

# South Street Journal

50¢

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COYWRITE 2004 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED MARCH 11, 2004

## In the City

**At City Hall, Mayor Daley just "Keeps On Truckin"**



At City Hall, it's business as usual as no Aldermen have been heard inquiring about the City of Chicago's Truck Scandal.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* gave the aldermen the right grounds to take ac-

(Continued on page 7)

## Englewood Wants Landmark Celebrating Gospel Music Roots

As one of the most significant African American musical creations, gospel music has some of its deepest roots in Chicago's Englewood community. Those roots will be acknowledged with a proposed landmark acknowledging it for it

(Continued on page 8)

## Woodlawn

### share of \$17.5 Mil

Woodlawn just as many low-income communities have seen better days. The once-vibrant 63rd Street was the hub of entrepreneurship and solid greystone homes and large six-flats are now mainly vacant lots.

(Continued on page 5)

## WVON's Winning Elections 101 with 21st ward

### Howard Brookins



With WVON's slogan "Tell a Friend", was well received as friends and candidates across the city came up droves to the 21st Ward, where Howard B. Brookins Jr. is the 21st ward Alderman, com-

(Continued on page 10)

## Two, Black Political Conventions for Chicago,

Two unrelated Black political conventions will be held in Chicago in April of this year. However, they both will have the same mission.

Organizing for over a year focusing more on Illinois politics the Black Political Action Committee will hold its convention on April 2, 3 and 4,

(Continued on page 11)

## ELECTION DAY

Editorial

# Obama For U.S. Senator Brewer for States Attorney



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# The Prosecution & Persecution Race:

## Brewer vs. Devin Patterson vs. Patterson



*Tamar McCullough-Manasseh, 25, a young political activist from Englewood came up with the slogan for Aaron Patterson (l), "From wrongly convicted to rightfully elected." She added that, "Tommy Brewer's (r), candidacy is based on the need to address and change the prosecution and persecution of the Criminal justice system on behalf of person such as Patterson.*



There is an enormous contrast to the youth on Tuesday's election with the race of the 6th District State Representative; Aaron Patterson vs. incumbent Pat Bailey, and in the race for States Attorney Tommy Brewer, vs. incumbent Richard Devine.

"The youth have more at stake with this election than any of voter sector." According to Manasseh.

"Aaron Patterson was 17 when he was sentenced to die for a crime he did not commit. As a prime example of a wrongful conviction of our youth in which most cases Devine was in the background of the criminal justice system.

She continued by referring to a partial reform bill, HB 2087, supported by State's Attorney Richard Devine that fails to return

all youth charged with drug offenses to juvenile court...99% of the youth sent to adult criminal court under Illinois' youth drug laws are youth of color.... Of the 259 youth automatically transferred to adult court from Cook County last year under current law, only 1 was White.

"Youth tried as adults are often denied

## Mix messages in changing the housing stock in Bronzeville

By Beauty Turner  
Freelance writer

As the progressive notion of *Restoring Bronzeville* became reviled for community organizers, their efforts were substantial, and, in large part, successful.

But now, some of the organizers are concern if the development of the communities are at the expense of systematically disenfranchised the traditional residents promoting mix income housing.

The communities that make up Bronzeville; Grand Boulevard, Douglas, Woodlawn, Douglas,

North Kenwood, and Washington Park was like a wagon train surrounding the inner part of Bronzeville, with the Hyde Park community in the middle. According to the Chicago Housing Authority data over 51,000 public housing residents lived in the area. The area bound from 22nd north, east along the lake of the Washington Park housing extensions to Ida B. Wells towards the State Street cordial of Stateway and Taylor Homes, south to 63rd and Prairie. Including non-public housing residents over 62,500 people has been relocated or

(Continued on page 3)



Journal Photo by Amadee Hicks

# UnZip

The Weatherman

The area around 63<sup>rd</sup> and Ashland should be aware in West Englewood, a major local businessman is in favor of drying up the Englewood just as it was done in the Rose-land community lead by **Rev. Senator James Meeks**. Those that are alcoholics may need to pick up other habits than on the corner, and businesses may have to promote health food to make a profit off alcoholics and the like.

**Bill "Dock" Walls for Mayor of Chicago**, an exploratory committee of 40 plus political organizers are planning for the 2007 election and have decided for Daley that this will be his last term as mayor.

Activist "Queen Sister is with Illinois



Journal Photo by Armande Hicks

**Pride Horseman's International Horsemen League and Buffalo Soldiers.** She is not only riding the backs of questionable community issues, she is protesting HB 3845 which supports of the selling of horse meat to the general public. Will she win or be forced to ride off into the sunset.

A speedy recovery for two great men, former elected official **Roland Burris**, and **Vernon Jarrett** famed columnist.

Both men have recently recovered from surgery. God-speed.

**Dick Gregory**, the people on 47<sup>th</sup> and **Prairie** and those other folks complaining about firefighters flagrant use of the



"N" word should know that there is a national declaration to outlaw the word. Instead of transferring the firemen to **Mayor Daley's** old Bridgeport community fire station they could do backup on **50 Cents** next CD.

**In Englewood:** On February 26, leadership of **Nation Block Club University** from the Englewood community gathered to say thank residents to the folks on the 6600 S. Woods block for not touching the vehicle left by the investment banker from downtown, who tried to say Blacks kidnapped him. The was at the event to shake hands, issue incentives, and just to say good job.

**Darrel "Sax" Preacher and the Men in Black** are protesting their neighbors across the street from their office; The police station on 78th Street and Halsted because of their CAP action dismissing a member of the CAPs board. The station has another issue with a sergeant identified as one who rape a woman in the area. This is the same station that had many of its officers bused for selling drugs when it was located on 86th and Vincennes. Too many rotten apples at one station.



**WVON** says tell a friend to listen in to 1450 AM. Another radio promotion goes out to the **Conversation Starter, Morgan Carter** who now has a live radio

program every Sunday at 2:00 pm. Carter is now doing triple duty with a television show, newspaper and the radio program.

## Voters Numbers for March 16, 2004 election

A record number of suburban Cook County residents are eligible to cast ballots in the March 16 presidential primary election, according to figures released by Cook County Clerk David Orr's office.

As of the February 17 registration deadline, 1,297,006 residents in suburban Cook County were registered to vote in the primary, the highest number of eligible voters prior to a presidential primary. That figure compares to 1,221,254 in March 2000 and 1,215,588 in March 1996 (see below).

Based on U.S. Census figures for Chicago and suburban Cook County, Orr estimated that 2.5 million of the approximately 3.4 million eligible, voting-age citizens in Cook County (Chicago and suburbs) are now registered to vote.

The highest percentage of new registrations since 1992 is reflected in townships - primarily in the northwest and southwest portions of the county - that have experienced new growth and development: specifically, Lemont (up 94 percent), Orland (up 74 percent), Hanover (up 55

percent), Rich (up 35 percent), Barrington (up 24 percent), and Palatine (up 20 percent).

Orr noted the increase in registrations comes even after the Clerk's office conducted a voter canvass last fall that resulted in inactivating the registrations of more than 100,000 voters in suburban Cook, most of whom had either moved or died.

