

# South Street Journal

Dedicated to African American History by Example



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C H I C A G O S O U T H S I D E C O M M U N I T Y

Black historical site ownership and future are in question

## Supreme Life Building

Douglas -The Supreme Life Building, on 35th and Martin Luther King Drive, former headquarters of the insurance company of the same name, has retained its place in history so far as the "Crown Jewel" of the Black Metropolis Historic District.

*Ebony* magazine publisher John Johnson, who once owned it and the Supreme Life Insurance company, described the two as "an epicenter of Black Capitalism in America."

Supreme Liberty (change to Supreme Life) was the product of the biggest financial deal ever negotiated by an all-Black business. In 1929 three Black companies, Supreme Life and Casualty of Columbus, Ohio; Liberty Life of Chicago; and Northeastern Life of Newark, New Jersey, merged to combine a joint business worth \$27 million. It was one of the first major mergers in American business history, according to Mr. Johnson.

Seventy years after the historic merger, and six years after the corporation was liquidated, the building, is worth \$862,000, according to the City of Chicago's land estate appraisal conducted a year ago.

The Supreme Life Insurance Company still

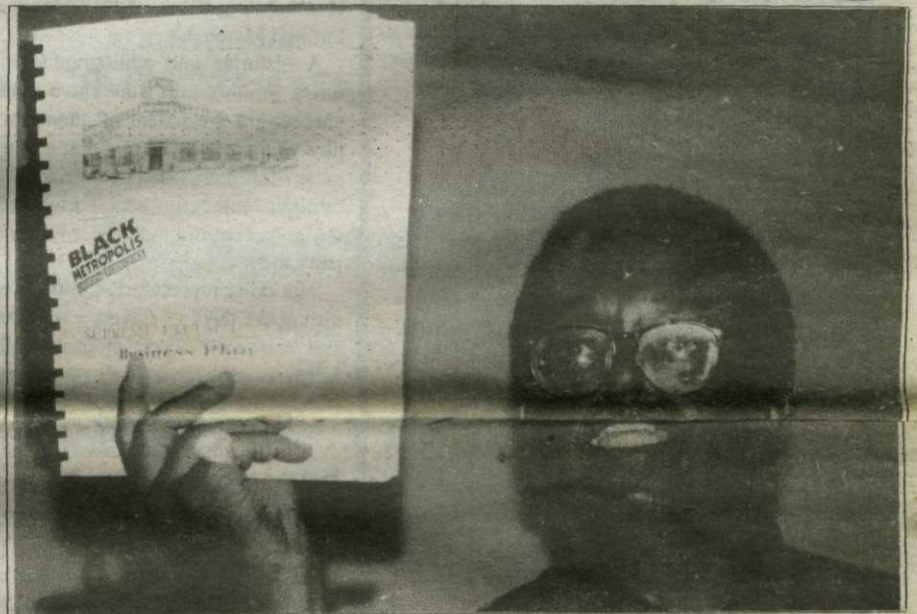
attracts attention. For the last seven years, it has been at the center of controversy, as community organizations from Bronzeville, led by community activist Harold Lucas, prevented the City from demolishing the building.

Lucas, leading the community participation, helped devise the Restoring Bronzeville Comprehensive Plan, which included using the Supreme Life Insurance Building as an official Visitors Center.

As an spin off of the Mid South Planning and Development Commission, the Black Metropolis Convention & Tourism Council was formed. In 1998 the organization reached a benchmark of completion for the first round Empowerment Zone grant. It was awarded a \$100,000 for a Visitors Center and commercial development of the building. That allowed them to become owners of the Supreme Life Building.

The Black Metropolis predicted that the project would generate sales up to \$200 million per year. It would also have a technology center with computer training for local residents and 24-hour Internet access was

(Continued on page 4)



SSJ File photo

Harold Lucas of the Black Metropolis Convention and Tourism Council holds up the Supreme Life Business Plan, which predicted sales up to \$2 million is now in the hands of the City of Chicago to decide its historic fate.

## 17th ward candidates differ on approach

by Carmelita Banks  
Staff Writer

Although the 17th ward candidates share similar goals, they differ on how they should be achieved. All three agree that economic development has occurred.

"All these things may be good, but they should've been discussed by everyone," says challenger Tyrone De'Andre Hawthorne. "Every business that has been developed came at the expense of already existing businesses that have either been pushed out or are already on their way out with no known effort to be placed back into the community."

Like Hawthorne, incumbent Latasha Thomas grew up in the 17th ward. She recalled that her parents shopped, banked, and conducted most business within the ward. When they conducted business outside, they did so "because they wanted to, not because they had to." She views the return of business chains to the ward as needed improvements that also provide jobs with construction firms in the building stage and with ongoing employment after the businesses open.

Thomas cited the LaSalle Banks at 79th and Halsted as an example. A minority partnership erected the building, and then the 17th ward Employment Resource Center facilitated the



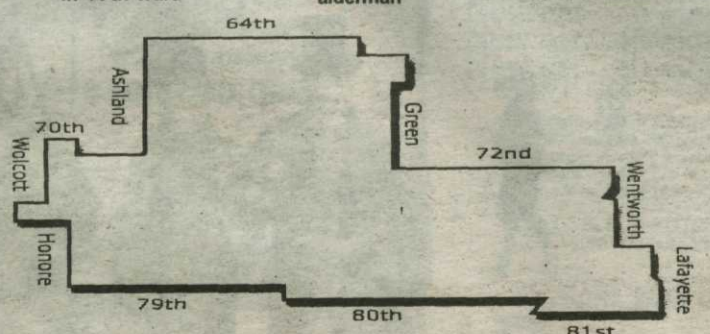
Tyrone De'Andre Hawthorne, challenger in 17th ward



Latasha R. Thomas, 17th ward incumbent alderman



Beverly Taylor Williams, challenger in 17th ward



training of people in the community for positions at the bank, she says.

Challenger Beverly Taylor-Williams questions the effectiveness of the resource center. She says that several residents have complained

that while the center does send them out for interviews, they do not get the jobs. For example, after calling the center "on a regular basis, [my neighbor] went out and got her own job." She says others have told her similar stories. Both she and Hawthorne want resume, application and interview preparation provided.

Like Hawthorne, Williams questions the value of what she calls "rich-owned businesses" replacing the smaller local minority-owned businesses. She cites the soon-to-be-closed corner store Nadia's Food and Liquors at 7813 S. Halsted.

"The items they have are not nearly as expensive as Osco's or Walgreen's," she says. So Nadia's and other businesses owned by minorities in the community better meet the needs of single mothers, Williams says. If the present ward organization would bring chains like K-Mart and Country Buffet that provide less expensive items and services, the residents would benefit and the businesses would thrive.

Hawthorne wants door-to-door surveys taken within the ward to determine what everyone, not just "a select few" want. Then he wants the interpretation of the surveys reshaped

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## InSide South Street South Street

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# the UnZip

By the Weatherman

What's the deal with Chicago and Washington D.C., politics? What seems confusing, is probably elementary, like Mayor Richard Daley's not holding Rev. Jackson's hand when Al Gore was campaigning at the Daley Center. After the election Daley told people to respect President George Bush's win (regardless if he stole the election as the Mayor's brother Bill Daley may say). Then the Mayor got on Clinton's case. And now Bush is getting some hints on Black vote control as he starts his Faith (Fake) Project, pumping money into the community through the churches. It look like the bushes are covering up the real agendas. Such as the "Bushes" uncovering the financial dealings on Rev. Jesse Jackson according to Chicago Sun-Times Sunday paper



Jeff Davis

..... Continuing on the media Jeffrey Davis of the Chicago Defender and president of the Bronzeville Network club, who calls himself a handsome devil, is holding the BNC every other week at the Alphonso Club on 13th and Michigan Ave. Hosted by Herb Kent Mayor of Bronzeville. It looks like the Mayor will do an other term in office. However it is not edged in stone. In additional Darva Watkins the advertising manager of SSJ is being sought to be the secretary of the BNC.

Former Congressman Mel Reynolds was pardoned as one of President Clinton's last acts. Finally, Mel gets his get-out-of-jail-free card. Wonder if WLS radio would rehire their favored again.

Receiving awards in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day was Maurice Ford 7th District Police Commander, of St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center was Sister Elizabeth Van Straten, RHSF, and President-CEO Gregory Whitehead. Also on the list was Ald. LaTasha R. Thomas (17), Jean Holland, teacher at Ricahard Oglesby school, and its principal Jo Marie Cooper; Reverend Aubrey Blake, Pastor of First Mt. Calvary M.B. Church; Maria M. Ashley DDS, Board Member and Mr. Henry Wilson, received the 2000 Dr. King Community Service award.

IN ENTERTAINMENT NEWS...Rumor has it UPN's Moesha is finishing up its last season, unconfirmed sources reveal that UPN is being bought out by a larger media network as quoted by Chris Rock "UPN will go from Moesha to NO ESHA! Brandy will continue her cosmetic commercial roller coaster and appear in up and coming feature film projects and made for T.V. movies..... and speaking of Chris Rock the stand up comic is finishing up his last season of HBO "The Chris Rock Show". Rock will continue to work on various HBO projects as well as continuing his career in motion pictures. Last but certainly not least Jamie Foxx just recently celebrated a very emotional 100th episode and ending of "The Jamie Foxx Show". Although Foxx like Brandy and Chris Rock will move on to bigger and better projects, with no Esha, Rock, or Foxx, the industry has constructed a conspiracy to Lock us out of the Big Black Box!!! Hmmm!

