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

“Overwhelmed with Gratitude” Mrs. Gwen Caul - Burnett 15 years of service Secretary of Cong. Danny Davis



Mrs. Gwen Caul - Burnett, Reva, and Rev Paul Jakes at dinner celebration

“I am overwhelmed with gratitude,” said Mrs. Gwen Caul - Burnett. Everyone who knew her from Congressman Davis’ office usually called her by her first name, Gwen. She retired after 15

years, serving as secretary and scheduler for Congressman Danny K. Davis. A retirement celebration was given in her honor at Wells Temple of Deliverance Church, located 2739 W. Madison, across



Cong. Davis cutting the cake for Mrs. Gwen Caul - Burnett

the street from the new office of Congressman Davis

“Congressman, thank you for being brilliant, thank you for putting up with me,” said Gwen. She also gave thanks and accolades to Vera Davis, wife of Congressman Davis, to his staff and the constituents of the 7th Congressional District. “I ask you for your continued support of what we’re trying to do. It’s hard, but please support the Congressman and the 7th Congressional District,”



Gold bracelet retirement gift from Cong. Davis and wife Vera Davis given to Mrs. Gwen Caul - Burnett

said Gwen. Wells Temple of Deliverance Church was filled with well wishers as Congressman Davis emceed the celebration. At the conclusion of the official ceremony, Congressman Davis said this prayer and blessing, “God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, God who has brought us thus far on the way, thy who has found our might, led us into the light, keep us forever in thy path we pray, lest our feet, Oh

God, stray from the places where we met thee, Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, forget thee. Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God and true to our native land.” Dinner was served right after the ceremony.

Attendees greeted Mrs. Gwen Caul-Burnett. Gospel artist, Ron C. Walters graced her and her well wishers with the song, “I won’t Complain,” singing a cappella. “She deserves it,” stated Shauna Latrice Smith, staff assistant of Cong. Davis. In attendance was Rev. Paul Jakes who was instrumental in introducing Gwen to the Congressman in order for her to be employed by him 15 years ago. “Working at the electric company she came and volunteered. She helped at the campaign when Congressman

See Burnett page 5

Lawndale Christian Health Center 5k Walk/Run Bigger/Better Ben Fay Top Male Finisher, Rebekah Ziesmer Top Female Finisher



Men's 1st place, Ben Fay



Women's 1st place, Rebekah Ziesmer



Runners returning at half way mark of 5k walk/run event located at Douglas Blvd and Albany Ave.

On a day of community excitement and hope Lawndale Christian Development held its Annual 5k Run/Walk event on September 22. The results are in and the top three spots went to 1st place winner 24 yr old, Ben Fay. He finished with a time of 16:30.23 minutes. Second place Sean Reimers, 26, time was 17:03.04 and third place. Matt Nichols, 21 time was 17:23.36 minutes. The top 15 finishers were male. The top female finisher was 25 yr old, Rebekah Ziesmer, time was 20:08.93 minutes, followed by Lydia Wong 23, with a time of 20:53.93, and Helen Espinoza 23

was third at 22:04.51 minutes.

The event had runners as well as walkers, so that meant almost anybody could participate, young and old alike. The oldest male to participate was Jose Crespo, 73 years old male who finished with a time of 29:26.27 and the oldest female was Elvira Negrette, who finished with a time of 31:13.02 minutes.

The youngest to enter the race was Rodney Espiritu and James Ratner, both 2 years old and male. The youngest female was Gloria Cervantez at 5 years old according to those registered. For more information on the

results you can find them on the Lawndale Christian Health Center website at <http://www.lawndale.org/event/5th-annual-lawndale-5k>.

This event is growing every year and creating a lot of excitement inside and outside of the community. A total of 950 runners and walkers participated this year. Last year, there were 870 participants.

Sponsors for the event were Humana, Lawndale Christian Health Center and WellCare, as Gold Sponsors and Saint Anthony Hospital, Family Health Network, and Bank of America Merrill

Lynch at Silver. The 5k Run/Walk event proceeds will go help to Lawndale Christian Health Center and programs to reduce childhood obesity.

Lawndale Community Health Center is located at the main campus on 3860 W. Ogden Avenue. It includes a new Wellness Center at 3750 W. Ogden, which houses an expanded fitness center, a café open to the community, pediatric medical and dental clinics, a women's health center, and a conference center. LCHC's telephone number is 773-872-3000 and the fitness center at 773-872-3000.

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Visit us on our website at www.nlcen.org for more articles, photos, information and more.

