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

Henson Elementary School in the Process of Selecting A New Principal

Tali Bakhit



(L-r) Demetrius Hobson, D'Andre Weaver, and Devon Horton, candidates for principal answers questions from residents.

Nine out of ten votes were given to the best candidate Mr. Demetrius Hobson to replace Mr. Robert Pales (retiring) as Henson Elementary school's new principal by Henson's Local School Council board. The selection

was made during a forum that took place on Monday, May 23, 2011 at 5:30 PM in Henson's auditorium. The forum was open to the public, where those who attended the forum

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FREEDOM RIDERS RECEIVE A TRIBUTE AT THE POWERHOUSE

Nicholas Short



Freedom riders who protested during the civil rights movement in the 1960's celebrated 50th anniversary at Powerhouse High School.

On May 21 at the Powerhouse, several singers, poets and other performers demonstrated their talents in honor of the Freedom Riders—a group of protesters who defied Jim Crow travel laws in 1961.

Hosted by comic and radio host Brian

Babylon, the event, entitled Traveling Down Freedom's Main Line: The Freedom Rides at 50, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders' protests. The event is part

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WESTSIDE NAACP HONORS QUINTET AT 2011 FREEDOM FUND AWARDS GALA

Travles R. Lane



NAACP Freedom Fund Award Honorees: (l to r) Claudell Ervin, Sonny Parker, Dee Alexander, Marzette Griffith and Richard Boykin.

Asserting its relevance in the dawning decades of the 21st Century, a vigorous and vital Chicago Westside Branch chapter of the century-old NAACP celebrated its 2011 Freedom Fund Awards Dinner Saturday evening with a crisp, entertaining program at the Best Western hotel in Hillside.

"It is so good to see the Chicago West Side Branch of the NAACP as a going strong as a viable institution," said U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-7th), whose wife, Vera, has been "at the core" of resuscitating and

keeping the 101 year-old Westside Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People vibrant and actively engaged today in the 21st Century struggle for black empowerment in Chicago.

"It has not been easy," Davis added, "but I am delighted with what they have done."

Entitled "Roots Night: One Nation. One Dream! From Whence We Came!", the program hosted more than 300 people who joined Davis at the 4400 Frontage St. gala to honor five Freedom Fund



Guest Performer: Otis Clay is flanked on left by Freedom Fund Committee Chairman Jacqueline Greer, and by Karl A. Brinson and Vera Davis on the right.

Award recipients and to represent for an organization that remains prominent on the front lines of the struggle to elevate the lot of the unfortunate and oppressed, in Chicago and beyond. Coming just four days after the 57th anniversary of the historic Brown decision ending racial segregation, the event was also attended by several local African American dignitaries and broadcast on StarPlanetTV.com, a 24-hour Internet TV station.

Art Porter, executive producer of "The Crazy Howard McGee Morning Show" on 107.5 WGCI

radio, and Nicole Harvey, a long-time advocate against domestic violence and CEO of the Eden Advocacy Community Development Corporation, emceed the program in the hotel's Churchill Room.

Legendary gospel and soul singer Otis Clay was the Special Guest Performer and also received an award after entertaining the dinner crowd with a two-song set that included longtime gospel radio staple "Walk A Mile In My Shoes" and "When The Gates Swing"

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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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 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/NLCN 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.

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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Henson from front page



Residents, guests, Henson staff, LSC members and current principal Robert Pales (gray suite) listens as candidates for principal at Henson Elementary answer questions

had the opportunity to ask questions of each candidate and have those questions answered. The Local School Council board members were responsible for selecting the new school principal, and it was required that seven out of 10 votes be received for the winning candidate. The Local School Council board members are not only responsible for selecting Henson's new principal, but also are responsible for approving state and federal budgets for the school, and acting as an advisory board.

Also stopping by during the process was the new Alderman of the 24th Ward Michael D. Chandler who stated that although he doesn't have a say in who is picked he stopped by to give his support to the families and the school.