The South Street Journal wishes its new Advice Columnists Mother



Mother Diva

Divas, A Happy 30th Birthday Come out and party with Mother Diva @ her Birthday Xtravaganza Bash on Friday February 9, at the Phop House, at 1675 N. Elston, there is an admission price with Special geust, D.J. Steve Maestro from WGCI (this is an alternative lifestyle. Check her appearance as The Nurse" in the hit film "Save The Last Dance". And her column in next SSJ.

## Briefs

### EZ funds questioned on major organizations working with local groups

The City Council's Budget and Government Committee on January 31 called for a recess during the discussion of an Empowerment Zone application to fund a host of Englewood targeted grants, according to the. Neighborhood Capital Budget Group Alderman Burke raised several concerns about the contract with Catholic Charities to perform customer service training to residents. The Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force raised concerns about the \$3.7 million and the application's lack of citizen participation in designing programs specific to Englewood's local needs. Members of the community insisted that the Chicago Urban League and the other six applicants failed to work in a collaborative fashion to ensure local support and to measure ways for capacity building of local groups.



Ald. Ed Burke

The Catholic Charities of Chicago is scheduled to receive three (3) grants of more than \$496,000 each, which is over \$1.4 million, and the Chicago Urban League is to receive \$2 million.

The committee will reconvene on Wednesday, February 7, at 9:15 am to review the Empowerment Zone applications.

### Nicole Gallery will exhibit Black dolls of the antebellum United States in February

Hyde Parker, Cassandra Fay Smith's collection of miniature slave cabins and dolls will premier at the prestigious Nicole Gallery, 230 W. Huron during Black History Month 2001 through March 3.



Cassandra Fay Smith

A historian and ethnographic miniaturist, Smith's miniature slave dolls are attracting a great deal of attention. The tiny works of art, designed at a one inch scale, -tell the stories of individual lives through "authentic" accessories and part fiction/part truth biographies that accompany them.

The dolls represent the entire spectrum of people of color during the days of slavery - field hands, servants, free people and craftsmen. Their clothing and the house are based on intensive research of early photographs, paintings, illustrations and plantation archeology. Their stories come from runaway ads, slave narratives and plantation records.

"I'm not interested in what was done to slaves, but what they did and said," Smith said

### Workshop on funding for grants to be held Feb. 10

Workshops on grant writing will be held at Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning Feb. 10. Reservations from individuals and non-profit organizations are required.

Susan Snyder and Paul Oostenbrug, who have successfully developed proposals, will run the workshops. They will cover funding sources and writing a letter of intent on Feb. 10; elements of grant and proposal writing on Feb. 17; critiquing a grant writing assessment on March 3.

### One Stop Centers for job readiness

One-Stops, located at Daley College and 715 E. 47th, offer free computerized job listings, information on employment insurance, and workshops on topics ranging from resume writing to job search and interview skills. They operate from 8-5, Monday through Friday.

A resource room is equipped with computers for writing resumes or cover letters, practicing typing, upgrading software skills, or searching the Internet for job opportunities. Faxing, copying, staff assistance and telephone services are available to assist those unfamiliar with using the technology.

The Centers are open from 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and are closed weekends and holidays.

On the southside the locations are in Mid-South, 715 East 47th St., Phone 773-538-5627 and at the Daley College, 7500 S. Pulaski, Bldg. 100, Phone 773-884-7000.

### CEO of Lincoln Center to step down with award as humanitarian of year

Douglas - For the first time in the 41-year history of the Abraham Lincoln Centre's Humanitarian Award, the Dinner Committee has elected to honor one of its own leaders - Jesse D. Madison, president and chief executive officer of the center. He will be honored Friday, February 16, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel.

Mr. Madison is being saluted because he has decided to retire in June. At the dinner, he will be honored for 32 years of dedication and service, both public and private.

The Centre is a 95-year-old, multi-faceted social service organization on the south side, serving mostly disadvantaged children, youth, senior citizens, those developmentally disabled, and mental ly ill. on the west side of Chicago.

Mr. Madison is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, where he attended school. Upon his graduation from Manassas High School, in 1956, Madison moved to Chicago and received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Roosevelt University, where he majored in Accounting. Madison also did some graduate work in Management at Roosevelt.

When the late Harold Washington was elected mayor, he appointed Madison as his first Commissioner of Consumer Services for the city of Chicago. Three years later, Mayor Washington tapped Madison as the first African American ever appointed to the position of General Superintendent of Chicago Park District. Madison served as the Park District's Chief Executive Officer until May of 1990. A few months later, he was appointed to his current post.

The cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by a formal dinner at 6:30 p.m. The program at 7:30 p.m. will include a roast, toast and the award presentation. The evening will conclude with dance music by Gentleman of Leisure.

To reserve single tickets or tables of ten, call the Abraham Lincoln Centre at (773) 373-6600 ext. 634 or 611.



### First African American agent appointed to IAA Government Affairs Commission



Milton Moses, president and chief executive officer of Community Insurance Center, a 39-year-old African American-owned insurance agency, recently was honored twice by the Independent Insurance Agents of America.

After receiving their President's Award in 1999, he was appointed a member of their Government Affairs Commission, which is the first time that an African American has been named to that committee in the 105 years of their existence.

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., who was the keynote speaker at the national convention of the IAA, urged more diversity in all phases of the insurance business. The recently concluded convention was held this time in conjunction with the Washington-based National African American Insurance Association and the Latin American Association of Insurance Agencies, headquartered in Miami, FL.

### WTTW will show documentary on history of Art Institute



Treasures of the Art Institute, a one hour documentary will premier on WTTW, Channel 11, Monday, February 5 at 9:00 p.m.

The Art Institute evolved from a fledgling hopeful into a world renowned institution.

As viewers take an exclusive tour with actor Brian Dennehy, they will learn how the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition inspired wealthy Chicagoans to collect art and hear wonderful anecdotes about early collectors like Bertha Palmer and Clarence Buckingham.

The program also will look into the role Frank Lloyd Wright played in the museum's evolution, rediscovers timeless classics like the Monet's Stacks of Wheat and asks if a rock truly is a piece of are art?

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# City set-aside statistics do not add up for blacks

By Carmelita Banks  
Staff Writer

The 16 percent increase in construction contracts for minority and women-owned businesses have not benefited African American contractors, according to two Omars.

"It's good for white women," says Omar Shareef of the African American Contractors. "But what the city gives us is drops and remains but nothing to sustain us."

*Drops* are small jobs in snow removal, wrought iron fencing and landscaping. *Remains* are installing posts or doing the cleaning of entry-level contracts.

"They'll have us clean two trailers versus a whole building, plant two trees versus a whole blockful, fill two trucks versus the 20 [white contractor] Marino gets," Shareef says. "African Americans have lost on affirmative action very well with Mayor Daley."

Last October Mayor Daley announced that through September 2000, M/WBEE participation was 46 percent of total City contract expenditures, compared to 30 percent over the same period last year.

The Mayor credited the changes to the improvements in the City's procurement process, including the hiring of David Malone as Chief Procurement Officer.

"Under Malone's leadership, the Department of Procurement Services has instituted a number of reforms to ensure that its contract process is open, fair and transpar-



Omar Shareef of African American Contractors Association



Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago



Calvin "Omar" Johnson of Work-Ship Coalition

owned businesses in city work," Daley said.

Shareef and Calvin "Omar" Johnson of the Work-Ship Coalition want Malone to furnish the names of the those minority construction firms that benefited from the set-aside.

Malone, who was not available for comment as

landscaping are also added on, he says.

"The African American contractors already included them in their bids," Johnson said.

Other areas needed to provide President Bush's "affirmative assets" in the construction industry for African American contractors are banking, bonding and supply houses, Johnson said.

"The banks need to increase our access to capital so that we can grow," he said. Then they would be free to obtain the bonding required to do the job and get the

for larger orders.

Johnson wants the pass-through, front and fraudulent construction firms that benefit from the set-aside program eliminated. In *pass through* money goes through African American firms back to other firms. *Fronts* list women or minorities as the owners, but they really are not. *Fraudulent* companies are listed as M/WBEE because only one of the owners qualifies.

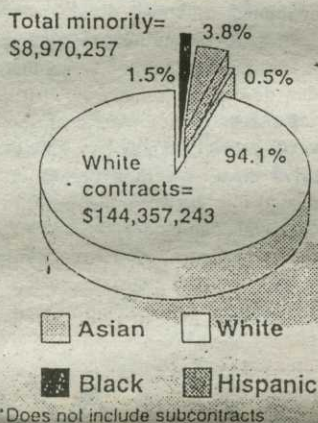
Finally he wants effective apprenticeship programs for African Americans and "a business program for our children," he said.

ent; that taxpayer and public interests are protected; that contracts are monitored frequently, and that the City continues to build on its solid record of involving minorities and women-

## MINORITY SHARE

While minority-owned firms received nearly one-fourth of all city contracts in 1993, minority-owned construction firms received a lesser share of construction contracts.

### City construction contracts\*



SOURCE: City of Chicago SUN-TIMES

this paper went to press, investigated the 2,500 certified M/WBEEs. Today he lists only 1,600, according to Johnson.

"We have legitimate [African American] contractors but because of certain mechanisms, we are not awarded the contracts," Johnson says.

Those mechanisms include low bidding, waivers, change orders and special conditions cited by the white contractors, he says. After white contractors underbid African American contractors, they obtain *wave* for not using African American subcontractors, stating that they cannot find them. Shareef does not buy that excuse since AACA has "350 contractors within the city." Both he and Johnson believe that the white contractors have not been looking in the city.

To increase the amount they receive from the city after their low bid has been accepted, white contractors use *change orders* to increase their revenue by citing "architectural design" errors. Their *special conditions* of trailers, laborers, fencing, security and

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# Supreme Life Building

(Continued from page 1)  
was also planned for the development.

