

# South Street Journal

Vol. 8, No. 9

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March 8 - 21, 2001

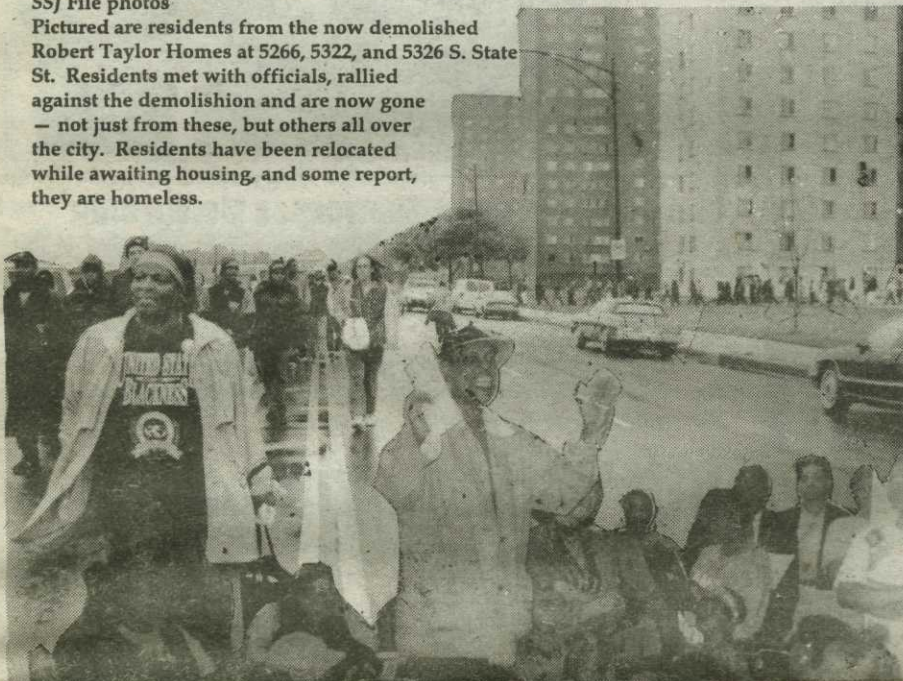
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S E R V I N G C H I C A G O ' S S O U T H S I D E C O M M U N I T Y

## Where are the Public Housing Residents?

SSJ File photos

Pictured are residents from the now demolished Robert Taylor Homes at 5266, 5322, and 5326 S. State St. Residents met with officials, rallied against the demolition and are now gone — not just from these, but others all over the city. Residents have been relocated while awaiting housing, and some report, they are homeless.



### When and Why They Left Determines the Answer

by Carmelita Banks  
Staff Writer

Where the public housing residents are today depends on whether or not the speaker works, directly or indirectly, for the city. It also depends on whether the question deals with current or former residents, especially if they left before Oct. 1, 1999.

On the Southside, there is a lot of skepticism about the plight of public housing residents because so far there is only talk. The two residents working on each group were sworn to secrecy during the planning, which alienated them from the rest of the residents on each Local Advisory Council (LAC).

For example, Barbara Moore has lived 33 years in the Robert Taylor Homes, once the largest public housing development in the world that housed over 4,200 families. Today, it barely has 460 families.

Formerly active on the council, Ms. Moore is apprehensive because Taylor has "lost more than anybody."

"We want to know just what we are getting back," she says. "I know it's not one-for-one replacement housing."

More highrises are scheduled for demolition. On Feb. 7, Stateway Gardens' plans for redevelopment was approved and on Feb. 20, so were Taylor's and Rockwell Gardens'.

"We have come a long way in 20 months," CHA Board of Commissioners Chair Sharon Gist Gilliam said at the Feb. 20 meeting. Then

she tried to reassure the tenants present that they would "see a way to move toward the light."

LaWanda Lynch, who cannot read or write, sees no light in sight. She was in public housing with her four children and their father for about a year in 1989. She left 4429 S. Federal in a hurry because she was not getting along with her abusive partner. In 1993, she moved in with her mother who doesn't live in public housing, and in 1998, she took her family to Minnesota where they lived in a shelter for 4-5 months because she couldn't find housing. In disgust, they returned to Chicago and since she was disabled, she was put on the housing priority waiting list.

"I wasn't supposed to be on more than two years," she says, "but public housing's got priority."

Lynch is referring to the decision at the Chicago Housing Authority to set a the cutoff date for its commitment to public housing residents.

"If they weren't lease-compliant as of October 1, 1999, they will have to wait," says Derek Hill, Director of Communication for the CHA. "If you don't have rules and regulations, you have mayhem."

That means that needy families, including the disabled, no longer have priority on the waiting list of over 42,000 families according to the Coalition to Protect Public Housing —

(Continued on page 14)



## Saving Gerri's Palm Tavern

Grand Blvd. (Bronzeville) - "All I want to do is keep the Palm Tavern's historical foundation alive." Those are words of Ms. Gerri Oliver, the owner for 66 years of Gerri's Palm Tavern.

She has remained basically quiet on her plight with the City of Chicago in taking possession of her business. However, on Thursday, March 6, pictures were worth a thousand words. She questioned city inspectors to inspect her business that day when Alderman Dorothy Tillman's son, Jimmy Jr., an employee of the city came to inspect the business.

Gerri in the middle of cleaning for an event that evening did not want any interruptions in the mist of cleaning. She quietly went to her photo album of many historical people and showed young Tillman a picture of his father. It was a photo of his father as he performed at the Palm Tavern. Young Tillman looked at the picture and then at Gerri. A musician himself, he said he had no idea, referring to the legacy that the tavern has had for those known and those just unaware of the historical foundation it has laid for the present.

With a court hearing rescheduled again for April, it may be the final action for the city to take ownership and move to close the doors.

The only factor in the judge decision is how much Ms. Oliver will receive for the fixtures. Reports of up to \$50,000.00. A benefit to Ms. Oliver the city does not have to offer because Gerri does not own the building. The fixtures

include mural painted walls, the bar, the booths, and maybe even the antic piano.

Saving the Palm Tavern lacks support from Ald. Tillman (3). The alderman stressed, "We're going to take the property", because Ms. Oliver's associates are hard to work with. Her vision is that the property is part of the 47th Street Blues District and an African Village. Development that calls for the City to take possession of the land by way of eminent domain.

Pat Hill, a community and civil activist, questions the real agenda of the City and Alderman Tillman.

"The City is actively recruiting existing club owners from around the city to relocate to 47th street. At the same time, excluding the Palm Tavern as being a part of this blues district the Mayor and the alderman wants to create.

"It is very alarming for a Black elected official to be opposing this assistance to the Palm Tavern, when historically it is the only standing establishment to support what they want to do. It doesn't make any sense." Further a form of address, Hill said, "We oppose closing the Tavern until there is a plan to ensure the legacy continues on. There should be some accountability to the community."

Mary Steward, Executive Director, of the Mid-South Planning and Development Commission, echoed hills concerns. "They (the City) should know how important it is to the community at large to maintain the Palm Tav-

(Continued on page 4)



"We're going to take the property", Ald. Dorothy Tillman

## Rep. Howard work in defense of ex-offend-



Rep. Connie Howard

On the national level President Bill Clinton exist was noted for the pardons of federal convicted felons. However, action in Springfield and Chicago gives some currently or formerly incarcerated individuals reason to hope for a form of pardons as well.

In Springfield, State Representative Connie Howard led buses of supporters from Chicago in an effort to pass state laws that would give back to ex-offenders some basic rights, including access to jobs with decent wages.

The seven bills she filed Feb. 23, with the Judiciary II Criminal Law Committee "would give some ex-offenders a second chance by allowing to have their records ex-

punged," she said.

If the bills become law, they will automatically expunge, or remove from the offender's record, court-ordered supervision, reversed convictions, certain misdemeanors and Class 4 felonies, along with certain offenses served by minors.

Those convicted of misdemeanors and felonies must not acquire other convictions during a waiting period of two or four years, respectively.

Minors convicted as juveniles and adults, who were sentenced to probation or conditional discharge, would have their records expunged after they complete their sentence and did not acquire any additional convictions during a two-year waiting period.

On March 8, all of the bills were defeat except for two. However the representatives will be resubmitting for to committee in a different seeking for them all to pass the House.

For more information, contact Michael O'Connor at (773) 356-6210.

### Inside South Street

Women Month & Meochia Blount

Harvey - This 26-year old combination of beauty and brains has her own opinions and techniques. Even her name is unique, Meochia Nochi, pronounced "Mee-o-she-yah Noh-chee" which is Native American, meaning, "Beautiful One".



(Continued on page 4)

FEATURE: CASSIUS & ROXANNE PAGE 8

PERSPECTIVE: THEN CAME THUNDER PROFESSOR WILLIE DIXON PAGE 8

FROM THE PUBLISHER: CHICAGO SUN-TIMES AGENDA PAGE 9

MOTHER DIVA IS BACK PAGE 11

Mary Dee: Next Issue of SSJ

# The UnZip

by the Weatherman

In line with Women's Month the YWCA received a \$125,000 grant from the Chicago Community Trust to serve more victims of sexual assault in Chicago. Because only an estimated one out of eight rapes is reported, the YWCA estimates that 25,000 rapes and 9,000 cases of child sexual abuse occur each year in its city and suburban service areas.



Mother Fulton

On another note of Women's note, Winnie Mandela was unable to participate in the Apostolic Church Of God's "Reconnecting the African & African American Family". But she did make it to Chicago and Mother Ida Fulton got a

chance to have her children meet Ms. Mandela. If you missed the last issue of South Street Journal, look forward to some construction-site action.

Calvin "Omar" Johnson, of the Work-ship Coalition, is getting ready to ask some serious questions on where is the disparity study for Black contractors.



Calvin "Omar" Johnson.

At the roast for Jesse Madison, it was leaked in the restroom that Roland Burris is focused on running for governor. Elsewhere, whispers could be heard that Pat Hill is considering running for Alderman of the 3rd Ward. However, word is Ms. Hill will not be in the race to unseat the Alderman Tillman alone, someone from the Chicago Urban League is considering to run as well. Other candidates include Derek McNeil for State Senator and Jim Fields as a candidate running against Rep. Dart? Fields said in about a month he set the record straight. However, whoever it is they may have some company from a newspaper publisher.