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

2012 Focus

Health and Education

Twelve years have past since the New Millennium scare of the year 2000, a time of uncertainty. In 1999, NLCN began by thanking God for making this 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/ NLCN 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. In 2011 Health and Education.

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 that includes all of the sub-objectives that help to reach that 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.

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The North Lawndale Community News
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Time 6:00pm

**Date: Every 3rd Thursday
of the Month**

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The North Lawndale Community News

The North Lawndale Community News is 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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24th Ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler

★ “News You Can Use” Report ★

REGISTER,
PARTICIPATE
AND VOTE IN
UPCOMING
ELECTION
ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER 6, 2012

24TH Ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler is strongly urging 24th ward residents to register, vote and become involved in activities connected with the upcoming General Election on November 6, 2012.

In support of this effort, Alderman Michael D. Chandler is sponsoring phone bank activities in conjunction with the Obama/Biden campaign. **These activities are being conducted at the 24th Ward Democratic Organization Office every Tuesday evening from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and Saturday morning from 10:00am to 12:00pm at 4202 W. Roosevelt Road.** Information on the schedule for phone banking activities can be obtained by calling Debra Williams, Obama For America

Campaign Coordinator, at (312) 576-1085.

Alderman Chandler has also conducted deputy registrar training classes and can connect unregistered voters to deputy registrars who can register them to vote for the upcoming election through his 24th Ward Democratic Organization. Information on how you can be registered through this process can be obtained by calling Richard Barnett at (773) 315-5850.

Below are key dates addressing voter registration, early voting, and absentee ballot voting. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Chicago Board of Elections at 312-269-7900 or on the web at www.chicagoelections.com.

Voter Registration: **Deadline:** October 9, 2012

If you miss October 9th deadline: “Grace Period” Registration/Voting: **October 10, 2012-November 3, 2012.**

Process: Registration must be in person

Location: 69 W. Washington St.

Info: 312-269-7900 or www.chicagoelections.com

Early Voting: October 22 - November 3

Location: Douglass Library 3353 W. 13th

Government Photo ID Required

All sites open Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm.

Absentee Voting: **B e g i n s :** September 27, 2012 through November 1, 2012

Anyone can vote absentee now

Get application at 24th Ward Office, 4202 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Deadline to submit an application is November 1, 2012

Dr. Wesley Muhammad on the Reality of God within Biblical and Islamic Texts:

God is a Man

Crystal X Hale



he appeared visually to this select...It is documented that the Prophet (Muhammad) did indeed see God. That God in the form of a man, came to prophet Muhammad, and this is recorded in both the Qur'an and the hadith literature, and it was a cardinal point of orthodox Sunni belief for the first 400 years of Sunni Islam, and it fell out of Sunni Orthodoxy when Sunni Orthodoxy, from my perspective...got corrupted...got overtaken by Greek philosophical speculation.

Crystal X Hale: Many Christians and Muslims say that God is a spirit and can take the form of a man, so does anthropomorphism support the idea that God is something else and can take the shape of a man.

Dr. Wesley Muhammad: No. I addressed that in my dissertation. You are correct, the typical Christian and to a lesser extent, Jewish way of dealing with the clear statements of the Bible, that God has possessed a human form and his prophets seen his human form...the typical way nowadays to deal with that or to interpret those away, is to claim that those were what's called momentary theophonic forms....forms that God took in the moment, in order to appear to humans who couldn't otherwise experience his real form, that he actually is a spirit being, but condescended in human form for the purpose of lowly humans...there is absolutely no warrant for that in the Bible, or The Quran, (and) the Sunnah; In fact, the Bible is real clear that God possesses the form of a man because he is a man. The Bible declares uncategorically, 11 times that God is a man...in the Hebrew...every time God is visually experienced...it is nowhere recorded that he assumed a different form...form other than a human form. The “burning bush” incident wasn't a visual a theophany...it wasn't what's called a ‘theophany narrative,’ a narrative that describes the visual manifestation to the prophet of God...a Biblical ‘theophany narrative’ follows a set pattern in Hebrew, and what we have in Exodus, at the “burning bush” is a truncated description of God...of Moses' encounter with God as a burning bush...the burning bush is not presented as the form of God...There's no place where he appears as other than a man. If he is a spirit and can assume any form he wants, then we would assume there would be a record of him assuming multiple forms, and that simply is not the case anywhere in the Bible.

Crystal X Hale: Is there evidence in scripture of God being a woman?

