

# South Street Journal

Vol. 8, No. 12

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May 31 - June 13, 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

## Eminent Domain or Hostile Takeover

### City rates failing grade in community development

The Coalition for Fair Community Development (CFCD), representing community residents and organizations throughout Chicago, held a protest on Wednesday May 23, at the Daley Plaza.

Mayor Daley and the City of Chicago's development policies received a failing grade for its unwillingness to protect current residents from the effects of Chicago's housing boom, especially in low-income and minority communities.

CFCD's members find that across the city, these development policies threaten the communities. "Development is supposed to help people in the community and make our lives better. Yet, what we find is when development arrives, we have to move," said John Bartee.

CFCD presented a letter for a meeting with the Mayor pointing out policies are failing and that the CFCD has to have zero tolerance for the failing policies and politi-

CFCD has developed a set of principles that describe (Continued on page 6)

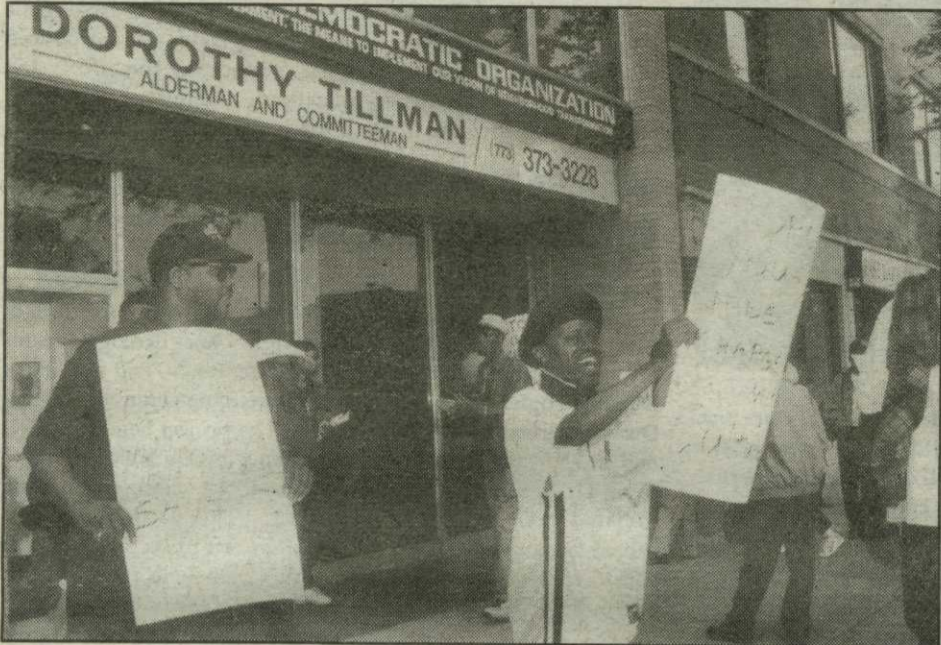
### Report: Money in politics, fuel voter disgust

Illinois politics are awash in an alphabet soup of political scandal, from the bribes for state contracts tale of MSI during Gov. Jim Edgar's administration, to the CDL saga that has overwhelmed Gov. George Ryan's administration.

News reports regularly feature stories of public officials raising money from the very same companies they regulate, or ill-defined By "advisors" helping to pick the members of state boards, then representing clients before the same boards, or litigants legally giving money to the same judge who will decide their case. The specter of special interests buying favors



(Continued on page 7)



SSJ / Armadell Hicks

The Black Economic and Political Action Network (BEPAN) lead demonstrators in chanting, "Save the Palm Tavern" in front of Ald. Tillman's ward office on 46th & King Drive at the start of her regular ward meeting. BEPAN says the Palm Tavern issues are comparable to the situation with Anthony Fields' Black-owned hotel on 39th and Lake Park.

Ron Carter, editor of South Street Journal and former president of the 47th Street Business Association, offers his story on the plight of Gerri's Palm Tavern.



Although he proclaims the legacy of the Palm Tavern, Mayor Richard Daley has remained mute on the issue, as the City and Ald. Dorothy Tillman exclude community input into the redevelopment plans for 47th Street.

## Gerri's Palm Tavern & 47th Street

By Ron Carter, Editor

Grand Blvd. - For the past four years community representatives have sent letters, signed petitions, and made phone calls, appealing to elected and public officials for community input on the redevelopment plans for 47th Street.

The attention is now focused on Gerri's Palm Tavern and the

way Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3) and the City of Chicago are misusing their governmental power over Geraldine 'Mama Gerri' Oliver.

Escalating media coverage and community involvement has raised the question, "Why the focus on Gerri's Palm Tavern?" when other proposed projects on

47th Street are still up in the air, including the 47th Street Culture Center (Lou Rawls Center), and Ald. Tillman's proposed African Village.

The 47th Street Business Association (47SBA) from 1997 to 1999 could not work well with Ald. Tillman, nor could the association before them

The 47SBA opposed the 47th Street/King Drive Redevelopment Project which was approved by the Community Development Commission (CDC), and the City Council due to the lack of community participation. The approval gave the City "authority" to file eminent domain lawsuits.

The best example is the building on the SW corner of 47th and King Drive. The City took control despite the objections of the 47SBA, tore it down, and then put up a sign saying this is the site of the "Quincy Jones Park".

Armadell Hicks, a former member of 47SBA who has been a barber with the Parkway Barber Shop said, she and others were promised inclusion but always got the shaft. The political intimidation and financial risk discouraged membership.

"We presented petitions and letters to Charles Bowen, Special Assistant to the Mayor, seeking inclusion for the existing businesses. Yet, when talks began, Tillman assisted in discouraging participation," said Hicks.

Other businesses seeking inclusion in the 47th Street redevelopment include: Bacon Clothing, on the corner of 47th and St. Lawrence (whose owners are currently in litigation), PFC Furniture Store, Glamorama, 47th Street Pharmacy, New Approach Health Food, and Jammin Too (the proposed site of the Second City Comedy Club. Gerri's Palm Tavern was proposed as an anchor business.

(Continued on page 4)

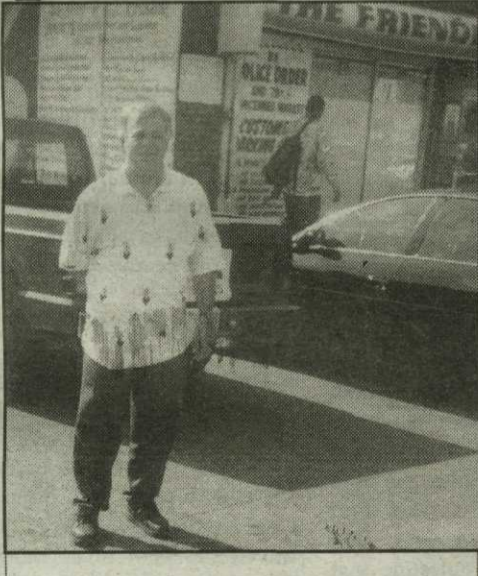
## Paul Pappas on 79th Street

Auburn-Gresham - Operating a liquor store in a community where crime is rampant and drugs are a dominant source of income, some residents have an ill-feeling of the 79th & Vincennes Market. They view liquor sales as the link to the crime and drug situation in the community. However, more notable are the praises bestowed upon the market, from regular patrons to Mayor Richard Daley, expressing high regards for the 46 year-old Auburn Gresham business.

The 79th and Vincennes Market is owned by Paul Pappas. Mr. Pappas' family came here from Greece in 1955 and purchased a home at 8024 S. Harvard.

As the last white boy on the little league team in the fifties, Mr. Pappas has maintained his friendship with former Black classmates who still reside in the community. Pappas attended the former Hookway Elementary School at 81st and LaSalle and later graduated from Calumet High School.

Without having a real goal in mind in the way of community relations, Pappas may have already reached the top because of his community relations commitments over and over again. Even though his associ-



Other business owner have not come close to the years of community investment as Paul Pappas, owner of 79th & Vincennes Food Market.

ation is with liquor.

Responding to allegations that have implicated the market with illegal drug and gang activities, Mark Allen, Field Director, Assistant to Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., and a resi-

dent of the community said, "The other businesses don't even come close to the years of community investment as the 79th & Vincennes Market." His remarks were echoed by Rev. Jimmie Cutts, Pastor of Pleasant Hill M.B. Church. "For years, Mr. Pappas has been a positive supporter of the community, not only to neighboring organizations, but to my church as well. I am concerned about the negative activities going on in the community, and the years of community investment as Paul Pappas' business should not be the main target of community re-organization.

Addressing concerns expressed by area residents, Mr. Pappas denied any truth to the allegations about his business.

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### Inside South Street

SPIRITUAL: Christian Hope Credit Union vs. Department of Financial Institutions

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COLUMN: Mother Diva Unprotected is Unprotected

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EDITORIAL: Fear of the Press

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Fannie Mae Announces "HouseChicago" Page 3



# The UnZip

by the Weatherman

Chicago Police seized 72,237 Ecstasy tablets in 1999, compared to 11 in 1998. "One reason for the rampant use of Ecstasy is the penalties are too light," Mayor Daley said. "The drug is often sold in relatively small quantities, so dealers frequently get off without going to prison." Now Mayor Daley, what folks are you protecting?



Rev. Al Sharpton

Rev. Al Sharpton for President. He says, "it's a go" upon the peoples approval. Running mate? How about James Brown? And Luster Curl will be overjoyed to fund the campaign.

Alderman Dorothy Tillman is getting high marks from Eddie Read. He says, she's done more for Black contractors than any other alderman in City Hall. Does this have anything to do with the Black Union Mr. Read has formed?



Eddie Read

News from Del Marie Cobb .... Business Executives for Excellence, Ethics, and Justice honored Paul King of UBM, Inc. with the John McDermott Award. This local group of CEO's and top executives struggle to integrate spirituality into the corporate decisions they face. Huh?



Lionel Nixon

Journalist, publisher, author, poet, and songwriter Juanita Bratcher discussed her works as the keynote speaker at the Harold Washington Writer's Forum 2001. Ms. Bratcher is the author of several books including: Harold: The Making of a Big City Mayor, and I Cry for a People .... Continuing with the newspaper scoops .... The QBG Scholarship Foundation/

Citizen Newspaper Group held their Annual Banquet and Scholarship Gala, Saturday, May 19. .... Greg Harris of H&A Restaurant (63rd Street) has returned to the Chicago Defender as an Account Executive. And leaving the newspaper business is Lionel Nixon, who just recently worked for SSJ, and the Chicago Communicator. Mr. Nixon is leaving for Michigan for a while and is sure to return with a full agenda for all Chicago. The staff of SSJ wish him the best.

Mayor Richard M. Daley has a thing for journalist with bringing on Arenda Smith, Department of Housing, and Derrick Hill to the Chicago Housing Authority. Well, it's official, the Mayor named Lee Bey, 35, his Deputy Chief of Staff. The award-winning Architecture Critic and Urban Planning Reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times, grew up in the Grand Crossing and Avalon Park neighborhoods. Now all Daley needs to do is hire Ron Carter of South Street Journal ....