State Representative Howard Kenner has moved his office to 60th and Michigan Ave., and his college in Springfield Dan Burke, brother of Alderman Ed Burke will have some candidates from the Englewood community. And the 16th Ward Political Task Force of Englewood have some beef with the St. Bernards Hospital, saying, the developer for their new homes are not hiring enough Black, no, Community contractors.....And on hospitals.

Doctors Hospital of Hyde Park has filed a notice of the deadline for creditors to file proof of their claims.

Word is Dolittle School on 35th Street is going to be demolished. And another school Terrell of 54th and State Street, maybe closing. Former student of Terrell and CHA CEO & Chief of Staff of CPS Phillip Jackson would slip over this!....His former boss Paul Valus, takes full responsibility for the condition of DuSable High. But, he'll still get the \$40,000 increase to his salary. Then on Feb. 20, at the DuSable High School Alumni meeting for the classes of 1935-2000, Christine Perkins and others wanted the Board of Education to return the \$700,000 from last year. ...Word is Jackson may be going to the Chicago Boys and Girls Club as its' CEO.

State Sen. William Mahar of Tinley Park, will receive the Dianne Masters Award from the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. Mahar secured a \$300,000 grant for an addition to the center's shelter.

Two celebrities were featured no-shows at recent events. Johnnie Cochran was not able to attend the WVON-N'Digo "Breakfast for Champions" because of Sean "Puffy" Combs' trial.

## Briefs

### City Agency Honors Peeples

Pictured (l to r) Clarence Wood, chair of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Audrey Peeples, former CEO of the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, and Manning Marable, professor of political science and history at Columbia University, New York, at the CCHR annual luncheon. Peeples received the Thomas and Eleanor Wright Award, the group's highest honor. Marable was the keynote speaker.

"The winners were felt to best exemplify the mission of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations to help bridge the racial, ethnic, and religious divides in our society," said Julian Kulas, Chairman of the Commission's Select Committee.

Manning Marable, Founding Director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University in New York, was the Keynote Speaker at the luncheon.

Peeples received the commission's highest honor for her work at the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, which she joined in 1987. Her fight against racism began with the creation of the Y's Annual Racial Justice Award and branched out to its anti-racism team, which currently has 24 members to combat racial and gender discrimination. Her empowerment of women and children increased when she expanded the rape crisis services, violence and pregnancy prevention programs to underserved communities and special populations. Until recently she served as the Chief Executive Officer of the City's YWCA.



### Earl G. Graves, Chairman, Editor & publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine

will be the keynote speaker at the 10th Annual Membership and Awards reception of the African American Contractors Association (AAC) event on Wednesday, March 14, 2001, 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm. It will be held at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Hermann hall Ballroom, 3241 South Federal. For more information call AAC at 312/915-5960 or 312/567-9910



### Seminar Offers insight on Real Estate to Builders and Families

The Community Assets Builders Association will conduct a free Real Estate Seminar on Wednesday, March 17, 2001 at the Charles Hayes Center, 4859 S. Wabash Avenue.

The seminar is for builders and low to middle-income families. The builders will learn how to rehabilitate buildings, and the families will learn where to look and what to watch for when searching for affordable housing. The seminar will also address the city and state role in acquiring private property for public interest. For more information, call (773) 434-7430.

### Special Events Day for Community Youth

The Scouting Network Positive Youth Development Programs in conjunction with McDonald's presents, The Ronald McDonald Magic Show on Saturday, March 24, 2001 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the Maryland Avenue Baptist Church, 8058 S. Maryland in the Lower Auditorium. This event is opened to the public. Youths ages 6-12 and their parents are especially encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served and the first 50 youths in attendance will receive a special goody bag. In addition to Ronald's magic show, several of his friends from the Lincoln Park Traveling Zoo and Francheska's Marionettes will also perform.

### Prison Ministries at Universal House of Refuge Center

WIPMUHRC is a part of Chicago's ongoing efforts to provide services to the African American community. It is a not-for-profit organization with years of experience to provide training in prison outreach programs, spiritual & cultural awareness, health education (HIV/AIDS), substance abuse counseling, family/youth counseling, male/female development, youth development/mentoring, support groups and pastoral care. Getting Caught Up: An Introduction to incarceration is the theme of the event, Saturday, March 24, 2001 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Center for Inner City Studies, 700 E. Oakwood Blvd. For information and to reserve a seat at this free workshop, please call (312) 777-4008, ext. 1657.

### City Cultural Center Showcases Melvin King

The paintings of Chicago artist Melvin King will be on display in the Renaissance Court of the Chicago Cultural Center, through March 25.

Born in Chicago, King still has roots in West Mississippi. His vivid depiction's of African American culture presents racial issues and historic events, as well as laid back and uplifting aspects of daily life.

The exhibit is presented by the Chicago Department on Aging. For more information, call (312) 744-4550.

### 6th Ward Complaints

Sixth Ward residents complained of poor mail and bus service as main issues at a Town Meeting with Ald. Freddrenna Lyle at in Park Manor Christian Church, 600 E. 73rd St.

"The representatives said they would take the problems back to their businesses," said Francine Smith, Lyle's Assistant.

Grand Crossing Post Office Manager Stephanie Hartman promised a special lane just for seniors to counter the long wait. However, by the time this paper went to press, Smith could not verify that the lane had begun. Hartman said four agents were assigned to the counter; however, the residents noticed only 2-3.

Other postal concerns for Hartman were post office box service, late sale information, and an insufficient amount of stamps. One resident complained that the office took so long to

call him back about getting a post office box that he purchased one at another station. Those who had one said their mail was mixed with others.

Barbara Keaton of the Chicago Transit Authority, fielded requests about a shelter and poor bus service. Passengers at 79th and Cregier asked for shelter from bad weather. Those on King Drive complained that buses came in 3's at one time, and then not when scheduled at other times. Those on 79th Street complained that new drivers heading for the barn would not stop to pick up passengers who wanted to get off before Wentworth Avenue.

The next Town Meeting will have a representative from People's Energy at 6:30 p.m. March 8 in Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ, 8601 S. State St.



Photo by Brook Collins

Crystal Hill (center), physical fitness instructor, leads participants in a sequence of kicks and jabs during a cardio-kickboxing class at Ogden Park, 65th and Racine. The Chicago Park District offers a variety of fitness programs that promote cardio-vascular health. For more information, call (312) 742-PLAY.

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## Closing out Black History Month for Economic Action

Webb Evans, President of the United American Progress Association has been on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land; he has met with representatives of the United Nations of the World where he received the Kwanzaa's Community leadership Award from the Kwanzaa Observance Committee. He spoke about Black History at the Christ Centered Church, located at 79th and Kedzie, where Dr. Carolyn A. Goosby is the Pastor.

In his remarks Evans addressed Black History from the time of Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. He told of the life of Mahatma Gandhi, Marcus Garvey, Dr. Martin Luther King, Madam C.J. Walker and many others, focusing on his trip to the Holy Land. He presented the audience with an agenda on how to make history in the future.

"With this method we can become owners of the community where we

live instead of just living in it." spoke Evans.

His methods were outlined as follows: Encourage African Americans to read the Black press daily. Encourage more students to accept business as a career. Every family who can, should open a Savings Account for the children at a Black-owned bank, credit union or savings and loan association.

Spend most of their money with business people who live in the community. Organize an investment club, economic or savings club in church. Each pastor puts a statement in the weekly Church Bulletin, advising members and friends to help save in the community for the future of the children. Read each week the following scriptures: St. John 3:2, Timothy 5:8, Deuteronomy 8:18, and Psalms 112:3.

He stated that even though Black

(Continued on page 10)

## Police Beat Witness in Tolliver Case

Grand Blvd. - Frederick Rais, 19, one of the seven witnesses who recanted their grand jury testimony in the Tolliver case, was allegedly beaten in front of his building in the Robert Taylor Homes by city police detectives around 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18.

An unidentified woman who witnessed the beating said, "They threw him down and beat him like a dog. His nose was bleeding, and he was passing blood from his mouth. They were stomping him in the stomach!"

Witnesses said two Black men jumped out of a yellow cab, grabbed Rais and began beating him. Without identifying themselves as detectives, the two men threw the teenager to the ground. One officer jumped on his back with both feet.

"They hurt that little brother real bad," another unidentified witness said. "He was handcuffed on the ground and said 'I can't breathe, I can't breathe,' but they just kept on kicking him in the stomach. Then they knocked on the janitor's door to get napkins to clean up the evidence. I told his mother to make sure he goes to the hospital because he was throwing up blood."

Rais' mother rushed to the station when she heard her son had been beaten. She was only allowed to see him in the presence of police and detectives.

"He told me they grabbed him," she said. "He didn't know who they were."

"This is outrageous," Willie Heron, spokesperson for the Tolliver family said. "It is probably the first beating of a witness in the aftermath of the Tolliver trial."

Rais originally testified in court that his grand jury testimony was coerced by a previous police beating and threats.

Statements made by Mayor Richard Daley and Police Superin-



Frederick Rais's fiancée examines his face after the beating Feb. 18.

tendent Terry Hilliard may have contributed to an atmosphere of legitimizing this retaliation and intimidation of the witness by the police.

Juror Sam Shipp has received numerous death threats by phone. The public attacks on Shipp by major officials may prevent future jurors from voting their conscience.

Residents of Robert Taylor report increased police harassment and abuse, including strip searches and searches without warrants in the

wake of the trial.

A statement prepared by the Robert Taylor Fighting For Justice Organization demanded that in the case of Jonathan Tolliver, "the police should keep their hands off of the witnesses and stop intimidating" them.

The Tolliver Family has called on concerned citizens to attend the March 15th sentencing hearing at the Cook County Courthouse.

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(Continued from page 1)

# Saving Gerri's

ern.”  
 “We (MSPDC) will be seeking the support of the community and elected officials by a letter campaign to the alderman to maintain the historical legacy of the Palm Tavern before putting Ms. Oliver out of business.”