Julius Anderson (former Huges Elementary Principal) moderator of Monday's forum and Local School Council board member says "Selecting the best candidate was not an easy process because they all had great backgrounds but as a board member my responsibility was to look for a transformational leader." Each LSC board member had to review 30 resumes and eight out of the 30 candidates were selected for an interview. The next step was to select three out of the eight candidates for a second interview and those candidates were Mr. D'Andre Weaver, Devon Horton and Demetrius Hobson. It was a five week process of reviewing and interviewing, and Mr. Demetrius Hobson will take on the

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Democrats Redistricting Plan Biggest Losers: African Americans

Valerie F. Leonard

Every 10 years, the State Legislature draws boundaries for Congressional, State Representative and State Senate Districts based on the outcome of the most recent Census. They must make sure the districts are compact, contain land that is contiguous (containing no breaks stemming from natural or manmade barriers) and have an equal number of residents. Additionally, the State must protect voting rights of minority groups as prescribed by state and federal voting rights laws. The State must make sure they don't discriminate based on race, and provide equal protection under the law, including upholding the "one person, one vote" principle. The State must be sure to avoid drawing maps that would dilute minorities' voting rights by concentrating them in a single district, when there are enough to create 2 districts with majority minority populations. They must also make sure that they do not split the minority communities into 2 or more districts where they could never elect the candidate of their choice. It is within these constraints that the Lawndale Alliance and the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations (UCCRO) have evaluated the current proposal set forth by the State of Illinois.

Issues

1. The state's proposal provides for a disproportionately high reduction in the number of majority African American districts relative to the reduction in African American population between 2000 and 2010

Non-Hispanic blacks make up 14.29%

of the State's population (2010 Census), as compared to 14.95% of the state's population in 2000 (US Census Bureau). The African American population, as reported by the 2010 Census, declined by 10,461, which translates into less than a one percentage point decline over 10 years (a decline of sixty-six hundredths of a percent). This also represents less than ten percent of a single legislative district. When spread across the current number of African American districts this reduction is negligible. Even so, the Legislature's proposal provides that the number of majority African American districts be decreased, from 26 under the current map, to 23 under the new proposal, a magnitude of 11.5%.

2. The State's proposal provides gains in representation for Latinos at the expense of African Americans.

An examination of US Census data for 2000 and 2010 indicates that, as a percentage of the State's total population, the non-Hispanic black population decreased by two thirds of one percentage point; the Latino population increased by 3.48 percentage points and the non-Hispanic white population decreased by 4.17 percentage points. However, the Legislature's proposal results in a 50% gain of majority Latino legislative districts, increasing from 12 to 18; the loss of three majority non-Hispanic white or districts with no clear majority, going from 139-136, or 2%; and an 11.5% loss in majority African American districts, going from 26 to 23. This, in spite of the fact

See Plan page 4

Stage Play: Steppin into Love "A MAN'S LOVE STORY"

Calvin Muhammad



After being present, front and center for the stage production of Steppin into Love "A MAN'S LOVE STORY, I can truly identify with all the Real life situations, a man middle age, or any age man, for that matter, may encounter while enjoying the Art of Dancing, which we in Chicago, and around the country call Steppin. Realistic, true to life, fun, and relaxing is what this play is all about.

Produced by Van Gray, and original Westsider of Chicago, recounts the days gone past of clubs like The Rose and dances like Boppin, and the Bus Stop gave life to what we call Steppin.

Written in a factual but humorous way the Play really is all about Relationships,

brought about by the Art of Steppin. Even though there were what some may call negative scenes in the play, still that is a part of Steppin Chicago Style.

You gotta see this play for yourself, so wear or bring your Steppin shoes cause when this play is over, you will want to go out and step. The two shows in Chicago were on May 21, 2011 - 7pm Show and May 22, 2011 - 4pm Matinee at KKC - Kennedy King College Theatre. The next two shows are out of town in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Madame CJ Walker Theatre on June 3 for an 8pm Show and on June 4, 2011, also an 8pm Show. For more information go to the website at www.steppinintolove.com

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COME IN AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN PERSON.