Homecoming for Mary Frances Rickette, Founder and Owner of Uncle Remus Chicken and Rickett's Restaurants, the Mother and Mother-in Law of the Founder and Director of Matthew House, Rev. Mrs. and Rev. Derrek Stinson (respectfully) on 37th and Indiana.

The Chicago Tribune will be happy to know that Wayland Johnson along with Ziff Sistrunk of Creative Services School of Film, Inc., and Rod McCulloch of McCulloch Research launched a year-long massive research project to return Blacks to the Republican Party, The Abraham Lincoln Project, Yet, George Bush is already elected and without the black vote. Unless Sistrunk is about to become a minister.....Maybe there's some news for Ald. Shirley Coleman (16). Word is, Joann Thomas is getting ready for 2003, and sources say do not rule out Hal Baskin. If Joann should win, then there will be 3 official Thomas' in City Hall

John Woodson, a retired city employee and senior community activist, has written a report on the entire 8th Regiment Armory and he came up with some lesser known facts that have been publicly negated, especially by Charles Bowen, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor and so called self-appointed historian on the 8th Regiment Armory. The facts concern the former civil air patrol cadet squadron 613-6 that was headquartered at the Armory under the late Tuskegee Airman Squadron Commander Cornelius R. Coffey. The former cadet from the squadron was known to have flown jets during the Korean War.



## Briefs

### Carl A. Murrain to head Lincoln Centre

Douglas - The Abraham Lincoln Centre's Board of Trustees recently selected Carl A. Murrain to succeed Jesse D. Madison as the Centre's President and Chief Executive Officer, becoming only the seventh person to lead this institution in its 96-year history. Murrain, an accomplished former corporate executive and nonprofit administrator, brings to the Centre an impressive leadership background and a wealth of managerial experience. He is a social visionary whose accomplishments over the years can be attributed to his practical knowledge of the business world. In his new role as President and CEO, Murrain will combine his expertise, resources, and experience to continue the Centre's highly-respected legacy of "helping people help themselves."



(top) Carl A. Murrain to succeed Jesse D. Madison (right) as The Abraham Lincoln Centre's President and Chief Executive Officer



### Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zcarelli Highlights 4-Year Plan During Swearing-In Ceremony

South Holland, IL - Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli highlighted his 4-year "Progressive Leadership Plan" during the official "Swearing In Ceremony" for the newly elected Thornton Township Officials.

Harvey Mayor Nickolas E. Graves served as Master of Ceremony for the historic event, which took place last month at Thornton Township Hall.

Newly elected Thornton Township Officials sworn in were: Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli, Clerk Gwendolyn L. Davis, Highway Commissioner George Miller, Assessor Mary Steward and Trustees - Marion Beck, Sandra Bolda, Jernea Gidlio and Joyce Washington.

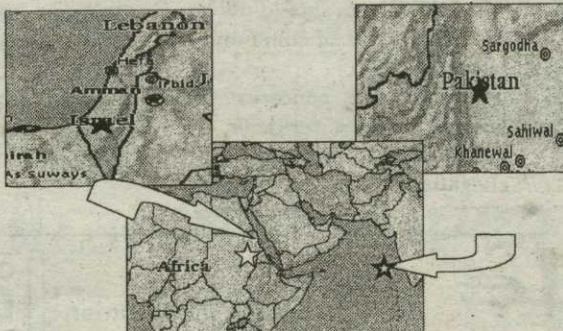
During the ceremony, Supervisor Zuccarelli shared his new vision plan for the Township, which includes reshaping its image and restoring its spirit.

### Crisis Center Need Volunteers

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia in Tinley Park is seeking people in the community to volunteer for its 24-hour crisis intervention hotline that answers calls from victims of domestic violence. Volunteers even get tips on relaxation and taking care of themselves. Hot-

### Women in Black for Palestinians

On Friday, June 8 at noon, peace activists will be marking the 34th year of Israel's occupation with a series of public actions in Israel, Palestine, and in more than 100 cities throughout the world including Chicago. This event is open to anyone who supports an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. Taking place between-noon and 1 p.m., gathering at 111 E. Wacker, in front of the Israeli Consulate Building. Participants in the vigil are asked to: Dress in black, bring signs reading "End the Occupation", bring some token or an object that displays personal grief regarding Israel/Palestine that will be assembled as part of a monument in front of the Consulate, and a personal or group letter to the consulate, expressing concern.



### Congressman Danny Davis' Fatherhood Bill

Congressman Danny K. Davis will hold a press conference to discuss his Fathers Issues Forum being held in cooperation with the Fatherhood Educational Institute and Healthy Families Chicago (Fathers Who Care), the purpose of the forum is to address the importance of Fatherhood and examine some of the barriers that fathers confront. As part of recognizing the importance of fatherhood, Congressman Davis has introduced in the Congress, H. Con. Res. 147, supporting the efforts and activities of individuals, organizations, institutions, and other entities to support and honor fatherhood on Father's Day.



Congressman Danny Davis

### DuSable High School Urban Ecology Sanctuary

Grand Blvd. - On Thursday, May 24, in the courtyard of DuSable High School (4934 South Wabash), with a live broadcast on WVON radio, the DuSable High School Ecology Sanctuary Foundation, administration, staff, students, and alumni of DuSable High School, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the DuSable Urban Ecology Sanctuary. The project began in 1994, and in 1997, with a benefit performance by DuSable and New Trier High School students in Symphony Hall, when they declared "We Will Grow a Garden!" This garden was conceived as an innovative collaborative effort to support the construction of an urban sanctuary at DuSable High School. The outdoor sanctuary and environmental laboratory will be a natural oasis where youth can deal with violence, death, crime and poverty that disrupt their learning and social growth. Funding has been provided by the Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Foundation and the Chicago Public Schools. As Congressman Danny Davis stated, "Both the students from DuSable and New Trier are to be commended because their partnership says to the rest of society that yes, we can come

### Media Connections Conference

Want to get in the news? Join us for 2 days of education and networking with nonprofit groups and news media veterans. Journalists from ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, Wall St. Journal, and many more. Nuts & bolts advice on media relations, in-depth learning sessions, and an intensive media boot camp SPIN Project. Explore funding possibilities with grantmakers from Benton, Joyce, Mott Foundations, and more. Come for the conference, stay for the Chicago Blues Fest! June 06-07, 2001, Malcolm X College, Chgo, IL, for more information please call Elsa Wenzel, (312) 344-6400.

### Target Market News African-American Research

The Buying Power of Black America 2001, is the panel description for this session of Target Market News to be held in The Gleacher Center on Thursday & Friday, June 21, 22. Ken Smikle, President of Target Market News will be the presenter. The eighth annual edition of Target Market News reports on the earnings and expenditures of black households. Important new trends in spending for apparel, cars, computers, food, health and beauty aids, and more will be discussed.

### NAACP's, 47th Annual Freedom Fund

The Southside Branch of the NAACP will hold its 47th Annual Freedom Fund Gala, June 1, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 E. Wacker Drive.

During the gala, the branch's newly elected President, Rev. Dr. Christopher Alan Bullock will announce 10 goals for the Civil Rights movement for the new millennium, and will also unveil his plan to encourage the Public School systems in Chicago to upgrade its educational standards. Rev. Bullock will also address the branch's AIDS awareness and education agenda.

On Nov. 2000, approximately 500 members of the Southside Branch of the NAACP elected Rev. Bullock and his new cabinet. The branch's election turnout is believed to have been the largest in 20 years.

### Empowerment Zone Steppers Set

Grand Blvd. - The Southside Empowerment Zone Cluster's Annual Meeting Day is scheduled for Saturday June 30, at the Harris YMCA, 62nd and Drexel. This will be a Dusties/Steppers Fund-raiser and the public is invited. For more information, please call Karen Bozeman Gross at (773) 451-6527.



# Cab Drivers oppose City's fines and fees Plans City-Wide Strike

Of the 17,000 cabs drivers in the City of Chicago, Steve Weidersberg, President, Chicago Professional Taxi Cab Drivers Association (CPTCDA), says 90% of them plan to hold a strike as a follow-up to two rallies held at City Hall last month opposing "One Call a Day", fines and fees.

The CPTCDA did not disclose the date of their protest strike. But Weidersberg inform SSJ that it will be in the near future.

Joining in the drivers coalition are the Metropolitan Chauffeurs As-

sociation (MCA), and the Blue and Gold Association. In addition to the strike the drivers are obtaining legal council, for a lawsuit against what they call the Kangaroo Court of the Public Vehicle Commission.

Alarming his fellow cab drivers Weidersberg said, "Caroline Orzac Shoenberger, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Services and the Mayor (Daley) have played political tag on our issues long enough. It is time we take a stand and say no more.



Steve Weidersberg, President, Chicago Professional Taxi Cab Drivers Association

One of the major issues of the drivers is the Under-Served neighborhoods, which each day a driver works, he or she must answer one call from an under-served area each shift. Each day a log of all calls from under-served areas must be recorded. A log of these calls and the medallion that responded would be kept by the affiliation in their normal course of business. Upon a driver is renewing they must show one call each day they work.

A concern of the drivers say there are not enough calls that come in to met the goal to present prove to the city.

On the recent march of drivers, in a statement by Shoenberger she stated concerns of the cab drivers is a result of last year City Council hearings vote on a 16.8% meter increase for cab drivers. An in-

crease Weidersberg says the only ones to profit are the companies and the City. "We lose and the public loses."

"If we get a meter increase, we must take a firm stance and not allow the companies to gain a lease increase."

Shoenberger statements also address the goal of a committee of taxi industry representatives that included drivers, owners and affiliation members. It includes responding to requests for wheelchair accessible cabs and Taxi Access program (TAP) that class transporting riders who have ambulatory disabilities. Indicating their are 1,000 calls a day for a cab.

TAP is an existing program that could be used to service thousands of CTA Special Services customers every day and which would create  
*(Continued on page 14)*

# "House Chicago"



The 16th Ward Political Task Force, with concerns for the community and for black contractors getting their share of construction work, held a demonstration at the groundbreaking ceremony of the new \$7.4 million development that spans a three block area from 63rd Street to 66th Street.

fies for the Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program. The new \$7.4 million development spans a three block area from 63rd Street to 66th Street along Normal Avenue.

"Antioch Homes II is a strong example of our continued commitment to neighborhoods throughout Chicago. We're excited to expand our efforts to help more families find affordable housing in the city," said Fannie Mae's Gorelick. "Together with our partners, we have created an expanded plan that will allow us to address the unique housing needs of the entire Chicago area. We're building on our work with many of our partners and working with the people who best understand local housing needs to stretch our business goals and help more families."

"The commitment by Fannie Mae to invest \$55 billion in Chicago is unprecedented. It is great news for families throughout the neighborhoods of our city," said Mayor Daley. "Owning a home is part of the American Dream as well as the key to revitalizing our neighborhoods and improving our communities and schools. Fannie Mae has been a longstanding partner to the city, local lenders, nonprofits, and the housing industry in creating homeownership and affordable housing opportunities that truly make a dif-

ference in peoples' lives." Church joined local housing partners and Jamie Gorelick, Vice Chairman of Fannie Mae, for the announcement. HouseChicago is the largest single housing investment in the city's history and the largest investment made by Fannie Mae through a Partnership Office. The announcement was made at Antioch Homes II in Englewood, the groundbreaking site of 57 new affordable apartments made possible through Fannie Mae's \$3.9 million investment in the property that quali-



Rev. Ferald Dew, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church



Greg Millen, Developer of the project for Antioch Church

As art of the \$55 billion House-Chicago announcement Fannie Mae highlighted the company's commitment to neighborhood revitalization through the new construction of Antioch II, affordable apartment units being built in En-

glewood. It was made possible through a partnership between Illinois Housing Development Authority, Harris Bank, Apollo Housing Capital LLC, Antioch Baptist Church Foundation, and Fannie Mae. Antioch II includes 57 rental townhouses; 24 two-bedroom and 33 three-bedroom. The apartments range in size from 1,000 square feet to 1,300 square feet and rents will start as low as \$189 a month.