The City has not totally set the day on taking the Palm Tavern property. However, Atty. Gary Fresen who has represented Ms. Oliver for over four years suggest this coming court date can result in a padlock on the doors within 90 days.

Although many attempts by community groups were made to discuss the future of 47th Street a long with Gerri's Palm Tavern, the Department of Planning would not answer any concerns.

Ms. Oliver, with Fresen's assistance applied for and cleared the first hurdle for an Empowerment Zone Grant to restore the tavern. But, it did not move further because Ms. Oliver did not own the property.

She also made attempts to purchase the property alone with other public investors, but closings were stopped in the legal proceedings.

The City's Law Department could not say what the City plans are for the property once they have it. But a Request For Proposal (RFP) will be announced for developers.

Under eminent domain, a city law that give the city the right to take property for the good of the public interest, Fresen questions the City's actions to another case in the Appellate Court of Illinois, Fifth District. Under the social contract in eminent-domain cases, the private landowner relinquished their property to the government and the public is likened to benefit. “Taking of private properties is justified only when the third-party beneficiary is the public. But in the Palm Tavern case, it is not clear who would be the third party to benefit for the RFP and how will the public benefit.”

But, the City is not just focusing on the Palm Tavern; property on 47th Street, from Calumet on the west to St. Lawrence on the east is effective. Many businesses have moved on or closed. Others remaining are just waiting for the city



to move them out.  
 In the city's Market Analysis, it identified clubs form around the city, excluding the Palm Tavern to be part of the 47th Street Blues District which includes the 47th Street Culture Center (Lou Rawls Cultural Center) to complement the concept of an entertainment district.



**Everloyce McCullough, President of BEPAN. "The Palm Tavern reflects Black Chicago's historical past, we must preserve this institution."**



**...since the concept is a Blues District ...you (City) assist outside clubs to locate in our community, surly you can solicit inside business such as the historical Palm Tavern to be apart of it. If not is seems personal to me. Pat Hill**

The unclear of the plans the City and the alderman has for the Palm Tavern is a concern for Everloyce McCullough, President of the Black Economic & Political Action Network (BEPAN). “The Palm Tavern is the only business that reflects Chicago's historical past, we must preserve this institution.”

“The City and Tillman believes that they has an economic plan that will help strengthen the community,” Said Hill. “I think there has be some methodology in this. So we are not opposing what it may be. But, since the concept is a Blues District and you (City) assist outside clubs to locate in our community, surly you can solicit inside business such as the historical Palm Tavern to be apart of it. If not is seems personal to me.”

“I don't know who's got more influence with the development of 47th street.” Stress McCullough. “However this “Land Crab is going to far. I think it helps the community for the city to sit down and talk. There is a need for a more efficient way to community development than excluding historical landmarks such as the Palm Tavern.”

Other than the letter campaign of MSPDC, neither McCullough nor Hill confirmed talks with the City or Ald. Tillman. However, they both said concern civil and community activists have began dialogue to address their concerns with city government.

(Continued from page 1)

# Meet the Harvey Connection Meochia Nochi Blount, A Political Activist

HARVEY - Meochia Blount is running for Commissioner in Harvey's Park District because she wants to “to change the way people, especially minorities, view politics and encourage them to become more involved.”

Harvey has over 12,000 registered voters, however, only about 6,200 participated in the last election. The town is about 85 percent black and 91 percent minority.

“I am running to encourage younger people to take an active role in the community and to help build a ‘rock-solid foundation’ for future generations,” she says. “I am tired of the crime in my neighborhood, citizens being scared to speak out against crimes against them, the low-employment rates, the high taxes, the low reading and writing scores within the city, and the low voter turnout during elections.”

Her political interests were spawned in 1999, after she was arrested at a public meeting for speaking out about freedom of speech.

The comment Mayor Nicholas Graves made about Julius Patterson, Campaign Manager for Eric Kellogg, sparked racial tension in the meeting and some citizens demanded an apology. Blount spoke out after a male officer screamed at an elderly woman and demanded that she shut up and leave.

“I thought, who is he to disrespect this older woman like this? This is a public meeting, how can he tell her to



**“I felt like Rosa Parks,” she says. “I didn't know people were still fighting like that in the ‘90’s.” says Meochia**

shut up?” reflects Blount.

Before she knew it, Blount was pushed three times until she fell face down on the floor.

“The officers made up a false report stating that I used derogatory language,” she said. “They even used three officers to drag me out of the meeting and handcuff me: I am not that large.”

The trial lasted four months. Blount subpoenaed “everyone I could find,” and the charges were eventually dropped.

“I felt like Rosa Parks,” she says. “I didn't know people were still

fighting like that in the ‘90’s.”

Blount wrote a poem called *Wake My People* as a result of the incident. In it, she warns people that no services happen in the community without politics.

“I think I speak for everyone when I say, I am sick of hearing people complain but not move,” she says.

Not only did Harvey citizens pay her bail, they marched and cheered to her poetry days later.

Blount grew up in Harvey and went through its public school system.

“The quality of the education I received was wonderful,” she says. “That's why I believe the community has to stand up and take responsibility in changing these IGAP scores with better summer and after school programs.”

“My mother said Harvey was beautiful and flourishing with businesses and wonderful homes,” she says. “My vision is to make it into a modern version of what it used to be, using small steps and patience.”

Meochia is the author of *Tips For A Better You*, a newsletter that gives teenagers and their parents social, mental and physical advice. She is also the Publisher and Founder of *Kid & Teen Print Newspaper* for youths ages 3-16 that teaches reading, handwriting, comprehension, and promotes high-self esteem.

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# Campaign Fights Baiting of Teens on the Internet and in the Media

by Carmelita Banks  
Staff Writer

Lionel Abdul-Haqq of Chicago has monitored the movies, television and music for five and a half years on the "adverse effect on social behavior" in his *Review from the Video Library*.

"Mass communication is a weapon of social control," he said. "I wouldn't put it past these people to use subliminal messages, hypnotic lights, and images."

Then his daughter Imani died, and he expanded his efforts.

"This is a serious problem that will continue until we get to the bottom of it," he says. [The companies] probably has money to grease enough palms."

The problem is business fronts baiting rebellious teenagers on the Internet with jobs and housing in states where they are already considered adults and then forcing them into prostitution or pornography.

Haqq believes his "extremely bright" 17-year-old daughter unknowingly became involved in a ring. After she was baited on the Internet, she left her mother in Sum-



Imani Abdul-Haqq, 17, baited on the Internet, became involved in a ring that resulted in her death.

mer, Miss., and moved to Bridgeport, Ct., for a job with Call Management. Since room and board was provided and Connecticut considers 16-year-olds adults, she saw the job opportunity as her ticket to freedom, Haqq thinks.

"She'd lived a very sheltered life in a Muslim community called Medina," he said.

His daughter shared an apart-

ment with 4-5 people and was taking a crash course in Telecommunications and Website Design for six weeks before receiving on-the-job training. She contacted him after three weeks.

"She was happy," he said. "They were going to give her an office."

Instead, one of the other occupants shot Imani in the throat at 2 a.m. last July 24. At first, the other occupants said Tyrone Bonaparte was cleaning his gun when it accidentally discharged. Later, the Bridgeport Police Department changed the case from an accidental death to manslaughter and charged Davenport "only because of the pressure put on them by the family and the Muslim community," Haqq said.

He doesn't think anyone would clean a gun at 2 a.m.

"Connecticut has a bad reputation," he says. "The guy was charged, but none of the rest of [Call Management] was."

Back in Chicago, after a period of grief and prayer, Haqq, a former Imam of Islam, circulated a petition that was based on Connecti-

cut's considering 16-year-olds adults. He initiated a campaign for the universal protection and safety of children. His goals are two-fold: to make the law defining adulthood the same throughout the United States and to put restrictions and penalties on messages sent on the Internet.

"You can't put [subliminal or deceptive messages] in the newspaper or on television," he argues.

Haqq, who has no website, says adults have a hard enough time choosing not to become involved with advertising bait on the Internet. A child has less experience to be selective, he says.

"I want a Universal Law, so 18 year olds, not 16 or 17 will be considered an adult unless the parents or a state agency relinquishes authority."

Haqq's organization, Community Cultivations, publishes *Review from the Video Library* quarterly. The free booklet is available at Video Connection, Kat Video, Metro Video and Music, H&A Restaurant, Carter Funeral Chapels, Maxime's, McNeil and Associates, and Seaway Furniture.

Community Cultivations is looking for donations and volunteers to "sound the alarm about the negative influences in our culture." For more information about the campaign, call (888) 764-0507.



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## VOTE No! on Bill 602P U.S. Wants Cut of 5¢ on All E-Mail!!

It figures! No more free E-mail! Please read the following carefully if you intend to stay on-line and continue using E-mail.

We knew this was coming. The last few months have revealed an alarming trend in the United States Government's attempting to quietly push through legislation that will affect our use of the Internet.

Under proposed legislation, the U.S. Postal Service will be attempting to bill E-mail users a "alternative postage fees". Bill 602P will permit the Federal Government to charge a 5-cent surcharge on every E-Mail delivered, by billing Internet Service Provider. The consumer will then be billed in turn by the ISP.

Washington D.C. Lawyer Richard Stepp, is working without pay to prevent this legislation from becoming law. The U.S. Postal Service is claiming lost revenue, due to the proliferation of E-mail, which is costing nearly \$230,000,000 in revenue per year.

You may have noticed their recent ad campaign: "There is nothing like a letter." Since the average person received about 10 pieces of E-mail per day in 1998, the cost to

the typical individual would be an additional 50 cents a day - or over \$180 per year - above and beyond their regular Internet costs. This would be money paid directly to the U.S. Postal Service for a service they do not even provide.



The whole point of the Internet is democracy and non-interference. You are already paying an exorbitant price for snail mail because of bureaucratic efficiency. It currently takes up to 6 days for a letter to be delivered from coast to coast. If the U.S. Postal Service is allowed to tinker with E-mail, it will mark the end of the "free" Internet in the United States.