### For the State of Illinois

A total of 7,023,962 Illinoisans are registered to vote at the March 16, 2004 General Primary Election, officials of the State Board of Elections reported. Registrations are down slightly by 37,256 less than those registered March 19, 2002 of 7,061,218.

The March, 1998 General Primary Election total of 6,747,376 were registries to vote.

Board officials estimate that 1.8 million of the state's 8.8 million voting-age-population is unregistered.

For additional information contact the State Board of Elections at (217) 782-4141 in Springfield or (312) 814-6440 in Chicago.

## Chicago Public Schools campaigning for parents for candidates in the LSC elections

The Chicago Public Schools are putting a call out to parents, community representatives and teachers to nominate themselves to run for the Local School Council's 17,000 positions, by the deadline of March 17, 3:30 pm. Persons that are not parents can run as community reps.

As of deadline only 2,072 applied to run. In addition another 800 people are sought to become election judges in the polling places and are paid \$100. Persons can be a candidates in one school and be a judge in another.

The LSC elections were initiated by former mayor Harold Washington and pass under mayor Eugene Sawyer.

Concern for the low participation over the years was discuss on the Cliff Kelly WVON radio

talk show with school board representative James Dean. One calling said the nominating form needs to be more simple, too much politics, and a need to meet the members expenses.

Dean replied to the concerns in which the board has been making many changes responding to concerns from the public, a process that comes from the LSC as well. "That is what the LSC all about." Dean stated some form of expense is being looked at, but it must be authorized by the state.

Dean suggested that schools not able to secure the vacant LSC post may have to be assigned to a neighboring LSC, as a possible solution for lack of citizens.

For all info 773, 553-1400.

## Exit ramps at 43rd, 51st, 59th and 76th The Committee to Save the Dan Ryan files lawsuit

The Committee to Save the Dan Ryan (CTSTDR), on behalf of African American and low-income residents on the Southside of Chicago, recently filed a Civil Rights complaint to the U.S. Department of Justice under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice). "We believe that decisions made by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) with respect to the proposed reconstruction plan for the Dan Ryan Expressway discriminate based on race and have disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low-income populations in communities." a representative of the Committee said.

The Committee has been holding community planning meetings to develop an alternative plan to IDOT's current plan to close 6 ramps in the along the Dan Ryan.

The State's Dan Ryan Ramp Closure Plan: Measuring the Impact on the Southside, Exit ramps at 43rd, 51st, 59th and 76th street are opt to be removed in the massive reconstruction of the Day Ryan Freeway.

The committee also addressed the plan to provide approximately 25% of the \$430 million contract to African Americans.

In March of 2003, IDOT presented its plan to reconstruct the Dan Ryan Expressway. The plan suggested a better integration of the Skyway and the addition of 3rd local lanes south of 47th Street in order to speed and smooth traffic on the Expressway.

However, the committee objection to the plan is that to accomplish this, the plan would permanently close 12 Southside ramps between 43rd and 76th Streets, thereby reducing Southside transportation options, discouraging business investment,

(Continued on page 11)

## City Photo View



What is your position on gay marriages?

*The United States has many serious issues that need to be legislate, what people do in their bed room should not be a matter that is legislated if it is to ensure democracy for all. Ma marriage is it is an legal agreement. With that being sad I support gay marriage. I believe people for love, companionship and partnership.*

**Barbara A. Reeves**

**Hyde Park**

Choose not to be photographed



*We had a discussion on this other day. Just think what our world would be years from now, if we allow this to happen. I would hate to think of this world.*

**Rev. Leon Daniels, Unity Church of God in Christ**

*At lot of it is media induced, it has created a climate that it is ok for young people to embrace this life style. I am not in favor of it.*

*I am of the believe for people to make up their own mine.*

*Legally its no law, other than biblical that they can't married.*

*They are not breaking the law.*

*It does not say between a man and a woman. But I would not support a constitution change to support it.*

**Everloyce McCullough, Englewood,**



## Dennis Butler

**Organizer focus:**

**Englewood Community Baseball League.**

**Butler** is an Englewood residence, a member of the National Block Club University, and a 15th Ward Coordinator, mobilizing a variety of constituencies toward one common unity; improving the community. His high goal now is pushing for the recreation of the Englewood Community Baseball League at the Lindblom Park Field House and other locations in the area. If you are interested in base as a youth or adult in Englewood, contact Mr. Bradley at 773-776-4665





# Bronzeville

## Messages for Bronzeville

### Where You Can Purchase

- Primary Areas
- Secondary Area
- Parks

	Maximum Household Income	
	Eligible Communities	
	Primary	Secondary Area
1	72,384	60,320
2	90,480	75,400
3 or more	105,560	86,710



(Continued from page 1)

moved from the area due to massive demolish of property.

Despite Bronzeville's millions of federal tax dollars and massive financial contributions from the private sector and the foundation in support of the "Restoring Bronzeville" theme, many residents call it - at the expense of ridding blighted communities.

The majority of the new resi-

dents have been black but on 35th and State Street a billboard stands with an image promoting the diversity of the new State Street cordial, that residents free project the wrong image of the future populated community that it is

"The sign is so blatant, it does not have the same meaning to us." one resident of Bronzeville describes it.

"We need a more control gen-

trification the area. For us it is a major stiff of black people. We need to see more blacks moving into the community." She continued. "Our issue is trying to get black folks, the black middle case." But that working case is in question relating to those working at Bank One that is laying off people.

In addition the Bronzeville community has had a 300% tax increase since the last tax bill, contributing to the lost of present homeownership.

The city produced a Homeownership Rehabilitation Initiative where up to 125 HUD foreclosed and abandoned properties will be purchased by nonprofit organizations, rehabilitated and then sold.

HUD will finance the sale of the single-family properties with \$5 million. In an additional another \$5 million in discounts on the as-is sale price to designated nonprofit organizations.

As the Bronzeville community needs and gets its boost, the developers do not have to be interested or involved in low-income housing set-aside according to Chicago Tenant Council who is pushing for a low-income subsidy spearheaded by Alderman Tony Preckwinkle (4).

Getting in on the development to populate the future homes for Bronzeville, is the University of Chicago/Hospitals (UC/H) promoting their pilot, New Employer-Assisted Housing Program (EAHP) in strengthening the revitalization of mid-south side communities, excluding Grand Boulevard.

It is promoted as avoiding the

hassles and expenses of commuting to work. Downtown amenities, major highways, and public transportation are easily accessible from all community areas.' The UC/H is providing their employees a \$7,500 interest-free loan, t

Serving the UC targeted area is Alderman Dorothy Tillman (3) pushing for another Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district from 47th Street to 55th Street, reported in a community meeting, 3,000 new residents will be targeted as new residents, 25% for low-income families, from the approximately 17,000 that left the area.

However the City under HUD is pushing for low income housing such as: Pershing Courts; at the northeast corner of 39th and State Street, of 80-unit affordable apartment complex to be developed by Pershing & State L.P. in another TIF district.

Along with the new housing development for the community, as reported in the *Lakefront Outlook*, the north area of Oakland-Kenwood will be receiving the police service of the UC/H private police, and an overhaul of its public schools is in the planning.