"The Antioch Homes II development is a symbol of the continued effort by the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church to create affordable housing opportunities for the residents of Englewood," said Rev. Dew. "I am honored to celebrate this partnership and committed to furthering the vision of the late Pastor Wilbur N. Daniel." The An-  
*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Englewood - Fannie Mae, the nation's largest source of financing for home mortgages and multi-family housing, announced a new and expanded "HouseChicago" seven-year, \$55 billion investment plan to finance affordable housing for 500,000 Chicagoland area families. Mayor Richard M. Daley, Ald. Arenda Troutman (20), Rick Daniel of the W.N. Daniel Foundation, Inc. and Reverend Gerald Dew of Antioch Missionary Baptist

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# Eminent Domain or Hostile Takeover of Gerri's Palm Tavern and 47th Street?

(Continued from page 1)

Reports are, Ald. Tillman plans to take the "Palm Tavern" property and launch the "Palm Restaurant" as described to a select group, during a slide presentation on plans for 47th Street.

This position contradicts statements made by Becky Carroll of the city's planning department, who says there is no plan for the Palm Tavern, only a concept to restore the historical preservation of the property.

"Our only interest is to shut the place down for violations in the interest of Ms. Oliver's safety." Said Carroll.

However, earlier reports, and meetings of the 47SBA the City informed Ms Oliver, that when they purchase the Palm Tavern property, they (the city) could sell her the property for a dollar. Other officials such as Bowen, stated Ms. Oliver had nothing to worry about.

Supporters of Ms. Oliver insist, Ms. Oliver, not Ald. Tillman, nor the City should decide the Palm Tavern's future.

On Sunday, May 6, community supporters from around the city along with media coverage gathered for Gerri Oliver's 45th Anniversary as the owner of Gerri's Palm Tavern. Organizers were pleased with the support

Then, on Wednesday, May 9, the Black Economic and Political Action Network held protest in front of Ald. Tillman's ward office on 46th & King Drive at the start of her regular ward meeting. Twenty-five demonstrators, chanting, "Save the Palm Tavern".

Several demonstrators told SSJ that they're angry about the City redefining the legacy of the Gerri's Palm Tavern, bowing to the interest of a few while advancing gentrification on 47th Street. BEPAN president, Everloyce McCullough said that the city's plan doesn't represent the spirit of inclusion in the same manner they were against building the Howard Johnson Hotel by businessman Anthony Fields on his own land.



Ron Carter (center), former President of the 47th Street Business Association at a meeting in 1998. Other businesses on 47th Street have been closed down by the City or are unsure of their future. Just as Gerri's Palm Tavern is threatened by the development of new businesses. Left of Carter is Attorney Gary Fresen and Gerri 'Mama Gerri' Oliver.



Elize Higginbottom



Lee Bey



Everloyce McCullough

The City still refuses to discuss the specific plans for the Palm Tavern. Even with a citywide Open Letter to the Mayor and Alderman, and Community involvement and even national attention in the Washington Post story headline, "Bar Fight." has not led to any community dialog.

Some compromising with the city began when Oliver agreed not to live in the property. With this, the city agreed to make some violation repairs and pay for 24-hour security. In addition the city will provide \$3,000 in federal housing assistance for relocation.

The liquor license that was on "hold" was removed on May 14, enabling Ms. Oliver to renew her license. Atty. Gray Fresen, representing Oliver was told if the City takes control of the building, the

liquor license would be revoked, because the City cannot own a liquor establishment.

Still not clear if Oliver will accept \$95,000 for the property fixtures in the tavern such as the bar.

Fresen reported on Thursday, May 31, (Oliver's birthday) Judge Joanne Lanigan (the same judge that presided over the Supreme Life Building case), continued the case for a final hearing on Friday, June 8. At which time the Judge intends to enter an order regarding the property in order to allow the City to settle with the landowner.

If an agreement can not be reached between Oliver and the City regarding the fixtures the order will likely be entered to remove the landowner and allow the case

to proceed against Oliver.

Upon submitting citywide letter of over 200 signatures to City Hall addressed to the Mayor, representatives of Oliver, Paula Robinson and Nathan Thompson met briefly with Lee Bey, who official accepted the letter. Mayor Daley, recently appointed the former Chicago Sun-Times reporter as Deputy Chief of Staff

Bey, alone among his responsibilities he pointed out the Mayor assigned him to the Gerri Palm Tavern project as well. However, sources report the Mayor will not make any public statement as the media was told he would.

Robinson said they asked Bey for a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the options for the Tavern.

However, behind the scenes reportedly is the political maneuvering, of the city with the involvement of Elzie Higginbottom, of East Lake Management, and Charles Bowen. Both possibly posturing politically, attempting to "face saving" the Mayor's interest and as well as for Tillman in the lack of community participation, respectfully.

Higginbottom who owns property or manages them on 47th Street is a long time supporter of Tillman is guiding many of the developments overall on 47th Street.

"There is rarely if ever an Request For Proposal (RFP) process when it comes to Higginbottom." Said Thompson questioning if Higginbottom's maybe the in receivership of the Palm Tavern if the city takes over.

As the developer of the Second City project on the northwest corner of 47th & King

(Continued on page 12)

# Supreme Court Ruling of Policy Power Expected to Harm Blacks

by Raoul Dennis

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The Supreme Court's recent decision to nullify the notion that a policy or practice can have a discriminatory effect and therefore lead to discriminatory results is a "part of a pattern that is an assault on people of color and working families that this court and the federal government is making," explained David Ruffin, AFL-CIO's deputy director of public affairs.

The court's 5-4 decision will have widespread affect on other cases and issues related to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, employment and higher education. Ronald Walters, a University of Maryland political scientist and Black Press columnist, said the decision is reminiscent of Reagan era policies.

"You have to have a showing of intention discrimination which is very hard to prove and takes us all the way back to Reagan," Walters says of the ruling. "You have to damn near have a statement from someone saying, 'I don't like Black people, and I'm going to do my best to mess with them.'"

In a more serious tone, Walters said he thought the court is using a more ideological approach than the high court embraces traditionally.

"We really are in an era where ideology has taken control of the court-as opposed to the use and study of law and precedent," Walters says. "It's amazing to me the way the Supreme Court is able to reinvent federal law. This is judicial activism at highest because they are reinterpreting federal law and precedent on the flimsiest and most whimsical basis-which really amounts to reinventing the law."

Ramona Edelin, executive director

of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, suggested the court was being shortsighted. "From the point of view of the African American cultural offensive, an equality of re-

sults is what we are searching for, not merely opportunity," said Edelin. "We want to avoid repeating the color line problem of the 20th century, problem of the 21st century.

"We will want to impress strongly to the Congress we want this to be clarified in law so that this (decision) is overridden in law," she said. Walters also says the public must be

prepared to take the court to task. "The court does respond to public pressure--even though people sometimes believe they don't. But right now the court perceives that we are in

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# Bernetta Pearson, National Nurse of the Year



Bernetta Pearson during one of her hour-long Saturday morning shows on WKCC-FM89.3, at Kennedy-King College, where she works as a part-time educator of certified nursing assistants as well

By Carrie Farella, RN, MA, is a Nursing Spectrum corporae writer.

Woodlawn - Great nurses often are ordinary people with extraordinary determination. They inspire. They motivate. They bubble over with passion. For the past few months, Nursing Spectrum has been searching for nurses who do just that --- and more. Bernetta Pearson, RN, BSN, is one of them, and she is the national Nurse of the Year winner. In addition, she is a board member and shareholder of South Street Journal.

Thanks to Pearson, countless Chicagoland children are alive, and their parents and caregivers are educated about the dangers of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

"Medicine has been reacting to research about SIDS, but when it comes to everyday prevention, we were falling short." Pear- parents are discharged earlier, and there are fewer RNs to go around. To get people to understand SIDS, we had to think out of the box." And that meant taking the mes- sage to the streets.

### Legwork and Loud- speakers

Joining the SIDS Al- liance of Illinois as an edu- cator, Pearson was one of two nurses who pounded the pavement for more than two years, concentrat- ing their efforts in the African-American commu- nity - a population that's been particularly hard-hit by SIDS. She spoke in physicians waiting rooms, washrooms, even bar- rooms. She's muscled her way into housing projects and neighborhoods where others are reluctant to go. She's educated church groups and tracked down babysitters. Anyone who would listen about SIDS got a lesson from Pearson. Soon, however, she discovered she could use a bit of help.

"I realized it would take me forever to educate the entire city of Chicago about SIDS, and one way to reach more people was to broadcast on the radio." Pearson says. She wrote a proposal to Kennedy- King College (KCC), where she works as a part-time educator of certified nursing as- sistants. KCC agreed, giving Pearson an hour-long Saturday morning show on

WKCC-FM89.3.

On the show, Pearson dispelled the many myths of SIDS and emphasized the impor- tance of placing babies to sleep on their backs - a well-documented way to prevent it. Gradually, the show has transformed into a true forum for community health. "I often host an expert who can help educate the community on HIV/AIDS, senior health, or other public health issues." Pear- son says. "On one show, I explained who and what epidemiologists are and what you have to do to become one. Let's face it, we have to take the mystery out of health- care." She also pioneered the first cable television show produced by RNs, and she produced two shows about HIV/AIDS. In pursuing her belief that healthcare informa- tion must be delivered where people live, work, and play. Pearson also writes a health column for a community newspaper.

Pearson developed a train-the-trainer program that enlists volunteers to spread been startling; the SIDS death rate in Chicago has been cut in half. "I'm thrilled about the results." Pearson says. "When you see yourself being able to make a dif- ference, it feels good.

That's the true reward."

To Pearson's colleagues, she's an inspiration. Long- time friend and collabora- tor Patricia Jones, RN, nomi- nated Pearson for the Nurse of the Year award. "Pearson has taken the practice of nursing out of the [confinement of] institu- tional walls and into the streets." Jones says. "She represents a different kind of nurse, perhaps one who will become the wave of the future."

### She's Not Done

The future is something Pearson ponders with plea- sure. Presently, she is chair of the Minority Health As- sociation, a multiethnic

group of healthcare providers who focus on disparities in healthcare. Although she's deeply committed to the campaign against SIDS, she's already pondering her next move. "I'd like to tackle the gambling problem next." says Pearson, who has taken a course in gambling addiction. "You have to be ready for what's coming down the line and prepare yourself. Gambling addiction will be a monumental problem, and nurses need to be ready for it."

Many are betting she'll do just great.



