, Chicago Career Tech Board of Directors; citizenship director for the Central & Southeast Regions, Microsoft

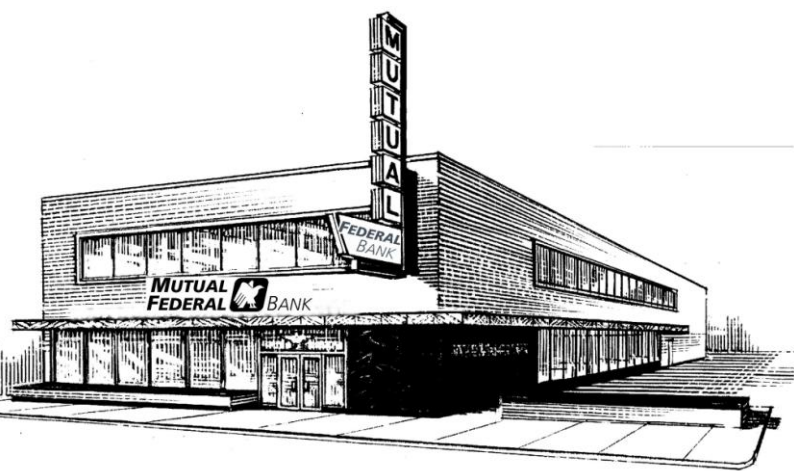
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Lane from page 3

get off the sidelines and get involved. The most important door to a child's education is the front door of the home. ... We will do our part. And parents, we need you to do yours," Emanuel reportedly said during his inauguration. During his address to the Education Nation audience, he said Chicago children need to spend more time in school, and he praised the newly passed Illinois Senate Bill 7 that makes it easier to fire teachers and deal with their unions as a pivotal reform tool in getting our children better grades in school and in international comparison to other advanced nations.

I am going to take this time now to inform you that one of the primary sponsors and seeming ubiquitous presence at the Job One program and other Education Nation initiatives is the University of Phoenix, an online education conglomerate at the forefront of an industry lobbying furiously for more access to federal education dollars. Needless to say, all of the groups represented in the forum were as interested in their bottom line as they were in identifying our children as such in the cause of educating them.

So, in the end, all the talk about reform in education simply comes back down to who controls how and how much money gets spent on the issue and where that money goes. We've been there, done that for generations now.

And there is nothing reforming about reframing that conversation with another quick slogan.

When our children are the true bottom line of our education system, public and otherwise, we want need a slogan, and we won't need experiments.

We will have evidence.

Just saying.

Stop Police Brutality!



Did anyone see a tall mocha brown skinned African American women arrested at 10 E. Randolph Street, in the Front of the Joffrey Ballet Towers at about 7:40 PM on Tuesday May 10th? The young lady was wearing a pink and violet tam/hat, a pink tink top, covered with a pink and white armless sweater, and burgundy pants with zippers on them. If anyone has seen this arrest please send an email to illegalarrestonrandolph@yahoo.com Let's Stop Police Brutality Today!

NLCN Disclaimer

The Views and Opinions Expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the North Lawndale Community News

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, movie critic



PIRATES OF THE CARRIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (1/2)** “On Stranger Tides” looks as broad and lavish as the other “Pirates of the Caribbean” films. But the script here is not as bloated and bewildering as what ended the trilogy in “At World’s End”. This time, Jack Sparrow is more of a Captain by name only , with a scandalous reputation that proceeds him. After the opening scene of a drowned man who is found alive clutching a book by two fishermen that claims to have found the fabled Fountain of Youth that later sets a Spaniard fleet of ships on a quest. Meanwhile at a pirate execution court hearing in England, Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) has become an elusive wanted fugitive. Taking a case of mistaken identity to new heights, Jack’s first shipmate, Gibbs (Kevin R. McNally) is brought before the Parliament to be sentenced as Sparrow.

Against a bloodthirsty audience shouting for the death penalty; the bench judge happens to be the real Jack in disguise who commutes the sentence to life in prison. Never mind how ever did Jack get into the room in Parliament garb to preside over his own sentencing. This is part of charm and humor for this fantasy adventure to see how Jack gets in and out of each predicament. Sparrow and Gibbs manage to escape the gallows, only to be chased by the royal guards that eventually capture Jack who is brought before King George (Richard Griffiths) who wants Jack who is rumored to have the map; to co-helm the British fleet to find the Fountain of Youth with Capt. Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) But Jack isn’t keen on teaming with Barbossa who claimed to have lost Sparrow’s beloved ship, The Black Pearl.