Harold Lucas part of the initial 'Restoring Bronzeville' campaign since 1993 is concerned with the direction Bronzeville is going.

"As a 4th generation, native born at the Ida B. Well public housing development, it hurts my heart and wounds my soul to know that millions of our federal tax dollars and massive financial contributions from the private sector and the philanthropic community have been spent in support of a CHA Transformation Plan and the 'Restoring Bronzeville', that has systematically disenfranchised the truly disadvantaged residents."

## Relocated CHA residents gets a taste Danville, Il.

Ms. Beauty Turner

Seems like there is a modern day Jim Crow going on in the south as Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) relocated residents are allegedly feeling the tight loop, literally being twisted around their necks, as they try to settle in Danville Illinois.

Stereotype, stigma, and mistreatment reported by Anitria Webb a young lady who is black and lives Danville all her life.

She called me from Danville and ask for assistance and bring some more activists to a press conference to address the racial profiling and allege police brutality that seem to be "sky rocketing out of control, since the CHA residents relocate there.

"The town is being turned upside down not because of the residents, but because of the prejudices against Chicago Blacks". Ms. Webb said.

She describe the city once a very good place to raise children, is now is over shadowed with misconduct in the school system toward her children who the town folks have known for years.

"They think that every black that came down here is a thug, gang banger, drug seller, or worthless." Ms. Webb continued. "Otherwise what they are saying is that all blacks are the same- I have never lived in public housing a day in my life. But if you're Black in Danville they treat you like you are no body!"

Lets keep our eye on Danville, Mississippi, lets watch closely as this story continue to develop.

## Experienced • Fair • Honest • and • Independent



★★★★ Tommy

**BREWER**

## No more Devine Its Tommy Brewer time, Democratic Candidate for

Tommy Brewer has always been committed to public service. Born in Chicago and raised in Washington Park Homes, he is a product of Chicago Public Schools and a graduate of Williams College and Northwestern University School of Law.

Brewer has applied his excellent legal training to law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels. His career includes service in the offices of the Cook County State's Attorney, the Massachusetts Attorney General, The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Brewer has fought to protect the public interest and preserve the public trust.

His administrative experience includes serving as Director of Enforcement in the office of the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation where he supervised a staff of over 200 investigators, attorneys and support personnel.

Brewer is a noted trial lawyer, where he recently completed a one-year appointment as Assistant Special State's Attorney to investigate and prosecute the alleged torture of prisoners in police custody from the late 1970's through the early 1990's. He is frequently engaged by community and civic organizations on various aspects of the criminal justice system.

**PUNCH 270**

Paid for by Committee to elect Tommy Brewer, (312) 957-1700

## Spring Clean your body at Winkfields Health Studio

By Beverly A. Reed

Norman Winkfield is the first to tell you the military saved his life. He says he was literally picked up off the corner of 47<sup>th</sup> Street near King Drive by recruiters. They rode around in military wagons during that time and offered no options to those they "recruited".

"I was literally dying on the streets and didn't know it. I thought, like many people today still think, that discolored eyes, tooth decay, nose bleeds, headache, dizziness, insomnia, Gout, bouts of constipation or diarrhea, and pain in joints, were normal; but in reality are signs of bad health, said Dr. Winkfield. He believes the daily routine of three balanced meals, exercise and sunshine transformed his body, and consequently his life.

Dr. Winkfield, now in his sixth decade, is the embodiment of good health. His movements, smooth line free skin and obvious passion for his profession keeps him in demand as a public speaker. He has written a book, has a video instruction series and several pamphlets on the art of massage. He also offers a ten week course in Basic Swedish Massage at his studio on the south side in addition to his thriving massage therapy practice.

He is very clear about the designation of his title, Dr. "I have a Doctorate of Science, I am not a medical doctor and my health improvement program is non-diagnostic, with no treatment or mitigation of any diseases." He has assembled a wealth of information that covers how to maintain, improve or regain your health. "Everybody needs a little help with their health, better now than later, he advises.

Citing the environment as a significant health hazard that is getting progressively worse each year, Dr. Winkfield strongly believes Toxicosis is the rudiment of most diseases. Toxicosis is the problem and rejuvenation is the solution according to the Winkfield method.

The program consists of a six-week age retarding course, detoxification, internal cellular cleansing, maintenance, and a personal body analysis.

He also provides presentations for teaching/training groups or individual private consultation. Actress Brandi Chandler, multi-interest businessman Eric Mitchell and many other prominent Chicagoans have participated in the Winkfield program with good success.



# Elect

# Aaron Patterson

For  
State Representative  
6th District

**PUNCH 218**



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(serving the residents of Cook County)

PUNCH  
#262



# Woodlawn gets another 'Jump Start' share of \$17.5 Mil

(Continued from page 1)

A new program hopes to rectify all that. The Quality of Life Plan is part of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)/Chicago's New Communities Initiative (NCI). A 17.5 million dollar comprehensive community-building program intended for community development corporations for developing and implementing projects and programs.

Due to public sentiment, the City has promised and most cases delivered, a variety of capital development programs to developers in acquiring land and special financing packages to "Jump Start" Woodlawn. Many residents felt that the demolishing of the "el" was a poor choice in planning, looked for improvements to follow. Federal, state and local resources, from the Empowerment Zone and TIFF funding have been channeled to the community. But all still haven't assessed the extent of the vision for Woodlawn.

Now with foundations lead by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur, financial institutions, and federal agencies investing in 16 Chicago neighborhoods in the project of Living Cities. Woodlawn is one of the initiatives.

Funding is provided for staff, loans, and technical support. The Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corporation (WPIC) was selected as the lead organization, sponsoring community meetings to assess the needs of Woodlawn with the University of Chicago and The Woodlawn Organization as leading partners.

"Residents participation is the main focus for us," pointed out Willie Cochran of WPIC, A resident and business owner in the Woodlawn community. "The community will have by the end of August, a report that will guide significant goals for Woodlawn."

Cochran reported that there are 100 residents meeting regularly

with developing a working plan based around 'Quality of Life. "We have a mandate in Woodlawn to break the cycle of poverty," he said.

Cochran said plans in the past help toward the future for Woodlawn, which can and do change is reasons the Task Team of Woodlawn has gathered as well.

Skeptic of the initiative Robert Winbush, Chief Operating Officer of the Coalition to Revitalize West Woodlawn/Washington Park. "We have submitted a plan for the Woodlawn/Washington Park community three years ago.

"LISC has been involve in the community for some time. We are so dominated by social service that leaders haven't looked ahead with economic development in mind that the residents can benefit from." Winbush declared.

"Over three years we have been involved in planning for West Woodlawn. (West of Cottage Grove)," The City must recognize community goals in which the redevelopment must include housing opportunities. Assistance to property owners is its highest priority".

"Our plan calls for definitely assessment of buildings whose salvageability is not yet known,"

Jewel Dixon, a resident and Area representative for the National Block Club University (NBCU) organizing blocks in Woodlawn said. "I think the process is a good start. The meetings are good in that we know what we are doing to work better together."