Woodlawn's Bernetta Pearson, RN, the Nurse of the Year

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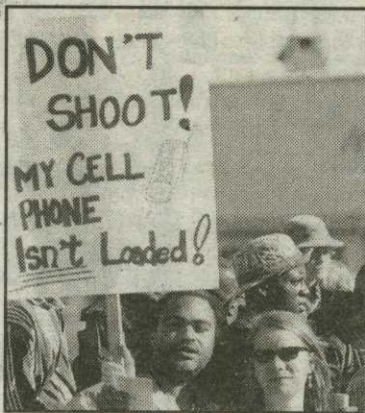


# Police protest & lawsuits

As a bill passed a City Council committee to ban racial profiling by police officers, the American Civil Liberties Union urged that police be required to fill out maintain "contact cards," records of the perceived race of a person stopped, and to ban "pretest stops."

Rev. Paul Jakes, President of the Christian Council on Urban Affairs (CCUA) said African Americans have been victims of entrapment, harassment, falsification of evidence, intimidation of witnesses and planting illegal substances, and there is no check and balance.

Citing the recent attack April 3, of 11 year old Timia Williams by three white police officers sparked the Christian Council on Urban Affairs to hold a March on Thursday, May 17 on the Chicago Police headquarters at 35th & Michigan.



Reports are Young Williams, was approached by police in an unmarked police car, when the police crossed the line as they chased and caught her, then body slammed, kicked and choked her, causing her face to be cut above the eye on a fence.

Rev. Jakes said the police had no clear-cut explanation for the attack. The Chicago Police Board has filed no disciplinary

actions against the officers. "On behalf of the many victims of police brutality in Chicago, including the Haggerty, Russ and Williams' families, we held the public to join the march, in order that we continue to put pressure on Mayor Daley, State's Attorney Devine, and Superintendent Terry Hillard so that they can put an end to these very serious problems," said Rev. Jakes.

The march is marked as significant in that on this "historic" day, May 17, the Supreme Court endorsed the ideal of equality of opportunity of equal protection under the law in the *Brown v. Board of Education*. As they found racial segregation "inherently unequal",

"We find that the continued attacks upon African American children and adults to also be "inherently unequal", said Rev. Jakes.

"We are within our rights to demand that our families be protected. Pointing out that virtually every uprising since 1965, whether it be Watts, Bedford Stiverson, Detroit, Los Angeles, Rodney King, and as recent as Cincinnati, were all a result of police misconduct.

Rev. Jakes states those families mentioned are victims of injustice and police misconduct, and ask community support in their efforts, saying they cannot give up or give in to police brutality. *Chicago police shooting victim's family declares:*

## Money isn't enough, justice must come

Two days after the city agreed to pay \$18 million to the family of an unarmed Black woman shot and killed by a city police officer in June 1999, the family of a unarmed Black man killed by police within 24-hours of that incident, talked about their lawsuit and struggle for justice.

Joined by an attorney from their legal team, supporters and community leaders, relatives of Robert Russ demanded justice for their family and others victimized by "police misconduct." Mr. Russ was 22-years-old when shot to death by officer Van Watts IV on June 5, 1999.

"What I want for the murder of my son is complete and total justice. I'm not depending on a monetary award for satisfaction. I want officer Watts put in jail, prosecuted for the murder. They need to know that they too can be held accountable for what they do beyond their jobs," said Vera Love, Robert Russ' mother.

Family members filed a civil suit within days of the former Northwestern University football player's death. He died 10 days before his scheduled graduation. The officer involved said Mr. Russ had refused to stop driving. According to the officer, who says he broke Mr. Russ' tinted window, the victim grabbed the weapon the officer thrust into the vehicle and the weapon discharged.

Attorneys for the family say the case may be ready to go to trial in 2002. Of three officers involved in the incident, the civil suit is only against Officer Watts and the City. Reported *The Final Call*.

## Ask Mother



## Divas,

### Unprotected is Unprotected

Dear Mother Diva,

I have been with my boyfriend for 2 years, living together 8 months, as far as I know he has been faithful, I certainly have. The issue is he wants us to have unprotected sex. I know how you feel about this so don't yell at me in your response. Technically we are already having unprotected sex, we stopped using condoms 8 months ago when he moved in and I got the birth control shot in my arm. Obviously, it only prevents unwanted pregnancies, but doesn't protect against diseases.

He says he wants a baby. I want us to get married first, but he's not ready for marriage. I constantly tell him how lucky he is to be allowed to ejaculate in me (since I can't get pregnant) because his male friends and my girlfriends still use condoms. You give a man an inch and they want to take a mile.

Debbie, Sherman Park

Dear Debbie,

And all readers, lets clarify. Unprotected is any sex without the use of a condom for men. Whether it is anal, oral, or otherwise.

Infact, the proper protection is to use a choice of contraceptives (with nonoxol 9)foam, contraceptive gel, suppositories, or vaginal contraceptive film (VCF), plus a condom with nonoxol 9 spermicide. Condoms often break and the above contraceptive choices act as added protection in the event of condom breakage. Nonoxol 9 has been proven to kill sperm on contact, as well as the

(Continued from page 1)

## City grade

community-friendly development. John Bartlett reported, "We believe solutions to the housing crisis include: Property tax reform, Inclusionary zoning, Fair Rent Board and Controls on spiraling rents, City-funded low cost housing."

According to Luster Jackson of the Concerned Citizens of East Garfield Park, "As members from communities across Chicago are joining together to say community members need to control development. Development should not displace people. Development needs to prioritize the creation of low cost and accessible housing."

At the root of the problem, Bartlett says the use of certain tools by the City to reshape the neighborhood landscape to encourage investment by speculators and developers is catering to high-income people.

In question is the City's powers of eminent domain to seize property to make way for school parking lots, fire stations and other public buildings; zoning has been changed to allow condos and the conversion of factories into lofts, often with public subsidy.

Combined with the lack of a clear housing preservation policy, Bartlett said these policies reduce the number of rental units in Chicago at the same time that the population of the city is growing. HUD, the CHA, and the City are also demolishing over 17,000 units of public housing without first providing replacement housing, thus

AIDS virus.

Even the condoms for women that has been on the market for a few years now has had its difficulties, the main complaint is, its being pushed deeper inside from the pressure of intercourse and it's too loose. I commend you on getting the shot to prevent pregnancy, however it doesn't prevent STD's.

Unfortunately, you have spoiled your boyfriend, you have accommodated him by altering your body by getting the shot just so you and him can feel slimy organisms slipping and sliding up and down your uterus walls. Now, that isn't good enough anymore.

The sperm has to hit the jackpot if he wants a baby. You are correct in wanting

to get married first, however, spiritually you're probably already married. The piece of paper just seals the bond. More importantly, the issue isn't traditions it's both of you being responsible people who can provide for a child. Children need a strong stable environment. Count your blessings, you are lucky the shot is working.

Explain to him the responsibilities that comes along with parenting. Perhaps you two should seek parental counseling and visit some facilities, i.e., foster homes, hospital infant wards, and contact Caring for Babies with Aids. Maybe, you want to explore these options, he may have a change of heart.

*Mother Diva publishes an advice column in each issue of SSSJ. The actress/comedienne & formerly a cast member of the Keenen Ivory Wayans show, "the church lady" on Fox's Ally McBeal, Whether gay or straight, big or tall, Mother Diva has the answers 4 you all. Email: askmotherdiva@write.com. Fax correspondence to SSSJ.*

increasing the competition for affordable rental housing. As rental housing is removed from the market, rents are rapidly increasing. This competition allows landlords to increase rents without providing any additional services or improvements.

The pressures created by these development policies push people out of neighborhoods that have long been their homes; those benefiting from the policies are the developers, real estate companies and bankers. New construction and condo conversion have caused property values to increase, increased taxes on rental housing cause rents to rise, accelerating the cycle.

The coalition has developed principles of community development that they say are people oriented and seek to preserve communities.

Some of the issues identified in community meetings:

Increased community participation in development and planning such as community oversight boards for all TIFs; property tax reforms for long-term homeownership, affordable rental housing and discourage speculation part of a Fair Rent Commission to protect renters from spiraling rent increases; a zoning law to mandate a percentage of new or rehabbed housing set aside as affordable (defined by community median income); and an increase in funds the City spends on creating and maintaining affordable housing.

The next meeting of the coalition is June 13, 6:30, 220 S. State Street, 3rd fl. For informaton call 773-292-4980, fax 773-292-0333, tenantsrights@tenants-rights.org,

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# Profiling the Justice System

By Minister B. Henry Kenner  
SSJ Columnist

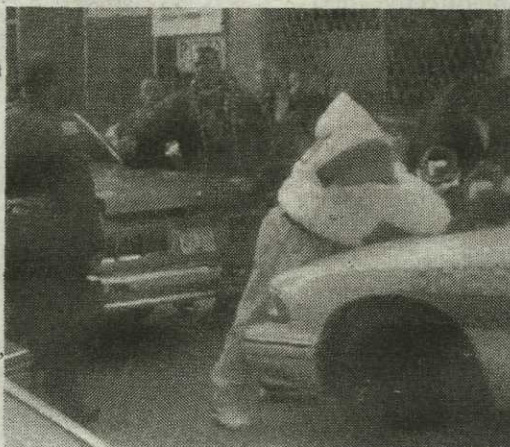
In record-breaking agreement on May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Daley administration reached a settlement with the family of LaTanya Haggerty and all but signed a check to her family of \$18 million. While the Daley administration should be applauded for avoiding what nationally recognized trial attorney Johnnie Cochran termed a situation that could have been "galvanizing, very polarizing" for the city, one's mind is taken to Robert Russ. Police also killed Russ a young African American the same dreary weekend, June 1999, as Haggerty. Russ' case no doubt sheds light on the old saying, "records were/are made to be broken". Both unarmed, both African American, both gunned down by Chicago's Finest. Both cases illuminate a more volatile crisis.



Racial profiling! Both cases have the potential if taken to trial of stirring up this concept of justice like a moral Loch Ness monster upon society's horizon. Better still a racial tornado touching down above a societal out-

house, exposing the stench of injustice for all to see.

These cases bring to mind the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s infamous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. This speech painted a panoramic all consuming picture of the discrimination, segregation and police brutality. Unlike no other leader of his time, his mountain captured the injustices of his day. Having the vision of what these injustices were, gave him the benefit of being able to stand upon the rubble of societal decay. He was enabled by God to stand upon this



(Continued from page 1)

## Voter Disgust

from legislators and other public officials has sapped the public's trust in government.

Our democratic system is broken and in need of repair. A national survey found that voters rank politicians third from the bottom of a list of professions for ethical standards - more ethical than just prostitutes and car salesmen. [1] Republicans are most likely to think that campaign contribu-

Ranked Professions for Ethics	
(See note 1, below)	
1 Scientist	11 Federal Govt Worker
1 Teacher	13 Lawyer
3 Clergy	13 Stockbroker
4 Farmer	13 Union Leader
5 Doctor	16 Professional Athlete
6 Engineer	17 Insurance Exec
6 Judge	18 Actor
8 Military Officer	19 Politician
9 Police Officer	20 Prostitute
10 Banker	21 Car Salesman
11 Journalist	

tors have more say in choosing the party's nominee than do ordinary voters, while Democrats tend to think party leaders have the most influence. [2] Two-thirds of adults now agree that campaign contributions are a form of legalized bribery. [3] Voters are expressing their disgust by boycotting elections. In the 1998 general election, three out of five voting-age Illinoisans stayed home.