Our congressional representative, Tony Schnell (R) has even suggested a "\$20-\$40 per month surcharge on all Internet service" above and beyond the governments proposed E-mail charges. Note, most of the major newspapers have ignored the story, the only exception being the Washingtonian which called the idea of E-mail surcharge "a useful concept who's time has come" (March 6th, 1999 Editorial). Do not sit by, and watch your freedom erode away! Send this E-mail to EVERYONE on your list, and tell all your friends and relatives to write their congressional representative and say "NO" to Bill 602P. It will only take a few moments of your time and could very well be instrumental in killing a bill we do not want.

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## Mayor Daley's Neighborhood Ordinances

Richard Daley has set the following goals for the 2001 year for neighborhood Ordinances to pass in the City Council.

"The goal of these ordinances is to address issues that people see in their communities every day—abandoned and dilapidated buildings, gang and drug crime and the harmful effects that predatory lending practices have on the housing market," said Mayor Daley. "By providing these tools to the community, we can make Chicago a better place to live."

Highlights of this year's legislation include:

- revised gang loitering ordinance (passed 2/16/00): This new ordinance replaced a 1992 ordinance struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. The new ordinance addresses the Supreme Court's concerns by establishing two types of loitering, gang loitering and narcotics-related loitering, and clear definitions for both activities. It also requires police officers to first notify offenders that they are engaged in an illegal activity and issue a dispersal order before making any arrests, and the Police Superintendent to work with community organizations and elected officials to designate specific areas for enforcement of the ordinance.
- vacant building registration and insurance requirements (passed 4/12/00): The owners of vacant buildings are now required to register their buildings with the City within 30 days of becoming vacant and obtain liability insurance for the buildings. The owners of vacant residential properties must obtain a minimum of \$300,000 in liability insurance, and the owners of vacant commercial or industrial properties must obtain a minimum of \$1,000,000 liability insurance.
- predatory lending ordinance (passed 6/7/00): The first of its kind in the country, this ordinance re-

quires that any financial institution wishing to do business with the City sign a pledge stating neither it, nor any of its affiliates, engages in predatory lending.

- the ordinance also precludes home-repair contractors from receiving payments directly from lenders, a practice that leaves homeowners unable to withhold payment for substandard or non-existent work.

- cable competition (passed 6/28/00): This ordinance gives residents throughout Chicago a choice of cable television companies. It authorized City Cable Administrator to negotiate with 21st Century Cable/RCN to compete with existing cable vendors in cable areas 2, 3 and 4. Areas 2 and 3 currently are served only by Prime Cable; area 4 by AT & T. 21st Century Cable/RCN already competes with AT&T in area 1, which extends along the lakefront from Hyde Park to Rogers Park. In area 5, on the far South Side, cable customers can choose between AT & T and Ameritech New Media.

- purchasing ordinance amendments (passed 7/19/00): These amendments increase penalties against contractors who fail to meet MBE/WBEE subcontracting goals. To encourage smaller MBE/WBEE companies to bid on city contracts, the ordinance allows the City to make advance payments of up to \$200,000 to contractors before they begin work on a project.

- exterior wall maintenance program (passed 8/30/00): Requires property owners to conduct more frequent and comprehensive inspections of building facades.

- stop work order penalties (passed 8/30/00): This ordinance increased the penalties for violating a stop work order and doing work without a permit. The maximum fine was increased from \$500 to \$5000 dollars per day, and a mandatory

minimum jail sentence of three days can now be imposed.

- gang and drug house ordinance amendments (passed 8/30/00): Amendments would allow the City, take the buildings from their owners, evict drug dealers and place landlords in jail. This could happen only after a forcible felony, or two or more drug violations have occurred during a year on the premises, and only after the owner refused to take abatement measures ordered by the City. The City can begin eviction proceedings when there have been two or more drug violations in an apartment within six months, and the landlord can be charged with the City's costs up to a maximum of \$5,000. The ordinance also set a mandatory minimum term of at least four days in jail for owners who violate the order of an administrative hearing officer regarding the gang and drug house ordinance, dangerous building code violations or lead hazards.

- air conditioning for long-term care facilities (passed 9/27/00): Requires the owners of long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, to install air conditioning

- amendments to taxicab ordinance (passed 11/15/00): The City also plans to create a new category of medallions, of which 200 would be distributed next year to qualified contract bidders through a Request for Proposal process. 100 of the medallions would be designated as wheelchair accessible vehicles and all 200 cabs would generate no less than 40% of their fares from underserved communities or by servicing passengers with physical disabilities.

"Throughout the next year, my administration will continue to work with communities throughout our city to address neighborhood issues with new and innovative programs and services," said Mayor Daley.

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# Times may have an agenda

ly for those candidates and use and deliver benefits to up, not to a few individuals.

hich it may be getting ready to live. Which could leave can Americans in Chicago in a serious predicament. In Chicago, the power rests with Mayor M. Daley as George Bush, the President of the U.S. has assured us.

use to be Jesse Jackson Sr. could call the White House time. Now, Mayor Richard Daley can call anytime.

Whether Blacks live in Pillbox Hill, Beverly Hills, Robert Taylor Homes or, God knows, no housing predicament.

Black community so readily follow Rev. Jesse Jackson, not because he is not just for good head but to discredit him alone with his political agenda. Mr. Michael Jackson of the Chicago Sun-Times has Chicago in a predicament with Bush, and care less of any party, and now, the Sun-Times under the leadership of Rev. Jesse Jackson's inquisitions with PUSH Coalition.

disagreeing with Mary Miller asks the question, "Is it addressing PUSH's religious agenda have not read her column on her columns I question because columnists are coming a journalist. (Just as

Colin Powell is Black before he is the Secretary of State). However, is it true, the caller ask on Cliff Kelley show.

Yes it is. PUSH is a civil rights organization with a church base format that receives money from the government. Just like most of the noble ministers in Chicago. Politically and historically religion has always been the way to control Blacks, and mainly in Chicago. Bush has big bait with his Faith Base program. Rather it's the Catholic or Protestant, Blacks such as Bamani Obadele is going to make sure he receive some Faith Base funding from Bush. No different as the democratic power have funded Churches for influences for many reasons.

The reality is the Sun-Times has an agenda with Daley and Bush as Chicago is changing making the Black focus and contribution less. As the Sun-Times makes it known on the front-page (March 8) that Blacks are not the majority minority anymore and it leadership is questioned. Even Daley picked up on this long ago from his brother William Daley as the U.S. Commerce Secretary.

Everyone knows the tremendous amount of work of Rev. Jackson over shadows his controversial trails. Leaders of PUSH points out the Sun-Times leaves an unwitting reader with false impression that PUSH exists to benefit friends and family of Rev. Jackson. In addition the articles leads readers to question Black leadership as a whole in its new marketing approach.

PUSH under Rev. Jackson's leadership says Blacks are in the fourth movement of economic opportunity and access to capital--which remains incomplete. To earn \$400,000 a year, one can be a millionaire in three years. For the many Black millionaires he has devel-



## From the Publisher

oped he should be one. After all, if anyone should be proud of that is the general white Americans. And he still should receive Reparations. But there seems to be a flag in contrast, as the Rev. Jackson and his son, the Congressman wrote a book, "It's about the Money."

Without reading the book, to me ministers should be writing books entitled, "It's about God; or "It's About People." Then sub-title it "Money".

It is alarming when it comes to local politics in Chicago; the strange liking of Rainbow/PUSH and the Nation of Islam; both with religious foundations with progressive agendas. Both compromise political independence of the 17th ward race by supporting Ald. Thomas (Daley); one organization was active, the other by way of saying nothing at all. No discredit to the alderman or the Mayor. But money (development) seems to be the compromising interest of the political agenda.

As written in the Harvest Institute, *Those who purport to be the liaisons between Black people and political powers should be held accountable for delivering benefits to the group.* Both world leaders have some form of dialogue with Mayor Daley, than they do with each other with headquarters blocks away from each other.

At what price do the Black community pay for leaders to compromise the terms of unresolved united political power for self-interest. It is better for a business people and elected officials to compromise deals on freedom than men of God.

*"It is equally as worthwhile to note that through specious patronage and tight levels of organization, Black communities have never been permitted to organize in their own best interest... and whenever real attempts were made to do so, all actors on this stage were eliminated in one way or the other."*

Black Politics, 1975 by Lu Palmer, Anderson Thompson and Jorja English-Palmer.

Rather its the Sun-Times or George Bush, at the height of King and Malcolm's crusade there was similar revelations. There needs to be a Black Political Agenda 2001, before African Americans won't be able to find their way out of the BUSHES and get burned.

## REPARATIONS, LAWSUITS & N'COBRA

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

The National Co-chair of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), Brother Hannibal Afrik, in describing the formation of N'COBRA, wrote that, "In 1987, a call was made for a new coalition to address the issue of fundamental rights for those of African ancestry." Brother Afrik explains that in response "to that call, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) was born."

In this regard, Brother Afrik points out, "since 1988, this group has developed a number of strategies designed to gain reparations for African descended people within the United States and also help advance international efforts to win reparations for African people throughout the Diaspora."

To assist in helping to intensify the discussion and dialogue about reparations, the National Black United Front (NBUF), Chicago Chapter, has sponsored, since November, an important lecture series on reparations for African people worldwide and the comprehensive strategies that must be employed in our efforts to make the demands of reparations a reality.

Our next *Reparations Lecture* will take place on **Saturday, March 24th** at the **AGAPE M.B. Church, 6035 S. Ashland Avenue in Chicago.** The Pastor is Rev. Dr. O.D. White, Sr. This Reparations Lecture will focus on the efforts of N'COBRA to develop and file a Reparations Lawsuit against the United States Government.

N'COBRA's Legal Strategies commission Chairperson, Attorney Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, from Washington, D.C., will be our guest lecturer. She will discuss the "Origin, Development, and Status of the N'COBRA Reparations Lawsuit."

Atty Aiyetoro is eminently qualified to address this topic given her vast legal background as a "Movement Lawyer." She is "a social justice activist with expertise in administration, program development, and litigation." She has served as a consultant for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She is also on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. In this connection, she had also served as Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) formed 1989 to 1997.

Many people have questioned the viability of filing a Reparations Lawsuit against the United States Government. Some believe we can't win in their courts. So therefore, they claim it is a waste of time and energy. It is our position that this is just another important strategy in the overall efforts to intensify the demands for reparations in this country, thus enabling us to expose publicly, in their courts of law, the historical and continuing forms of racism and white supremacy of governmental policies that continue to plague African people in America.