Dr. Wesley Muhammad: No, not of God being a woman...there are passages that uses feminine similes to describe Yahweh, the God of Israel...

Brilliant scholar, author, and lecturer, Dr. Wesley Muhammad has firmly planted his feet in the Academic world as a force to be reckoned with. With controversial topics surrounding the premise that God is a man, and Islam's 1400 year old prophet, Prophet Muhammad Ibn Abdullah is a Black man, Dr. Muhammad has certainly ruffled some feathers; in particular, the feathers of those with long held beliefs that God is a spirit and that the prophet Muhammad Ibn Abdullah of 1400 years ago is White. Interestingly enough, according to Dr. Muhammad the evidence of his views are well documented and supported by religious and historical texts.

Dr. Muhammad is a native of Detroit, Michigan and he received his PhD in Islamic Studies from The University of Michigan in 2008. Mr. Muhammad provides proof in his dissertation, entitled “Tajalli wa-Ru'ya: A Study of Anthropomorphic Theophany and Visio Dei in the Hebrew Bible, the Qur'an and Early Sunni Islam,” that a tradition of an overwhelming presence of God having human characteristics in addition to visual theophany is certainly articulated well in the Qur'an, early Sunni Islam, and more heavily in the Hebrew Bible.

In a phone interview with Dr. Muhammad on Sunday, September 30, 2012 he sheds more light on the topic of the Man God as it relates to his research (while referencing the contents within his dissertation)...

Dr. Wesley Muhammad: “...God has a human form, and he appears to his prophets visually as such...in all of those scriptural sources, the Hebrew Bible, Qur'an, and Hadith, it's absolutely clear that the God of those sources was anthropomorphic...had human form...that

To Congressman Danny K. Davis, wife Vera Davis, the 7th Congressional staff and District, I thank you all for a wonderful ride. May God keep you and bless you all.

Thank you

Ms. Gwen Caul-Burnett

15 years
service in the
U.S. House of
Representatives



Dr. Wesley Muhammad is certainly not the first to make the claim that God is a man. Messenger Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation of Islam is popular for asserting the claim that Allah is a man. In addition, ancient Egyptians, as evidenced in ancient texts also share the concept that God is man. Although this view may go against personal beliefs held by many, if the

evidence reflects that the God of Biblical and Islamic texts are in fact a man, a truth-seeker would never ignore it; despite the discomfort that accompanies cognitive dissonance. More information on Dr. Wesley Muhammad can be found at www.drwesleymuhammad.com. Clips of his lectures can also be found on various online sites.

Letter To The Editor: *The Fight for Quality of Life*

In September I traveled to Washington D.C. with cancer survivors and volunteers to call on Congress to support legislation that emphasizes patients' quality of life during treatment for a serious disease such as cancer. Lawmakers have the power to improve the lives of cancer patients by making treatment of their pain and other symptoms standard practice during the course of care.

I joined more than 600 cancer

patients and survivors from across the country who volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) to educate lawmakers about proposals that have the potential to better coordinate patient care and reduce the pain, fear and anxiety that many patients feel during treatment.

When I met with Congressman Davis, I asked him to make a commitment to patients' quality of life by co-sponsoring legislation that gives patients more control, makes sure that their pain is properly managed and provides better coordination between doctors and medicines so that patients know what to do when they're discharged from the hospital.

A national commitment to protecting quality of life will help cancer patients get well, stay well and live full lives.

Efiam Juarez, Volunteer
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Community Activist Richard Barnett and CEO/President Henry L. English



CEO Henry L. English, Mr. Abe Thompson, Mr. Robert Starks and Mr. Conrad Worrill

The Black United Fund of Illinois recently celebrated their Annual Gala Benefit Awards Ceremony. The Living Legends Passing of the Torch theme was named The YEAR of the MAN. The event was held September 29, 2012, at the legendary Musician Parkway Ballroom, 45th & King Drive. This year's recipients were Mr. Richard Barnett, Community Activist, Mr. Abe Thompson, Radio/Movie Entrepreneur, and Mr. Max I. Julion, Pres. of Branch #11 of U.S. Postal Service Letter Carriers. The event was hosted by Robert T. Starks and Conrad Worrill of Northeastern University Jacob Carruthers Inner City Studies. This was the 12th Annual Passing of the Torch ceremony by the Black United Fund. Mr. Henry L. English is the CEO/President. Mr. Eric Whitaker, MD was also co-host.