[4] In the midst of all this, Gov. George Ryan disbanded the state Board of Ethics. Illinois has fewer restrictions on political campaigns than most other states.

And Illinois has campaign finance horror stories like no other state. Five and six figure contributions to individual candidates - illegal in federal elections and in most other states - are not unheard of.

Other problems, from lavish special interest parties and junkets to the revolving door between legislative or executive staff and lobbying firms, further alienate voters. Common sense guidelines that would rein in the kinds of abuses that fuel voter apathy include:

### Footnotes

[1] Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll of 900 voters nationwide, conducted May 24-25, 2000. [2] CBS News/New York Times poll of 947 adults nationwide, conducted May 10-13, 2000. [3] Lake Snell & Perry poll of 1,000 adults nationwide, conducted June 2000. [4] Voter totals reflect the number of ballots cast, from the Illinois State Board of Elections. "Non-voters" refers to the difference between the total adult population and the number of ballots cast.

mountain and with clarity, see what no other man had.

King's mountain was centuries old. One that should have been long removed. In the year 2001 we find ourselves climbing that very same mountain. The geography may be different but the mountain is the same.

Deuteronomy 1:6 says it best. Moses having carried the children of Israel out of bondage onto mount Horeb, scripture says, God spoke to them, and said, "You have dwelt long enough at this moun-

tain." It was then that the children of Israel were given specific orders to "go in and possess the land..." It's time for us to "possess this land" and move into the arena of social justice, which has so long eluded us. Get off street corners, demand justice! Demand better wages, better jobs, and demand that this police state, which has been in the minority community for decades be halted. Cases like Haggerty and Russ are constant reminders to the African American community that we as a people have "dwelt long enough at this mountain."

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# Pappas on 79th

(Continued from page 1)

"There is no truth to any of the adverse allegations made against my business. I have established this business as a proud partner in the community, even if a few members of the West Chatham area want to activate a serious campaign to drive me out of business."

Armed with a petitions with over 1,500 signatures, Pappas says the petitions are proof that "I run a clean business with an interest in the well being of the people. He's had several employees that were substance abusers and gang members, but as a result of his assistance and counseling, many have been able to turn their lives around."

"I am concerned with what any resident of the community is concerned with. By my being a product of this community since I was in grammar school and now as a business owner, I know communications is the key to understanding and then ultimately, solving the problems."

Area residents report that the market has been the

subject of harassment from the city since 1992. Pappas expressed the opinion that he may be a victim of political harassment. He feels that members of West Chatham targeted his business for closure because he has an open mind to all factions of the community, including members of "street organizations".

As with any businessman who has seen the ups and downs of the area, he knows who's who. Many of the youth are now grown and have children of their own.

"Liquor, drugs, and a lack of communication can easily be a target to any communities problems, but there is a holistic approach. There is a diluted focus and lack of attention to the core programs that produce idle time and ill behavior among many youth."

"I don't view certain elements of the community as gangs. We need to ensure that they become concerned residents and contribute to the good of the community, as I believe in their hearts they want to. People should stop closing their minds on them and open their hearts."

Pappas focuses on programs for the youth. He has been noted for over 80 programs that have benefited from his support, and his services. From the 53rd Precinct in the 17th Ward, agencies and groups including the CHA, the Chicago Park District, his special pet school, Oliver

Westcott Elementary School, the Sixth District Steering Committee, the Greenville Mississippi Club of Chicago, the Nation of Islam, and countless others throughout the years.

Pappas prides himself on assisting with scholarships for the youth to continue their education. Gary K. Moore of the Local School Council says "If we had more businessmen such as Paul Pappas, this community would be a much better place."

Pappas was raised in the community as a youth. He was always an all-around active person. Even in high school where he was one of



79th and Vincennes Market focuses are on programs for the youth. Paul Pappas, the owner, been noted by over 80 programs that he has supported and that have benefited from his services over the 53 years in business. Special attention has been given to his special projects at Oliver Westcott Elementary School.

the outstanding seniors serving as class president, member of the baseball and wrestling teams, member of the Honor Society and Letterman's Club. His involvement continued as a businessman in which he attended many community meetings, and provided constructive ideas into many of the community's projects, which he says many have been implemented by the city. He sometimes takes on the responsibility, and makes his own recommendations to the community.

Carrying on the legacy of the family business, his father worked at Bethlehem Steel on 83rd Street from 1961 to 1965. Then, the Pappas' lived at 8212 S. Peoria where Paul attended Calumet High School. He later attended the University of Illinois from 1966 to 1973, and graduated with a Mechanical Engineering Degree.

The Pappas family launched their family business in the West Chatham community over forty years ago. They ran the business from 1965 to 1973, next to where the currency exchange is today, then they purchased the Shell Oil property where the market is now without any loans, because the banks were redlining the community. The family built the building

for a grocery and package goods store in 1974.

Mr. Pappas presently employs a total of 20 local residents between his two businesses in the Chatham and Auburn community.

With his degree in engineering, he draws community planning concepts for visitors in the store. He often uses his engineering expertise to help with plans for building renovations. Pappas is in the process of expanding his business on 79th Street. There is construction underway for a restaurant directly adjacent to the food and liquor market. Black contractors have been used in this construction project.

Supporting Pappas is LeShun Payne, President of the 17th Ward Political Organization. He met with Alderman Latasha Thomas of the

17th Ward requesting that her office work with Pappas.

"Pappas' commitment to the community is substantial," said Payne. "Over the years, Mr. Pappas has provided better service to the community as opposed to larger companies in the area who are more concerned with social responsibility more than anything else. I believe he could do more for the community if he had more support from the city, and a more official position in the community."

"I truly thank the community

for giving me the opportunity to serve it throughout the years, and to continue in the years to come," said Pappas. "It is important for the community to know that our goal is the same as most people that have problems with the cloud over liquor stores". An example of his concern was when there was a dispute in front of his store. Pappas closed it four hours early because of this dispute. "I will not allow my business to be disrespected. It is like disrespecting my customers and the community. We've developed an excellent reputation for honesty, sincerity, and respectability over the years," he said. "I've learned in this business, never abuse people, never take advantage of them, earn things in a legitimate way, provide good service, and people will become your friends."

Discussing his accomplishments over the years, Pappas says, the entire neighborhood benefits when businesses are successful. Noting, "We accomplish many things in the community on various levels of need. Yet, we are aware that we have much more to do, and I know it will take time, patience, and cooperation from everyone. We can make it work if we work together for the common good of our community."

## Then Came the Thunder

By Professor Willie Dixon

# Write-on the Right History

The search for academic historical truth should end at the tip of the pen of a Black historian. We recognize that the history of our people must be told by those who have lived this tragic elegy, or poem about death. Authenticity demands that we write our own history.

Such a need was filled by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who through time and massive effort to chronicle the story of Black Americans. Woodson (1875-1950) dedicated himself to this cause. Black people had very scant knowledge of their history. Woodson highlighted their achievements as well as their endurance. He founded what is now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and Study.

The Black History Movement started in 1915. The following year the association began publishing the *Journal of Negro History*, a scholarly magazine. The best known of Woodson's books, *The Negro in Our History*, has been considered the best exposition on Black history. It was published in 1922.

The historical need for this information is quite obvious. It gives present directions from past events, and it serves as a map in life to travelers confused and lost in a maze of episodes. Many men and women have written glowing accounts about the achievements and bravery of Black people. Intellectual achievement, such as Lerone Bennett, John H. Franklin, and Dr. Benjamin Mays, have made momentous contributions to the knowledge and growth of Black history. White historians, prior to 1950, minimized or purposefully omitted those contributions. In an academic sense, they committed crimes of omission.

We Black Americans are the only people who never came to these shores. We were dragged to these strange, foreboding shores in the bottom of slave ships like the *Ship Jesus* as captives, then slaves. America's wicked system of bondage would last from 1661 to 1865, a long and debilitating night of horror for us. Then in December 1865, the 13th Amendment lifted the yoke of bondage from the shoulders of displaced African children.

The very genesis of democratic socialization in the colonies was fraught with linguistic deception. When Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) penned on parchment in charcoal, the majestic words of the Declaration of Independence, slavery was already 116 years old. When the Constitution was signed in Philadelphia in 1787, slavery was 127 years old. These truths to be self-evident and *We the people* held the promise for fair treatment of the slaves, who were in rusting chains.

Without written Black history, these truths would not be evident. The valor exhibited by Black men during the Civil War (1861-1865) would not be told with any truth, were it not for those writers of history who included Black men. The Underground Railroad would never have been known. The bravery of Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner would be just another melodrama on the stage of untold history.

As we move onto the 21st century, if our tale is to be told, we must tell it. If our race is to be saved, we must save it. Children and women are to be protected, we must provide necessary protection.

The moving writes and half right moves on. Not all words nor all your wit can change a single word of it.

Professor Willie Dixon can be heard Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 pm on WVON radio, 1450, and on Jazz station.





# The fear of the Press

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

Proposing a direction for the Black Media in Chicago is what Webb Evans, of the United American Progress Association did on May 29. The timely topic of the UAPA could not come at a better time, as the *Chicago Defender* celebrates its 96th Anniversary and South Street Journal decides to bit the hand that may feed it.

The Black media was the focus in Pittsburgh as well as, Julian Bond, Board Chairman of the NAACP, touched on the role of the Black media as he addressed Black publishers early in May.

Mr. Bond described Pittsburgh's 74 year-old *Post-Gazette*, as being heavy, fat and bloated with ads, and the *Pittsburgh Courier*, although 92 years old and Black owned (one of the *Chicago Defenders* Sengstacke newspapers), is much smaller and just as newsworthy. The same type of comparison can be made of the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Defender*. Yet, despite the differences, the *Courier*, like the *Chicago Defender* and other Black presses, the front pages speak directly to Black people.

In the late 19th and early 20th Century, the black press was a must-read throughout America. At times, was not just reporting the news, but was a part of it.

Suffering the same racism and abuse as the people, and sometimes feed into it; fear of biting the hand that may feed it. It is no wonder why the City of Chicago only

place one ad in SSSJ eight-year history. And then why, One Stop and Hyde Park Co-op once advertise in the newspaper and now do not advertise with any. It seems like subjecting us to racial profiling or we do not have the right message for their customers.

Naturally Mr. Evans always stress supporting the black press, as it presents news and analysis of events from a black perspective. But how far will the Black press go before it is bought out as BET, Emerge and Essence Magazines were. Or in Chicago controlled by political agendas.

As the producers of ABC Nightline noted, most journalists like to think of themselves as courageous crusaders, facing off against the powers that be, laughing at danger. Yet, when is it time to draw the line between the danger of reporting the truth, fear can develop.

ABC reported one reporter from Tijuana dared to print some less-than-flattering articles about the Arrellano-Felix Cartel. A short time later, driving to his office, his car was riddle with gunfire. His bodyguard was hit over 30 times. He was hit four times. The assassins were walking up to the car to finish him off, when a bullet ricocheted and killed

their leader. The rest fled. The reporter survived. Now, he travels in a three-car convoy, and his life has changed drastically. No movies, no restaurants, no visiting friends & relatives. His family lives much the same way, always wearing a bulletproof vest, virtual prisoners in their own home. Too high a price to pay? He says, "no, to quit would be telling the cartel they had won." Get too deep into the drug war and fear will be a constant companion.