LANE CHANGE: Stopping Our Cussing Children May Start Us Moving Forward

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane - the1lane@yahoo.com

As I daily avail myself of public transportation all over Chicago and witness the coarse language, disgraceful lack of manners and deficient home training of black children riding the buses and trains, it struck me recently to remember a time when our youngsters knew better and behaved better. I can still recall the days when a child addressed every adult he/she saw as a "Mr." or "Mrs." (whether they were married or not) and said "yes sir/ma'am" and "no sir/ma'am to answer them.

Any child who did not show all grown people their proper respect was known as ill-mannered and lacking in home training. Now, I don't know about Chicago, but such a child was an aberration in the black communities of the 1950's and 60's of my childhood in Mississippi.

And little children cussing in public were as unheard of as talking backing to your mama.

I am telling you, my sensibilities are sometimes floored by the talk and behavior I see and hear from children in this city every day. Then I wonder, how in the hell can black people ever hope to have a future of progress to invest in when these are the kinds of children they are raising to invest that hope in? Excusing the five or 10 percent of our children who may beat the odds, we are effectively condemning Black America to oblivion with these loud, foul-mouthed and ill-mannered youngsters we are unleashing in our homes and neighborhoods in ever growing numbers.

I mean I saw a 30-something looking mother recently getting on the bus cussing at her little nine-year-old daughter in a back-and-forth exchange resembling two adult women having a dispute. And the daughter put her little hands on her hips and did that angry black woman, head-shaking thing as she delivered her own sharp responses. She then stood up front and essentially ignored her exasperated mother's commands to sit down the rest of the ride.

Unable to control the girl, the mother then spent the trip ride showing a fellow passenger the infant daughter she was carrying while talking about the 9-year-old's obstinacy as if speaking of a peer rather than

her own child.

I mean, we did not even among ourselves say words like "lie" or "fart" or even "hell" when I was growing up; we used substitutes such as "telling a story" and "loss his/her manners" and "go to the devil."

Nowadays, however, such filthy words as "suck," "dork" and "jerk" are as commonplace on television and other so-called family-oriented mainstream media as the "ho's," "bitches" and "m-f's" you hear shouted daily by little black Chicago children at each other on the streets and in playgrounds throughout our neighborhoods.

That the taboo sexual nature of all these words seems to have been lost with their constant mainstream use today does little to mitigate how coarse language reflects an explicit disregard for civility or community among its public cussing practitioners.

But before all you other older brothers and sisters out there jump to the conclusion that our bad-mouthed little black boys and girls are simply reflecting their exposure to the smutty, nasty language of the hip-hop/gangsta rap culture, I say look back a little farther to uncover the beginning of the cussing epidemic among our youth.

Because back in the days before wholesale integration in America, cussing children in black communities were as rare as interracial or same-sex couples on television. Today, unfortunately, former taboos are all too commonplace public features of a society that pays millions for profane rappers and other coarse entertainment while lamenting the loss of decency in our communities.

But while mainstream American culture readily accommodates and even profits from nasty words and the nasty attitudes they flow from, Black America cannot afford either. And if we are to truly move forward as a community in this country, we are first going to have to return respect and home training to our children—for adults, and for each other.

We have to stop accepting the filthy, backwards language of coarse adults from the mouths of our babies.

Just saying.

Plan from page 3

that the number of non-Hispanic blacks, as a percentage of the State's population, remained essentially the same over the past 10 years.

We realize that race is not the sole determinant of legislative boundaries. A number of factors come into play, including geography, political considerations and respect for communities of interest. In a perfect world, the state would have 113 majority non-Hispanic white districts, 25 majority African American districts, 28 majority Latino districts and 8 majority Asian districts. This would translate into approximately 37% of the districts being majority minority. The State's proposal provides for 54 (23%) majority minority districts. The Unity Map proposal prepared by UCCRO includes 57 (32%) majority minority districts with percentages of 55% or greater. Absent perfection, we urge the State to adopt UCCRO's proposed Unity Map, which, more than any other proposal in the State, respects minority communities of interest and optimizes opportunities for us to elect candidates of our choice.