However, on Thursday, May 20, 1999, the Department of Planning and Development obtained authority from the Community Development Commission (CDC) to acquire the property from Black Metropolis under the Bronzeville Tax Incremental Financing. Black Metropolis was an early supporter of the City in the establishment of the Bronzeville TIF.

The City decision for a "quick take" of the building was based on the BMC&TC's taking too long to successfully complete the project, according to the City's Law Department. The CDC confirmed that the building would not be demolished and would essentially adhere to the same concept created by BMC



&TC. However, Paula Robinson of the Bronzeville Partnership and close associate of Lucas, questioned if the City develops the Supreme Life Center Project, would there still be partnership, or ownership by local residents. It was based since the building was purchased with tax dollars, the project is still 100% financed by community.

She said, "Strategic plans must

be comprehensive and inclusive of the entire community and be built around public and private partnerships."

That "the Empowerment Zone Coordinating Council unanimously approved the project is a sign that the city realized the importance of community participation," Robinson said.

The city still has the power to decide what will happen to the building and to choose a developer by way of a Request For Proposal (RFP).

Lucas said, "It sets a bad precedent for the city to respond to our organization's numerous requests for assistance with inappropriate use of its powers of eminent domain to take the building."

"We have demonstrated financial viability of the project, structuring a deal that would leverage Empowerment Zone dollars with historic tax credits, bond financing, and corporate and foundation grants."

"We had a strong development team, project manager, and consulting developer. Our law firm is a recognized leader in real

estate development and tax credit deals.

"Under the current financing structure, the Empowerment Zone Coordinating Council unanimously approved the project, subject to resolution of site control issues. Black Metropolis Convention & Tourism Council will use 3 dollars from the private sector for every dollar of EZ funding. Black Metropolis Convention & Tourism Council has already generated over \$600,000 in private sector investment in the project."

Lucas said the project is good for Chicago, and is consistent with the Mayor's goal of enhancing Bronzeville as a tourist destination and technological hub.

He also said the project was consistent with Empowerment Zone fund basic principles: alleviating poverty, job creation and reinventing government.

Lucas started the Black Metropolis as a leading authority on the history of Bronzeville and was the first to demonstrate a sustainable market for heritage tourism in the neighborhood. His efforts led to the creation of Mayor Daley's Bronzeville Blue Ribbon Committee, to which he was not appointed.

BMC &TC continues to say that it is in the best public interest that they develop the project.

Lucas said, "Individuals closest to the problems know best how to solve them -- with a bottom-up relationship between the government and communities."

The settlement offer from Cynthia Williams may also come into question about ownership as well.

Those issues still have not been "hammered out." Ms. Williams has \$150,000 tied up with the building, plus interest reportedly of 30%. The city law department said those issues will be worked out with the County Treasurer and be the responsibility of the judge to settle all financial details.

The Supreme Life building was to be a good project for Chicago, consistent with the Mayor's goal of enhancing Bronzeville as a tourist heritage site. The City worked with community organizations in 1999, designated the Bronzeville TIF, developed and sponsored the Walk of Fame monuments to Chicago's African American leadership on Martin Luther King Drive as a tourism heritage stop.

The building has a link with the Chicago Historical Society for oral histories and genealogies. So it was not unusual for Supreme to play a major role in the Lee v. Hansberry suit which doomed restrictive covenants and opened up the neighborhoods around the University of Chicago for occupancy by Blacks.

It was common during that period for owners to attach racially restrictive covenants to deeds, thereby barring Black occupancy or sales, according to Johnson. Supreme and Carl Hansberry, the father of playwright Lorraine Hansberry, challenged the covenants, which covered about three-fourths of all residential property in the city. General counsel Earl B. Dickerson argued the case before the Supreme Court, which handed down a ruling that made it prohibitively expensive to enforce covenants.

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# Greater Roseland strives to revive and thrive

By La Shawn Cobb  
Associate Editor

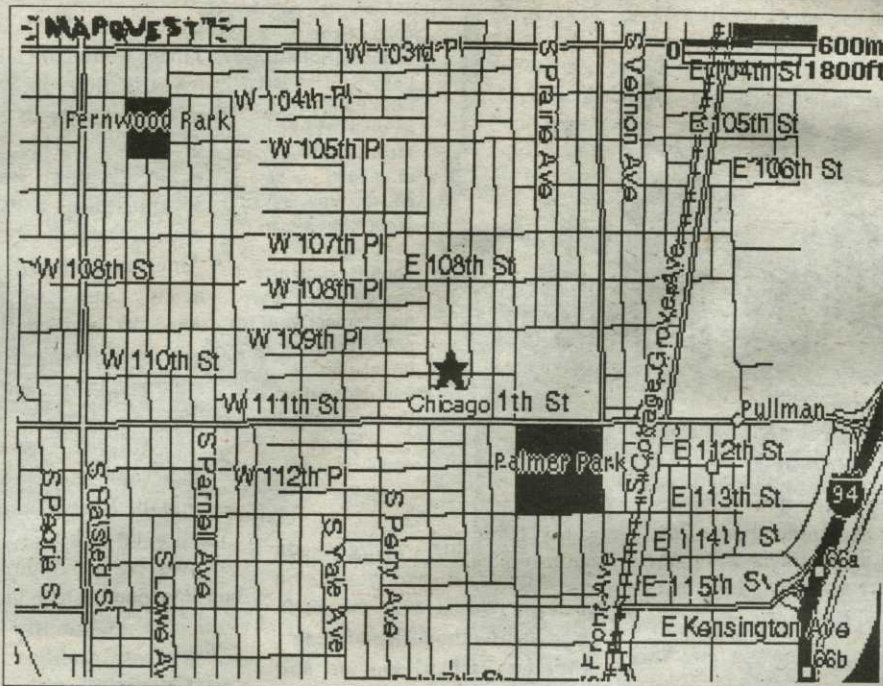
Roseland Three southside neighborhoods - Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman - had economic battles with Pullman Railroad since the late 1800s. Their foes changed in the late 1900s. The outcome in this new millennium for the Greater Roseland community is beginning to look hopeful for most.

George Pullman built the town of Pullman, designed to be a morally uplifting and highly controlled community, for his employees. It was laid out by S.S. Beman to meet its workers' every need. It provided a library, church building for the various denominations to rent, and a hotel named after Pullman's daughter, Florence. In 1889 the residents voted to annex themselves to Chicago, a decision angering its autocratic founder.

Pullman greeted the 1894 workers' strike with an intransigent "There is nothing to negotiate." The federal government and the U.S. Attorney General, a former railroad lawyer, took Pullman's side, using federal troops to break the strike. In 1898 by order of the Illinois Supreme Court, the Pullman Company was divested of ownership of the town.

The Pullman neighborhood of 1986, bounded by 95th on the north, 115th on the south, Stony Island on the east, and Cottage Grove on the west, is larger than Pullman's model industrial town. The area's northern section, principally industrial and full of vacant railroad yards, saw some post-World War II residential growth. Pullman has thrived as an easily accessible, rental neighborhood with median rents of \$170.

Today, the section that belonged to George Pullman is a popular tourist attraction. The restored Florence Hotel now houses a restaurant and bar that George would never have allowed. Florence Ave. is now 111th, and the company buildings have been replaced by Sherwin Williams



Paint Co. on 115 th.

Before the town of Pullman was freed of its namesake's control, dissatisfied workers settled in two alternative areas, Hope and Kensington. Hope eventually became Roseland while Kensington became West Pullman.

Roseland is bounded by the METRA (formerly Rock Island) tracks past Highway 20 on the north, 115th street on the south, Cottage Grove on the east, and Halsted north to 103rd, then east to Stewart on the west.

Hope, was settled in the 1880s and 1890s by Dutch farmers and workers who didn't want to live in George Pullman's company town. Ten years later the residents changed its name to Roseland for the flowers they grew near their vegetables in their front yards.

A dominant factor in Roseland's growth was the railroads, which brought industry, jobs and immigrants. By the

1880s seven truck lines passed through, connecting Chicago with the east and south. Roseland became the commercial district for the area surrounding it.

Before World War II, the black section of Roseland, Lilydale, had 1,000 residents. By 1970 Blacks made up 55 percent of Roseland's residents; by 1980, 97.5 percent. Roseland's population increased from 62,512 in 1970 to 64,372 in 1980.

In the early 1980s, unemployment skyrocketed when Pullman Standard and Wisconsin Steel, along with related industries, closed or cut back. According to Charles Thomas, neighborhood director of the Roseland Business Development Council, in the 1990s Roseland had a high foreclosure rate because of "predatory lending" by mort-

gage companies that charged excessive fees. That problem is being counteracted with "creative financing" so that people can purchase homes, he says.

The council is working to counteract the loss of business in the area. According to Eddie Davis, manager of Bass Furniture and Rug. Although some businesses have relocated or died, others "are still striving to make a difference in the community," he says.

According to a study by the Woodstock Institute, West Pullman is one of the southside neighborhoods that's being systematically denied residential mortgage money. In 1986, a test of residents who lived near the Dutch Boy Paints factory at 12000 S. Peoria Street revealed that 309 persons suffered from various forms of lead poisoning. The factory, which had burned down the year before, was considered equivalent to a toxic dump which harbored lethal amounts of lead and asbestos.

The community, ironically, is just north of one of the oldest sites in the Chicago area known to have inhabited by man. Along the banks of the Calumet River, south of West Pullman, archeologists excavated the Anker Site, where hundreds of years ago, Indians lived and traded. A gorget, or shell mask, was discovered that represented the artistic expression as well as the trading skills of Chicago area residents five hundred years ago.