Reporters in the United States don't have such fear as the reporter in Tijuana. At times, the fear is the media, due to what they choose to report and how they report it.

Since the circulation and number of black newspapers have declined, the hunger for advertising still is strong. Competition with the mainstream press is a drive to succeed. However, the best news and information is based on resources, most of the time it is money. Other times the challenges for black publishers is biting the hand that feeds it. That includes the Clarence Thomases of Chicago, such as the sad case of Dorothy Tillman. A fear of reporting the truth, no matter how much it can control the hand that feeds.

If you did not make the UAPA meeting we look forward to seeing you at South Street Journal's Advisory Board meeting on June 16. Because will are pretty hungry to send a wake-up call of our own.



Ron Carter  
Publisher & Editor



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Gerri's Palm Tavern, Tillman & Reparations

Dear Editor;

Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3) has taken the staunch position that she is not supporting the community's efforts to save Gerri's Palm Tavern. On the contrary, the efforts by Tillman to "redevelop" the famous 47th Street, in the historic Bronzeville Community, call for the destruction of one the city's world famous landmarks.

How can Tillman talk about developing an "African Village" in one breath and then violate the African Principles of respecting the elders, maintaining the culture, and honoring the ancestors? These are key components within the African Village concept.

The irony in all of this is that Tillman, over the last year, has been projected as a leader in the Reparations Movement because of her Reparations Hearings and Resolution that was passed unanimously by Chicago's City Council last year. The question becomes, how can Tillman accept the role of a Reparations leader and at the same time, through her elected office, participate in the destruction of a sacred, historic, and cultural institution?

The potential destruction of Gerri's Palm Tavern, by Tillman, with the backing of City Hall and Mayor Daley, is a prime example of culturicide. Just as some Africans participated in the slave trade and slavery, as some African people today participate in the drug industry that destroys African people, which was initiated and is controlled by the same Europeans, it is quite clear that some of our people participat in the European culturicide efforts.

In this instance, the potential destruction of Gerri's Palm Tavern is an act of culturicidal efforts and is con-

trary to the aims of the Reparations Movement.

We all know and appreciate the rich Civil Rights Movement tradition that Tillman emerged from. We are mindful of the many contributions and the numerous struggles she has been engaged in since coming to Chicago in the late 1960's. But, Tillman has strayed from the foundation of her rise to elected office. Those of us who support maintaining Gerri's Palm Tavern, urge Tillman to reconsider her opposition.

In our fight for Reparations, Gerri's Palm Tavern must be saved in the name of all those great ancestors

Everloyce F. McCullough.

Ms. McCullough is chairperson of the Black Economic and Political Action Network (773) 250-3332

### Gerri Oliver, The Entertainment Principal

Dear Editor;

I am the comic at the Palm Tavern. I host the pre-show here every Saturday night at 9:30 pm with Fernando Jones play, *I was there when the Blues was Red-Hot*. Also, I am one of the actors in that play.

The Palm Tavern is like a school to me. Mr. Fernando Jones is my teacher, and Ms. Gerri Oliver, owner of the Palm Tavern, is my principal.

Every Saturday night after the show, Mr. Fernando lets me know how I ve done on stage and I need that. He lets me know if I was good or bad. I don't know what I

### In the Palm of the Past, Show your Love

Dear Editor:

It is good to see the support for Ms. Gerri Oliver flourish. Seeing as how she is very deserving of it. As I've said before, she has given so much and now is the time for the community to come together. Her home is at stake, as well as her future.

No one has given as much to the City as Gerri's Palm Tavern. She has for years permitted many musicians and artists to perform there. It was the place to go. Why would anyone want to push a gentle soul such as Ms. Oliver out to the wolves?

This is not about one person's dream for an area. It should be about the people who live there, and who by all means, have a right to be there. Our elected officials seem to forget how they got where they are. The Mayor didn't put them there; it was the will of the People. To go against them, can only mean sudden death in the land of politics.

Some of the people who are being named in affiliations with the upcoming Lou Rawls Center, appeared at the Palm in the early years. For this reason, the same opportunities Ms. Oliver extended to them then should now be returned by giving her a helping hand or even a fund-raiser. Something to show her how much she is appreciated.

Show your love people.

Mable Cole  
Auburn Gresham

## FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES & the Hook-up to the gas prices

Bashar al-Asad's foreign policy initiatives have had a global scope. On 20 January, for instance, Damascus and Jakarta agreed to set up a joint trade commission. On 4 February, the European Investment Bank agreed to grant Syria a loan worth \$110m for the development of its electricity network. The loan follows on the heels of the EIB's \$65m loan in December and its significant, considering Syria's boycott of the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Marseilles in November.

But Damascus' most concerted focus has been regional, with its front-line neighbors receiving special attention.

A high-level Syrian military delegation visited Turkey on 23 January, to discuss normalization of ties, but efforts to draw Ankara into multilateral talks have so far proved fruitless. Damascus' greatest concern on this front, one it shares with Baghdad, is the use of the Rivers Tigris

and Euphrates, whose headwaters lie within Turkey. On 31 January, Iraq and Syria announced they had worked out a detailed plan to share water resources and called on the Turks to join them in a tripartite agreement.

Its relations with Turkey still thawing, Syria has devoted most of its energy to consolidating ties with Iraq and Lebanon.

Thus on 31 January, Iraq and Syria took the first steps towards free trade, signing a tariff-reduction accord. The agreement is modeled on the one Baghdad signed with Cairo earlier in the month (MEI642). Though designed to operate within the oil-for-food programme, it signals that Damascus is positioning itself to benefit from - if not contribute to - any loosening of the UN sanctions regime.

The accord is significant for both countries. Though trade stands at about \$500m a year at present, the elimination

of tariffs could see that figure rise to as much as \$2bn annually. In strictly economic terms, Syria would be likely to benefit most from free trade with Iraq, given the ruined state of the Iraqi economy. But political benefits will accrue to

Syria as well since, by involving itself in Iraq's rehabilitation, it's regional stature is bound to increase.

The agreement to reduce tariffs came only a week after the new administration in Washington offered to officially authorize Syria's role in facilitating Iraqi oil exports. The offer came after a story in the *Los Angeles Times* declared that Iraq had been pumping oil through the

Kirkuk-Banyas pipeline - independently of the oil-for-food regime - since last November.

Described as generating \$2m a day, the pipeline would be Iraq's most lucrative unregulated source of foreign currency. Though the *Los Angeles Times* described the oil shipments as "smuggling", State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the US would support a Syrian application to the UN to have the pipeline made an authorized export route under the oil-for-food regime. So far, it seems, the West is willing to accommodate itself to the Iraq-Syria rapprochement.

Submitted by Sam Jodua of Atanlta Foods on 39th and King Drive, from the Middle East International, February 2001

May 31 - June 13 - 2001, Volume 8 Number 13

We welcome letters to the editor and comments on any material. Submit all subscription and correspondence to:

## South Street Journal

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Printed in the United States of America





# Spiritual

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18--19

## After a three year court battle Christian Hope Church continues

The second oldest Black financial institution, Christian Hope Credit Union (CHCU) offered financial services such as low-interest loans, the Christian Hope Visa Card, and was in the process of offering checking and check cashing services before it was suspended on March 14, 2000 by the Illinois Department of Financial Institutions (CDFI).

Chartered in Illinois since 1954, Rev. Dr. H.B. Brady, Founder and Pastor of Christian Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 7559 S. Aberdeen, for 58 years, developed the Credit Union 46 years ago, where it was housed in the church basement.

In April 1996, Reverend Vickers and Rev. Charles Koen were installed as co-Pastors. There is no evidence that there were any problems with the church leadership until sometime in 1999. Then, Christian Hope's church members became divided as to leadership and control of the church premises on Aberdeen, which resulted and began underlying litigation. One group, support-

ing Rev. Vickers consists of defendants. The other group, supporting Rev. Koen consists of plaintiffs.

The problems with leadership prompted the Department of Financial Institutions, Director Sarah Vega, along with Chicago Police Officers stormed the CHCU office, and placed an order of suspension and removal of the Board of Directors, appointing a Manager-Trustee, and an order of suspension and removal of Rev. Koen. DFI then seized and took possession of all books and records of CHCU.

Ms. Vega claims that "historically, Christian Hope Credit Union was a long-



Christian Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 7559 S. Aberdeen, for 58 years, developed the Credit Union 46 years ago, where it was housed in the church basement.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bruce Crosby says, "This is not true. We are seeking a full vindication of board members and their reputation in serving Englewood.

Vega reported that throughout 1999 and the first two months of 2000, the Department worked actively with the credit union's President, Dr. Koen. "It was during this time that a complaint was received from a credit union member alleging that Dr. Koen's own background was questionable."

In response to this allegation, Vega said the Department's investigation revealed a multitude of felony counts including embezzlement of federal grant funds and arson by use of accelerants to destroy records.

She pointed out, "At this time, it was determined that immediate regulatory action was warranted." (Continued on page 11)

## "Who Let the Men Out' - Brothers Taking Dominion!"

Pastor Rory R. Marshall and the Nehemiah Urban Church Ministries Men's Department is inviting the public to their Annual Men's Day, Celebration, Sunday

June 10, for their 11:00 am and 5:00 p.m. services.

The theme for the one day celebrations is entitled, "Who let the Men Out?" and the sub-theme is

"Brothers Taking Dominion" Genesis 1:26.

At the 11:00 am service the guest speaker will be Dr. Sokoni Karanja President and Chief Executive Officer for the Center For New Horizons. He has championed the cause of residents in the Bronzeville area for thirty years, empowering them with self-sufficiency skills and African-centered philosophies. Dr. Karanja has been recognized as a national leader on childhood development and urban development issues. He is currently a



Dr. Sokoni Karanja President and CEO for the Center For New Horizons.



Rev. James T. Meeks pastor of Salem Baptist Church.

Church. As a leader with the RainbowPUSH, Pastor Meeks has one of the fastest growing congregations in Chicago. His fiery, down-to earth style of ministering brings people from all over the world to hear him speak.

The Nehemiah Urban Church Ministries Men's Choir soloist and special groups will provide the music.

There will be intercessory prayer for all the brothers. Nehemiah Urban Church Ministries is located at 7359 S. Chappel

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## Dead, After 5 years, She continues to haunt from her shallow grave

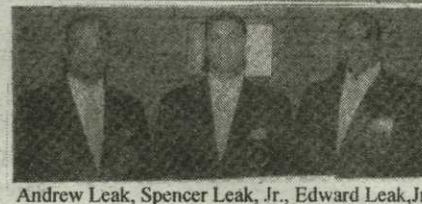
CBS will be forced to discontinue "Touched by an Angel" for using the word God in every program. Madeline Murray O'Hare, an atheist, successfully managed to eliminate the use of Bible reading from public schools a few years ago. Now her organization has been granted a Federal Hearing on the

same subject by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, DC.

Their petition, # 2493, of 287,000 signatures is to pave the way to stop the reading of the Gospel, Our Lord and Savior, on the airwaves of America.