In the recently published book by Linda Eustace and Dr. Imari Obadele titled, *Eight Women Leaders of the Reparations Movement*, they report Attorney Aiyetoro as saying, "I continue to be convinced that there is a legal as well as moral basis for obtaining reparations. She explained. *One day some fifteen years ago I was walking down a street in Washington, D.C. and saw a poster that said - Black People, Uncle Sam owes you \$4.1 Trillion! An immediate yes!!! welled up from my gut. I was hooked.*"

Mark **Saturday, March 24th** on your calendar and participate in this important NBUF, Chicago Chapter, sponsored reparations lecture. **Doors open at 3:00 p.m. and the lecture begins promptly at 4:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!**

(Dr. Worrill is the National Chairman of the National Black United Front/NBUF, 708-389-9929, Fax 708-389-9819, E-Mail: [nbufchi@allways.net](mailto:nbufchi@allways.net) Web page: [nbuf.org](http://nbuf.org))

## Letters to the Editor

### to Lu



### "A Tribute to Mr. Lu Palmer"

that inspiration to me and I can't work that he has done to has always been on target and never be a reminder to me.

and even though he did not get served, he left a mark in the country not been forgotten. It was an honor to work on his for the First Congressional District race. It was a for a man who has done more for the ordinary people than other human being that ever lived.

he retires. I know he is not happy with what he sees, and our people. He has fought too hard to go out with a noble manner. I say to Lu, you have given 100% and in that. I Love you, Lu and I wish you nothing but the retirement. This poem is a tribute to you.

Sincerely, Mable Cole

**L** for legacy of love for his people.

**U** for the understanding, loyal and unforgotten keeper.

**P** for purpose, for surely this is why you were put on this earth, to guide and help. So much you have endured.

**A** for able, for that is what you are, A great human being, the best by far.

**L** for life which you so willingly put on the line just to give food for thought that one day your people would be free and peace they would someday find.

**M** for the most valuable friend one could have, never any doubt because Lu you've been there.

**E** for eagle for that is what you were soaring through the community getting out the word, Educating the people about the things they had not heard.

**R** for realist for that is what you have been and I will never forget you my dear, dear, friend.

### fa D.C.

your assistance to the Inaugural As you effort for a ACLU, the Demobry Rush, churches. the haunting Codes, the Crow Laws, on, and the preme Court of the ve to D.C.,

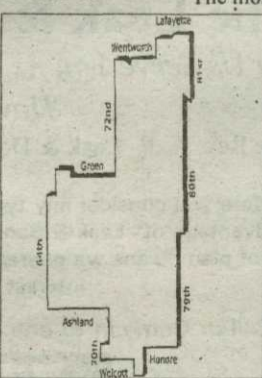
en who are ze, enslave ave always crowd of gave me a fragile a

I am happy to report to you that on February 27th, we were victorious in the 17th Ward because we sent a message to Mayor Daley that there is a segment of our community that will stand-up against dictatorship. When it became apparent there was a challenger going against his appointee, I'm sure he expected an older, more experience individual to lead the crusade. Never in his wildest dreams did he anticipate a 28-year old leading this movement and subsequently causing so much concern.

They tried to label me a drug dealer and a gang member, instead of the successful business owner I am, or the Simeon High School graduate who stood up against those with college degrees and won every debate and political forum hands down. Yes! we sent a message.

However, we must now begin to build on foundation and relationships with more grassroots organizations for an

agenda to take this movement to the next level. The fact that we were able to bring Black question for a Black Political agenda is also a good foundation, not to mention 10% is good too. It was so ironic that my punch number was 4 because that number represents foundation.



The most critical problems we have to face is the land grab issue, the Agenda and a focus on economic development with emphasis on our most precious resource, **our youth.**

I was recently asked what I'd do as alderman for my first 90 days in office. Well, regardless of the election outcome, my plans now are the same as when the question was first asked of me. I will get to work on the 17th Ward Assembly and spearhead a massive voter registration drive.

I say to all of you, I have not given up; not in you, not in myself, not in God, and if it is His will, next time, we won't just send a message, we will seize political power - not just in the 17th ward.

Respectfully and Humbly yours,  
Tyrone De'Andre Hawthorne

## From the Candidate of the 17th Ward.

Dear Voters and Friends:

I would like to thank all of you for your support and your prayers. I could not have stood on the front line of this struggle if it had not been for you.

**March 8, 2001, Volume 8 Number 9**

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

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# Spiritual

**Hello, Mr. Carter,**  
*By drawing close to God and praying to Him for that inner strength to cope with life's ups and downs, we will be helped by God. This is exactly what the Bible promises in Philippians 4:6-7.*  
*The Bible also teaches us how we can draw closer to God and get His guidance in our lives. The brochure I am enclosing discusses what God requires of us and it has many topics you can benefit from.*  
*Thank you so much for your time.*  
 Sincerely,  
**Mrs. Annie Ruth Badie**

(Continued from page 3)

## Black History

religious leaders tell people about a better life after death, they should also do all they can to help them have a better life before death."  
 "It will be a great help to the economic improvement of the Black community if all the people who took part in the civil rights marches under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King; the Million Man March under the leadership of Minister Louis Farrakhan; the Million Woman March, the Million Youth March, the Million Family March, and all of us who are seeking reparation would march in the Black community with our dollars. This would really be making black history".

## The Coalition for Selective Buying Plan Shop-in

On Saturday, March 10, the Coalition of Selective Buying will hold a shop-in. "We're trying to make the whole city [Black and White] aware that selective buying will create money for our community," said Chair Leroy Lord.  
 Each month the coalition focuses on a local business within the Black community. Planned shop-ins are for Chatham Pancake House, Chatham Food Center, and Solutions targeted on the Southside; Edna's Restaurant on the Westside, and Afri-Ware in Oak Park. Buses and vans are donated each month for the trip by churches and other organizations.  
 For more information, please call Randy at (773) 488-6408, Webb Evans at (773) 268-1873, or Leroy at (773) 493-2072.

## Woodlawn's Christ Apostolic Church is First in USA to Conduct Pan-African Spiritual Service

Professor Chinweizu from Nigeria spoke at the first Pan African Spiritual Service in an American church on Dec. 17, at Christ Church, 1445 E. 65th St. The service made the church the first to focus on reparations for Blacks in the United States to achieve justice for the pain and suffering of their African ancestors.

placed over the church entranceway. Music by the choir and church musicians accompanied the service.

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America has been leading the movement for 11 years. This year, it intends to file a lawsuit for the reparations. The service by a faith-based institution was critical for mobilizing support for the suit.

Rev. Dr. Leon Finney, Jr.  
 Christ Apostolic Church  
 1445 E. 65th Street  
 Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Rev. Finney:

PONGEZI (Congratulations)

**O**n behalf of our Co-chairperson, Dorothy Benton Lewis and the N'COBRA membership, I commend you and your church congregation for the outstanding leadership demonstrated in our Reparations Movement.

Christ Apostolic Church has become our first BLACK REPARATIONS, NOW! church in the country. I was honored to be present to witness the official sign placed over the entranceway and to also participate in a truly inspirational worship service.

You hosted our esteemed Nigerian scholar, Professor Chinweizu and conducted a Pan African Spiritual Service which was highlighted by the stirring melodic voices of the Sanctuary Ensemble and musicians. The church family was most gracious in extending love and hospitality to all visitors.

For over 11 years, N'COBRA has been leading the modern Reparations Movement to achieve justice for the pain and suffering of our African ancestors. We are now poised to file a National Class-Action Lawsuit in early 2001, and the support of all faith-based institutions is very critical to our mass mobilization.

We look forward to continued success from Christ Church and the Chicago N'COBRA chapter throughout the new year. By your commitment, you are a beacon of hope and enlightenment for African people in America.

God bless you always.  
 In unity and struggle,

Baba Hannibal Afrik  
 National Co-chairperson



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# Ask Mother You don't have to be a victim, bud



## Diva,

these years because it's cheaper to keep her, and I am settled. I want to do something positive like go to church and back to medical school, but she is against this.

Lately I work overtime just to stay out of the house. I just go there and feed my cat. My wife says I love the cat more than her.

My people have suggested prayer, a marriage counselor or leaving my wife, but I'd do better being counseled by the local bartender. My mom even tries to fix me up on dates.

I have a lot of regrets, but before I turn 50, I want to look back on my life and have accomplished some positive goals, which is easier said than done.

Please help.

Prisoner of Circumstance  
Orland Park

### Dear Prisoner,

Oh no, I am not going to tell you to leave your wife. The last thing I need is a crazed woman blaming me for breaking up her marriage.

Your family is right about some things. Prayer is great for the soul. You need spiritual cleansing and healing, we all do. Surrounding

Dear Mother Diva,

I am a 45-year-old married black male. My wife and I have been together for 15 years, married 9. We both have adult children from prior relationships.

The problem is my wife is a mean bitch. I don't know if she is crazy or going through the change. In the beginning it was all good, but after five years, we don't have fun anymore.

She's lazy, smokes a lot a pot (so do I sometimes), and doesn't want to work. I finally convinced her to get a part time job so she wouldn't be stuck in the house all day. Only God knows how long that will last. At one point I left her and moved in with my parents, but I still paid all the bills.

Six months ago I cheated and am thinking about doing it again. I have been with her all

## Englewood still Measuring the Threats Opportunity:

Englewood - The Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force (GECFTF) have been holding community strategy sessions to address major unanswered questions on the "Rebirth of Englewood" programs.

Early this year the Task Force urged elected officials to withdraw from voting on language associated with the Englewood Empowerment Zone district. It consist of the Workforce Development package, which was to fund six applicants in what the consortium of residents and organizations say have any significant history servicing Greater Englewood residents associated with their interest of program services.

The Task Force reported out of the \$3.7 million proposed for program services, not one contains a funding partnership with a recognizable locally based organization. In addition, \$362,000 was slated for capacity building of local groups.

Upon the concerns of the Task Force is accountable to the community, and local officials commit to citizen oversight in decisions

about planning, the cost of housing and access to jobs in the Englewood community.