Kensington was an undeveloped northwest alternative to George Pullman's company town in the 1880's at what is now 115th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue. West Pullman's residents grew from a mere 250 in 1880 to 1,278 by 1883.

West Pullman changed from 16.5 percent in 1970 to 90.6 percent black in 1980. The community has a high percentage of home ownership along with heavy unemployment and lack of available mortgage money. In 2000, Roseland community has prospered in business and in being involved in the community.

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# Rev. Jakes lead rally for Mearday on Police issues



Calling the roll, locally of the dead that includes Robert Russ, LaTanya Haggerty, Rev. Paul Jakes cited as well Jeremiah Mearday as examples of alleged police abuse. Rev. Jakes is afraid that since John Ashcroft was confirmed as attorney general, "it will be a banner year for police brutality," as he lead a rally on February 5th at the Cook County Jail and Courthouse on 26th and California

called on U.S. Attorney Janet Reno to launch an investigation into alleged police brutality in a number of cases. The CCUAP believes that the Bush administration will be business as usual for African Americans. Rev. Jakes is afraid that since John Ashcroft was confirmed as attorney general, "it will be a banner year for police brutality."

In America, we're faced with some major challenges with the Bush administration taking the helm.

"However, we will continue building people to take hold of their community and government," said Rev. Jakes.

He believes that the criminal justice system aggressively sends "young, gifted and black" men to death row.

"Officers who beat and kill our

people for sport should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Rev. Jakes said. Until that happens, "there will be street demonstrations and active lobbying of elected officials to stand for the people."

Rev. Jakes called the roll, locally of the dead that includes Robert Russ, LaTanya Haggerty and Jeremiah Mearday were examples of alleged police abuse. He cited New York examples Amadou Diallo, shot 40 times by four police; Abner Louima, sodomized with a plunger inside a police station by three officers.

Jakes' council is working toward a four-point solution: implementing youth vocational/educational programs, rebuilding the community, obtaining an independent prosecutor, and establishing a civilian advisory board for the police.

The Christian Council on Urban Affairs rallied on the steps of the Cook County Jail and Courthouse at 26th and California on February 5th in it contined mission to address police misconduct.

"I believe that the majority in jail are political prisoners and that it all startd with the DCFS

system and ends here," Rev. Paul Jakes, president of the group, said. "Jeremiah's going back to trial February 5th and we should be present to end this cycle."

He was referring to Jeremiah Mearday.

"This is the continuation of the delay that started three years

ago, involving charges on resisting arrest, and possession of drugs (which were dropped), he said. "But the office of State's Attorney Richard Devine still insists on going through this political persecution of Mearday."

Rev. Paul Jakes repeatedly

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## Comparing heroes reaps money or camera equipment

Englewood - Entering an essay contest allows Englewood youth access to computers and a chance to win either video equipment or an internship and money, according to Oscar Peterson of the Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood Safety.

"They must give the similarities and differences between Martin Luther King Jr. and Paul Roberson," he said.

The contest, which begins today and continues through April 30, is sponsored by CANS, Black Youth in Action, and the 16th Ward Task Force. More sponsors, especially a church with a youth ministry, are desired.

Writers, 15-20 years old, must compare the men in 1,000 words or less. Winners under 18 will receive a camera or camcorder. Older winners will receive a \$10,000 stipend while working at Volunteers In Service to America for a year plus either \$4,725 in college tuition or \$1,200 in cash at the end of their year in VISTA.

The contestants who brush up on their heritage will receive free computer time at Foster Park, 7920 S. Ashland, on Feb. 10 and 17, after registering with one of the sponsors. Handwritten essays will be accepted only if they are legible, Peterson said.

For more information, call (773) 483-7545.

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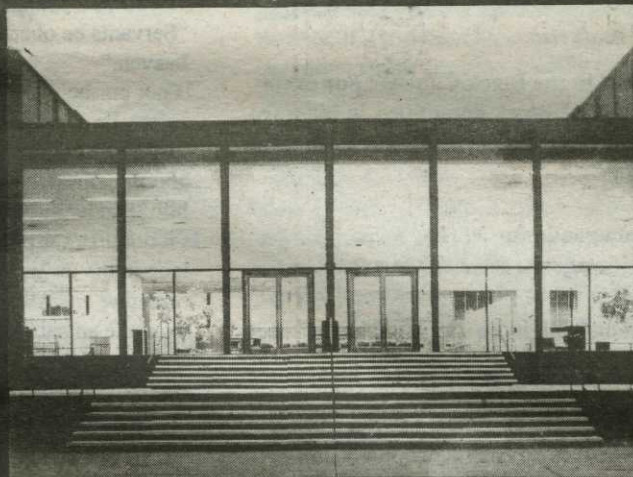
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In a previous issue of South Street Journal, we mistakenly mentioned Alderman Dorothy Tillman (3) as the head of City of Chicago Black Caucus. We regret the error. As a follow-up in the

## Alderman Ed Smith (27)



### President of the Black City Caucus

Alderman Ed Smith of the 27th ward is the president of the Chicago Black Caucus. The Black City Caucus has been in existence since 1976. Its main vision has been to assist the leaders of today, while helping to prepare a new generation of leaders for the future in the political, legislative and public policy arena.

**SSJ.** Do you still consider yourself an activist in Black politics?

Ald. Smith: I have not changed. I still speak out for the issues of my people.

**SSJ:** Who was the president of the Black Caucus?

Ald. Smith: Robert Shaw was the previous president for 4 to 5 years, and Dorothy Tillman of the third ward was his assistant.

**SSJ:** Is there a reason for the Black Caucus?

Ald. Smith: The reason for the Black Caucus is because we have issues that only "our people" understand.

**SSJ.** Are there any white aldermen in the Black Caucus? For example, Ald. Thomas Murphy (18) has 70% Black population in his ward.

Ald. Smith: No, there are no white aldermen in the Caucus, regardless of how many Blacks are in their ward.

**SSJ:** Has the Black Caucus set an agenda for 2001?

Ald. Smith: There has been no specific agenda set at this moment.

**SSJ.** What are some of the issues that might be discussed at the meeting?

Ald. Smith: Some of the issues that might be mentioned is Ald. Tillman's Ratification, The voting machine - The State of Illinois Second Chance voting machine. Operation Push, Affirmative Action and many more.

**SSJ.** Who has set the agenda for the Black Caucus?

Ald. Smith: We set our own agenda.

**SSJ:** Where are the Black Caucus meetings being held?

Ald. Smith: The meetings are being held at various restaurants and offices throughout the city.

**SSJ:** When is the next Black Caucus meeting?

Ald. Smith: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday Jan .

**SSJ.** On the issue of Mayor Daley wanting the Pledge of Allegiance spoken during council meetings, did the Black Caucus take a stand?

Ald. Smith: No, We did not take a position on that issue. It is up to that individual to make that decision.

**SSJ.** In the late '60's and '70's there was a group of aldermen called the "Silent 6." Is there a similar group today?

Ald. Smith: We work together to try and get those things that people in our communities need to have done.

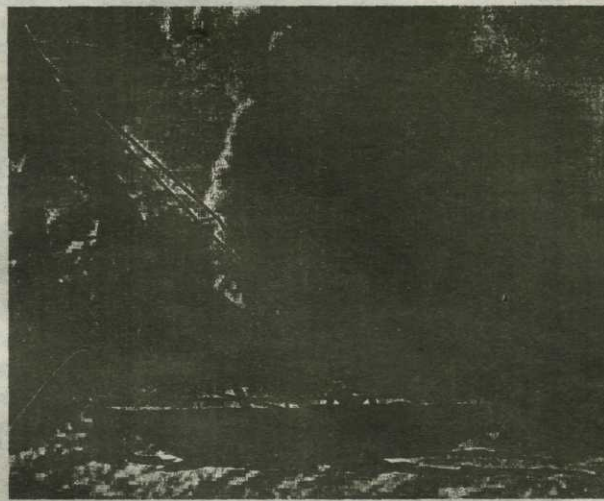
**SSJ.** There were quite a few aldermen in favor of Mr. Fields' building, his hotel in Ald. Preckwinkle's ward. Is there a silence among the aldermen when it is beneficial to city government to prevent good things from happening? Do you consider Field's hotel to be a Black Caucus issue involving jobs being made available for the community?

Ald. Smith: It's a matter for the ward. We support issues that the alderman finds beneficial to that community.

On Black History:

## Then Came Thunder

By Prof. Willie Dixon, WVON radio host



A dark hush settles over Africa. There is a deep, morose cloud that descends over the mother continent of Africa from the heights of Mount Kilimanjaro's snowcapped peaks to the depths of the Great Rift Valley. A lamenting chant of cadaverous verse reverberates through the grasslands, over the Savannas, and through the dim mist of the rain forest. The whispering hot winds of the Sahara, in unspoken Arabic, mourn the coming of slavery. Like the torrential rains it came. These strange creatures from beyond the sun, with hair-draped bodies, a foul odor, a paler skin, long noses, and a destructive intent. They came with Jesus, the whip, the fetters, and alcohol. They came in gigantic canoes, with names engraved on their hulls in charters of fire: the good ship Jesus and John the Baptist.

Oh Great God of the River Nile and the Rushing Congo, where are you? How have you let the locust descend upon us and eat our flesh, leaving our bones to bleach in the sands of bondage? What have we done to be stripped bare of our African personhood?

They have a strange book of behavior from which they quote: "Servants be obedient to your master for such is the kingdom of heaven."

Is not our beloved Africa with its bounty, its beautifully lush forest, its clear, rushing rivers, its clear blue skies, our huts, the Tribe - is not this our heaven? What is this heaven spoken about by these hairy creatures? Where is this place where these intruders long to spend their "eternal rest"?