Scenes from Ed Gardner's Fight for Contracts and Jobs for Black Contractors and Construction Workers



The march is led by a number of elected officials and civic and business leaders, including Congressman Danny K. Davis (left of center), retired businessman Webb Evans (center), former Senator Roland Burris (right of center) and State Representative Mary Flowers (second from right). Photo courtesy of Valerie F. Leonard.

Continuing his fight for a fair share of jobs and opportunities, Soft Sheen founder and retired businessman Gardner called for 10,000 people to join him after their 3 p.m. church on Sunday, September 30, 2012, at 95th and Western to demand equal opportunities in contracting and hiring on Chicago's construction jobs. While Mr. Gardner didn't get 10,000 people, the crowd was impressive, and represented a broad cross section of the Black community. There were leaders from the political and business community, construction workers, community activists and rank and file residents from the South and West sides of Chicago and surrounding area.



An unemployed union tradesman stands on the sidelines and salutes the demonstrators as they march by. Photo courtesy of Alderman Roderick Sawyer.



Demonstrators march peacefully on Western Avenue between 91st Street and 95th Street. Photo courtesy of Valerie F. Leonard.



Valerie F. Leonard and Sel Dunlap express appreciation to Mr. Gardner for bringing attention to the plight of Black contractors and construction workers. Photo courtesy of Valerie F. Leonard



Attorney Sam Adam (left, background), is joined by John Rogers, Founder and Chairman of Ariel Capital Management (in Obama Biden T-shirt) Photo courtesy of Alderman Roderick Sawyer.

NEW GOSPEL ARTIST: RON C. WALTERS



Ron C. Walters

On Saturday Sept. 22nd. 2012, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ron C. Walters, A New Gospel Artist. He was one of the Performers for the {M. M. W. G. is} which is The Mighty Men & Women Of God Hosted by John BarBush. Dr. Larry Love is the Foundation of the Organization.

Ron was waiting very patiently during the show for his chance to perform for a nice size audience at The U.I.C. FORUM on Roosevelt and Halsted. It was a beautiful Evening filled with much talent, mostly from Chicago. Which I will follow- up with on a story in the next issue.

So, I decided to get a small Interview with Ron and introduced myself. Ron was very pleasant and Humbled by his success so far. He kept reiterating the fact that "It is all God"!! It's by the Grace of God that I am doing what I Love!" Mr. Ron C. Walters felt that he was called to sing for the Lord. He told me that God Drove him to this Music. I asked him how did this happen?"

Ron said that he was with an R & B Singing Group in San Antonio in 1994. For some reason he told the group, "we should sing Gospel". One Sunday they went to church and he felt they should just sing for Jesus. So, in 1996 he ended the Group and started singing Gospel Solo. When I first saw Ron he didn't look like your Typical Gospel Artist, In my opinion he

looked like an Actor or a Model. But, he is a very Humble Christian Man. Not all Gospel Artists are Black. Ron is white and just as well versed in the Bible as anyone else. By the way, he seemed very serious and committed. I was Impressed by his patience as I Interviewed him. He took his time and told me his story. I asked Ron was he married? He said that he was married to the same woman for 11 years and has 7 children: 4 girls and 3 boys. But, is now Divorced. But, still loves his family very much. Ron C. Walters is a New Gospel Artist from San Antonio Texas and we had better watch out because he is Fantastic and filled with so much Spirit and Soul when he sings!! you will get a Blessing if you attend his Concert when he returns to Chicago!

He has a New C. D. coming out in stores. But, is currently on I. Tunes Titled: "HERE IS MY LIFE". Ron has been through some things in his life that led him to sing for the Lord. In 1995 Ron moved to Oklahoma was married and got Baptized at an Apostolic church. He was there for 8 yrs. playing the keyboards for the Pastor. During this time Ron and his wife had 7 beautiful children. They left the church, and soon his wife left him and remarried. 3 years after his Divorce he strayed away from

the Lord. He began selling cars. But, one day a Preacher came into the Dealership where he worked, and told him "There's something else that you are suppose to be doing".

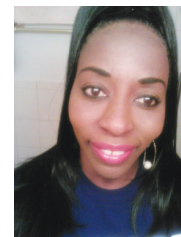
He said "You're right!" I am suppose to be singing for the Lord'. The preacher started praying with Ron. prior to this, Ron had been drinking and he had gone back out into the world like JONAH"(in the BIBLE) after meeting the Pastor and his wife, he felt something. Ron sang "I Won't Complain" for the pastor's wife in The Showroom. The pastor said there's an Anointing on you and told him to quit running.