Organizer submitted their concerns to Aldermen Shirley Coleman (16), Arenda Troutman (20), V. Lyles (6), Dorothy Tillman (30), L. Thomas (17), T. Thomas (15), E. Burke (14) and L. Dixon (8). [

Among their concerns were, time table for Englewood designated as a Tax Increment Financing" (TIF) District and what boundary cover what areas?

The Task Force viewed the TIF to be the City's most powerful economic development tool. It would provide power to collect property, isolate and redirect property taxes dollars, and control the community's redevelopment goal.

A major concern if the City's housing plan would raise the community's cost of living and shorten the life of local Section 8 vouchers that may a cause development displacing the current residents?

For more information, call the GECFTF at 436-4870.

yourself in a positive environment is an excellent start.

If your wife is all of the things you say she is, she was probably that way when you met her. The fact that you "sometimes" contribute to her behavior only makes the situation worst. You are to blame for all this chaos in your life because you allow it to continue.

Your wife knows you well. People never show their true colors until they learn how far they can push.

We human beings subconsciously attract negative energy. When we consciously do not put an end to it, we are guilty of ABUSE, not loving ourselves enough to make a judgment call. The sad part is if you do leave for a

kinder woman, you will treat her like your wife. Stop being a punk ass coward. Grow up and be a man.

Don't let anyone steal your dreams, my darling future doctor.

I will pray for you.

Love always,  
MotherDiva

Mother Diva, actress/comedienne, formerly a cast member of the Keenen Ivory Wayans show, "the church lady" on Fox's Ally McBeal, publishes a weekly advice column in SSSJ. Whether gay or straight, big or tall, Mother Diva has the answers for you.

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Yaw B. Mintah  
Executive Director

(Continued from page 8)

# Cassius & Roxanne

"Because I was dying inside. The money was good, the perks were amazing, but I knew if I didn't get out, I would die."

"Well, I guess you did what you had to do," I said disapprovingly.

"That's an easy response, sister," he said, "Tell me what you really think."

"I think that you have to sometimes stick with things you hate," I said, trying not to censor myself. "Life is hard, but you have to survive."

His eyes widened a little. He leaned closer to me and stroked the side of my face. "You don't really believe that," he said.

My face was on fire where he touched me. I tried to remain calm and focused, directing my thoughts on his question.

"Yes," I said, feeling lightheaded and exposed. "We have to think about the consequences of our act."

"What's your name?" he asked, breaking in once again.

After a short silence, I answered, "Roxanne Daniels."

He looked as if I had just struck him across the face. Then he started to laugh uncontrollably, holding his stomach. I thought he might throw up, possibly on me. He grabbed me by the shoulders tightly, as I struggled to get away, wrapped his strong arms around me, and kissed me lightly on the earlobe, finally releasing me to stare directly into my face.

"You don't know me do you," he continued to grin like a crazy man as I fought the urge to bolt out of the car, screaming for my life.

"No no," I said, reaching towards the car handle.

"It's me me, Roxanne. Look closely, Cass Joseph from the row house 45th and Cottage. We lived two houses down from your family."

I was so still. The only thoughts I could hear were from the ones that suddenly threw me back to a time that held the single purest joy of my life.

The millions of stars out that night seemed just for us. We sat on crates, our knees touching. Since it

was chilly, his hesitantly placed arm around my shoulders fit like it always belonged there. His eyes were a kaleidoscope of colors — blue, green, yellow, orange like one of those wildcats photographed in the dark in *National Geographic*.

It was as though the messages from our minds were being played out in a silent symphony that only we knew and cared about. Finally he boldly pulled my face up to his and put his lips gently onto mine, softly at first, then more forcefully until we both knew it was time to stop. Then we quietly sat together for a long time and inhaled the last breaths of our childhood. That was the first kiss for Cass and me. We best friends would later fall in love.

When I came back to reality, I stared at him in disbelief. He looked so different. I was a little ashamed that I hadn't recognized him sooner. He could see the confusion and shame in my eyes.

"It's okay," he said, laying his hand across mine. "I didn't recognize you either, until you said your name."

"Still," I answered, my voice aching with guilt, "I should have known after all we were to each other."

"I don't care," he chuckled, grabbing my hands again and kissing each fingertip swiftly and passionately.

"Your name is different," I said. Letting go of my hands, he reached up, plucked the scarf from my head, and brushed strands of loose hair from my face before he answered. "It was my grandmother's maiden name. I thought at the time it sounded more professional and imposing than Joseph."

"And the dog," I said. "Hers," he answered, winking playfully at me. "I hate poodles." We both laughed.

"Let's go someplace," he said. "I don't care where. Let's just go so we can talk and get to know each other again."

I shrugged and said okay. I knew I wouldn't get to work now, and would probably not go back. I was a little scared, but I didn't care. I wanted to be right where I was. I leaned over and kissed Cass on the lips and we both smiled. "Let's go, I said, "let's go." It's been two and a half years and we're still going strong. As my grandmother would say, "Second chances at love don't come often, but when they do, don't forget to welcome them with open arms."



## Rappin Tate Ask for time of WGCI



Rappin Tate

WGCI may be blocking hometown Rappin Tate the Great's latest CD, R.E.A.D. (Rejuvenate, Exonerate, All Delinquents). Supporters of Rappin Tate has solicited SSJ so Chicagoans need to get out the support for the hot new single, youths and adults are crying for.

Supporters are ask to send request to B-96, 630 N. McClurg Ct. Chicago, IL 60611. In addition, Rappin Tate will be announcing an upcoming event later in March.

## Hollywood in Chicago

Two Hollywood movie studio and filmmakers have headed here for filming in anticipation of a lengthy actors' strike due June 30.

The weekend of Feb. 16, double Oscar nominated director of *Erin Brockovich* and *Traffic*, Steven Soderbergh did five days of shooting here for his movie remake of *Oceans' Eleven* with George Clooney and Matt Damon.

Chicago born filmmaker Michael Mann of *The Insider*, *Thief*, *Manhunter*, TV's *Miami Vice*, and *Crime Story* returns home March 22 to begin five weeks of shooting his bio-pic *Muhammad Ali*, starring Will Smith. Filming will include several north and southside locations.

by David Schultz

## Coalition Protests Lack of Blacks in Production of 'Ali' Movie

Filming around 59th and Wentworth, a coalition of Black filmmakers are asking for community support against Sony/Columbia Pictures' production of *Ali*, starring Will Smith.

"There is no key position held by a person of color," reported an unidentified representative of the Black Film Technicians in Chicago.

The organization pointed out that little of the \$105 million budgeted for the picture will go to African American film technicians.

Currently, the Black Film Technicians hold approximately 10 out of 300 jobs on the production. A spokesperson reported, calling the tactics use to keep Black people off this production "devious, underhanded, and blatantly exclusionary." Mr. Will Smith reportedly has, for whatever reason, chosen to remain silent on this issue.

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However, Mama Diva of SSJ, who lives near the production site says Blacks seem to have a presence now since the report was issued to SSJ late February.

The spokesperson for the Black filmmakers said, "They are telling our stories, defining our people, with little or no input from us," said the unidentified technician. "The writer, producers, director, hair stylist, make-up artist, and wardrobe people are all white."

In addition the spokesperson said many of the White people that hold those key positions are insensitive, apathetic, know little and care less about the Black experience, let alone Muhammad Ali.

"Competent, highly qualified Black people have been denied employment, in favor of hiring non-Blacks whose skills are inadequate as they apply to this production," reported the irate technician.

## ON CD by David Schultz

### J. LO - Jennifer Lopez (Epic)

(\*\*) Backed by an army of producers and songwriters, Jennifer Lopez unleashes a mostly up-tempo, fast paced sophomore CD redesigned for the frenetic dance crowd. However, it lacks distinction and diversity. Even the Latin influence doesn't kick in until the 6th track. The musical genre is still sporadic. Her current single, "Love Don't Cost A Thing" gives this CD a decent sendoff. Choice Selections: "Love Don't Cost A Thing", "I'm Real", "Walking On Sunshine", "We Gotta Talk", "Secretly", "I'm Gonna Be Alright", "That's The Way".

### DOWN TO EARTH (Music from the Motion Picture) - Various Artists (Epic)

(\*\*) This hip hop collection of original tracks featured in the Chris Rock comedy farce offers a strong array of current talent from newcomers like Jill Scott to established stars like Lauryn Hill. But several tracks are taken from individual CD's, which don't always put their best effort here. Perhaps Chris Rock should have titled this *CB4 II*. Choice Selections: "Glitches" (The Roots w/ Amel Larrieux), "Just Another Girl" (Monica), "Can You Tell It's Me" (Ginuwine), "Someone To Love You" (Ruff Endz), "Gin and Juice" (Snoop Doggy Dogg), "With You" (Son By Four), "Thug Music Play On" (Bones Thugs-N-Harmony).

### LOVERS ROCK - Sade (Epic)

(\*\* 1/2) There's a somber groove of pain and knowledge that accents this long anticipated new CD offering from this moody jazz-soul vocalist. While Sade doesn't stray from her signature sound, she doesn't bemoan much of what we haven't heard already from her previous CD's. One might feel more mesmerized by her band, which provides an evocative atmosphere in their instrumentation — tight and firm with some sublime exotic percussion.

One feels a strong sense of Sade's personal experiences expressed in song. "Lovers Rock" may take some time to grow on us because it falls short of our expectation. It is a bit mundane with only the band's rhythmic influence and atmosphere more than the artist to sustain our interest. Choice Selections: "By Your Side," "Flow," "King of Sorrow," "Somebody Already Broke My Heart," "Immigrant," "Lovers Rock."

### BABYFACE: A COLLECTION OF HIS GREATEST HITS (Epic)

(\*\* 1/2) Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds has come a long way. In this compilation the man is represented here with a couple of new tracks and a few favorite album cuts. Although Babyface has built a favorable repertoire from his passion-felt ballads, we don't get a greater sense of the man behind the artist. This CD hardly represents a full body of work or a midterm report card of what he has accomplished so far.