"The NBUC is an ongoing process working with the concern of each block for 'quality of life'. We are not a social agency in which we refer our block members to other organizations in Woodlawn. That is the value of us being together.

Winbush concerned about social service over economic development charged the initiative in

Woodlawn as 'They are focusing on social service. And being undermined by the University of Chicago and the city.

Historically there has been some concern regarding the University of Chicago's role in shaping the future of Woodlawn and their plans to expand the campus south into Woodlawn community. And try to take over the land.

A claim Cochran says is false in that WPIC has data on every property in Woodlawn and the UC has not one south of 61st Street.

Still the alliances between the University and Woodlawn are welcomed by some and questioned by other residents.

Dixon acknowledged the growth and progress made between the University and the Woodlawn community resulted in an array of community projects and programs. She pointed for example a garden project involving community on 6200 S. University block.

But said there must be some bases for the community to be concern of the University agenda



Jewel Dixon, a resident and Area representative for the National Block Club University (NBCU) organizing blocks in Woodlawn said. "I think the process is a good start. The meetings are good in that we know what we are doing to work better together."

that its cloud is still there."

Cochran said "The UC care in that the improvements of the community are in their interest as well. They have been very responsive in the community planning process."

"Part of the project is achieving economic balance where working-class residents fear displacement by higher-income newcomers." says Karen King of WPIC. "But together we can move forward. The resident are coming up with the plan, in which depend largely on the amount of community participation and in part convincing City Hall and elected officials our

findings.

Cochran and King vow this is a process — "We're trying to preserve part of the integral part of our self-esteem.

"Our activities will include sharing strategies and methods through a newsletter, meetings, training sessions, web site and other methods to multiply the impact of Woodlawn".

The next meeting in Woodlawn will be held April 17, from 9 am to 1 pm. For location contact Ms. King at 773/363-4300. For information on NBCU call Ms. Dickson at 684-6384.

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**PUNCH 26**

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# Hip Hop Awareness Week

## Culture Community Connection

By T.J. Crawford

This past week, the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana was invaded by hip hop heads from all across the state when members of the UC Hip Hop Congress hosted Hip Hop Awareness Week - a week of cultural exhibition that culminated in a weekend chocked full of activities that included b-boy battles, dj demonstrations, breakdancing workshops, panel discussions and a concert. Friday night set it off, as b-boys, b-girls and interested onlookers packed the Illini Union to bear witness to an insane display of acrobatics and artistry.

The two on two b-boy battle brought scenes from the movie "You Got Served" to life, as a capacity crowd sat mesmerized trying to figure out whose skills would demand the judges highest marks. After a spirited competition that caused plenty of 'oohs and aah's, it was the Brickheadz crew that emerged from the battle as champion.

The next morning began with a workshop hosted by Kujo from Soul Control that focused on both classical and experimental forms of breakdancing, and then flowed into a seminar where students, activists, scholars and entrepreneurs discussed a wide variety of topics including politic activism, entrepreneurship, education and women's influence in hip hop culture.

Several noted panelists included Isela Estrada, Amina Norman-



Illustration: Crooked Family

*....realities of mainstream media and political systems that seem more obsessed with flash and cash than actually empowering members of the hip hop community.*

Hawkins, Christie Z. Pabon, Luke Demarte, David Muhammad, TJ Crawford (myself), Mario Africa, Jeff Chang, Kevin Coval and Dr. Will Patterson, all of whom shed light on hip hop's emergence as a dominant culture, and explained the need for hip hop to become more accountable and responsible for the world in which it exists; The need for well thought out principles and a value system seem to highlight the day, as each panelist reinforced the notion

of stepping up and controlling the culture to enhance all aspects of the community - acting as the anti-thesis to the flawed realities of mainstream media and political systems that seem more obsessed with flash and cash than actually empowering members of the hip hop community.

Cindy Kudelka, Kareem Muhammad, Asad Jafri and Ranjit Bhagwat performed their roles as moderators to perfection, easily transitioning between the panelists' presentations and audience participation in a way that made all in attendance feel welcomed and involved.

Amy Clay, a student at U of I, and other members of the Hip Hop Congress chaired the event and should be congratulated for their efforts. Asad Jafri, a Chicago based member of the Hip Hop Congress who acted as a senior advisor for the event, expressed satisfaction with the way things turned out.

"The best thing, in my opinion, was how many people showed up for the b-boy battle," he said.

"Overall, I hope that people understood that there is a strong hip hop culture in Champaign. People are doing more than just breakdancing...even if people didn't come to all the stuff, the fact that there were so many events going on is a testament to the culture's various uses and diversity. This is the fifth year that we've pulled this thing off, and it's only going to get bigger and better". - TJC

## LETTERS

### The Black Bush of 1844

Dear Editor;

It is my genuine hopes that more people (readers) avail themselves of the information provided by the various writers to the *City Journal*. Myself included. Newspaper Editors and readers alike, should recognize the fact- that on the Editorial and Commentary pages of all newspapers when printed, the "pulse" of the people speaks out!

The following excerpts that appeared in an revised and updated edition of "Eyewitness," a living documentary of the African-American contribution to American History, by William Loren Katz, published first in 1967 by Touchstone, an affiliate of Simon & Schuster, Inc.:

Among the early American explorers of the Oregon Territory was one George Washington Bush. Under Andrew Jackson, Bush had fought at the Battle of New Orleans. In 1844, Bush, his white wife, (Bush was a free Mulatto!) and five children led several white couples from the Mexican border to the Columbia River Valley. During this period, it was understood that African-Americans were unwelcome in the Oregon Territory and those who dared and ventured to enter, would be shipped!

white men in Bush's party that included, David Kin-  
aniel Jones and Colonel Michael T. Simmons de-  
to protect their friend and benefactor.



However, the law was never enforced. Denied the right to "Homesteads," Bush's friend Colonel Simmons, in 1846, member of the Oregon Legislature, had Congress pass a special act granting Bush 640 acre plot. The Bush family became very wealthy but often times shared their crops with less fortunate "white" settlers. One of Bush's sons raised a prized wheat crop that was later placed in the Smithsonian Institute. Another son was elected twice to the State Legislature. In 1889, George W. Bush's grandson, William Owen Bush, the son of George Owen Bush, was the only Black man elected to the first Washington Legislature.

If more would only read and research history, there's no telling what strange hidden facts they may come up with! Remember the Thomas Jefferson/Sally Hemmings episode that was vehemently denied for a century by the white descendants.

John Woodson  
Bronzeville

## Rules

## & Relationships

By Cornel Wright Hunter

# A roma or Sexu Involve

Rule One:

**You must set and manage p**

In order to properly represent you must know who you are aspire to do. Be realistic about your ties, determine your risk factors and put yourself out there (as you really yourself you should give that person what drives you and where you're

You must be willing to explore opinions about why you feel the way act. You must then be willing to challenge those formed when you were other words, if the reason you treat thirty year old come from experience were say a nine year old then, you settle those issues with your adult. If you do not resolve those issues, worse, your prospects up for certain failure. If you think I'm wrong then constant in all your previously failed answer is you.

I can barely handle the issues something, somewhat disciplined, and hand those decisions of heart affairs myself, unchecked and unsettled.