3. Legislature's Proposal Provides Less than Optimal Opportunity for African Americans on Chicago's West Side and Western Suburbs to Elect Candidates of Their Choice.

The State's redistricting plan keeps the North Lawndale and East and West Garfield communities essentially intact, and have created proposed Representative Districts 9 and 10 with a majority of their populations being African American. However, we are concerned that the Legislature's proposal effectively creates 2 African American majority districts and 2 African American coalition districts (districts where there are two minority groups with significant population, but do not make up a majority), as opposed to maintaining 4 majority African American districts that currently exist on the West Side. Maps developed by the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations (UCCRO) have shown that it is possible to draw 4

majority African American Representative districts and 2 majority African American Senate districts for Chicago's West Side and Western Suburbs.

4. Loss of Congressional Seat Presents a Challenge to the Ability of African Americans from Chicago to Elect Candidates of Their Choice to the U.S. Congress

Because the State of Illinois' population grew at a slower rate than most states in the country, we will be losing a Congressional seat. Chicago's three Congressional Districts headed by African Americans have each lost population and must expand boundaries. We were disappointed to read in Crain's Chicago Business that the proposed map for Illinois' Congressional districts would create 3 majority African American districts with 51% African American population. Our conversations with UCCRO have indicated that the potential exists to draw 3 majority African American Congressional districts with over 55% African American population.

The Legislature must ensure that Congressional district boundaries be drawn with an eye towards protecting the voting rights of African Americans. This would include optimizing the opportunity for us to elect candidates of our choice in each of the majority African American districts in the Illinois Delegation. The lines should also be drawn to enhance the chances of African Americans on the West Side to elect candidates of choice from the West Side of Chicago.

A Call to Action

If you would like to voice your concerns about the State's legislative proposal, contact the following:

Senator John Cullerton (Democrat), President of the Senate

(217) 782-2728

Representative Michael Madigan (Democrat), Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives

(217) 782-5350

Senator Kwame Raoul, Chairman (Democrat), Senate Redistricting Committee

(217) 782-5338

Representative Barbara Flynn Currie (Democrat), Chairman, House Redistricting Committee (217) 782-8121

NAACP from front page

Open." Both songs are featured on Clay's new CD on his own Echo Records label.

Prior to Clay's closing valediction, the attendees enjoyed a meal of baked breaded breast of chicken, green beans and seasoned potato wedges followed by apple pie. Afterwards, with DJ Prince, aka William Linzy furnishing the musical background, the mostly old school crowd turned its attention to the object of the evening, the recognition of internationally renowned Chicago jazz and gospel singer Dee Alexander and four Westside men for outstanding contributions in their chosen fields.

Retired Chicago Police Department District 11 Commander Claudell Ervin, Former NBA player Sonny Parker, performing artist Marzette Griffith and attorney Richard R. Boykin, a partner with the prominent Chicago and Washington, D.C. firm Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, were also honored with Freedom Fund Awards.

A Westside native whose career journey has taken her to exotic locales around the globe, Alexander received the Fund's Outstanding Jazz Performer Award and credited the "love, laughter, music and something good cooking in the kitchen," of the home she shared with her mother and brothers for her success.

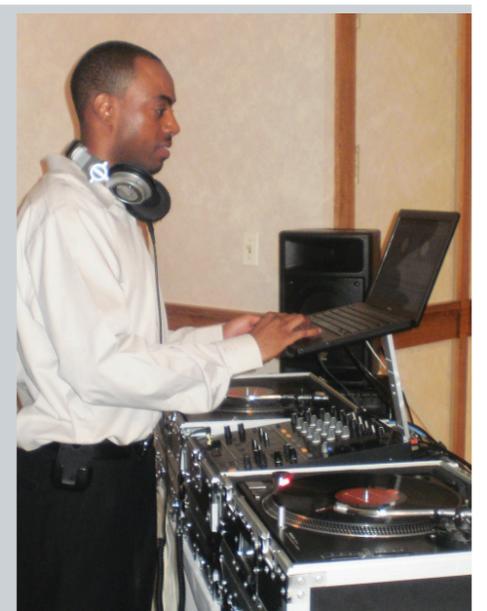
The Providence St. Mel High School graduate also encouraged the young people in the audience to pursue their own dreams with confidence and tenacity.