Choice Selections: "For the Cool in You," "Whip Appeal," "Never Keeping Secrets," "When Can I See You Again," "Every Time I Close My Eyes," "This Is For The Lover In You," "Reason For Breathing," "Soon As I Get Home."

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**AT THE FLICKS**

**THE VISIT**

(\*\*\*) Hill Harper delivers a complex performance as the centerpiece of filmmaker Jordan Walker-Pearlman's film based on a true story from a stage play. *The Visit* involves the shattering of a family's ideals because of the imprisonment of their youngest son. Harper portrays Alexander Walker, who's serving the fifth year of a 25-year jail term for a rape crime he insists he did not commit. He is a former heroin addict who is dying from AIDS, while trying to come to terms with personal differences in his life—childhood, prison dreams, and relationships.

It is a human odyssey into a man's soul that begins when he requests the presence of his successful and reluctant older brother, Tony (Obba Babatundé), who waits ten minutes. Alexander reveals his illness and asks his help to get their strict, judgmental father (Billy Dee Williams) and sympathetic mother (Marla Gibbs) to come. Rae Dawn Chong portrays Felicia McDonald, a childhood acquaintance who was a crack-head, who evidently killed her abusive father. She makes a surprise visit to help Alex replace his bitterness with compassion. And there are also the private sessions with prison psychiatrist Dr. Coles (Phylicia Rasheed), who helps Alex confront his demons with each visit of his family.

*The Visit* is a deeply rooted human tapestry of



people in conflict with themselves and each other. The movie explores the emotional scars and inner secrets, while finding some reconciliation and courage due, in part, to Alex's impending death. Elder brother Tony reveals them in a sermon-like soliloquy at the church funeral address in the film's finale.

Still, filmmaker Pearlman's careful filming and editing technique manage to tone down the obvious cliché reference here through the course

of this film as well as the subtle direction and acting. *The Visit* is the first cinematic effort from a minority-owned company, Urban World Films, that is not yet at the marketing, promotional and filming technique level of the major and independent studios and distributors. The film will probably have a short life span in theaters because it does not follow the norm. It is an alternative that is worth our time and attention. It is a step in the right direction for more black-oriented films that deal less with the action of the story line and more with the characters as human beings. Rated: R, 107 min. An Urban World Pictures release

somehow for the young man's death. Rolumus' detective daughter, Lulu (Aunjanue Ellis) scoffs at her father's notion.

But when Rolumus sets out seeking clues to prove his suspicion. He finds a positive reason for his existence and challenges the perception of others such as his ex-wife who tries to tell him that their daughter rather have a father than a "psycho Sherlock Holmes". What the ex-wife fails to see is the desire in Rolumus' actions. Being an amateur sleuth to solve the murder of a young man, who knew him, is his way of regaining his daughter's respect and love. Of course, there is a lot more to this film, its story and characters than I'm telling. But that is part of the infatuation within the mystery.

Director Kasi Lemmons takes the viewer for a ride. She does one of several things movies are supposed to be—creating new experience from a familiar movie genre. As Ms. Lemmons did with "Eve's Bayou", she creates a surreal with the real" atmosphere. While carefully spinning her characters and story into an unconventional manner that keeps us intrigued and guessing.

Visually stunning and emotional, "The Caveman's Valentine" is a mesmerizing film with Samuel L. Jackson in a performance we haven't seen from him before. He delivers a unique portrayal of a man on the outside that is on the edge that allows him to find his place through this quest for acceptance from his estranged daughter. "The Caveman's Valentine", is a complex film that is channeled well into a simple message of justice, courage and love. "The Caveman's Valentine" is truly, the first real thriller of the millennium.



**ENTERTAINING**

with David Schultz

**ON VIDEO  
THE ORIGINAL KINGS  
OF COMEDY**



(\*\*\*) Director Spike Lee's documentary follows the onstage performances and backstage camaraderie of four of today's hot black comics, Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley, Cedric The Entertainer and Chicago's own Bernie Mac during their successful concert tour last Spring. The film hearkens back the joys and humor of other concert films like Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy. It's hilarious fun. Rated: R, 115 min.

**BLESS THE CHILD**  
(\*\*) Foretold of the arrival of a God-sent child, Kim Basinger stars as a woman forced to mother a 9-day-old infant of a drug addict relative. When the child turns 6 (get the reference to the Devil?), she becomes the chosen one with the unique power that an anti-Christ religious group led by a fanatic leader (Rufus Sewell) seeks as his sacrificial lamb. Jimmy Smits co-stars as the detective on the case. Rated: R 107 min.

**THE QUEENS OF COMEDY**  
(\*\*) Recent TV cable special shown on Showtime is designed to compliment the theatrical male stand-up version. However, getting raunchy doesn't make it better. Chicago's own Adele Givens is a hoot. Sommore seems to voice pattern herself like Chris Rock. TV's "The Parkers" Mo'Nique's rant on skinny people is hilarious enough to be smart and insightful. Laura Hayes emcees the affair while getting her bites in. It's crude and crazy from start to finish, covering topics on sex in prison, and Clinton's sex-cesses. Rated: R, 79 min.

**BEAUTIFUL**  
(\*\*) Sally Field makes an adequate directorial debut with this comedy drama about an ambitious single woman (Minnie Driver) whose lifelong obsession to become pageant queen, leads to a moral dilemma over her responsibility toward a child (Hallie Kate Eisenberg) that doesn't know who is her natural mother. Joey Lauren Adams plays the woman's best friend, raising the child to keep her from being disqualified until Driver's character becomes a finalist and the daughter begins to ask questions. This is an odd film about choices and obligations that focuses more on the situation than on being completely truthful in its depictions. Rated: PG-13, 112 min. Columbia Tri-Star

**DOWN TO EARTH**



(\*\*) Chris Rock does an urban variation on the 1978 Warren Beatty comedy fantasy, *Heaven Can Wait*, which was a remake of the 1941 Robert Montgomery film based on the play, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*. Rock plays Lance Burton, a bike messenger struggling to be a stand-up comic, who is funnier off more than onstage. Lance is accidentally sent to heaven before his time by angel aide Mr. Keyes (Eugene Levy), when he is hit by a truck. Keyes's boss Mr. King (Chaz Palminteri) agrees to send Lance back in a temporary body so Lance can meet the woman he spotted and perform onstage at the Apollo Theatre.

The body he receives—one belonging to a White elderly rich business tycoon, Charles Wellington, who has just been murdered by his wife and aide (Jennifer Coolidge and Greg Germann), who are having an affair. The woman Lance wants to fall in love with, Sontee Jenkins (Regina King), is black and the social crusader for a Brooklyn community hospital about to be shut down by Wellington's company for a future shopping mall.

Naturally, Sontee initially resists Wellington. But before then Lance as Wellington finally gets Sontee into an interracial love affair that we only see in Lance's face and body.

We see only a Black man who is supposed to be in a white body acting and looking black instead of white. This hurts a lot of the film's intended cultural shock humor. The big laughs this movie has are too few. The film isn't edgy as Chris Rock can be in his stand up monologues.

The film could have been funnier if Rock's character were done in white face like the late Godfrey Cambridge did in Melvin Van Peebles' 1970 satire, *Watermelon Man*. In fact, if Rock had remade that film it would have allowed Rock to truly "be himself." Oh well, at least it's better than *CB4*.

Rated: PG-13, 83 min. A Paramount Picture Release

**THE CAVEMAN'S VALENTINE**  
(\*\*\*) Even more mysterious and compelling as an unconventional murder, the murdered victim as a photo model that Rolumus holds responsible

Home Video  
**THE PRISONER**  
(\*\*) A misleading video by its packaging in order to capitalize on one of Jackie Chan's early screen roles. A crooked prison warden uses inmates to arrange fake deaths in order to kill for him and protect his drug cartel business, or anyone who comes close to exposing his true identity. So when a police commander is murdered. His young detective protégé (Andy Lau) goes undercover in the prison seeking to expose the truth. There, he encounters an inmate (Sammo Hung) who keeps escaping to visit his son. And an imprisoned pool hustler marked for death for accidentally killing a mobster's brother. (Rated: R, 96 min. Columbia Tri-Star Home Video)

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(Continued from page 1)

## CHA residents

even if they used to live in public housing, but left under emergency situations.

What makes Lynch's situation worse is that she now has nine children. Two are nephews for whom she has custody. The Department of Children and Family Services took one look at the basement apartment in her mother's home and declared it unlivable because it had flooded.

The Chicago Child Care Society and one of her children's teachers are trying to find her housing in the private sector.

"I did all I can do. I wrote a lot of people - even the Mayor," she says. "It's really getting on my nerves."

Mayor Daley wrote back, saying there was nothing he could do. So the residents who left public housing before Oct. 1, 1999, have to fend for themselves.

The only rehabilitation the southside residents have seen is the temporary kind to hold them while new homes are built that cost \$47 million, according to Moore who will be moving temporarily to 5135 S. State from 5347 S. Federal, and before that 5266 S. State St.

This year residents will know what permanent rehabbing looks like after the Wentworth Gardens' rowhouses are complete. (Construction begins this spring, Hill says.) Until then, they will have to visit the north and west sides to see the possibilities.

Daphne Jasper used to live in one of the Henry Horner highrises on the Westside. She now lives in one of the new scattered homes on the Horner site. She's also the Site Manager.

"I was highly involved in the planning," she says. Her 119 neighbors elected her to represent them on Horner's LAC seven years ago. "Whatever [housing choices CHA] promised, we got - scattered homes, Section 8, rehabbed or new build-

ings."

The rent is 50-80 percent of the market rate, she says. The current tenants are 50 percent low-income and 50 percent working. Jasper is a working tenant. Working tenants must have income ranging from a minimum of \$20,500 for one-

have large eat-in kitchens, ample closets, an extra bathroom in the master bedroom, wall-to-wall carpeting, laundry facilities and clean lawns with playground equipment, do not look like the stereo-typical public housing. Some have 4-5 bedrooms; others have two apartments.

So the new homes meet the needs of large low-income families.

Also, on the westside are the one-story rowhouses rehabilitated by ABLA. Outside, the only difference between them and those not rehabilitated is color: the rehabbed homes

construction company in order for them to build."