If you are not currently engaged then you are in the best position to are in a relationship, it doesn't matter work to do. It's not impossible to carry baggage, and it must be considered

Now, let's talk about some of set us up for certain failure form the

Gentlemen, how many times have aside, cleared your schedule, stopped to, stopped watching or attending your standard of appearance, by professional clothes, even your wash and wear it finest restaurants, ones which you can hand washed your car and set your full well that none of these things are.

You enjoy handing out with your movies, television, shows, or classic again, listening to rhythm and blues, with remains still on the kitchen counter consume them, and you know you have nothing can stop you from getting to hand out and make some noise, Yo Hmmm, Hmmm Hmmm, sorry

If that's who you are, then, and manage a proper expectation to of who you are you. Bring her into a cleansed and sanitized version you would be a lie. Think about it this way

Start telling that lie and others it, you have forgotten that you set your new love interest and stuck in the unreasonable demands by your friend. You seem to have conveniently forgone the confusion.

Instead you start to blame the person you know it you've even sold your anybody who can, "accept you for you find someone to accept you for you) to see the you you really are.

Ladies, you appear to be better. You do the same things. You dress in prospect.

Hmmmm, out of space. Please turn Street on the other half on the ladies



# Barack Obama For U.S. Senator Tommy Brewer for State's Attorney

## Questionable politics

Politics and issues are divisible. As one political organizer stated, "If the check is right the issue is right". And unfortunately this is all too often the case. But it is crucial in this election that the common voter rally patriotically around the best candidate. And it would be obvious if not for the former statement.

U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush's endorsement of Blair Hull for U.S. Senate and to go so far as to chair the campaign, really speaks directly to this concern. Rush has long been considered one of the most progressive political representatives. Yet this endorsement takes the cake of a common political alignment.

Rush identify more with Hull than any other candidate is hilarious if this wasn't such serious a serious election. Rush's assertion that he and Hull have similar backgrounds left many with a barrage of headaches that are probably best left unasked.

But when Rush quantified his endorsement of Hull saying, "We were both raised in working class families; we both served our country in the U.S. Army; we were both educated on the GI bill; we are both self-made men; and we are both men who believe in looking at issues and circumstances with a fresh eye and a new approach".

Contrary, most of the 1st District voters Rush serve could just have easily said; My working class family was held back because of their race; served in a U.S. Army that was forced to integrate and often when they returned were abused by those whose lives they had saved; educated on the GI bill but when their family wanted to move into a better neighborhood they were redlined; and although they worked hard, never made 300 million dollars.

Is the public to assume that Bull Hull was the Minister of Defense of the White Panther Party and shouted, "Power to the People!"

Rush's election as alderman and then con-



gress surpassed the goals of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Not only could Black people vote, but once again be elected to represent the people. In many cases voting beyond candidates' qualifications, and for the historical principles that govern how they will serve in elected office.

As a Black leader, activist and as an effective legislator, Rush's role brings considerable influence to Hull's campaign. Those that follow Rush, would explain "Its about the money" as the Jackson's' once taught.

Whatever reasons Rush has for supporting Hull the his district have shown overwhelming support for State Senator Barack Obama. This is an election which is driven by a candidate who represents their principles. A candidate who is the best; he has the education, experience and commitment to not only make history in Washington D.C. but to effect some change to the Bush Terror.

However, it must be acknowledged that Rush is not alone. Cook County President John Stroger, the former Cong. Cardis Collins, some business leaders and others do not support Obama. But will expect Black turn out to carry them across with a couple of rappers, and gospel singers.

However, politics and issues, and principles are divisible. Even as it comes to Obama not supporting the best candidate Roland Burris for governor.

Or the best candidate Tommy Brewer for State's Attorney.

Obama wrote and passed legislation creating a beginning to ending racial profiling and requiring videotaping of confessions in murder cases. It holds police accountable for the use of excessive force and for conspiring to give false testimony, which leads to the wrongful conviction of defendants that Richard Devine should be accountable for.

So Brewer as Cook County States Attorney makes all the sense in the world for Obama and people backing him.

Brewer campaign can be seen as too patriotic and dramatic, definitely not politically correct for many non-black voters. Nevertheless, the Independent Voters of Illinois - Independent Precinct Association (IVI-IPO) did not think so endorsing Obama, and Brewer. Noting; "The election of former FBI Agent and Special Prosecutor Tommy Brewer as State's Attorney will begin to restore public confidence in Cook County's criminal justice system."

Then the Americans for Democratic Action endorsed Brewer said, "Tommy Brewer is an experienced attorney whose leadership as Cook County State's Attorney will surely improve a justice-challenged system."

But no Black elected official has endorsed Brewer. Reasons the two Black politic conventions being held this April should have happened before this primary.

Obama and Brewer are harnessing momentum going into the final weekend before the March 16 election, earning the right to battle the GOP nominees.

Obama and Brewer both have similar backgrounds as may Hull and Devin has. There should be no question that politics and issues are divisible.

But Obama and Brewer both have done what it takes to be elected to do more as a U. S. Senator and States Attorney.

## At City Hall, Mayor Daley just "Keep On Truckin"

(Continued from page 1)

tion for a strong council with which to address the abuse of power in City Hall. Which occurred nearly on the heels of former Governor George Ryan's license scandal. It seems the are relying on the feds to do their job. Leaving them in the mayor's good graces. "That has nothing to do with us," they state. No questions, no formal inquiry, no one even pushed for an investigation, instead alderman Ed Smith pushed for the reopening of the Emit Till case way down south where its much safer than going after the mayor.

Meanwhile the Mayor moved fast to clean house. He didn't waste any time before assuring the public that his people wouldn't allow such activities in his office. The mayor's plan would have their heads for even thinking of defrauding anyone.

But echoing the concerns of many people including Cook County States Attorney candidate Tommy Brewer, shouldn't States Attorney Devine be investigating this scandal. I hear the echoes of a 40 million dollar silver shovel scandal. But then are there any Blacks in the trucking business with the city? Maybe that's why no one has spoke up.

The mayor's administration has cost the city money. As city workers are laid off to balance the budget, thieves are robbing the coffers blind. Maybe contracting city work to the private sector is not such a great idea. It has been said over and over again, unfortunately, it will have to be said and discovered again: Weak mayor strong city council, creates a more balanced government.

Is that is why the election law was rewritten to require 25,000 signatures for Mayor and other citywide offices. So this administra-

I challenge everyone in ... the City of Chicago, to look for new ways to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood and throughout our city."  
- Mayor Richard M. Daley  
State of the City Address, February 15, 2001



tion can keep on Trunkin'. Culminating in a horrendous form of government.

Simply put, Daley Keep on Trunkin of Chicago is undermining the true representation of the city council and the citizens of Chicago morality. Reasons the federal government had to step up to the plate.

Ron Carter, Publisher and Editor



# Englewood

(Continued from page 1)

## Englewood; Home of Gospel Music

### A proposal

Gospel music.

Gospel diva, Pam Morris of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, who organizes gospel events for the city expressed her approval of the plan; "Gospel music has a long-standing tradition of black religious expression in Chicago. I think it's a good proposal for Englewood. The city will support it with the aldermen and community behind it," she said.