Dining for a Cause: More than 300 people enjoyed dinner at the 2011 Westside Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Awards in the Best Western hotel's Churchill Room Saturday (May 21).

"Plan your work; work your plan and don't be afraid take chances or be different," Alexander advised.

Humanitarian Award honoree and former Village of Hazel Crest Police Chief Ervin followed Alexander to the podium and cited God as the power that guided his career and the fortunes of his son, recently sworn-in 28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin, who was also in attendance.



Music Player: DJ Prince kept the sounds coming throughout the evening.

early into their 40-year marriage.

"I didn't have time," he said to loud applause and laughter.

A former NCAA All American and Golden State Warrior first-round draft pick, Parker was recognized for giving tirelessly of his time to mentor and nurture Chicago's at risk youth as the founder and president of the Sonny Parker Youth Foundation. A Farragut Academy and Illinois High School hall of fame, he was honored with

See NAACP page 7

Riders from front page

of a series of Chicago performance festivals that were inspired by *Freedom Riders*, a documentary that was directed by Stanley Nelson. (The documentary is based on the award-winning book *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*.) The series was produced by the Illinois Humanities Council and was directed by Alice Kim, director of The Public Square.

The event began with a clip from the documentary, which featured vintage footage and photos of the Freedom Riders. The clip also included commentators that offered descriptions of the struggles that the Freedom Riders faced.

The first performance was made by the Neighborhood Writing Alliance, an organization that allows adults in Chicago to write, publish, and perform works about their lives. The Alliance spoke to the crowd about how they will never forget what the Freedom Riders have done for America and the strife that the protesters went through to achieve their goals. The Alliance talked about the segregation that existed many decades ago and how African Americans had to fight against the injustice that occurred during that moment in time. They spoke about how thankful that are to the Freedom Riders for their efforts.

Next, the crowd witnessed a performance by Ami Saraiya and Anna Soltys, two singers that provoke a cross-cultural awareness with their music. They sang four songs that were related to the struggles of Freedom Riders and other civil rights protesters. Among the songs they sang were the classic freedom song *We Shall Overcome* and Sam Cooke's famous song *A Change is Gonna Come*. The audience, who knew both songs well, sang along with Saraiya and Soltys. They also performed original songs entitled "Change" and



"Sweet Chariot."

Afterwards, there was a performance from the Congo Square Theatre, an ensemble theatre company that produces theatre that is created from the African diaphora and other world cultures. Using theatre, the performers recited several facts about the Freedom Riders and provided detailed backgrounds of some of the protesters who were involved in the Freedom Riders' protests.

Ugochi, an Afro-soul singer, was the next person to perform on stage. She sang three songs that were designed to uplift and inspire people. Two of those songs she sang, "So Be It" and "Nigeria," were written by her.