He went to a Birmingham for a rest, and to collect his thoughts. Ron had a friend named Kevin Thomas, he was a Producer and was originally from Birmingham. Ron told me that God told him to check on his friend Kevin, so he did. He left Kevin a message from his Hotel phone. Kevin soon returned his call. Ron had a bottle of Wild Turkey & a bottle of Moscato. He dumped them into the Toilet. His friend talked with him, and invited him to go to his church. Kevin had fallen 20 ft. head first one day and became Paralyzed, but, was now walking. He was now attending the Church that was also Apostolic to

Ron's surprise. In Ron's words God accepted him back and he felt it. Ron, then gave his life to God and began singing.

The songs he sings come from his Heart. I asked Ron, Who were some of his influences? He said "Darryl Coley, and The Rev. James Moore." Ron wants to travel and do Concerts. But, during his Concerts he wants to lead as many people to God as possible, I loved the fact that he feels strongly about the Bible." We talked about that also, and he seemed to be preaching at times during our conversation. I told Ron that I see great things for his life: like maybe a Mega church and bringing many souls to the Lord through Song and the Word.

This is a Testimony of a young man that God is Mighty and can save anyone!" If you pray and ask God you can accomplish anything with your life!" If you have a relationship with your God and Acknowledge him first. Ron was given Awards for Best Male Inspirational Artist of the Year & Best Christian Contemporary Artist of the Year. Ron will be back soon do a Concert. Look for him and look for his Music. It may be a great Inspiration to you or someone you know!



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Isaac Lewis, Jr., Executive Director

Dear Reader:

It has been 12 years, since the first issue of the *North Lawndale Community News* was published in October of 1999. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the generosity of donors like you, it appears at your home and at drop sites every week with good news about the community, advice you can use to improve your life, and columns that allow neighbors to voice their concerns. But the newspaper and the organization behind it, Strategic Human Services, are about more than getting out the news. Strategic Human Services is about people who are helping to transform the community, one life and one business at a time.

The efforts of SHS have been possible because of supporters like you. You are valuable to us. Your support not only helps us pay the expenses we incur to help the people who need it most, but it also inspires us. Your support lets us know you care about our struggle, people with little resources who struggle to improve their lives in spite of poverty and/or other barriers.

The work we do is measured by success of the youth and adults we serve. Assisting them on their way to high school, college, employment, and achieving or maintaining independent productive lives is our chief goal. SHS is a place where community youth learn, while being safe,

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and adults also get the help they need whether its job training, energy assistance or other resources.

Just as the organization provides opportunities for expression and accomplishment for these individuals, it offers hope and power to the many in the underserved communities on the West side of Chicago. Here people can share their ideas, find out about services and businesses in their area, and participate in the revitalization of our community.

Please consider what this newspaper means to the community and to you and make a donation of at least \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 or more today! If you would like to support us with less than these amounts, please do so also. We know that many small amounts add up to larger amounts. We would greatly appreciate any amount that you can contribute for the betterment of our communities and keeping alive a vital community resource, community news. We are a 501C3 Tax Exempt organization and your donations are tax deductible. May God Bless Your Blessing!

Sincerely,

Isaac Lewis, Jr.
Executive Director, Strategic Human Services
Publisher, *North Lawndale Community News*

Burnett from front page

Davis was running for Mayor of Chicago. She did such a good job Congressman Davis hired her as his scheduler. She had the right character. She had the right judgment. She had the right temperament. She had the right attitude. She was a tenacious individual, one who was upbeat. One who could understand the Congressman and the District and she served the district well and done a par excellent job," stated Rev. Jakes.

The event was held Sunday, September 22, but her last official day of work was Friday, Sept 28. On that day at 6:00pm, Ben Montgomery, a former 7th Congressional staff member, recently retired held a private dinner in her honor at his home. In attendance were Congressman Davis and former Cook County Board President Bobbie Steele, along with several staff members and invited guests and the sister of Ben Montgomery. Ms. Gwen Caul-Burnett recalled a time when she first started working for the Congressman she stated "I thought, I was supposed to protect the Congressman.... All I know is protect the boss coming from corporate America." But said how he confronted her about screening who gets to see him without letting him decide who he should see. Speaking about her her Congressional past story she said the Congressman told her, "Let me tell you something.... I don't need a gatekeeper. I have been out here campaigning. I've been out here in the middle of the night. Some of these people's couches I have slept on. People have fed me and made sure that I am okay... I don't need you to decide who I can see." Bringing laughter to the room, then others shared their stories. Gwen Caul-Burnett also showed everyone a gift that was presented to her by Congressman Davis and wife Vera Davis, a gold bracelet.