The emergence of Englewood as a Gospel Landmark has been on the mind and heart of 16th ward Ald. Shirley Coleman for over a year. Coleman is a minister and involved in many facets of gospel music. "This music gave voice for the greatest of many leading gospel soloists. One of which was Mahalia Jackson, who's church was in Englewood at Selma Baptist Church on 71st Street."

The music evolved in Chicago as a result of the changing balances between Northern-born and Southern-born blacks whose religious experiences and cultural values diverged sharply. This brought a return to distinctly African American religious values after a period in which many northern blacks aspired to a white middle-class religiosity. Pianist and composer Thomas A. Dorsey, "father of gospel music" played a key role in formalizing the style.

In 1932, Rev. Junisu C. Austin, pastor of Chicago's Pilgrim Baptist Church, appointed Dorsey the director of the Pilgrim Baptist Church newly formed gospel chorus. The position gave Dorsey an opportunity to shape the direction of African American sacred music.

Dorsey as a young man moved to Chicago, where he found success during the mid-1920's as pianist and bandleader for blues singer Gertrude "Ma" Rainey.

After the loss of his wife and son in August 1932, Dorsey composed what is arguably the greatest of all gospel songs—"Take My Hand, Precious Lord" (1932). The song was a personal favorite of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the song that Chicago noted gospel singer Mahalia Jackson performed at King's funeral.

Many individual gospel singers shifted from sacred to secular music as Ms. Jackson did including; Sam Cooke, Wynona Carr, Aretha Franklin, Lou Rawls, and Johnson Taylor.

Gospel music contributed to the development of R&B as well. In 1969, Edwin Hawkins recorded a rendition of "Oh Happy Day" that became a major pop hit and market out a new direction for gospel music. Their influence was apparent, however, in the songs of soul musicians and, later, the R&B superstars of Motown Records according author Anthony Heilbot in his book *The Gospel Sound Good News and Bad*.

"Although gospel was not just based from Englewood, it is just as important to Gospel music as other communities in Chicago," said Rev. Dr. Stanley Keeble, who heads the Chicago Gospel Music Heritage Museum. "This would be a wonderful event to support."

Alderman Coleman proposed the library at 55th and Racine as a possible location for the landmark. "I've been talking about this since last year. It should take approximately nine months to secure for landmark status appropriation."



Thomas A. Dorsey, "father of gospel music" played a key role in formalizing the style.



Chicago noted gospel singer Mahalia Jackson who's church was in Englewood at Selma Baptist Church on 71st Street."

**Gospel Event:** The critically acclaimed Gospel Musical play by Dr. John Ruffin, "Love the Hurt Away", will be performed in an elegant evening on Friday, March 19, at the Candle Light Dinner Theater 15015 Grant Street, Dolton, Illinois. Donations will be appreciated with RSVP at (708) 849-2024.

(Continued from page 1)

## The Prosecution & Persecution Race:

crucial employment and educational opportunities, such as denial of federal student financial aid. Devin is the Prosecution and Persecution." Said Manasseh

Ms. Manasseh continued, "What's more is that the jails hold many youth who are innocent."

While Bailey in her first term in office pride accomplishment on authoring legislation that gives police additional tools to fight gangs, Patterson 39, campaigns on his 17 years on death row, counters her action by pushing police and prosecutor accountability.

Patterson one of many who have been forced into confessions by former Area Two Police commander Jon Burge sighted Devin for defending Jon Burge on torture charges when he was in private practice at Phelan, Pope & John in 1985. The City of Chicago paid \$800,000 for this law firm's services to defend the police who were brought up on charges of torture."

"(Former) Governor George Ryan said men were wrongfully prosecuted, and wrongfully sentenced to die, when he declared the release of me and others. What he did not say is that Richard Devine's actions are criminal in prosecuting and persecuting the innocent."

In teaming up with Brewer, Patterson said, "We need to break the chains of our addiction to prison and find less costly and more effective polices like treatment. Brewer candidacy represents substantive changes in the Criminal Justice System."

'For too long, Devine has taken a pass at prosecuting police,' said Patterson.

"Brewer has very definite views on what it will take to revamp the office.

Brewer in his third time running for public office has received an overwhelming host of endorsement over Devine,

Brewer said, "As States Attorney I will begin to help restore the public's confidence in the Criminal Justice System and to administer justice in a fair and compassionate way."

"In addition, we will be reviewing the cases of individuals who are allegedly wrongfully convicted and acting quickly to determine the merit of each case.

"We also believe that we can offer some relief from jail overcrowding by setting bonds that are fair and appropriate, and not merely punitive.

"And I am most certainly in favor of keeping the moratorium on the statewide death penalty, he said.

Devin has not campaign on his record as a prosecutor, instead on crime prevention, with the Democratic machine backing.

Limited in resources, Brewer and Patterson believes their opponents counting on the organization believes they are armed with commitment required to undertake a quest for justice, that will result in an interesting result on Tuesday.

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**Lawndale**

**Lawndale Community rises up over the selling of Lawndale Bank**

**Free Public Forums at IIT**

Save on your taxes, energize your career, fix your relationships, start a business or examine the community's economic focus. These will be some of the weekly forum topics at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Non-profits Little Skillet Productions and the Personal & Economic Development Institute, (PED. I), join with PAN-TV to host a series of eight FREE public forums.

Topics of discussions for these intimate Forums include Tax Tips for Community Businesses, Economic Leadership, Spiritual Intimacy, Non Tradition Career Woman, The New Commerce, Single Home Buyers & Careers in RE and more. The eclectic panels will include community activist, TV and radio personalities, authors, ministers, business owners and others. Each Thursday at 6:30 PM, through April 15, a new topic will be examined at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

As is the PAN-TV standard, the discussion will focus on solutions to community issues. The purpose of the forums is to stimulate a community buzz regarding solutions that ordinary people can institute and to uncover innovative grass roots economic approaches. In addition to the relevant information provided, there will be drawings for attendees to win up to \$250.00 in cash.

Attendees have a chance attend a free forum, will receive an opportunity to share their views for economic solutions for the community with a variety of personalities, hear the opinions of people that are creating opportunities and gain a chance to win up to \$250.00. The names of the specific panel members and each week's topic of discussion are available over the Internet <http://littleskillet.com> or can be requested by e-mail @ [leadership@littleskillet.com](mailto:leadership@littleskillet.com). Registration for the Free Forum at IIT and the Cash Door prizes can also be completed at <http://littleskillet.com/>, by e-mail or by fax at (270) 633-0604. Those that register by fax should include their name, contact phone number and fax.



**Ms. Beauty Turner  
Free lance writer**

Rev. M.G. Hunter Clergyman for New Jerusalem Baptist Church of North Lawndale, accompany by Mark Carter of the activist group V.O.T.E (Voices of the Ex-offenders), and a host of over 100 residents of the Lawndale community are in an ongoing demonstrations on the sell of the Black owned Community Bank of Lawndale (CBL) on 1111 South Homan.

On February 24, then again on Friday March 6 protestors descended on the Lawndale community Bank like dark clouds during a thunder storm ready to rain on the new owners parade.