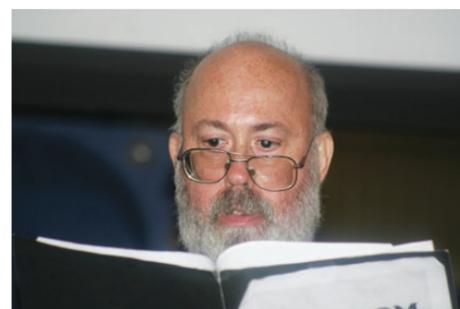
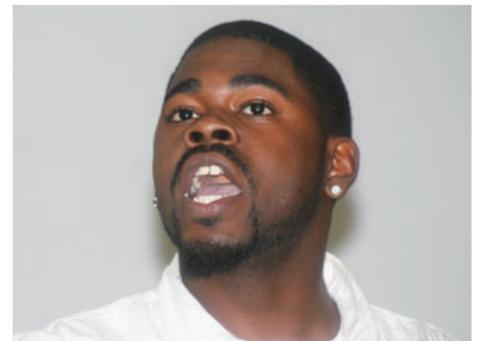
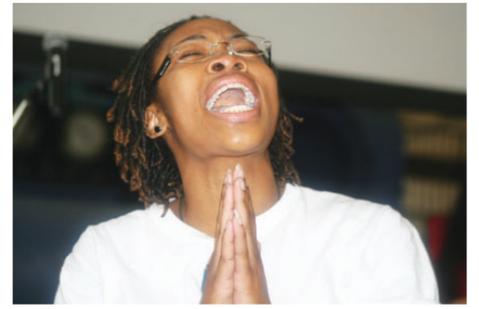
The event ended with the Young Chicago Authors (YCA), a group that uses creative writing, performance and publication to promote self-expression. They recited four poems and one monologue in honor of the Freedom Riders.

After the event, Babylon spoke to the

North Lawndale Community News, saying that the performances were "awesome." He noticed that the performances showed the performers' understanding of the Freedom Riders. "I think each performance was able to articulate how each artist saw the Freedom Riders movie and just civil rights in general," he said.

What he liked about the event in general was that it was an opportunity for people with various backgrounds to join together. "You never really see people from different walks of life—old, young, White, Black—get together for pretty much anything. It's a segregated town." He thought it was "cool" to see people using the arts for civil rights.

Kim also enjoyed the performances. She felt that the performers successfully interpreted what happened in history. She added that the event and events like it "remind us of what took place in the past, but they also help to point a way for the future." - Freedom Riders photos by Calvin Muhammad



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AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



THE HANGOVER PART II (*1/2)

From being plausible in Vegas to ridiculous in Bangkok. More silliness than genuinely funny. As expected, The Hangover, Part II" tries to create its own encore buzz in a different locale. The end result leaves a bit more of a bitter after taste through its absurdity.

This time, Stu Price (Ed Helms) is wedding bound for Thailand to marry Lauren (Jamie Chung), daughter to a wealthy, uptight father who thinks little of Stu and his dental profession that he considers beneath being an actual doctor against his adored 16 yr old med school trainee, genius son, Teddy (Mason Lee)

A week before his departure, Stu reveals during Phil's (Bradley Cooper) dental appointment his impending nuptials, inviting Phil along with Doug (Justin Bertha) But not the crass man-child-like Alan (Zach Galifianakis) whose already heard it through the grapevine. But stays brooding and confined to his bedroom awaiting his overdue, formal invitation.

Of course, Stu well remembers the chaos Alan caused in the initial "Hangover" film and doesn't want to invite Alan. This leads to Phil being recruited to change Stu's mind by coaxing him to visit Alan who has locked himself in his room inside his father's (Jeffery Tambor) house.

Ultimately, the wolf-pack is reunited and set out for Thailand to meet Lauren's family that is almost ruined by an awkward speech from Alan who resents Teddy whose been invited to join the wolf pack on the beach for one campfire drink. Against the wishes of the bride to be that only wanted a non alcoholic bachelor brunch in a diner.

Naturally from that one drink; Stu, Phil and Alan slowly awakened without any

recollection to how Alan got a bald head; Stu got an elaborate tattoo around his right eye.

Similar to Mike Tyson's and the real life lawsuit from the artist against the film and studio over belated copyright infringement) and later flashback in the film's other controversy with the artist that was supposed to be cameo by the scandal ridden Mel Gibson who was ultimately replaced to weak effect by filmmaker Nick Cassavetes when Liam Neeson was unavailable for re-shooting the scene.

While, Phil on the floor unconscious with a drug dealing spider monkey that licking a severed human finger and a missing Teddy inside a shoddy village motel somewhere in the crowded market district of Bangkok.