Is it not that our people who love and worship you as the highest icon in the universe, even beyond the sun! Oh great invisible Soul that commands the winds, the seas, and the fires, that spits from the angry mountains, please tell us where is this heaven and from what vortex of a dung heap has crawled these accursed, wicked creatures? They carve strange iron ropes, not of the vine. These fetters cut our flesh to the bone and the salt of our captured deprivation burns our very souls. Oh great, foggy, nebulous vapor that from the midst of all eternity stands in your presence, how have we offended you? What crime have we done?

Our men, women and precious little children are snatched from the villages by some strange and powerful predator has bolted from the Bush, and while they struggle, the iron jaws of the predator prove relentless. We stand as the men of the tribe, mesmerized by this creature that crawls on its belly and spits fire that consumes our people. The people of centuries have been broken by the marauder who swoops down upon us and takes it prey to other shores.

Like some grim illness it comes with a fever as hot as the sun.

This sickness renders us to a weakness of which we have never known. Oh Great Spirit, this wickedness teaches that our longings and tribal dances, our prayers are pagan and not worthy of replication. Is the God of these infidels stranger than the Mighty Spirit? Why do they sell our flesh and burn our bodies? Why do you let them take us away on a voyage of never-ending seas? We will never again be kin to our beloved land.

The sun sets and becomes crimson. The river now runs afresh of our tears. Our beloved earth is nourished by our blood. By the sides of paths leading to the pen and forts, the vultures and hyenas eat our decomposed bodies. How the great river with waves beyond measure floats these great candles which ferry our people to a fate worse than death. Oh Great Spirit, come down and save our people.

We will never be captives to any force: "Africa for the African." The blood that unites us is far stronger than the waters that separate us!

## the Mo

Responses at the rally on the 27th were as varied as Carol and Gloria Bettie Monique Davis and Sun-Ti Mitchell's implications that blame. Carol agreed that Jacqu... our support, but she said, "Who that mother and baby?"

Some women placed the blame given us one more child." Other up black women who historically low end of the social totem pole sent had different views. Organized "we have a lot of work to do,"... ter's push to stop tearing down, "we are not alone, and [for Black together and "heal each other fi

The Betts sisters are committed interested Black women at noon begin the healing.

We understand that after women commitment to them, the men must we understand? Is it that while their men constantly keep friends and family?

Or is it because of the shortage are good must spread their wings!

## New Year p the commu

Dear Editor,

Many people will be making... ing any. Instead I am going to... Year of 2001.

I predict that in the year 2001 involved in economics than we l... will start using their church bus

The civil rights leaders will tu... improvement through business ow

I predict that more blacks will... press, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr... cans should shift attention from... strength in terms of economic an

W.E.B. Dubois said in 1907 th... Negroes must begin with the ch

I predict that the statements of... pass in the year 2001. I predict t... for the Black press and Black ra

They know in order to get the... the Black press or Black radio.

I predict that the Black church... closer working relationship to im... see a larger number of people co... that we will have more floods thi... hope whoever get this article will... true....

## Reader disgu on Maxwell S 14, 2000 artic

Dear Editor,

I've been a vendor in the old M... We've been on Canal Street now... enough about Maxwell Street to c... ten.

I don't know who this George l... hope I never meet him. If you lo... against Mayor Daley, Commissio... Services, Jobe Menchaka., Whites

Everyone that is not black, that... If I had his attitude about the ne

flea market. How soon we forget... where we had rates, spoiled fruits... spaces. We had to fight every Su... we had to shovel the snow to clea... have none of that.



# Editorial

# From the Publisher

## Infidelity & Cheating Men

infidelity at Hamilton Park on Jan. participants. The organizers, were insulted by state representative columnist Mary women were to Jackson needs support



Jesse, "who's liked about lifting have been on the men pre-Gloria ended with ring to her sis-recognize that women] to come

meet with other Saturday to

marry or make some type of to their own thing. So, what else don't know how to love their to keep looking the other way harassing them in front of their

good "Black" men, those that little more to accommodate those

women that do not have a man? Men will admit to each other, "It's a natural sex thing. Women just do not understand."

Since we look for men of God to be above others - in dealing with temptations from the opposite sex to taking money to compromising the political agenda, we cannot view criticism from others as a sign of their picking on Rev. Jesse Jackson. After all, the door for the *Rainbow* was opened for all to push criticism

So placing responsibility where it belongs is helpful only if we learn from our mistakes. But what exactly have we learned? Is it bitterness, covering our tracks better, turning our heads, sighing like victims, or making amends? What if the responsibility should be shared by the community as the Betts sisters suggest?

Finally, what if the real issue is addiction? Love addicts will do anything for love, whether it be romance, being in a relationship, or acting out sexually, just for the high. They will fantasize, violate their values, even become violent or break the law. Out of a sense of desperation, they will automatically do what

they really do not want to do: they will hurt themselves and others. They can take responsibility by getting professional help or attending free 12-step meetings for love addicts. (One is on the south side.)

As BEPAN president Everloyce McCullom stated at the rally on infidelity, "We need to look at the myriad of issues, not just the infidelity. We cannot let this divide us as a community."

If nothing else, the Jackson's have made us stop and evaluate. Don't let it slip away by not looking at our community's responsibility.

As South Street Journal covers the Greater



Roseland Community, a relationship is established and treasured equal to that of the Mid-South communities of Bronzeville. The Mid-South Planning and Development Commission and the long lasting organizations of Roseland; both have created special moments in Black history.

## Roseland

### Black History in the making



Ron Carter  
Publisher & Editor

There are many people from both ends of the southside and in between that have stood the test of true community organizations creating and making history.

When *SSJ* was next door to the Mid South Commission on 43rd and King Drive, many believed that the newspaper was a house organ for the organization. *SSJ* had no problem with the rumor, because the organization was worth being associated with and even being controlled by. Being neighbors we greeted each other often, as neighbors should. We not only printed what was submitted; we discussed them to obtain the community residents' viewpoint. They made *Restoring Bronzeville*, rather than either Mayor Daley's set plan, a reality.

Stretching down to Roseland, some of the most focused, organized people have moved on, either to other groups or they have passed on: Lenore Rodgers, Charlie Johnson, Rev. Bernard Taylor, Charles Black, Mr. Fletcher, and Mary Bates. Their names may not be in the history books like Rosa Parks, but, they laid down a foundation for the present generation to benefit. Even as many nonprofit organizations, they found a way to support Harold Washington.

Our communities are like a living history, a come-back-home feeling, almost like down south when everybody says "How ya doing." From *Restoring Bronzeville* to Roseland, are people and organizations large and small that do not normally get the credit they deserve for the work they have done. Their efforts are the reason Black History will be made.

Let's make sure the forefathers and mothers will like what we did and our future will not be ashamed of how it was done. For the future belongs to the youth, but the history is the responsibility of the present.

## Letters to the Editor

### Predictions for the New Year are good

resolutions for the New Year. I am not making some New Year predictions for the New

Black church leaders will become more involved in the past. More church leaders will bus people to black owned businesses. More of their attention to economic imperialism in the black community.

involved in politics. According to the aid just before his death that future American Civil Rights struggle to organizing our political power.

the study of economic cooperation among

r. King and W.E.B. Dubois will come to the year 2001 is going to be a good year because many people are going to want the world.

th, they are going to have to get it from

business and Black politicians will have a love conditions in the Black community. I ng to church for material needs. I predict year than we have had in many years. I keep it and watch my predictions come.

Webb Evans, President  
United American Progress Association

### George Blakemore is greeted with "George Street," December

Maxwell Street Market for over 20 years. or over five years, so I feel that I know mment on this awful article that was writ-

Blakemore is and after reading this article, I at this article closely, you will see he is r Shenberger, Department of Consumer Hispanics and just about everyone.

market, I would leave and go to another about the Old Maxwell street market - nd vegetables thrown in our selling lay to maintain our spots. In the winter our spots. But, in the New market we



George Blakemore should drop to his knees every morning and thank God for people like Mayor Daley, Commissioner Shenberger and Jobe Menchaka. I have never had a problem in the New Maxwell Street Market in all the time I've been there and maybe it's because I do not look at people as being Hispanic, Black or White. It's funny but there's a new thing out, maybe George has not heard about it yet. It's called human beings!

In ending this letter, I would like to say something about Mr. Menchaka. Never did I hear of any kickbacks or favors to Hispanics. All the vendors and myself have been treated with respect at all times by Mr. Menchaka and his staff.

Jim Cassano  
Area code 847

P.S. Jobe, the paragraph that talks about kickbacks and illegal documents is a personal slander against you. I would strongly advise you to seek legal counsel immediately! If you should need a character witness, please call me.

Editors note: The article by Mr. George Blakemore was a paid advertisement. However, *SSJ* believes there is more to Mr. Blakemore's story, based on actual other complaints the City has, but has not forwarded they said they would. Your suggestion for a lawsuit may help bring other complaints to surface.

## Rev. Jesse Jackson

### will rise again

Dear Editor,

Rev. Jesse Jackson is probably resting a little easier now that the secret he's been carrying around is out in the open. In fact, I believe he has exhaled. He has admitted to and apologized for his actions, asked God and his family for forgiveness, supported the baby emotionally and financially, and that's that. His self-revelation cleans his soul and offers him new life.

Rev. Jackson is not the first and certainly will not be the last to have an extramarital affair and produce a child. His actions are only compounded because he is a public servant, well known politically and nationally. If it had been Mr. Jones down the street or Mr. Walls around the corner in this situation, it really would not have mattered. Oh, it would be some neighborhood gossip, but soon would be forgotten. Rev. Jackson's won't because of who he is, what he stands for, and what he has done for this country.