Ms. Gwen Caul-Burnett left the next day, Saturday on a flight to live in Lynchburg, Virginia where her daughter now lives and wants to thank everyone for a wonderful experience.

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



TAKEN 2 ()** One would think that this family with its lethal CIA operative dad, Bryan Miller (Liam Neeson) would have learned their lesson from their last European trip.

But when the father to the Albanian kidnappers that were killed by the agent for kidnapping his teenage daughter for the sex slave trade market. The terrorist father, Murad (Rade Serbedzija) is determined to avenge the death of his sons by killing the agent.

Still the sequel offers some ridiculous circumstances help bring these fathers together that begins when Brian visiting his ex-wife (Famke Janssen) to pick up his daughter (Maggie Grace) to help her practice for her upcoming driver’s test.

Only to discover his daughter has sneak off to be with her new boyfriend whom the agent easily tracks down at his apartment before he undresses her

Then later, Bryan ventures over to his ex-wife to find her distraught over her new love’s cancellation of a planned family trip overseas. Just so happens that Bryan has some business with a foreign diplomat in Istanbul that will only take three days of his vacation. So he invites his ex-wife and daughter to surprise him afterwards.

But naturally, the mother and daughter are more surprised than Bryan who gets “focused”. When the couple is captured, but not before Brian senses the inevitable (in almost every encounter and situation as before) and cell phones his daughter back at the hotel to instruct her on what’s going to happen.

However, for awhile, Kim thinks she can handle the pressure and wants to help find her captive parents. She is able to follow the instructions from her father that involving some map coordinates and running from rooftops exploding hand grenades.

Naturally, this leaves the daughter to the rooftop location where her parents are being held below. Bryan instructs Kim to drop a gun down the chimney. Then Bryan skillfully escapes in a shootout, but not his ex-wife who miraculously survives blood loss from a cut artery on her neck.

With Murad holding Bryan’s wounded ex-wife captive while his men are being killed off again by Bryan. And the daughter being frightened while being chased from rooftops to street level in chase sequences.

The rest of the film goes into an anticlimactic mold, leading up to the obvious showdown between the fathers. With Bryan telling the cornered Murad that he’s tired it all and willing to surrender his gun and let the terrorist live. If Murad drop his revenge and agrees to leave his family alone and return to his two remaining sons.

Naturally, this symbolizes the American

trying to take the moral high ground against what we know the terrorist father is going to do in order to be a martyr than a parent.

Some unintentional a m u s i n g comments and reactions here and there mainly from Neeson’s terse one liners

that only mirrors what the initial film did creatively better.

And as movie sequels usually are, this film has less the impact because we are familiar with the characters and now know what to expect from this adequate yet commercially stale popcorn movie.

R; 91min. A 20th Century Fox Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS (*)** I always tell anyone about the process for moviemaking. No one ever sets out to make a bad movie. You can have all the elements in place to make a movie. But it always begins and matters with the script.

Writer-Director Martin McDonagh shows his appreciation for actors and writers. While cleverly satirizing the inspiration before the concept is brought to the screen that has to first be conceived on paper.

“Seven Psychopaths” is only the movie title that a L.A screenwriter, Martin Forman (Colin Farrell) has to build on to a yet to be written and overdue script project.

But Martin’s “writer’s block” is more due to an old Hollywood adage that writers are suppose to adhere to – “to write, from what you know about”. Apparently, Martin hasn’t had much life experiences that he can draw upon.

Meanwhile, the film opens with two hit men (ironically played by two “Boardwalk Empire” regulars, Michael Stuhlberg and Michael Pitt) assigned to whack a woman on a bridge are having a casual discussion. When a hooded assassin briskly walks up behind them and shoots each in the back of the head. Then the unknown assailant walks away leaving a pair of jack of diamonds playing cards on their bodies.

“Seven Psychopaths” is a clever and quirky action comedy that invites its audience to follow its characters along for their exploits without not fully knowing what to expect, but we enjoy what unfolds.

Struggling screenwriter Martin Forman is in need of knowledge and experience that gives him more than he bargained for that eventually aids him into completing his script.

This begins innocently enough through his best friend, Billy (Sam Rockwell) who tries to help the writer. He offers the newspaper headline about the “Jack of Diamonds “killer and after an antidote about a man who seeks his revenge by tormenting a killer throughout his life until the man thinks he can escape his wrath in death. Until he observes the man cutting his throat like he did.