If the attempt is successful, all Sunday worship services being broadcast on the radio or by television will be stopped. This group is also campaigning to remove all Christmas programs and Christmas carols from public schools. Other Christian groups are counteracting to defeat their effort are campaigning for at least 1 million signatures.

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(Continued from page 10)

# Christian Hope

tion be taken", which Vega explained lead to the Department with the cooperation of the NCUA, Illinois State Police, and the Chicago Police Department utilized a search warrant to seize and remove all credit union property from Christian Hope Church.

Vega said the Circuit Court of Cook County recently upheld their removal of Rev. Koen and the remaining Board Members, and the appointment of a Manager Trustee to liquidate the credit union.

But Crosby counters that CHCU was awarded the "Community Development Credit Union" in 1998 by the National Credit Union Administration NCUA. An award Crosby said, for 44 of their 46 years of existence, WE have maintained a rating of 2, with the highest rating being a 1. The rating is used by the IDFI to rate or grade credit unions, the highest rating is a 1, the lowest rating is a 5).

"It is our position that the attack on the Credit Union was done to kill the only Black financial institution in Englewood.

Crosby notes that Ms. Vega fails to mention that on April 2, 2001, on a complaint for administrative review, Cook County Circuit Judge Stephen Schiller reversed and vacated Director Vega's suspension of the Christian Hope Credit Union. The reversal and vacating of this order means that CHCU was not unstable or insolvent.

Rev. Koen said, "While we applaud Judge Schiller's decision to reverse and va-



Rev. Dr. Charles Keon

cate the suspension of the Credit Union, it fails to reverse and vacate the suspension of the Board of Directors and Ms. Vega as the Manager Trustee of the credit union, charging she abused her authority and failed to act in the best interest CHCU membership.

According to Rev. Dr. Charles Koen, Pastor of Christian Hope Church, and President of the Credit Union "We been working very hard to extend the financial services of the Credit Union

beyond just church members, but to the full community. Over a last two year period we grew from a \$60,000 to a \$400,000 Institution.

Crosby stated that the State of Illinois should be working to build financial institutions in the community for the community. "Instead, they are deceptively working with the City of Chicago to destroy the

Report:

## Young Blacks & Hispanics Abruptly Transferred to Adult Court

NNPA News Wire - Nearly all young Cook County Blacks and Hispanics arrested for a drug crime are automatically transferred to adult court, and nearly all of them are imprisoned for drug crimes there are non-Whites, according to a recent study commissioned by the Justice Policy Institute.

More than 99 percent of the 393 youth automatically transferred to adult court are Black or Latino, said the study, which analyzed data from state criminal justice agencies in Illinois and national correction databases. The state has an automatic transfer to adult courts for drug offenses even if the accused is as young as 15.

There was only one White youth drug of-

fender automatically transferred to adult court last year out of 259 such transfers the study said.

Study author Jason Ziedenberg, Senior Policy Analyst with the Justice Policy Institute, said in a statement that the policy "does not affect suburban or rural White youth in a way even remotely comparable to the way it affects urban minority youth."

"The racial disparities uncovered by this report are appalling and they cry out for correction," said former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), now director of Southern Illinois University's Public Policy Institute.

Christian Hope Credit Union."

Rev. Koen, noted, "The State of Illinois ordered the involuntary liquidation of the Christian Hope Credit Union before we even had an appeal hearing on the suspension. This is indicative of the deceitful and dishonorable practices of Sarah Vega and the Department of Financial Institution."

Vega reported to SSJ that her office is still working with the community at large to help form other credit unions in the Englewood community as well as others. However, as far as the CHCU, she has done all that she can to assist them.

However, the legality and validity of the events are hotly contested. In relationship

to Rev. Koen, if a convicted felon receives a waiver from NCUA, he or she can serve on the Board of Directors. Crosby stated they have been in contact with members of the NCUA Board, who expressed an interest in providing such a waiver for Dr. Koen.

Joseph Maxwell, chairman of the church's Deacon Board and a 35-year member of CHCU said "The Credit Union is part of the legacy of Christian Hope Missionary Baptist Church; the church was founded by Rev. Dr. Hezekiah Brady, who was the Pastor of our church for 59 years. With the blessing and guidance of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we will pursue this case to the Supreme Court to see that justice is done."

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(Continued from page 4)

# Gerri's

Drive, he is assisting the city in acquiring the property for Second City.

The project was awarded \$300,000 in federal Empowerment Zone funds. "Funds originally earmarked for bottom-up developments such as Gerri's. The money found it's way to them instead of residents and businesses applying for the same funds." Thompson says,

Second City owner Alex Alexander said they been working with Ald. Tillman over two years to locate on 47th Street. A project to expand their theater training to the Black community.

"We are now waiting for the city to close the deal in acquiring the property." Alexander said. A deal that Tillman reports is a 70% own African American and 30%. However, Alexander stated, the deal will be a joint 50/50 business venture with African Americans.

Over the years, sources have reported that David Gray and Midwest Partners owners of the Palm Tavern building, avoided selling the property to Ms. Oliver or any other interested party. He kept her on a month-to-month lease, until late May, he served her an eviction notice for June 30, 2001. He never addressed the violations on the property, cited by



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the city this past April. Violations over the years the city is using to rid Oliver from the building and pay for some of the violations with the intentions to gain ownership.

In addition the city waved an outstanding water bill of over \$30,000 with the offer price of \$60,000.

Nathan Thompson sent a letter to Wallace Goode, Director of Chicago Empowerment Zone, asking him if he would reconsider the EZ fund application if the City awards the property to Ms. Oliver. When the application was filed. Gerri cleared the first hurdle in 1999, but since she doesn't own the property, the application was ultimately shelved.

"We're trying to get that decision reversed. The leverage is the funds were for projects such as Gerri's, and the fact that investors are lined up, provided she can get control." Said Thompson.

Goode assured Thompson that he would present the request at the next executive meeting (May 31).

Addressing Ms. Carroll concerns if Ms. Oliver had financial resources to fix the violation or even to restore it. Thompson replied, "After 45 years of running a business why should Gerri even have to prove to the city or to Tillman she has the means."

Robinson said. "We have demonstrated personal commitment and financial support. The political overtones that exists over the 47th Street development is what needs to be cleared up before any investor can step forward."

Support continues to grow for Ms.

Oliver's from such Bronzeville natives as Quincy Jones. He recently spoke with Thompson by telephone and when the subject of the Palm Tavern came up, Jones was disturbed to learn the city was trying to take over the Palm Tavern. "Use my name, he proclaimed.

Jones also was surprised a city park will be named after him on 47th Street.

Other entertainment legends that share Jones's sentiments are jazz legend George Freeman, county commissioner Jerry "The Ice Man" Butler, and Billy Branch and Oscar Brown Jr. who gave an impromptu performance at the Palm Tavern's 68th Anniversary party.

As support grows, Carroll responded understanding the concerns for Gerri's Palm Tavern, added, "There is a process that must be follow". Added that the city has always been open for community participation. However, the experiences of the 47SBA with the city remained as mute as possible to this day.

There are options that Ms. Oliver representatives want to present to the city. But not just for Oliver but for the City to be open and honest for real community participation.

That lame excuse of the process is solely to give them justification to keep omitting community participation."

As reports that Tillman's actions are personal against Ms. Oliver, the Alderman profess the people of the 3rd ward support her plans. Ald. Tillman, who will not make comments to South Street Journal, reports are the Chicago Tribune will be had an interview her.



Quincy Jones

## Malachi Freebop B & 47th St. Jazz & Blues Revue at Blues Fest

According to Steve Dollar of the Atlanta Journal, "Chicagoan Malachi Thompson straddles tradition: he's an avant blues man steeped in the history of the trumpet." This is more than just media hype, his records and performances reveal a genuine understanding of jazz history and myth. Thompson can indeed walk the walk.

More so than Marsalis and young Nicholas Payton, Thompson and his Africa Brass Band evoke the spirit and energy of early jazz rather than a soulless note for recreation. As a sideman Thompson has worked in the bands of jazz pioneer Sam Wooding and sat in trumpet sections with the great Cat Anderson and the legendary Chicago trumpeter King Kolax.

Known more for his innovated directions in jazz, Thompson and his celebrated

Freebop Band featuring Ari Brown - tenor sax and clarinet, Steve Berry - trombone Kirk Brown - piano, Harrison Bankhead - bass and Leon Joyce - drums will be performing June 9th at 6:20 pm on the main stage of the Chicago Blues Festival in a special tribute to Louis Armstrong on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of his birth. Thompson composed a work in his honor entitled "Blues For A Saint Called Louis."

Chicagoan  
Malachi Thompson

Excerpts from *Blues For A Saint Called Louis* were featured on the WTTW series Chicago Stories, in an episode that aired May 14th called Remembering 47th Street. Africa Brass will perform Blues For A Saint Called Louis again Sunday July 8th at the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival in Davenport Iowa.



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# AT THE FLICKS

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**PEARL HARBOR**  
 (\*\*\*) By design, "Pearl Harbor" is spectacular, emotional with its mixture of fact and fiction of a computer-generated, special effect "attack" within this 3 hr. A \$140 million epic formulated to be this year's "Titanic".

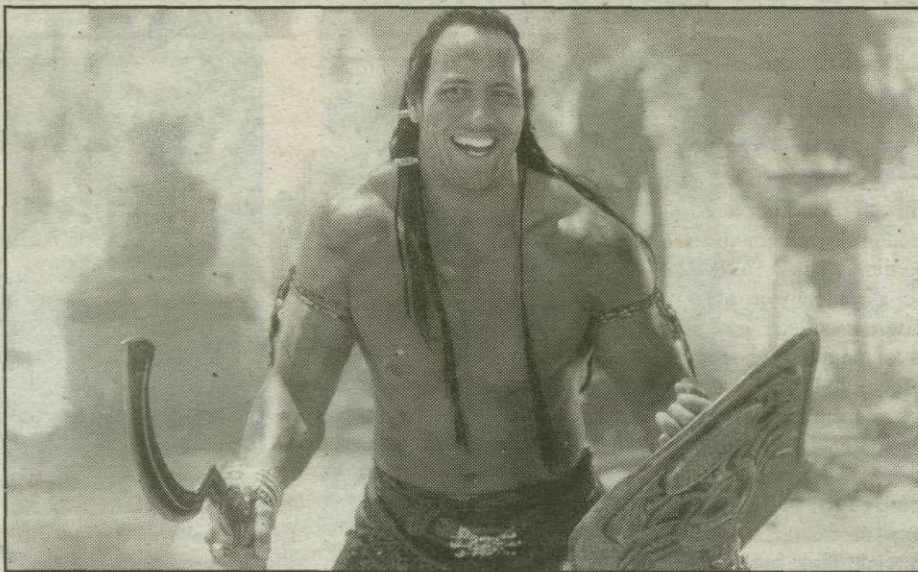
The fictional sub plots and characters tied around historic facts. Ben Affleck and Josh Harnett are childhood buddies who become fighter pilots who happen to fall in love with the same woman, Nurse Kate Beckinsale. When Affleck is presumed dead during an air mission with British's Eagle Squadron. Naturally, this puts a strain on this love triangle between friendship and lovers that is prolonged but can't avoid the inevitable "human sacrifice". When Affleck and Harnett take part of real-life Col. Jimmy Dolittle's (Alec Baldwin) retaliatory air raid on Tokyo with only 16 planes.