We all have secrets, a dark side if you want to call it that. There has been something in our pasts that not too many people know about, if any know at all, that we hope will not come to light.

Rev. Jackson had a moment of weakness (for whatever reason). He let the devil lead him into a secret affair that became open. He put aside those godly principles and the temptation took over. Besides, no one keeps secrets anymore. It's too nerve-wracking not to tell.

For those who do not know, God has forgiven Rev. Jackson. That is the most important forgiveness. The rest is a family matter. I believe they too will choose to forgive Rev. Jackson if they haven't already.

To the Jackson family, be strong and of good courage. Nothing in this world can separate you from the love of God. A good marriage is the union of two forgivers. There will be peace in the valley. Remain prayerful and trust God. Keep the faith because it assures us that there is a way through every difficulty.

And to all the player haters, Rev. Jackson will rise again. His mission and his work go beyond extramarital affairs and children out of wedlock. His calling is much greater than where he is now. The Rainbow Coalition continues to support Rev. Jackson, and we should too. He has been on the battlefield for a long time, one where many of us dare not go. We will not measure Rev. Jackson's future by the errors of his past. There is something greater in store for him.

Remember, the only time you should look down on a man is when you are picking him up.

Sincerely,  
Maria M. Williams  
South Shore

### Correction

In the December issue of South Street Journal an error was made in the printing of University Bank advertisement. *SSJ* regret the inconvenience it may have caused the Bank and its customers.

We welcome letters to the editor and comments on any material.

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Spiritual

# Ministers cautious on Bush's Church initiatives

by Carmelita Banks  
Staff Writer

Southside ministers indicated that they needed to research the guidelines before judging President George Bush's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the White House.

"We've got to read the fine print," says Rev. Michael Phleger, pastor of the Community of St. Sabina. "I'm hoping for the best, but I am not going to blindly sign on with approval." He counts 2,400 in his congregation.

Pres. Bush announced his initiative to ease regulations on religious charities and to promote grass-roots efforts on Jan. 29. Two days later he named professor John Dilulio of Pennsylvania the head of the new office on Jan. 30.

The plan, which Bush formally presented to Congress on the 30th, will let religious groups compete for all government grants to provide social services like daycare, treatment of substance abusers, shelter for the homeless, and other forms of help for "broken families." It requires that before a faith-based program can be funded, the neighborhood must already have a program that is not church or mosque-oriented.

Rev. Al Sampson of Fernwood United Methodist Church agreed with Phleger's caution, adding that until a decision was made, "the black church needs to remain free and let the people and God continue to take care of the church and its programs."

His congregation, which he says is several hundred, already provides an energy assistance program, a computer program for youth, a program for seniors, and one for

black farmers without governmental help.

"I'm the only pastor with a department of agriculture to help save black farmers' land," he said.

Both ministers were most afraid of governmental limits to their



Rev. Anthony Williams of St. Stephens Lutheran, Rev. Al Sampson of Fernwood Methodist, and Rev. Michael Phleger of St. Sabina, address President George Bush's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

spreading the faith while providing services.

"I don't see how the President is going to separate the money on Sunday morning from money coming from the government," Sampson said. "I don't know what strings are attached to the money or who will pull the strings."

The President indicated that the governmental money would not cover religious activities or items. His plan is not totally original. It expands the "charitable choice" provision of the 1996 welfare law, which already allows religious groups to receive governmental funding without compromising their faith.

Phleger's congregation already receives governmental money for shared activities like its employment resource center and some youth activities with the city. However, no discussion about God is involved in those projects. It comes earlier in the church's social service activities, he says.

Phleger wanted to know if the government was "seeking to support already existing programs or are they seeking to take control and take out the faith?"

Like Sampson's, his congregation currently accepts no governmental money for

its social service programs like counseling of youth and substance abusers "because when people come in for an emergency, it is important to deal with them at the faith level," he said.

Bush's initiative "is an excellent gesture as long as it is going to the right faith-based organizations," Rev. Anthony Williams of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. "If you have a thriving congregation, I would not expect it to have first grab at the money."

His congregation, which he says numbers 200, provides an "extensive" after school program and a job bank program without governmental help. Its Saturday breakfast for the homeless stopped "because of [church] funding."

Williams sees Bush's plan as an extension of what Mayor Daley is already doing in Chicago. He and Sampson see the current participants as a part of the mayor's "political agenda."

"If they become too abrasive, they'll be cut off from the political trough," he says. He calls his church "intelligently" abrasive.

"We pick our issues with wisdom," he says.

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South Street Journal will like to make a correction from the January 11-24 issue concerning the Christian Hope Methodist Baptist Church. The correct name for the church is Christian Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Sorry for any inconvenience.

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## Evangelist will chair advisory board

Evangelist Norine Hughes was appointed chairperson of the Church Advisory Board of the Chicago Block Club Union last month. She will interact with churches throughout the city to form a working relationship with the union.

Hughes's uncompromising spirit will provide the union with ministerial assistance in solving crime and disorder. She will also write a small monthly piece of spiritual encouragement.



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# Gospel music has its own history for blacks



**LaShawn Cobb**  
Associate Editor

Gospel music has come a long way since slavery. It now reaches into nightclubs and contemporary music. Every Sunday the House of Blues has their world famous Sunday Gospel Brunch at 9:30 a.m., noon and 2:30 p.m. They have local, national and international gospel choirs.

Gospel music, which focuses on the ups and downs in African American lives, has progressed to a new level since slavery. Before it was only heard in churches; now it is played everywhere.

Gospel music has been used by African Americans in so many different ways. With its strong call and response pattern, it has helped African Americans get through some of the hardest moments in their lives. The Negro's spirituals, helped slaves escape from slavery, assisted social movements and inspired civil rights activists.

African Americans have preserved many of their sacred ceremonies in the conventional Christian rituals and ceremonies. Songs and dances, festivals, funeral dirges, amulets, prayers, images, and priests were used. After a few generations the slaves forgot the African deities replaced by the Judeo-Christian God.

Gospel music was central to African culture. A skilled instrumentalist, who enjoyed a high status; accompanied work in the fields and set the pace for rowers. Group participation, improvisation, call and response, rhythmic complexity, and percussion were involved. Often

clapping hands or stamping feet supplied the percussion accompaniment to songs.

The most traditional African music has rhythmic complexity. African tunes often contain three or more patterns.

In the beginning large groups of people would form a circle around two dancers while clapping their hands. On other occasions the dance might involve

sinuous movement of the upper torso without moving the feet. The clapping of hands and stamping of the feet was an expression of how Africans praised God and wanted him to hear their prayers. Sometimes they distorted their frames into the most unnatural figures and emitted the most hideous noises in their dance.

Gospel music is the African Americans' own national music, incorporating the changes that they were facing. For example, in slavery times, in spite of all the restrictions, the slaves were able to draw upon their African heritage to build a strong musical tradition. They assembled in squares, dancing in-groups around old men beating cylindrical drums, instruments, and calabashes.

According to one former slave, "When they went to church, they jumped up and down and holler and shout and sing and pat. And dey would catch de words and sing some old shout song I'd heard 'em sing from Africa. And dey'd all take it up and keep a addin' to it. And den it would be a spiritual and that how songs came about."

According to Jacob Stroyer, when slaves were sold, those remaining on the plantation sang little hymns that they had been accustomed to for the consolation of those that were going away, such as:

When we all meet in Heaven  
There is no parting there;  
When we all meet in Heaven,  
There is no parting more.  
Often the real world of the slave and his

reacting to it appeared even more explicit in the spirituals. In the song "No more rain fall for wet you," the slaves described their condition in graphic terms. The slaves sought some hope, some solace from toiling day to day, working in the cotton fields, escaping through the Underground Railroad, praising songs of freedom in the church.

The songs sung lightened their burdens. When there were no masters around, slaves dropped symbols and expressed their dissatisfaction and longings in unmistakably clear words. In "Hail Mary, for example, the slaves looked forward to the coming of a "valiant

soldier" to help them bear their cross until they would be free.

Some famous gospel music singers have come from as far away as Mississippi to Chicago. Some of the singers include Mahalia Jackson, Kirk Franklin & The Family, Lawrence Matthews & Friends, the Baptist Mass Choir: Full Gospel, CeCe Winans, The Canton Spirituals, The Mississippi Mass Choir, The Winans, Dorothy Norwood, Deniece Williams, and Yolanda Adams as just to name a few. To the many rhythm and blues artist started singing Gospel that still, the sounds of Gospel make its expression known.

Gospel Music will always be apart of the American culture as it has spreaded international being the back bone of our livelihood

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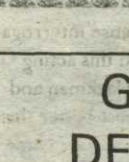
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## 17th ward candidates

(Continued from page 1)

at town meetings in the ward parks to make economic decisions for the ward more democratic. The current business owners need to be part of the decision making process, not just informed after the plan is already in place, he says.

Thomas says that the ward already has an economic and development advisory council composed of residents, business owners, clergy and school representatives. Williams and Hawthorne question the makeup of the council.

"About 95 percent of the people in our ward organization do not live in our ward," says Williams. "Our ward president lives in the 21st ward." And many of the appointed precinct captains and coordinators live in other wards, she says.

Besides the local business owners, Hawthorne says that residents on fixed incomes have also been neglected by the present ward in present development plans. He agrees that the regentrifying of 79th between Halsted and Vincennes will raise property values. However, since it will also raise property taxes, he says it hurts the residents on fixed incomes, who are not all seniors.

Thomas listed crime another issue. She sees economic development as a way to prevent it. Both she and Williams praise the Community Action Policing System (CAPS) as another important part.