Also amidst this pass-out trio under a pile of clothes is the party-loving Asian drug dealer businessman, Mr. Chow (the hilarious jive talking Ken Jeong) who invites to the nuptial by Alan without telling Stu and Alan. While Doug is with the bride her folks and Phil's wife, receiving periodic phone calls from the duo, trying to hide what has happened, as the wadding day approaches.

Mr. Chow is about to reveal to Alan, Stu and Phil what occurred the night before. When Mr. Chow suddenly seems to have overdose from his blow. The guys become nervous and put Mr. Chow's body inside the hotel's ice machine.

From this chaotic situation that eventually turns out to another plan gone wrong from Alan, "The Hangover , Part 2" evolves from a weak comedy with naughty bits and dark tendencies into a warped mystery. As the trio set out to find a missing Teddy that leads to incidents with a Russian biker who want their monkey back who happens to be carrying the bank account code number that is now needed in an exchange for Teddy with Mr. Chow's business partner, Kingsley (Paul Giamatti).

As you might be able to tell, "The Hangover, Part 2" obviously follows the same path as the original. But this film often made me feel uncomfortable with its sudden burst of violence. Since as when Phil tries to ask a question, only to get suddenly

shot in the arm y the two Russian bikers retrieving the monkey. We are misled to believe; but instead are fearful that bullet wound was more serious that isn't funny to watch.

Mike Tyson being brought back as part of Alan's surprise at the wedding doing a bad yet enthusiastic karaoke of "One Night in Bangkok".

While periodically, the film makes flashbacks to how the trio got into this mess from a brawl at a nightclub that continues Stu's drunken fling with prostitutes that this time has a "Crying Game" connection.

Even though, "The Hangover, Part 2" delivers what is expected. It doesn't improve on the premise, by changing the location; In order to duplicate the laughs, which are far and few in- between this cinematic fiasco.

R; 103min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

KUNG FU PANDA 2 (*/1/2)** Where some movie sequels fail to have enough kick as the initial film, DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda 2" manages to prove to be the exception to the rule. There is also a fresh and solid energy that not only makes "Kung Fu Panda 2" better than the original. But firmly establishes itself as a

"Po"-tential movie franchise that could create its own trilogy and beyond like what was achieved with "Shrek".

Full of more colorful depth and style along with an expanded sensed of humor beyond the expected

girth jokes and bumbling humor, The addition of the 3D effect greatly enhances the martial arts battle sequences and depth to the scenery that is glorious as it's is adventurous. In "Panda 2" one's rightful origins versus another foretold destiny are headed on a collision course. When Po (Jack Black) is sent into battle with his fellow martial arts masters, the Furious Five to handle a disturbance in the village against wolf bandits.

Po notices an emblem on the sleeve of one of the bandits that triggers a portion of a suppressed childhood memory. This incident makes Po return to his foster parent duck, Mr. Ping (James Hong) to question who he really is and suddenly discover that he has "daddy issues" on where did he come from.

When he was an infant abandon in basket. Of course, the film makes a modest running



joke of Po being a panda who's suddenly realizes he's not related to the duck who eventually found him as an infant in the basket and who raised him as his own child. But later, the film hints at a inter species love interest between the bumbling but determined panda and the more powerful and skillful yet concerned Tigress (Angelina Jolie).

Po's concerns turns out to be connected to the film's opening prologue in which a banished, evil peacock, Lord Shen (Gary Oldman) vows revenge on China by altering his destiny of defeat from a black and white opponent that was foretold by a soothsayer (Michelle Yeoh).

When Shen with his army has created a cannon weapon intended to destruct kung fu that would allow him to take control of China. Po embarks on this mission to stop this old adversary that happens to have his own "parental issues".