There is a hilarious meeting Martin has with Zachariah (folk-blues singer Tom Waits) who flashbacks to being a serial killer with his black girlfriend who together kills other serial killers.

Billy happens to work with Hans (Christopher Walken at his unflappable best) who operate a dog napping operation. In which they kidnap dogs that they return to their wealthy owners for a hefty reward. Hans uses his share to help with his black wife who suffers with cancer in the hospital.

Now Martin is embroiled in their caper and his survival that eventually winds up in a showdown in the desert. Mc Donagh’s “Seven Psychopaths” is offbeat, clever and original. A violent comedy that looks more for the weird than the crazy that seems to be the film’s right tone that doesn’t need to be pushed over its edge like most action comedy thrillers might do. Donagh’s script is close enough to Elmore Leonard without being as broad as Quentin Tarrantino.

R; 113min. A CBS Films Release – Presented at selected theaters

THE PAPERBOY ()** In his first feature since “Precious” co-writer-director Lee Daniels takes a decidedly different stanza that turns out to be an overripe and muddled melodrama and a curiosity item from its casting.

“The Paperboy” is about a miscarriage of justice set during the height of the civil rights movement. Told from the black perspective on a white crime incident by a black housemaid, Anita Chester (Macy Gray) that is set in a hot and sticky rural Moat County, Florida in 1969.

Where a reviled and notoriously racist sheriff that even frightens his own race while hated by blacks; happens across a couple making out in their car. Where Sheriff Thurmond Call is brutally stabbed to death, leaving half of his fat intestines out of his body.

A white trash bombshell, Charlotte Bless (played by Nicole Kidman in the most unlikely yet challenging role of her career so far) has fallen in love and believes in the innocence of her imprisoned pen-pal and accused murderer, Hillary Van Wetter (John Cusack) now a death row inmate with a nasty deposition that she seeks to exonerate and later marries.

She writes to an obstinate Miami Times reporter, Ward Jansen (Mathew McConaughey) who returns to his small hometown with a black co-writer, Yardley Ackerman (David Oyelowo) to do a story on Hillary.

Ward’s homecoming trip also reunites him with his younger brother, ex-swimmer Jack Jansen (Zac Efron) who works as the sole newspaper delivery man for their father-publisher’s (Scott Glenn) local newspaper. Anita Chester (Macy Gray) represents the maid to their household that is kept in high regard and friendship to Jack who later makes a racial slur mistake that he later apologizes.

But because we’ve already seen Matthew McConaughy as a veteran male stripper and the unconventional hit man this year. We expect to be surprised, but not too much when Ward cruises a local bar talking to a couple of black patrons whom Jack has to save his brother from. When Ward’s kinky desires leaves him brutally beaten and bloodied while tied up in a motel room.

“The Paperboy” delivers an interesting but disturbingly flat movie that director Lee Daniels purposely traps in time by its sweaty and sticky atmosphere and racial stigma that are intriguingly mishandled here too little to no satisfying results

Much like what director Otto Preminger did with 1968’s “Hurry Sundown” that seems just as pointless as this film. This is a movie that might leave its audience in need of a shower or bath to remove the stench of this movie from their bodies

R; 107min. A Millennium Films Release – Presented at selected theaters

P I T C H P E R F E C T (*)** “Pitch Perfect” cinematically reflects what you get when you mix “Glee” and “Bring it On” with some raunchy, chunky bits of “Bridesmaids” for flavor, energy and humor.

An entertaining

mixture of acappella harmony covering recent to current hit songs, some wry to light raunchy humor and a bit of juvenile angst along with a little of insider’s movie references. All done in matter that first time director Jason Moore who seems in tune enough to knows when not to take itself too serious, but not enough t make something distinctive and original.

Set in the backdrop of collegiate acappella group competition; where the only female group entry from Barden University known as “The Bellas” who set out to best their award winning male/nerds counterpart, The Tremble-Makers, led by the overly pompous and confidently arrogant leader, Bumper (Adam DeVine in a camped-up performance)

As both teams to reach the finals at Lincoln Center. Its female group’s’ control freak leader, Aubrey Parker (Anna Capp) turns their sing-off into a mega (and exaggerated) “barf-off” embarrassment.

A year later, anti-social new girl in school, Beca (Anna Kendrick) who is only attending to win bet with her father who teaches at the university,

The agreement is that if she doesn’t make friends there. He will allow her to travel to L.A. to try to fulfill her dream; to become a mix-master DJ through her samplings on her computer notebook.