"If we can't take ownership of

our blocks, we can't get anyone else to help us," Thomas says. Williams, who works for CAPS, agrees because insiders, the residents, tell city police, who do not live in the ward, what needs to be done.

Hawthorne sees ignorance as "the most powerful drug in our community." His solutions to crime deal with the reasons for partaking in drug activity. To counteract problems in self-esteem and knowledge of self, he wants a broad base of support from business owners, the police department, religious and political leaders, and grass roots organizations.

"We need a mentoring program to give them hope," he says. "Then we need to knock on doors to see if they are slipping back into the fray."

Hawthorne talks from firsthand experience because after he benefited from the grass roots organization of Temple of Mercy, as a teen, he formed his own grass roots organization, People of Extraordinary Talent (POET) to reach out to others on street corners" in 1988. The former rap artist turned successful businessman continues to appeal to troubled youth with "edutainment" from POET, combining knowledge of one's African American heritage with contemporary role models.

"We have to love our people more than they hate themselves," he says.

Thomas also saw education of youth as an issue. Once again, she

saw development as key to the solution of overcrowded classrooms. For example, the ward office is working on easing the overcrowded classrooms at Guggenheim School with modules, that will be ready next year, she said. She also wants to create a youth advisory council in March because in her daily walks through the ward, she has found that "youth want to be heard and be a part of the changes."

Candidates for the Special interim Aldermanic Elections in the 17th and 37th Wards The election will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2001. The special elections will fill vacancies until the regular Municipal and Aldermanic Elections of 2003.

**The Media Connection TV Show**  
will air a segment on "The 17th Ward Special Aldermanic Election on Monday, February 19, 5:00 PM and Monday, February 26, 5:00 pm. Each show repeats the following following Tuesday at noon, four days of coverage prior to election day.

**The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**  
will be holding a candidates forum one week prior to the election, location and date has not been set. Interested parties may call South Street Journal at 773-783-1750 for further information.

## Chicago Music Awards honors

The 20th Annual Chicago Music Awards ceremony is scheduled to take place at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, February 10, 2001, at the Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., in Chicago. Presented by Martin's Inter-Culture, Ltd., the event honors the best of Chicago's performers, producers and presenters.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2001, the Chicago Music Awards is the only event of its kind in the Chicagoland area to recognize artists across musical styles.

"Chicago's tremendous contributions to music are recognized world-

wide," said Ephraim Martin, founder and producer of the Chicago Music Awards. "This event is designed to pay tribute to the artists who make the music, to celebrate them in their own hometown and to say 'thank you' to some of our national treasures."

Martin announced the 2001 Special Lifetime Achievement honorees. All Chicago natives, they are Ramsey Lewis, Holmes "Daddy O" Daily, The Chi-Lites, Daniel Barenboim and Mavis Staples and The Staple Singers.

He also announced the recipients of awards of honor, individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the music industry. Honorees include Joel Daley, country and -Western entertainer for over 50 years; George Daniel's, George's Music Room; Frank Pellegrino, Blues Entertainment/Emcee; D.J. Frankie Knuckles, originator of "House" Music; Terry Bell, veteran of Motown Records.

Bruce Iglauer announced the nominees for Best Blues Entertainer. He was joined by representatives from the Loop Lab School; Mother to Mother, Inc.; African Spectrum Newspaper; Casper, the originator for the popular CHA-CHA/ Casper Slide and Ald. Walter Barnett(27), who announced the other categories.

Other nominees were the Best Hip Hop Entertainer/ Hip Hop/Rap Album/ CD for "Hustling for a



Special Lifetime Achievement honoree "Mavis Staples and The Staple Singers.

Cause"; "V.I.P." and "Spotlight Entertainment Variety Show, " both nominated for Best Music Video Show; Xtreme, nominated for Record Producer of the Year; Treasure, nominated for Best R&B/ Soul Entertainer; Maestro, last year's recipient of the award for Most Talented Kid under 12, who is nominated again in that category.

For tickets for the Chicago Music Awards call (312)559-1212, by visiting the web site [www.martinsinterculture.com](http://www.martinsinterculture.com), or by emailing us at [regciintl@aol.com](mailto:regciintl@aol.com).

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**ETA emphasizes love thru Feb.25**



*Lovesong for Miss Lydia* and *Love Is* depict the various aspects of love at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 3 and 7 p.m. Sundays. at the eta theater and gallery, 7558 S. South Chicago, through Feb. 25.

The notion of romantic love comes back for an elderly woman when a charming young boarder arrives in the heartwarming *A Love Song for Miss Lydia*, written by Don Evans and directed by Runako Jahi. The cast is Tina Marie Wright, J.J. McCormick, Makeba Pace and Anthony Brady.

Evans, associate professor of African American Studies at the College of New Jersey, has published a variety of short stories, essays and scholarly works. He helped found The African Grove Institute for the Arts. Jahi, artistic director of eta Cre-

ative Arts Foundation, is an award-winning playwright, actor and director. He is the vice president of the African American Alliance of Chicago.

During intermission, theatergoers can view *Love Is*, an exhibit of mixed media collages depicting other aspects of love - for God, self, friends, possessions, status, fame, money, etc. Created by Shahar Caren Weaver, whose intense color and various textures question each viewer's preconceived notions about love and how they play out in one's life.

Weaver has been featured in group and solo exhibits at the Corcoran Museum of Art in Washington, DC, the National Black Festival in Atlanta. Locally her work was purchased by radio station WGCI. For tickets call (773) 752-3955.

**ENTERTAINING**

with David Schultz

**AT THE FLICKS**

**BEFORE NIGHT FALLS**

(\*\*1/2) Far from being as morose as one might expect this autobiography to be from all the pain, prejudice poverty and disappointments on display, *Before Night Falls* details the life and artistry of the persecuted gay Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas, portrayed with brilliance by Javier Bardem in an Oscar-worthy performance.

Like his first film, *Basquiat* (1996) about another street artist, director-artist Julian Schnabel delivers another vivid portrayal without psychoanalyzing its subject. It doesn't matter that he was homosexual and came

from an impoverished background (from playing in a dirt hole on a farm totally naked as a child). Out of these existences comes a man with a talent. Reinaldo wrote out of contempt while dreaming of liberation in America.

His novel, *The Hallucinations*, which awakened the world to his plight and the Cuban communistic conditions, had to be smuggled out of the country and published in France.

Truly, Reinaldo's memoirs reflect a hard life for such a gifted person. Rated: R (Self-imposed for its sexual themes) 133 min. A Fine Line Features Release



**ON VIDEO**

**HOLLOW MAN**

(\*\*) There should have been an apology to black novelist Ralph Ellison for the rip-off and updating *The Invisible Man*. Kevin Bacon plays the leader of a scientific team who wants to play God, becoming part of the experiment and using its powers to fulfill his jealous rage over his ex-girl/colleague secretly dating a coworker. He seeks revenge by killing everyone. The plot sidesteps the morality issue of "man playing God" and its consequences for a predictable horror fare. It does have some very impressive special effects. Rated: R, 113 min.



**Wonder Boys**

(\*\*1/2) Michael Douglas delivers a career defining performance that should garner an Oscar nomination. He portrays a worn-out college professor suffering from writer's block on his next overdue manuscript, the secret love for the chancellor's wife (Frances McDormand) and the presence of a disturbed and eccentric student writer-protégé (Tobey Maguire).

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA**

(\*\*1/2) The importance of maintaining one's true self through tradition over technology is part of the issue of this edited version of a semi Japanese action classic. It pits martial arts skills versus gun power and the British. Jet Li stars as a kung fu schoolmaster and activist trying to make others aware of the intrusion of foreigners who try to radically change the culture and steal the riches of their homeland. *Incredible Kung Fu* action sequences enhance this fable. Rated: Not Rated, 100 min. (English dubbed)

**UNDER SUSPICION**

(\*\*) A prominent tax attorney (Gene Hackman) is detained by an old friend turned adversary, a police captain (Morgan Freeman) who is under pressure to identify the murderer of two 13-year-old island girls. When the lawyer's libel doesn't quite gel, it causes an intense interrogation. It's a cat-and-mouse game in this acting duel between co-producer-stars Hackman and Freeman, who maintain our interest better than this predictable mystery thriller that can't hide or trick us away from the obvious. Rated: R, 110 min.

**WHIPPED**

(\*1/2) Lame comedy about three womanizing N.Y. guys who happen to find their ideal mate in the same woman (Amanda Peet) who secretly giving them a dose of their own medicine. Its sort of a mixture of "In the Company of Men" meets "Woo" for white folks. Rated: R, 85 min.

**GODZILLA 2000**

(\*\*) A ridiculous sci-fi pleasure that proves there are some things Japanese filmmakers can do better with less money, in his 23<sup>rd</sup> screen appearance, the fire breathing creature icon has a slight Eco-theme here. As Godzilla battles an alien life form awakened from its 6,000-year hibernation from the bottom of the sea. Rated: PG, 99 min.

**ANIMAL FACTORY**

(\*\*) An undercooked prison drama with comedic overtones from Actor-director Steve Buscemi that is startling yet watchable in its presentation. Edward Furlong plays a newly sentenced drug dealer who begins to change into a hardened criminal from the influence of an imprisoned ex-gang leader (Willem Dafoe who steals the film with his comic timing). It's an unconventional film driven by its finely shaded performances than emotion triggered action. Rated: R, 95 min.

**URBAN LEGEND 2: FINAL CUT**

(\*1/2) Typical teen slasher stuff in which film school students compete for the coveted Hitchcock Award, trying to make a horror movie in which participates are systemically murdered. Rated: R, 99 min.