Jack manages to escape, leaving Gibbs behind to fall into Barbossa’s hands who was about to kill him. Until Gibbs made himself invaluable; by producing the map that he sets afire. In order for Gibbs’ to make himself valuable to Barbossa by claiming he’ll take Barbossa and his crew to the location by memory. While Jack in search for a ship and crew to take over for his own quest to find the Fountain of Youth. He chases down an imposter posing as him that lures him aboard a ship that turns out to be an old acquaintance that Jack abused in the past, Angelica (Penelope Cruz) who turns out to be the illegitimate daughter to the notorious Blackbeard the Pirate (Ian Shane) using his black magic to enslave a group of zombies to handle his human crew aboard his ship. Queen Anna’s Revenge Naturally, Blackbeard is searching to find the Fountain of Youth that he needs to break a prophecy that foretold of his death in a few days that the Fountain could stop. While Jack and the human crew from Blackbeard try to form a mutiny that eventually leaves them to finding these lovely but sinister mermaids with the exception of one nice mermaid, Syrena (Astrid Berges-Frisbey) who eventually becomes instrument helps Jack get to the Fountain of Youth. Being considered as the first spinoff to a possible second set of another movie trilogy, which would be a first for recycling a movie franchise. Johnny Depp’s return as the titular Captain Jack Sparrow with the

slightly inebriated voice without Orlando Bloom and Kiera Knightley this time. To possibly create a new story arc that begins with the quest for the Fountain of Youth through a sub-plotted, love-hate relationship with Penelope Cruz as the equally roguish damsel pirate followed by enough British talent this side of “Harry Potter” films. This happens to also includes a cameo bit from Judi Drench as a society lady and Keith Richards reprising his role as Jack’s roguish father)) that could have re-titled this film “Carry On. Pirates” as a homage to those 1959 British spoof comedies Be sure to sit through the end credit for a little bit with Cruz on a sandy beach that suggests a means for her to control and/or get even with Jack. Director Rob Marshall manages to hold it all together well by emphasizing the story line periodically through the film’s action. “One Stranger Tides” is an adequate offering that visually solid enough to match up to the rest of this cinematic fleet and build on its second cycle. Allowing for its knack for improvisation through Depp’s character and physicality that keeps the movie moving and amusing. Full of sword play and dazzling special effects along with the nimble use of 3D that is fun to watch. that helps returns this movie franchise back to the basics. **PG13; 139min. A Walt Disney Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters**

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ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz

THE ROOMMATE (*) New girl at college gets the roommate from hell in this teen age variation of 1992’s “Single White Female” Overprotective turned psychotic co-ed Rebecca (Minka Kelly) has a tattoo name of her late sister. While new girl, Sara (Leighton Meester) mentions she always wanted a sister. Naturally between one of them, one should be careful what one wishes for. When Rebecca begins to feel neglected by Sara who is befriended by a frat girl (Aly Michalka) and begins to have a relationship with Stephen (Cam Gigandet). Chicagoan Billy Zane co-stars as a fashion teacher in this modest thriller that doesn’t make the grade. **PG-13; 91min. Sony Pictures Home Video** **I AM NUMBER FOUR (**)** Alex Pettyfer plays the title role, a endangered

teen E.T with a greater purpose travels with a warrior guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant) who are being chased on Earth by the Mogdorians, a lethal group of alien assassins led by its ruthless commander (Kevin Durand) who only travel the galaxy not too colonize but to eliminate all alien races (which doesn’t make sense) Staying a few steps ahead, Number four and Henri relocate outside a small Ohio town where Number four wants a normal (?) life attending high school. Where he’s befriended by a tormented nerdy kid trying to find his missing father who happen to be a scientist that happen to contact the dying alien race. While number Four has the usual “Blackboard jungle” confrontation with a jealous jock, Mark (Jake Abel) who won’t leave alone ex-love, Sarah (Dianna Agron

of TV’s “Glee”) whose sharing time with the new kid at school With the script from “Smallville” creators, Alfred Gough and Miles Millar and this film being produced by overblown action adventure specialist director Michael Bay; this movie never quite comes together as intended. **PG-13; 110min. Touchstone Pictures Home Video; Available: May 24** **GNOMEO AND JULIET (**1/2)** A pleasant compute animated spin on Shakespeare’s tragic love story is given a playful twist into a romantic comedy underscored by racial intolerance. Think “West Side Story” set to porcelain garden puppets and recycled Elton John hit songs (The film marks Elton’s first movie producer venture via his Rocket Pictures that is treated a bit like a throwaway from the Disney Studio who own Elton for their

“Lion King” success) Red gnome damsel, Juliet (Emily Blunt) sets out to prove to her overprotective father (Michael Caine) that she’s not too soft top invader the blue gnomes’ yard. Where blue gnome, Gnomeo (James McAvoy) is the area champion competing against his rival adversary Tybalt () Jason Statham) in lawn mower races. When Juliet and Gnomeo happen to meet during a commando raid over a flower, it leads to secret rendezvous that is later revealed that makes Gnomeo feel he’s been exiled and presumed dead from a truck accident. A genuinely entertaining and likeable animated diversion that could have been more than it was, Even though most of its light heartedness and honest silliness makes the difference for kids and adults alike to enjoy. **G; 83min. Walt Disney Home Video; Available: May 24**

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Career from page 5

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Youth from page 5

Donald Taylor says "I feel that this is a good program because it keeps young children off of the streets and from doing bad things--Ms. Foster helps us very much and I love Ms. Foster." Another one of Ms. Foster's players by the name of Tito Caro says "This teams gives me a chance to play basketball and to stay out of trouble." Although each child played to win, it was a brotherly feeling throughout Franklin Park's gym, and this is the way that Ms. Foster has intended for it to be. Ms. Foster ends by saying, "I don't have alot of money but I do have alot of love and time and that's exactly what it takes to help the young men on my team."

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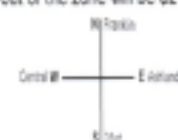
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