Meanwhile, Aubrey along with more restrained partner, Chloe (Brittney Snow) intend to shake things up, being less uniformed with thin, white glamorous and more diverse in their membership. They enlist from the freshmen entries; self nicknamed, wise cracking Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson), Mary J. Blige-like, sassy and lesbian-suggested, Cynthia Rose (Estes Dean), and Lilly, the ever so-soft spoken Asian American that ever word or not utter is done with tight camera close-ups.

But rounding out the group that offers best with the group could be and needs to be more hip, diverse and daring like her hot mixes is of course, the new girl, Beca whose caught singing nude in the girl’s shower automatically drafted into their all-girls singing group.

Where the dramatic tension builds during and after rehearsals from Beca’s new ideas keeps clashing with Aubrey’s determination to do like she’s always done with the group.

While at the same time, Beca has the interest of Jesse (Skylar Austin), a member in the Tremble-makers who keeps being shot down when he wants to help Beca in general.

Through its self-deprecating, often sarcasm comments between John Michael Higgins and Elizabeth Banks (who also co-executive producer) as the acappella commentator who takes amusing jabs at each other as they do to the groups’ performances.

Along with the scene stealing moments of hilarity provided by Aussie newcomer and comedienne Rebel Wilson doing her best Melissa McCarthy from “Bridesmaids” stanza who fearlessly embraces her plus size while dishing out hilarious throwaway lines and reactions that add to the film’s proceedings.

“Pitch Perfect” is irresistible, irrefutable fun and an energetic crowd-pleaser that we could use nowadays. And could spark some life considering the dull box office receipts within the past few weeks.

PG-13; 113min. A Universal Pictures Release– Presented at selected theaters

FRANKENWEENIE (*)** Tim Burton’s latest stop-motion animation, “Frankenweenie” was originally made as a1984 short film that Disney initially rejected because the studio considered the film too dark and against their kid-friendly image.

Now, times have changed and the film has been broaden into a charming and amusing feature-length variation of a “boy and his dog” set to a Frankenstein-like suburban tale that incorporates many of Burton’s elements and screen traces from his early films from “Edward Scissorhands” to “Beetlejuice” to even the black and white approach of “Corpse Bride” to name a few that film buffs and Burton fans are sure to pick up on.

In a little suburban district known as New Holland, where young loner kid, Victor (Charlie Tahan) Frankenstein’s only friend is his dog, Sparky that he spotlights in his home movies that obviously Tim Burton’s own youth and fascination with movies. While paying homage and references to his horror movie icons and genres

While trying to fit-in with the other kids by playing baseball, Victor hits a home run
See Flicks page 7

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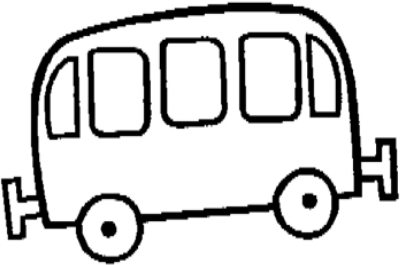
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Flicks from page 6

across the street that Sparky breaks loose to retrieve the ball. But his dog is killed by an oncoming car.

After being buried in the pet sematary that's been known to be struck by lightning. The parents (Martin Short and Catherine O'Hara) try to console their son who goes into deep depression. Until Victor gets an idea from a statement his father that most parents tell their young child whose lost a beloved pet. After he remarks back that he doesn't want to remember his dog in his heart, he wants the dog to be by his side.

When a Godzilla-like turtle,

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gremlin like sea monkeys, a mutant cat-rat and a cocky but small worm named Colossus invade the Dutch Day celebration at the local amusement park that ultimately leads to Victor and his dog risk their lives and their love to save the town.

"Frankenweenie" represents a glimpse into Tim Burton's inner child and early childhood, his quirky, introverted sensibilities that made him an outcast that led to his filmmaking accomplishments. Perfectly voiced characterizations from Martin Short, Catherine O'Hara and Martin Landau.

Commercially speaking, this movie is a nice rebound for director Tim Burton who returns to form; considering his less-than-stellar results with his screen version of the iconic TV serial "Dark Shadows" with his actor-muse, Johnny Depp.

While this film recalls some of the whimsical charm, family-friendly scary moments and the imagination of Burton's "The Nightmare before Christmas"; "Frankenweenie" could stand on its own to become a Halloween perennial for its simplicity, charm and amusement.

PG: 87min. A Walt Disney Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters

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