**Woman Enough**

by Renah Shoshannah Directed by Arthur M. Reese. Let *Woman Enough* shows how women enjoy their own capabilities, and while so doing love themselves.

**Chain**

by Pearle Cleage Directed by Arthur M. Reese. What do you do when there's nothing left to do? *Chain* reveals the true horror of drug abuse on our society. Thursday through Sunday at CSU Berkeley Theatre, Chicago State University, 9501 S. King Drive, Douglas Library, Room 102, February 8, 2001 at 8 pm (Preview Performance), February 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 at 8pm, February 11 and 18 at 3 pm. For tickets & reservation call (773) 995-4511.

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**South Street Business**

**WVON / N'Digo partner to host Historic Black Business Breakfast**

History will be made during Black History Month, when famed attorney Johnnie Cochran, economist Julianne Malveaux, BlackVoices.com CEO Barry Cooper



N'Digo Publisher Hermene Hartman (L), and WVON President and General Manager Melody Spann-Cooper and joined forces to organize the breakfast of entrepreneurs and executives a chance to meet



and other nationally known executives converge at the Hyatt Regency Chicago for a business breakfast presented by two of the city's most respected Black media outlets.

On Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, radio station WVON and weekly publication N'Digo in conjunction with Northern Trust will present "Breakfast With Chicago Black Business Owners and Executives." The event will serve as a networking and strategic planning session for Chicago's Black business people and will feature an impressive panel of experts that will help them take their businesses to the next level.

Joining Cochran, Malveaux and Cooper on the panel will be Essence Communications, Inc. CEO, Ed Lewis, Black Entertainment Television's Executive Vice President, Louis Carr and Luster Products President, Jory Luster.

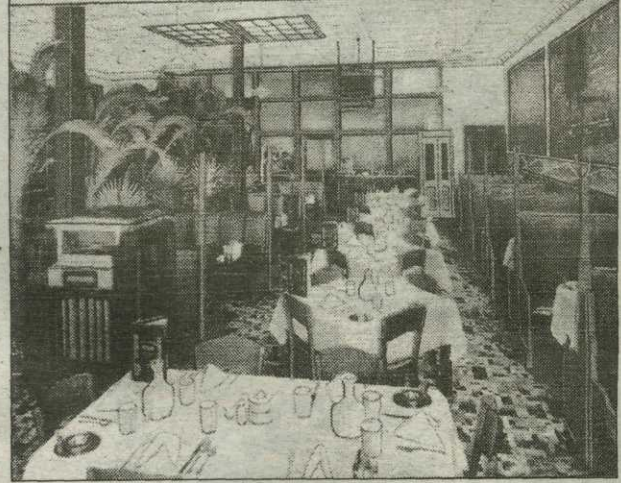
WVON President and General Manager Melody Spann-Cooper and N'Digo Publisher Hermene Hartman, both successful business people in their own right, joined forces to organize the breakfast to give Black entrepreneurs and executives a chance to meet and learn from those who know what it takes

to succeed in business. Spann-Cooper said she hopes "black business owners will gain insight on how to compete in an ever-changing marketplace." Hartman added, "if you own or manage a business in Chicago, you cannot afford to miss this event."

The breakfast will be held in the Crystal Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Drive, beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, February 16, 2001. Registration is \$75 per person and tickets can be charged to Visa or Mastercard by calling (312) 822-0202.

**Historical Bronzeville landmark, the Palm Tavern**

**P A L M T A V E R N**  
When in Chicago, it's Palm Tavern, 446 E. 47th Street



The latest report on the Palm Tavern, the City using eminent domain to oust Gerri Oliver from the property, but want to keep the original fixtures and name. However, the name is a register belonging to Ms. Oliver. It is also reported that descendants of the founder Jim Knight have express interest in ownership of the Tavern, plans for meetings are tentative. Nathan Thompson, agent of the Palm Tavern urged residents to send letters to the Ald. Dorothy Tillman and/or Mayor Daley, saying the City's actions are gangsterism.



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**36 counts against grocers by city task force are questioned**

By La Shawn Cobb  
Staff Writer

Although the city charged 16 stores last month with multiple consumer, health and sanitation violations, there has been controversy about the charges.

Stores like the Damen Food Market, located at 6303 S. Damen Ave., says that they didn't have any idea that they were being charged with the 36 counts.

After speaking with Nick, owner of the Damen Food Market he says that "When my attorney arrived at court, the clerk of the circuit court said that the charges couldn't be found on the computer."

According to Connie Bushame

of the city Grocery Store Inspection Task Force, the market has three pages of charges against Damen Food Market. Bushame states that "Damen Food Market asked for a continuance, and that the charges are still pending until February 14."

The question now is who is telling the truth? The city or the grocery store owner? Last month the Mayor stressed that the task force was a good example of "citizens and government working together to improve conditions in local stores." The task force is made up of specially trained investigators from the Departments of Streets and Sanitation.

"Many of the stores were inspected as a result of complaints received," Daley said.

Other southside grocers charged were A&A Food Mart, 1616 W. 55th; 51st Street Express, 100 E. 51st; J,K&S, 503 W. 59th; 51st Street South Damen, 1949-1957 W. 51st; Ohira Food, 11 W. 107th; Sabreen's Foods, 1525 W. 69th

Anyone who has a complaint about a grocery store is urged to call the Department of Consumer Services's 24-hour hotline at (312)744-9400; for the hearing impaired, (312)744-9385. Anonymous complaints may be reported to (312)744-6400.

**Housing Seminar set for Feb 19**

The Community Access Building will be holding a housing seminar at the Charles A. Hayes Community Investment Center, 4839 S. Wabash, on February 19, at 7:00 p.m.

With the mission to inform citizens of the many housing projects and programs in the City of Chicago, the CAB is inviting City and elected officials with developers to exchange a network of resources for low and middle income families to acquire and renovate housing in the Chicagoland area.

Invites includes, Aldermen Preckwinkle and Ed Smith, Con. Bobby Rush, John Paul Jones, Conrad Worrl and Al Sampson.

For information call the CAB at 773-434-7430.

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**Low-income home owners can get help with emergencies**

The Chicago City Council approved \$2.75 million in additional funding for the city's Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP), which provides grants to low income homeowners for emergency home repairs. "This additional funding will help Chicagoans make the emergency repairs to stay warm and protect their homes from weather damage," Mayor Daley said.

low-income homeowners. Last fall, Mayor Daley proposed and the City Council approved an increase to \$8.2 million for the program in 2001.

Under EHAP, the owner of a building with four units or less may apply for grants to repair or replace heating units, roof emergencies and energy savings. The owner must live in the building.

EHAP is a popular city program for

Residents who lack sufficient heat

are urged to call 311, the city's non emergency number for assistance. For more information call (312) 747-9000.

**Households offered grants to buy city homes or buildings**

The City Council acknowledge the intent to issue single family mortgage revenue bonds in the amount of \$75 million to the City Mortgage Program for first time home buyers.

"We are committed to improving

the quality of life for all our residents by working to develop partnerships with neighborhood organizations to create new opportunities for housing," Mayor Daley said.

Begun in March 1996, the program helps people from low and moderate incomes buy homes. Qualified buyers can receive a grant to help cover the down payment and closing costs and obtain a competitive mortgage rate. The grant is for a house or an apartment building with up to four units. The owner must live in the building to get four percent of the loan.

For information call the City's Department of Housing.

**Affordable homes for renters**

An 82 unit building with single-room occupancy(SRO) is currently under construction in the Roseland neighborhood at 240 W. 107th Place. Another 168-unit building will be erected by the Chicago Christian League at 600-620 S. Wabash. In Woodlawn the Woodland East Community Action Neighbor has developed two SRO's.

The City seeks to build new SROs in neighborhoods that are undergoing redevelopment, have lost SRO and public housing units, or have high unemployment and a strong base of social service programs.

The new \$12 million SRO housing complex to be built in the South Loop neighborhood is the second such project under Mayor Daley's SRO Initiative.

It will have multi-use common rooms on each of the eight floors, 7,200 square feet of first floor commercial retail space, and a rooftop landscape open space. The facility will offer tenants job placement, money management, health care and other assistance to encourage moving toward self sufficiency.

Founded in 1909, the CCIL is one of the largest job training, job placement and rehabilitation entities for the homeless in the Midwest. Their programs include grounds management services, custodial service training, food service certification programs, and transitional housing for homeless singles and families. CCIL opened a 170 unit SRO in 1997 at 1801 S. Wabash.

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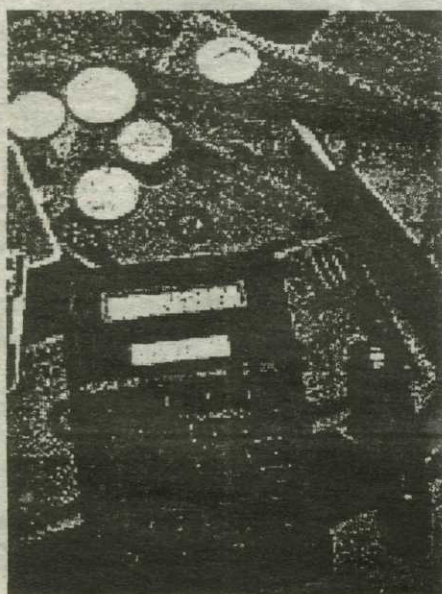
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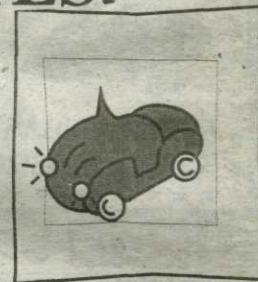
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