Many of the protestors were angry and upset about what they deem as an illegal opposition and selling of the once all Black owned bank established in 1977 as a full financial service institution.

"The community refuses to let their taking of the Lawndale bank be like taking candy from the hands of a baby proclaimed one protester." Mark Carter, of V.O.T.E said. "The bank was sold to Chinese American owned International Bank of Chicago for \$721,000 when it is deem as a \$5.5 million entity,"

In on going demonstrations the protes-

tors were greeted by a long line of police squared cars, patty wagons and barricades. Reverend Hunter standing in front of the bank doors for a prearranged meeting by Jackie Wang on the board of Director for the bank, and spokesperson for the protestors said, "We are here today to have a meeting with the new owners of Lawndale Bank,"

"Do you have an appointment?" Wang asked.

"We have asked for meetings constantly concerning our community Bank, Rev. Hunter, said to Mr. Wang. "You don't understand, we have been trying to meet with the President Robert Clamp for over three months now, and our telephone calls go un-answers, and our letters go un-address that's unacceptable and beside we are the community that's our appointment!" Hunter's continued.

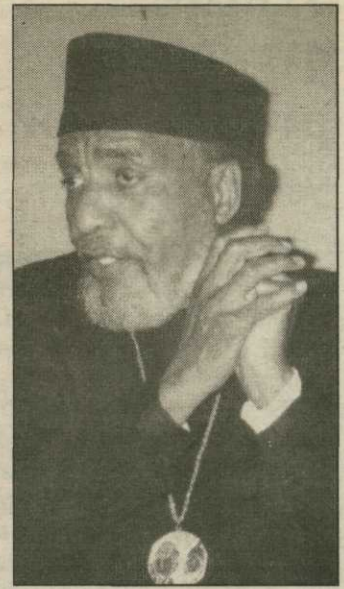
Protestors insisted they should be able to make an offer in order to keep the bank in the community hands."

In a private meeting with the with the Lawyers and the affiliated partners such as Dr Charles Koen, Reverend James Bevel, the representatives were asked if the community could retrieve this bank. "This bank is not for sale." Chris Welch another Lawyer for the bank said.

Addressing the concerns that the sell of the bank was illegal. Mr. Welch said. "The bank went through all the correct channels.

Photos by Beauty Turner  
Leading protestor upset about the selling of the Community Bank of Lawndale, Rev. M.G. Hunter from Jerusalem MBC Church was turned away from entering by Mr. Welch, lawyer for the new owners of the bank.

"When blacks owned the bank, the bank failed," Rev. James Bevel said. "... they didn't have the experience to run a bank. They was good fellows, but didn't know how to run a bank"



This bank was purchase in November to the International Bank of Chicago. It was bought to represent Lawndale community."

"Most of those minister that out there do not live in Lawndale they live in Austin area," Welch continues.

"Only one person has a CD in this bank and that is Reverend Johnny Miller, the rest of them do not have money in this bank," Welch continues.

Do you think that there are any Blacks who could run this bank?

"No, at this point no". Bevel said. "A lot of Blacks don't know what it takes scientifically to run a business."

"When blacks owned the bank, the bank failed," Rev. Bevel said. "Wasn't there black men here, didn't the bank go down, because they didn't have the experience to run a bank, they was good fellow but didn't know how to run a bank!" Bevel added.

"That why I'm not involved in a lot of Negro stuff now," Bevel continued.

Ask of his role at the bank, Bevel stated. "My role is the community, this is an opportunity that came up, it is like a gift, for me to eliminate slums." As customers walked through the crowd expressions were given about the selling of the Lawndale Bank.

"Obviously its nothing but another land grab, this is a black bank that is being under minded, and we are not satisfied with how this deal went down" Rachaka-Prison Relief Foundation and a member of V.O.T.E said.

An elderly lady who express that she

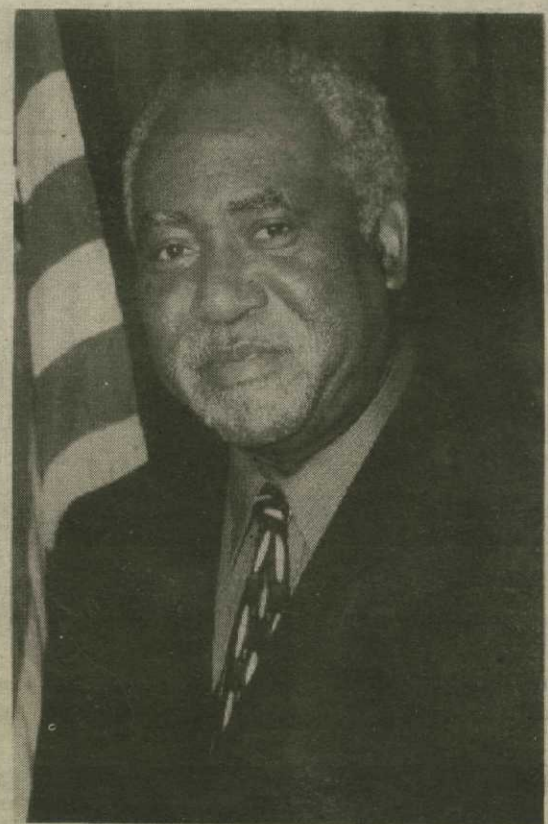
(Continued on page 11)

**Congressman Danny K. Davis**

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- × reforming our criminal justice system
- × bringing resources to our community

On March 16, 2004 punch 39 to re-elect  
**Congressman Danny K. Davis**



**Traffic  
overpass  
proposed for  
95th Street**

The inclusion of an overpass to relieve the congestion at 95th and Western Avenue and the Dan Ryan Exit at 95th and States is being proposed.

The two cross streets on 95th street literally are the lifeline between the Dan Ryan expressway, Little Company of Mary hospital and Christ Hospital according to a form letter circulated during service at Trinity United Church located on 95th street.

Rev. Jeremiah Wright pastor of Trinity in support of the overpass explained to his congregation that persons have actually lost lives because of the tie up when the railroad tracks come down, stay down, get stuck in the down position and/or when the long freight trains stop on 95th Street for ten to fifteen minutes.

An overpass on 95th Street would literally save lives as a matter of documented fact letter stated.

A Trinity spokesperson said the church is in support of the overhead proposed by State Representative Monique Davis. The form letter continue to state that the citizens of this community and those of us who worship on 95th Street by assisting Congressman William Lipinski in getting the CREATE proposal funded by the Federal Government.

Rep. Davis was not available for comment. However, a representatives from Cong. Lipinski's office stated that the CREATE program has been identified for 26 location for northern Illinois. And that the Western and Dan Ryan proposal is not one of them. And further funding for the initial locations has not been secured with no time schedule when it would be

**Ald. Brookins expanding role  
as 21st ward committeeman**



WVON's slogan "Tell a Friend", was well received as friends and candidates came up in the droves to the 21st Ward on 92nd and Ashland, where Howard B. Brookins Jr. Alderman (21) was hosted by WVON's radio 'King of talk' Cliff Kelly.

