Black historical site ownership and future are in question

The Supreme Life Building

Douglas - The Supreme Life Building, on 135th 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 1939 two Black companies, Supreme Life and Charity of Columbia, other Ebony Life and Metropolitan Life of Newark, New Jersey, merged to combine a joint business worth $37 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 assess appraisal conducted 9 years 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 Historic Bronzeville Comprehensive Plan, which included using the Supreme Life Insurance Building as an official Visitors Center.

As an offshoot of the Mid South Planning and Development Commission, the Black Metropolis Convention & Tourism Council was founded in 1978 to organize and develop a broad range of community resources previously unorganized. It was the product of the biggest financial deal ever negotiated by an all-Black business. In 1939 two Black companies, Supreme Life and Charity of Columbia, other Ebony Life and Metropolitan Life of Newark, New Jersey, merged to combine a joint business worth $37 million. It was one of the first major mergers in American business history, according to Mr. Johnson.

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Serious questions about the history and future of the 17th ward candidates differ on approach

by Carmelita Banks

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'Andra Hawthorne. "Every business that has been developed came at the expense of already existing businesses that have either been pushed out or are waiting for the day on 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 training of people in the community for positions at the bank, she says.

Challenger Beverly Taye-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, they were not called out for interviews, they did not get the 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 rehearsed.
By the Weatherman

EZ funds questioned on major organizations working with local groups

The City Council's Budget and Government Committee on January 31 called for a meeting during the discussion of an Empowerment Zone application to fund a host of English- and woodworking 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 committee 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. The Catholic Charities of Chicago is scheduled to receive three 3 grants of more than $46,000 each, which is over $14 million, and the Chicago Urban League is to receive $2 million.

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

Nicole Gallery will exhibit Black dolls at the celebration United States in February

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

A historian and ethnographic scholar, Smith's miniature slave dolls are a great deal of skill to create the tiny works of art, designed at a single inch scale, -four or five individuals of diverse racial stereotypes and plantations. The dolls represent the entire spectrum of color people during the decades of slavery - field hands, servants, free people and criminals. Their clothing and the house are based on extensive research of early photographs, paintings, illustrations and plantation technology. Their stories come from runaway slaves, their memoirs, 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

Workshop on grant writing will be held at Woodrow Regional Library, 9252 S. Halsted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning Feb. 10. Registrations from individuals and non-profit organizations are required.

Susan Snyder and Paul Ostenberg, 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 2.

One Stop Centers for job readiness

One Stop, located at 5700 S. Christiana and 7115 S. Echols, offers 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 9-5, 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. Faxes, copying, staff assistance and telephone services are available to assist those unfamiliar with using the technology.

The Centers are open from 8:30 a.m. 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: 772-538-5627 and at the Daley College, 750 S. Pulaski, Bldg. 100, Phone: 772-884-7000.

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

Doagre - For the first time in the 41-year history of the Abraham Lincoln Center's Humanitarian Awards 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 Feb 16, January 14, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel. Mr. Madison is being honored 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 Center is a 95-year-old, multi- functional social service organization on the south side, serving mostly disadvantaged children, youth, senior citizens, those developmentally disabled, and mentally ill. on the west side of Chicago.

Mr. Madison is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, where he attended school. Upon his graduation from Maass- in High School, in 1956, Madison moved to Chicago and received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Roosevelt University, where he majored in business law. 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 from May 1, 1995 to May 15, 1999. Few would replace his influence at the current post.

The cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by formal dinner at 6:30 p.m. The program at 7:30 p.m. will include a maid, toast and the award presentation. The evening will conclude with a reception at 8 p.m.

To reserve single tickets or tables of ten, call the Abraham Lincoln Center at (773) 371-6500 ext. 634 or 611.

First African American agent appointed to IIAA Government Affairs Commission

Milton Musco, president and chief executive officer of Community Insurance Center, a 39-year-old African American-owned insurance agency, 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 IIAA, 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 premiere on WTTW, Channel 11, Monday, February 12 at 9:00 p.m.

The Art Institute evolved from a small museum of fine art to the world renowned institution.

Art Institute now is an exquisite home to a collection of works that span the years of Man and his civilization. The program also take an exclusive tour with actor Brian Dennehy, they will learn how the 1803 World's Great Exhibition inspired wealthy Chicagians to collect art and how European countries built museums today. The program will also look into the past and the early days of the Latin American Art Institute.
Gity 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 has 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 about the African American subcontractors?" Marion gets," Shareef says.