When Po occasionally encounters memory disturbances that disrupts his concentration in battle that eventually leads to Po having to learn about the importance of inner peace from Master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman) that plays into the film's battle finale

And Po eventually recalls what happened to his natural parents who sacrifice their lives during a brutal uprising in which Lord Shen initially ordered to kill all pandas in hopes of prevents the soothsayers' prediction. And later offers a surprise ahead of the end credits that Po is unaware of that obviously hints a third chapter in the future.

Initially develop under an alternative title, "The Kaboom of Doom", DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda 2" firmly provides more action, better story line, dazzling visual effects, and amusing jabs that offers something for everyone without losing its oriental influences to establish its moral message of "letting go" through loyalty and responsible to what matters in the presence than the past.

PG; 90min. A DreamWorks SKG Picture Distributed through Paramount Pictures.

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NAACP from page 4

an Outstanding Achievement in Youth Development Award, which he shared with his wife, Lola.

"It's all about giving back," said Parker, who played six years in the NBA with the Warriors before founding the foundation that bears his name in 1990. "I have never forgotten I come from the West Side.

"I've had a lot of awards, but this is the best one I've gotten."

Boykin, who specializes in lobbying the federal government on behalf of major organizations and institutions nationwide, received an Outstanding Humanitarian Award and Griffith was recognized with an Outstanding Performing Artist Award.

The program, which paid tribute to late chapter leaders Nola Bright, Anita Hines and Mattie K. Moore, was also an occasion to recognize a quartet of accomplished young Westside NAACP members, who exhibited their talents in introducing the honorees. Whitney Young High School graduate Patrick Easley joined 8th graders Tevis Jackson and Jessica Bailey onstage along with 6th grader Janeicia Williams, the daughter of Westside branch third vice president Deborah Williams.

Westside Branch President Karl A. Brinson provided the opening

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remarks of the programs as he declared the organization remains engaged in "the civil rights challenges" on a "daily basis." He also identified job fairs, workshops, and ex-offender services among the many tools being employed by the branch to impact the poverty and apathy that hinder growth and development of Westside communities from North Lawndale to Austin.

According to the online website <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org>, the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized in 1910 as "a vigilance committee" within the larger national organization, which was found in 1909. And from that "Committee on the Negro," the chapter has been at the forefront of community activism on the Westside and throughout Chicago.

And with crime, poverty and massive budget cuts at every level of government threatening to plunge the Westside into an ever more distressing depression, Brinson declared, "The NAACP is needed now more than ever."

While giving Brinson the major credit for the renewed energy and activity that continues to ensure the Westside NAACP, Davis, whose wife preceded Brinson as branch president, added, "As long as there are those who are downtrodden, persecuted and denied the opportunity to have their own, and do what they want there," the NAACP will always be there, and always be relevant."

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Henson from front page

new position as Henson's new Principal.

Robert Pales, Henson's retiring Principal has been in his position for 20 years and served as an educator for 35 years. Pales was a teacher for five years, he then took on the responsibility as master teacher/facilitator for 10 years--and then became the Principal of Henson in which he has served for 20 years. Pales says "Henson is my home away from home but I want to leave in good health, travel and relax." Because of Pales's love for education after retirement he plans to continue to serve in the field of education by consulting and becoming a Principal coach. Robert Pales's last day as a Principal of Henson elementary school will be June 30, 2011.

Markus Thorne a community advocate and instructor for the "Young Men Education Network," a partner of Henson says "I have worked with Principal Pale for 1 year and he has done an exceptional job, his door is always open to his staff and he has great leadership skills." Thorne believes that it takes a great leader to become a school Principal and this is what the students, staff and community are looking for. Thorne adds "We are looking for someone that loves kids and their families, someone who communicates well, someone who is a servant and willing to get their hands dirty, and someone who can deal with the board of education, staff and community." Although Thorne said that he really liked candidate D'Andre Weaver, he believes that Demetrius Hobson will take the position because he had a great presentation and a certain confidence about him that made everyone feel comfortable able him taking on such a huge responsibility. While it is official that Hobson will take on the new position as Henson's Principal the students, staff and community are looking forward to the great journey that will involve their new transformational leader.

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