"Brookins is committed to providing the quality and expedient service he announced in his campaign platform, for programs and improvement for the 21st Ward.

"We are an independent community with an independent voice." said Brookins. In supporting Barack Obama as the next U.S. Senator, he noted that 14,000 people voted for Roland Burris four years ago from the 21st ward, "I believe more than 20,000 votes will be cast in the next election."

Brookins is an attorney at law in the law firm of Brookins and Wilson. He was former Assistant State Attorney, Attorney General, and cook County Public Defender.

Brookins is a member of The Trinity United Church of Christ. He is a member of Prince Hall Masonry, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and numerous other civic organizations as well.

(Continued from page 1) mencing with first year in office.

Howard is seen by many as the new independent alderman in the city council, who was recently appointed as 21st ward Democratic Committeeman and former alderman Leonard Deville resigned to commit himself full time to his ministry.

With an array of quest from around the city attending the WVON's live radio broadcast special note is give to Brookins as the son of former Senator Howard B. Brookins Sr., they own and operate the Brookins Funeral Home located at 9315 S. Ashland for more than 30 years.

Noted as the front-runner in the 21st ward committeeman race with two opponents on

the ballot with him, and former alderman and committeeman Jesse Evans, as a write-in candidate.

In hosting nine town hall meetings Brookins reported key accomplishments in the first year included proposed police accountability ordinance, approved construction of 54 units of affordable senior housing on 82nd and Racine.

Curtis Thompson, chief of staff for Brookins stated, Brookins possesses the experience, vision and innovative thinking to transform the 21st ward into a thriving robust community."

"Over this past year, our office has processed more than 3,800 requests for city services from the residents." He continued,

In the 21st ward committee-man race former alderman and committeeman Jesse Evans, is a write-in candidate running against A ld. Howard Brookins and two opponents on the March 16 ballot.



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Amistad Arrives in Chicago

# Two, Black Political Conventions in Chicago,



Heads of The Black Political Action Committee, organizing the Black Political Convention of Illinois on April 2, 3 and 4, are Pleasant Stephens, Chair, Brain V. Searles, President of the convention, Jerome Williams, Dir of Delegate Relations, Mary Fairweather, Dir. of Member and Vendors, Bart Beals, Co-chair, Keenan Saulter, and Pastor Maurice L. Johnson, Dir of Minister Alliance.

In 1920, Marcus Garvey was chairman of a Black Convention in New York that produced the document, "Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World".



(Continued from page 1)

At the end of April in a separate organizing effort a national Black Convention will on April 30, and May 1, at Chicago State University, organized by the National Black Political Convention Coordinating Committee to plan—the African American Platform—

Organizers say that five hundred delegates across the nation will develop a propose for improvements in foreign policy, housing, electoral politics, art and culture.

Bennett Johnson, with the Third World Press and a coordinator of the convention said the plan will be published in book form and distributed throughout the country and internationally.

He said the convention is hope to attract 3,000 to 5,000 participants. The period before April has been used to obtain ideas by holding hearings in order to permit expertise, personal experiences and a desire to be heard of problems and possible solutions.

In Boston from March 17 to 21, 2004 a

pre-convention meeting is being held with similar objectives. The various proposals will be discussed at the subcommittee meetings during the April Convention. The Platform Committee will meet to finalize the Platform and the plenary session will vote approval. To become a delegate one must be an African American registered voter.

Pleasant Stephens of BPAC explained that his organization is in support of the national convention and added, "Both conventions has the similar structures. However, the Illinois convention is to convene once a year, "to make our local concerns on a state and national level. The two conventions will join our mature efforts."

B-PAC convention of Illinois will be held at the Chicago Park Hotel, 17040 S. Halsted, Harvey, Illinois, 60426.

For information call 773-759.6585.

### The History of Black Conventions

On September 20, 1830 in the City of Philadelphia a ten day meeting was held, which was proposed by Hezekiel Grice.

This meeting dealt with the question of the feasibility of black people emigrating from the United States to Canada.

From August 1 to 31, 1920 Marcus Garvey was chairman of a Convention in New York that produced the document, "Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World".

In 1936 Ralph Bunche and A. Philip Randolph convened the National Negro Congress in Chicago. More than 800 delegates representing 500 organizations persons met on February 14th develop strategies for ameliorating the burdensome condition of black people.

In Gary, Indiana from March 10—12, 1972 the National Black Political convention was held. Attended by thousands of from all over the nation. The issues discussed were. 1, Home rule for the District of Columbia; 2) Establishment of a national network of health centers; 3) Elimination of capital punishment; 4) creation of a urban homestead act; 5) Guaranteed annual income and minimum wage; 6)

Creation of the Black United Fund; and 7) Enforcement of anti-trust legislation.

In 1998 the Black Radical Congress had its meeting of 2,000 persons in New Jersey. Their mission was to develop methods of transforming and democratizing the social and political structures of the United States.

Minister Louis Farrakhan in 2000 introduced the most recent national Black agenda "The National Agenda: Public Policy Issues, Analyses and Programmatic Plan of Action 2000—2008, part of "The Million Family March".

For information call 773-651-0210

At Deadline: The Chicago base Soul Slate is planning a Chicago Black Political Convention, for info call 773/445.7125

(Continued from page 2)

## Save the Dan Ryan

and, potentially, harming the health of residents as cars and harmful emissions shift from the Expressway to local streets on the Southside.

Charging that in effect, IDOT's plan would harm African-American Southside residents in order to benefit suburban and Indiana commuters and other users of the Expressway. Preparation for reconstruction begin in 2004 with major construction occurring 2005-2007.

While IDOT termed the plan "preliminary", it quickly became clear that put a hold on its formal plans.

A representative of the Committee said IDOT was not listening to resident concerns and had no intent of changing the plan or providing residents a real opportunity to participate in develop-

ing a final design or in guiding the construction process.

The Committee was formed in June 2003 to address these issues.

With engagement and confrontation the Committee have worked with other residents, local businesses, and elected officials to force IDOT to engage with the community.

"We have made significant progress: most important, IDOT has finally admitted that removing ramps is not the only option.

\$450 million of our tax dollars will fund reconstruction of the Dan Ryan. Therefore, we insist that IDOT respect this community and work with us to develop a plan than benefits this community.

The next meeting addressing the Dan Ryan expressway will be held Friday, March 21, 9:00 pm at the Chicago Urban League office, 4500 S. Michigan

(Continued from page 9)

## Lawndale

have been in the Lawndale community for over 40 years, said.

Other young men who stood up like African soldiers said-We here today in support of keeping the Lawndale Bank (Black) In our community.

Addressing the community concern over ownership. "CBL have a long history providing credit services in a historically under banked area." Welch said. "We are committed to serving the community of Lawndale,"

Rev. Hunter charged, "We will, go to Congress and tell congress, we will not allow them to be in our community to handle our federal, state and local dollars,"

NBCU CEO Syron M. Smith was at one of the protest and is offering assistance to help organize the residents to create a credit union encouraging residents to pull out their monies.

## South Street Journal

We welcome your comments on the contents of this issue, as well as your opinions on future stories. We publish letters and reserve the right to edit them for length, clarity and brevity. Please include your name, community and city in which you live.

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