A few blocks away are the empty, deteriorated Jane Addams highrises, built in 1938, which cannot be demolished because, as Chicago's first public housing, they are landmarks. Hill says CHA will have to figure a cost-efficient way to rehabilitate them.

So the verdict on what rehabbed public housing has to offer is still out.

Behind the Addams landmarks are three examples of mixed-income townhomes by private contractor Gallucci. Since the homes are on federal land, 20% must go to low-income tenants. However, Gallucci must adhere to the Section 3 requirement for construction workers, Hill says.

So mixed-income housing will have market renters mixed in with public housing renters. It will allow for regentrification of the neighborhood. Hill says that the Horner Homes will not become mixed-income for seven years, after the public housing residents are settled in first.

The Section 8 certificate option for public housing residents to move into regular housing and have their rent subsidized by the government has turned out to be fool's gold for many. Some have encountered heating problems as covered in earlier issues of *South Street Journal*. More have encountered prejudice against "those project people," says Janice Patton, formerly from Taylor.

CHA put Patton, her mother Ethel Washington and other Taylor families out during the blizzard of 1999 because of heating concerns. They were relocated for 10 months to

quickly rehabbed buildings - the cabinets and missing tiles had been replaced. Her family and nine others were finally admitted to a private apartment complex on 56th and Prairie, after a year of help from the Empowerment Zone funding.

"[Landlords] don't want people with teenagers," she says. "Those who do take kids want to see their report cards."

The landlord wanted each of the families to pay \$15 for a credit check and would take no one who had a felony, she says. The school required a copy of each child's report card before admitting any.

Patton blames CHA for not preparing families with bad credit and social problems to make the transition to regular housing: "CHA would let people go without paying the rent for 5-6 months. Others owed high light bills," she says. "Some had been in public housing for five and six generations."

CHA Chief Executive officer Terry Peterson indicated the site managers would have a retreat during the week of Feb. 26, to improve rent collection which is currently at 94 percent. He also stated that social services would help with the transition to normal channels so residents would no longer be segregated. However, he did not guarantee that the social workers would be prejudice-free.

Hill says the current highrises are one-third to one-half empty. They were full in 1969-70. When asked where the people went, he lists the options Jasper gave for the ones who were lease-compliant. For the rest, he adds death and moving out because they obtained better jobs.

"Poor people don't stay poor forever," he says.

Mayor Nicholas Graves of Harvey, Deirdre Matthews of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, and Patton disagree about why the buildings have so few people in them. Graves claims the residents fled to the south suburbs. "Harvey had more Section 8 homes than anyone," he says. "Chicago Heights came in second."

(Continued on page 15)



Mary Sistruck, a former resident in the Robert Taylor Homes for 25 years and a mother of 6 is finding herself and family becoming homeless due to CHA's transformation plan. Sistruck, after taking a Section 8 Housing choice voucher almost 4 years ago, has moved 4 times and she is on the verge of moving again. Her children have been to 6 different schools. "I'm tired of moving around like cattle, this is like a mental roller coaster. But CHA has given out Section 8 voucher like Halloween candy. But they're constantly tearing down public housing and eliminating subsidized housing. Where are we all suppose to go?"

bedroom housing to a maximum of \$52,000 for five-bedroom housing. Workers who want one-bedroom housing but who do not make at least \$20,500 are not eligible for that housing - unless they were already lease-compliant in public housing, Hill said.

"We've guaranteed about 25,000 tenants they will live in new or rehabbed homes on or near the site," he said. "Specifically, 1-3 blocks is near the site."

The two-story townhomes which

are two pastels; the old ones are natural brick. Although the yards of both look similar, Hill states, the older ones use to be closer together, allowing no yard space. The more open yards and police detail discourages gang activity, he says.

Like the townhomes, the rehabbed rowhouses allow for a 50-50 mix of low-income/working tenants. Other plusses noted by Hill were the on-site job training center and the Section 3 requirement that "a percentage of residents have to be hired by the

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**South Street Business**

**Residents Seek Pledges for Community Credit Union**

Washington Park-Woodlawn—Residents of two southside neighborhoods have kicked-off a massive pledge drive designed to secure community support for a federal credit union.

Fed up with payday lenders, currency exchanges, and the lack of adequate banking services in their communities, residents have formed the Washington Park-Woodlawn Committee for a Community Credit Union. They see a credit union as a way to address their communities' persistent need for low-cost financial services and credit at 'reasonable' interest rates.

The pledge drive is the critical phase of the credit union organizing process. The Committee has set a goal of obtaining 1,500 pledges over the next five months from community residents, businesses, churches, block clubs, community organizations, and social services agencies.

Any person or legal entity that works, worships, lives in, or attends school in Washington Park and Woodlawn will be eligible for membership. Persons outside the area of membership can have accounts but may not be able to secure loans.

Although Washington Park is home to 20,000 people (1990 U.S. Census), no bank is located within the community. Spokespersons says, even where banks have re-opened branches in inner-city communities, their communities remain vastly under-served, according to Al Hofeld of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. He is working with the

Committee to form the credit union.

The credit union will be 100 percent community-owned and operated, not-for-profit financial cooperative that provides financial services and loans to members.

The Washington Park-Woodlawn Community Credit Union plans to offer free savings and checking accounts. By law, all accounts will be insured up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. The credit union will also make loans to individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits.

Nationally, 45 % of African American communities do not have a bank, according to South Shore Bank. Instead, the primary financial service provider remains the currency exchange. The seven in Washington Park and six in Woodlawn provide some basic financial services, charge poor people hefty fees and siphon capital out of the community.

Studies by the Woodstock Institute and the Maryland Center of Community Development shows the average person who switches from a currency exchange to a credit union for financial services saves \$250- 450 per year. Unlike a bank, a credit union require no minimum deposit balance to open or maintain an account and assesses no monthly penalty fees on accounts. Even the overdraft fee at the credit union will be less than half of what most Chicago area banks charge.

Other membership benefits include financial incentives for members to save; improving or building positive

South Deering - Beginning Monday, March 19th, LaSalle Bank's newest full-service branch will host a six-day grand opening celebration at the site of the new facility at 1651 E. 95th Street and Stony Island Avenue. The ribbon-cutting ceremony takes place on Wednesday, March 21st at 11:30 a.m.

Approximately 6,500 square-feet in area, the 95th Street facility is expected to be LaSalle's busiest branch, handling over 5,700 customer transactions per month. It will be open six days a week. The original location at 8400 S. Stony Island Ave. will be converted to LaSalle's premier stand-alone ATM facility opening in the Summer of 2001.

"The new development of the Stony Island Plaza gives us the opportunity and resources to open a facility that could handle an increasing number of customers in our neighboring communities," said Gerrie Smith, senior vice president, retail branch administration, LaSalle Bank. "It's a major step in showing that LaSalle has always been committed to providing value-added financial services to our customers".

Throughout the grand opening event, guests can enjoy free refreshments and a chance to enter a raffle to win one of several prizes. On Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., guests are invited to a Block Party Celebration with carnival games, clowns and face painting for children as well as free food and refreshments. LaSalle Bank has \$47 billion in assets

credit ratings; individualized counseling and community workshops on money management, credit management and business development, and member alerts about schemes of predatory lenders.

Patton says the numbers in the buildings decreased because CHA began to put residents out for missed rent and for their children's bad behavior. When that did not

work, "they would put something on those kids," she said. After the youths went to court, the charges would be dropped, she said.

**LaSalle Bank Opens branch on 95th St.**

and is a subsidiary of Netherlands-based ABN AMRO Bank N.V., one of the world's largest banks with total assets of \$511 billion and more than 3,500 locations in over 70 countries and territories. In North

America, ABN AMRO is headquartered in Chicago and has \$171 billion in assets and more than 18,000 employees, with wholesale banking offices in 13 cities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

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(Continued from page 14)

**CHA**

Harvey dealt with the influx of people by demolition and getting the landlords to bring their buildings up to code.

Patton disagrees that residents fled to the suburbs. She believes they moved to Wisconsin and Minnesota for jobs.

Matthews does not believe that the need for public housing has decreased: "They could fill the buildings if they took people off the waiting list," she says.

Hill says that no one will receive housing before the 25,000 public housing residents.


**City Bonds Mean 30 New Jobs on the Southside**

The City authorized a Class 6(b) bond to help finance the expansion of A&A Midwest Rebuilt Supplies, a family-owned motor vehicle parts dealer, 4050 S Wentworth Ave. The project will retain 48 jobs and create 25 new ones.

It also authorized a \$5.5 million Industrial Development Revenue Bond to help Speedy Redi-Mix construct a new factory at 100 E. 65th St. This will create 5 new jobs and retain 35

It also approved a one-year pilot program for booting of vehicles on private property in only the 33rd and 44th Wards

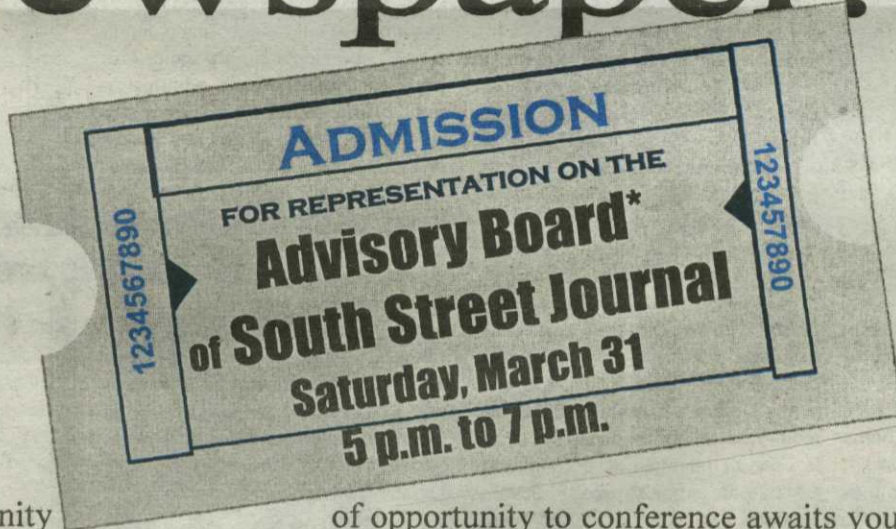
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