But what if the city gives us its drops and remains but nothing to sustain us."

African American contractors have benefited African American subcontractors, 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 biding, waivers, change orders and special conditions cited by the city contractors, he says. After white contractors undertook African American contractors, they obtain waivers for not using African American subcontractors, stating that they cannot find them.

Shareef does not buy that excuse either, "We have legitimate African American contractors already included them in their bids," 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 past through money goes through African American firms back to other firms. Foreign list women or minorities as the owners, but they really are not. Fraudulent companies are listed as M/WBEs 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.

Omar Shareef of African American Contractors Association
Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago
Cabin Johnson of Work-Ship Coalition

MINORITY SHARE

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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 a warranty from the Community Development Commission (CDC) to acquire the property from Black Metropolitans under the Bronzeville Tax Incremental Financing. Black Metropolitans 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 same concept created by BMC Financing. Black Metropolis was an organization's numerous requests for assistance with inappropriate covenants and opened up the neighborhoods around the University of Chicago for occupancy by Black. It was common during that period for owners to attract racially restrictive covenants to deeds, thereby banning Black occupancy or sales, according to Johnson. Supreme and 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 the Bronzeville Blue Ribbon Committee, to which he was not appointed. Lucas and ATC continues to say that it is in the best public interest that the city 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 Cynthis Williams may also come into question about ownership as well.

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The settlement offer from Cynthia Williams may also come into question about ownership as well.
George Pullman built the town of Pullman for his employees. It was laid out by S.S. Beman to meet its workers' every need. It provided a morally uplifting and highly controlled community, for his employees. It is beginning to look hopeful for most.

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 line to the south, Cottage Grove on the east, and Halsted north to 103rd, then east to Steward 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 to reflect its growth.

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, Lillydale, 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 down. 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 harmed fetal amounts of lead and selenium.

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, archologists 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.

Roseland 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 30.5 percent black in 1980. The community has a high percentage of home ownership along with heavy unemployment and lack of available mortgage money. In 2001, Roseland community has prospered in business and being involved in the community.

The community has a high percentage of home ownership along with heavy unemployment and lack of available mortgage money. In 2001, Roseland's population increased from 62,512 in 1970 to 64,372 in 1980.
Rev. Jakes lead rally for Mearday on Police issues

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 its continued mission to address police misconduct. "I believe that the majority in Jail are political prisoners and that it all started 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 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 same 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.

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Zenobia Johnson-Black, President and CEO
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 Robeson," 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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St. Bernard Hospital
326 W. 64th Street at the Dan Ryan
The meetings are being held at various restaurants and offices throughout the city.

Smith: The reason for the Black Caucus is because we have issues in every ward. Is there a silence among the aldermen?

SSJ: Where are the Black Caucus meetings being held?

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

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

Smith: Some of the issues that might be discussed are the need for the Black Caucus to take a stand on the Pledge of Allegiance issue involving jobs being made available for the community.

SSJ: Who was the president of the Black Caucus?

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

SSJ: Are there any white aldermen in the Black Caucus? For example, Ald. Thomas Murphy (18) has 76% Black population in his ward.

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

SSJ: Has the Black Caucus set an agenda for 2007?

Smith: We have set our own agenda.

SSJ: Where are the Black Caucus meetings being held?

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

SSJ: When is the next Black Caucus meeting?

Smith: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

SSJ: On the issue of Mayor Daley wanting the Pledge of Allegiance in the City Council, did the Black Caucus take a stand?

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

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 hotel, 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?

Smith: It's a matter for the ward. We support issues that the alderman find beneficial to that community.
vement & Cheating Men

fidelity at Hamilton Park in Ian participants. The organizers, are interested by state representa- tion, Mary Shenberger, Department of Consumer to come out in support of them.

As BEPAN president Everloyce McCullom stated at the rally on January 11, 2001, the year 2001 is going to be a good year for the Jacksons as they get back to church for material needs. I predict that the Jacksons will choose to forgive Rev. Jackson if they haven't already. The most important forgiveness is the one between the two forgiving. We will choose to forgive Rev. Jackson before we know the truth. There is a difference between the two forgiving. 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 submitted all subscription and correspondence to:

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Ministers cautious on Bush’s Church initiatives

by Carmelita Banks

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 Pfeifer, 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.