A sad truth to this film in that as much all races and nationality living in the U.S. were equally outraged over the Japanese attack. Blacks' contributions to the war effort were shortchanged. Even though its not mentioned most blacks were ship over to Germany than Hawaii. The brief appearances of Cuba Gooding Jr. as a cook, Dorie Miller was the first black awarded a gold medal reflect the sign-of-the-times. In retaliation to his fallen Captain, Miller shoot down several attacking planes. Even though the role seems underdeveloped and episodic, these depictions do reflect the limits blacks were faced with in their quest for equality.

Rated: PG-13, 183 min. A Touchstone Pictures Release.

**THE MUMMY RETURNS**

(\*\*1/2) With the dazzling-to-overwhelming computer generated special effect wizardry, the high-energy perils and an appealing cast. "The Mummy Returns" is an exhilarating eye-candy. A wild roller coaster ride of fun and excitement that is like a combination of "Golden Voyage of Sinbad" meets "Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom". The comparison especially toward the latter film is obvious. Until Lucas, Spielberg and Ford make up their minds on the long rumored fourth "Indy" movie epic.



Writer-director Stephen Somers hypes up and advances his story and characters almost out of its own orbit from the original 1999 film that was partly inspired by the 1932 Boris Karoff horror classic. Kick starting the film in a larger than life battle sequence, WWF star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson making his big screen acting debut that sort of book-ends the movie as The Scorpion King (who will have his own film next year). An ancient warrior (who must have had a great dental plan by Egyptian standards!) who becomes the lone survivor of a seven-year war. He sells his soul only to be double-crossed by the evil gods.

Years later while on expedition, Brendan Frazer and Rachel Weisz are now married treasure seekers who uncover the Scorpion King's tomb where their precocious 9-yr. old son, Alex (Freddie Boath) inadvertently gets stuck with the King's bracelet. While an evil curator at the British museum has assembled the artifacts that can bring back the powerful Imhotep (Arnold Vosloo) back to life to take over the world.

The only other force stronger enough to stop the Mummy is The Scorpion King through the power of his bracelet. So the bad guys kidnap Alex and his parents with some assistance take off to rescue their son who is like a chip off the old "Indy" block when he frustrates the bad guys.

"The Rock" proves his best acting moment when he's computer generated in the film's climatic battle with Imhotep who tries to pass himself off as the king's ally to attack Fraser. Not completely defined as a good or bad guy, The scorpion king is a character-pawn to the film's action. Clearly, a victim of circumstance and superficial on intelligence. "The Mummy Returns" is more elaborate than the original. But does it meet its goal of being better than the original. Well, that's debatable, because this movie also shows us

that looks aren't everything. Rated: PG-13, 130 min. A Universal Picture Release - Presented at selected theatres

**CALLE 54**

(\*\*\*) Filmmaker Fernando Trueba's passionate musical documentary exploring the evolution of Latin music is a joyous and insightful feast. From the early jazz influences to flamenco to the turbulent 60's where Puerto Ricans clashed with N.Y. cops in the Bronx called "Fort Apache", and Latin jazz to the Afro-Cuban movement. A well pattern documentary that is paced between the history, the heritage and the musical pioneers in rare performances that brought all the emotions, passion, and rhythms into focus. Among the featured musicians, Gato Barbieri's return after a self-imposed 16 yr. exile. The late great Tito Puente who explains the legacy through a wall mural at his N.Y. club. The mesmerizing artistry of Michel Cimino is full of beauty and passion in a band session and movie scoring. He really lets the music take flight. The film climaxes with a rare father-son musical reunion. "Calle 54" is a real treat. The film is a neat epilogue to Ken burns' PBS 10 part series, "Jazz". Rated: G, 105 min. A Miramax Films Release - Opens May 11 at selected theatres

**A QUESTION OF FAITH**

(\*\*) What would the (Catholic) church do if a young accountant monk declares to have envisioned an angel and miraculously undergone a sex change without surgery? This is the dilemma that the elder monks (Bernard Hill and Paul Guilfoyle) at a winery monastery try to confront. While the sexually converted monk (Martha Hackett) discovers her true call-

ing in life. The overall answer (like this uninspired film) is nothing much. Rated: PG-13, 90 min. A First Look Pictures release

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## MATAH arrives in Chicago

New organization working to get "True Freedom." psychological and economic. The MATAH Network is a company in business to raise the collective consciousness of people who consider themselves "MATAH," and redirect their spending for the benefit of people of African descent.

South Street Journal will have a feature story in the next issue, until then visit their web site [www.MATAH.com](http://www.MATAH.com) or call Gaston Armour at 773.846-0018

(Continued from page 3)

## Cab Strike

an expanded customer base for drivers. Shoenberger stated.

Six months ago a plan to improve taxi service was proposed by the members of the taxi industry and passed by the City Council.

However, of the 1,000 (450 according to the city) protesting drivers that marched around City Hall, other cab drivers voiced a different position. Referring to the protesting drivers as self appointed a group of 11 signed on to a release in support of the city. They pointed out six months ago a plan to improve taxi service was proposed by the members of the taxi industry and passed by the City Council.

The statement went on to point out these critics (protesters) offer no alternative solutions. The plan required considerable change, some sacrifice and a major ongoing effort by cab drivers, medallion owners and taxi affiliations alike. The vast majority of the industry has rolled up its sleeves, initiated that effort and is committed to its success.

The supporters of the city stated service has already improved and that with their continuing effort will reach their ultimate goals.

To suggest otherwise is to greatly diminish the sacrifice that the silent majority has already made.

"The companies and the City have to take us seriously, respect us, and consider us a major bargaining force



Of the 17,000 cabs drivers in the City of Chicago, the Chicago Professional Taxi Cab Drivers Association (CPTCDA), says 90% of them plan to hold a strike as a follow-up to two rallies held at City Hall last month opposing "One Call a Day", fines and fees.

to be reckoned with," said Weidersberg responding to the committee of the City. "This has been going on since December 1998." He said his organizations submitted petitions in the Legal Department to challenge the validity and their constitutionality.

Connie Buscemi of the Dept. of Consumer Services said all the city received was a letter, no request or demands were presented. "Just personal attacks."

In response to the drivers wanting the city to take back the \$4.50 workman's compensation. Buscemi said. "What they are asking for came up last year. The workman's comp is state law. Now it is now the law.

Clifford Holloway, Vice president of the association said drivers are caught in the system of exclu-

sion and over tax with fees and fines. Especially on the hearing section. "The City wants a 'Cash Cow', collecting from cab drivers.

Holloway said because of the time it takes to challenge tickets most drivers pay the fines. stating drivers receive tickets even at taxi stands.

Buscemi said the only action on any driver is done by the Dept. of Administration hearing office. "We only review the driver's records for any history of convictions."

Weidersberg said. "We have the numbers to have an effective strike urged. Enough is enough! We are tired of these Jim Crow laws that govern the taxi cab industry."

"These rules are totally unjust and that is why we have obtained legal council to change this travesty of justice, and are prepared to strike in protest.

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## "The Buying Power of Black America, increased 11 % to \$490 billion

According to a new study from Target Market News, African-American consumers are changing long-established habits in how they spend their dollars.

Economic conditions have never been better for African-Americans who now represent the eleventh largest economy in the world, and prosperity is changing the type of purchases they make.

According to the seventh annual edition of "The Buying Power of Black America," earnings for all black households in the U.S. increased 11 % between 1998 and 1999 from \$441 billion to \$490 billion. This double-digit earnings growth fueled a change in spending patterns.

For example, last year marked the third consecutive year of increased spending for new cars and trucks by black households. Previous purchase patterns showed growth only in alternating years.

Other lifestyle changes indicated in black household expenditures include sharp increases in out-of-home dinner meals (81%), athletic gear and exercise equipment (160%), and gifts of jewelry (546%).

Expenditure figures suggest that time on the Internet may also be cutting into the hours spent with other media. Cable TV subscriptions for all black households dropped from \$3.4 billion in 1998 to \$2.7

billion in 1999.

The most dramatic change that occurred among black consumers was found in the earnings of black women. According to "The Buying Power of Black America," African-American women accounted for 48% of the dollars earned by black households in 1999, versus 42% in 1998. Of the \$490 billion earned by all African-Americans last year, black women had \$235.2 billion in earnings.

"This increase in earnings has given black women new choices and more clout as consumers," said Ken Smikle, president of Target Market News and editor of the report. "They have always been the ones in the household that sacrificed the most in economic hard times. Now, thanks to new opportunities and a strong economy, they are focusing more on their own needs."

"The Buying Power of Black America" is published by Target Market News, a 12 year-old Chicago-based research company that specializes in the African-American market. The company is the nation's most widely quoted source of information on African-American consumers, marketing and media.

The eighth annual edition of Target Market News' report on the earnings and expenditures of black households will be released at this session. Important new trends will be discussed in spending for apparel, cars, computers, food, health and beauty aids and more. Learn how African-American consumers spent nearly \$540 billion in income and what opportunities are revealed in their spending habits.

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# African-American & Hispanic Firms

WASHINGTON - The Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), hailed the release of new Census Bureau data showing that the number of African American-owned firms increased by 25.7 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of Hispanic-owned firms increased by 30.0 percent, compared with an increase of 6.8 percent in all firms, excluding C corporations. The data on firms owned by African Americans and Hispanics are the first from the Census Bureau's 1997 Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (SMOBE).

In 1997 there were 1.2 million Hispanic-owned firms and 820,000 African-American-owned firms. They represented 6 percent and 4 percent, respectively, of the 20.8 million U.S. businesses, with more than \$1,000 in receipts.

Nearly all of the firms covered in the Census release were small businesses. Approximately 89 percent of the African-American-owned firms

and 82 percent of the Hispanic-owned firms had no paid employees. Receipts also were typically small: more than 71 percent of the African-American-owned firms and more than 62 percent of the Hispanic-owned firms had receipts of less than \$25,000.

The 1997 data for the first time include C corporations, along with the S corporations, partnerships and nonfarm sole proprietorships that had been counted in the 1992 and earlier SMOBEs. Thus, for comparability reasons, the figures showing 1992-1997 increases in the number of firms exclude the C corporations.

Recent Advocacy-produced or funded research in this area includes *The Role of Race and Gender in Business Survival; Business Success: Factors Leading to Surviving and Closing Successfully; and Analyses of Business Dissolution by Demographic Category of Business Ownership.*

(Continued from page 3)

## "HouseChicago"

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**Anti-Predatory Lending Experiment** - to make available a \$5 million anti-predatory refinancing initiative to refi-

nance high interest rate loans to avoid foreclosure and preserve equity.

The City of Chicago/Allstate Home Improvement Program - Fannie Mae joined the City of Chicago, Allstate and Countrywide to bring a below-market rate (6.5 percent) rehabilitation mortgage product

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**Welcome Initiatives** - that allow immigrant borrowers to apply for a home loans.

**Multicultural Homeownership Initiative** - to close the homeownership gap between minorities and non-minorities.

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773 429-8858 OR 773 509-4907

24 HOURS

**WHY HESITATE, YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON  
YOUR PART OF THE PLEASURE PIE**