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 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 Farwood United Methodist Church agreed with Pfeifer’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.

“He’s the only pastor with a department of agriculture to help save black farmer’s land,” he said.

Both ministers were most afraid of governmental limits to their 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.

Pfeifer’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.

Pfeifer 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 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.

Churches will like to make a correction from the January 19-24 time regarding the Christian Hope Missionary Baptist Church. The correct time for the church’s activity is 5:30 P.M. Friday, 11:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Sunday.

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.
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.

A skilled instrumentalist, who enjoyed a high status; accompanied work in the fields and set the pace for parties. Group participation, improvisation, call and response, rhythmic complexity, and percussion were involved. Often the songs sung lightened their burdens.

According to one former slave, "When they went to church, they jumped up dar and den 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 come about."

Gospel music is the African Americans’ own national music, expressing emotions and thoughts 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.

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February 8 – 21, 2001
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. William 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 regrouping of 79th between Halsted and Vincennes will raise property values. However, he also says he will make sure property taxes increase only after the needs of the community are met.

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

"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 or don't live in the ward, what needs to be done.

Hawthorne sees crime as "the most powerful drug in our community." His solution to crime deals with the reasons for drug use. To counterpoint 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 root 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 Day." Hawthorne talks from firsthand experience because after he benefited from the grass root organization of Temple of Mercy, as a teen, he formed his own grass roots organization, People of Extraordinary Talent (P.E.O.T.) to reach out to others on street corners" in 1988. The former rap artist turned successful businessman continues to appeal to troubled youth with "outstanding" 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 classroom at Guggenheim School with modulars, that will be ready next year, she said. She also wants that "youth want to be heard and be a part of the changes."

Candidates for the Special in- terim Aldermanic Elections in the 17th and 27th 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, 3:00 PM and Monday, February 26, 5:00 pm. Each show repeats the following Tuesday at noon, four days of coverage prior to election day.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold a rally at the City Hall on the morning of February 27. The rally will be held to support the ward office in their fight for the 17th Ward ward office to secure a voice in the City Council. The rally will focus on the special elections that will take place at 8:00 p.m.

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ETA emphasizes love thru Feb. 25

The African Grove Institute for the scholarly works. He helped found Chicago, through Feb. 25.

Miss Lydia, the heartwarming cast is Tina Marie Wright, J.J. McDonald, and directed by Runako Jahi. The exhibit of mixed media collages depicting other as-

Northwestern University, Chicago, for tickets call (773) 752-3955.

Woman Enough by Rena Shashinski Di- rected by Arthur M. Rees. Let Woman Enough shows how women enjoy their own capabilities, and while so doing themselves.

Chain by Pearl Clinge Directed by Arthur M. Rees. What do you do when there's nothing left to do? Chain reveals the true horror of drug abuse on our society.

Lee Murray and Music, Music, Music, without psychoanalyzing its subject. It doesn't matter that he was homosexual and came chased by radio station WGCI. They play out in one's life. Received 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 As-

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...Come out and join us for good food, good company, and Music, Music, Music, in Historic Bronzeville
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, Black Veilces.com CEO Barry Cooper 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 16th, radio stations WVON and weekly publication N'Digo in conjunction with Northern Trust will present "Breakfast With N'Digo in conjunction with Northern Trust" when famed attorney Johnnie Cochran, economist Julianne Malveaux, 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.

Joining Cochran, Hartman, both successful business owners 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."

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36 counts against grocers by city task force are questioned

By La Shawsa Celbo Staff Writer

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

The city charged the Damen Food Market, located at 6303 S. Damen Ave., with 36 counts. The city alleges the grocer failed to maintain proper conditions in local stores.

"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, 1964-1973 W. 51st; Ohira Food, 11 W. 107th; Schnort's Foods, 1525 W. 68th.

Any one who has a complaint about a grocery store is urged to call the Department of Consumer Services. (312)744-9400. For the hearing impaired, (312)744-9385. Anonymous complaints may be reported to (312)244-6400.
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.

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. 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 acknowledges 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.

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.

 buying or selling property

The new $17 million SRO housing complex is to be built in the South Loop neighborhood, 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 landscaped open space. The facility will offer tenants job placement, money management, health care and other assistance to encourage moving toward self-sufficiency.

Founded in 1989, 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 operated a 170 unit SRO in 1997 at 181 S. Wabash.

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