

South Street Journal

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SSJ photo by Dennis Worrix
The construction industry is booming in the Chicago area and qualified contractors are needed to fill the many opportunities now available, for residential and commercial development. But for Blacks in the construction industry,

discontent continues. During the mid 90's activist Eddie Read champion the slogan

'If we don't Work, Nobody Works'

An on-going cry with Blacks in the construction industry

An on-going cry with Blacks in the construction industry continues in the 2000's with protest and demonstrations by many Black organizations striving for parity.

The term *minority*, is a federal guideline that many organizations say has de-

ceased the parity of Blacks in public works projects, that has filtered into the private sector.

The term minority addressing Disadvantaged Businesses; Female Firms and others is mandated in meeting affirmative

action programs quotas, Omar Sheriff of the African American Contractors Association says the use of the word Minority is leaving less work for African Americans in wake of their population.

As Mayor Richard M. Daley boast that

companies owned by minorities and women received \$619 million of City business in 2002, an increase to 41 percent of total City contract awards, far above the City's goal of 30 percent, a further look

(Continued on page 3)

"Provoking the movement"

"The Torture Continues for Aaron Patterson"

Say supporters, "Drug charges conspired by law enforcers"

By Alexandria Pope
Managing Editor

Rising as a leader in the Black community, Aaron Patterson, was held without bond on gun and drug charges. As the judge announced him as a threat to the public and chances that he may flee bond was denied to Patterson. The pack courtroom shouted, "Power to the people" and "Uhuru," which means freedom in Swahili. Mannie who was arrested with Patterson bond was denied initially, then given a bond of \$40,000.

Calling the charges a setup Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. of the P.O.C.C (Prisoners of Conscience Committee) said, "Patterson's arrest is an attempt to stop him from testifying against Police Commander Jon Burge for torturing him and other false arrestees."

Patterson filed a \$30 million federal lawsuit, by the People's Law Office, for compensatory

(Continued on page 4)

Voice Of The Ex-Offenders' (VOTE)

Movement

Ms. Beauty Turner
Freelance Writer,

"Thugs" is how Alderman Toni Preckwinkle (4), Dorothy Tillman (3) and a host of other elected officials describe them. However, Randal Robinson speaking before the congregation of Trinity United Church of God on his book "America Owes Us", stated "...desperate measures need to take place in addressing issues."

Words and actions very near Paul McKinley and Joseph Watkins leaders of Voice Of The Ex-Offenders (VOTE). "They are no compromising in the injustice of residents' parity in the mass development in Chicago". McKinley says in his movement for the people.

"We see everyone, every nationality but us working in our



Aaron Patterson (l) patron after 17 years on Death Row, with Joseph Watkins and Paul McKinley of Voices Of The Ex-offenders during a press conference, are quietly and publicly provoking a movement of the street life to mainstream.

SSJ Photo by Jabar

(Continued on page 10)

The Primary Election Aftermath continues in the 6th District of Englewood;

The Democratic Party subject to Replace a candidate as well

By Ron Carter
Publisher and Editor

Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee is likely to be the fifth African American in history to the U.S. Senate. And for sure there will be one with the Republicans drafting Alex Keen to replace Jim Ryan.

A major advancement in Black politics weighting in on the political power in November.

However, the U.S. Senatorial race did not over shadowed the demand for political accountability in the replacement of Patricia Bailey, Representative of the 6th District. Community leaders in Englewood and across the city

called actions of the Democratic Party in light of the Chicago Board of Elections turned over to Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine evidence of felony charges of perjury and fraud against State Rep. Pat Bailey.

For the first time in history the board charged an elected official,

(Continued on page 6)

Inside South Street Journal



Dr. Sonki Kuranga, charges drop "walking Dog while black, a victim of Police harassment, page 10.

Editorial:

Family Legacy

page 7



Did their "Gas Fast" reduce gas prices? Page 8



UnZip

The Weatherman

Word is certain Black elected officials "bosses" target State Rep Charles Morrow, for defeat. Rep. Morrow while addressing fellow representatives in Springfield notice fellow Black representatives entering the room. He replied, "Here comes the clowns." The body burst in laughter. Not thinking it was so funny the Black bosses made sure Morrow was defeated. Other sources say he was targeted for not supporting Daley's O'Hare Airport Expansion plans.

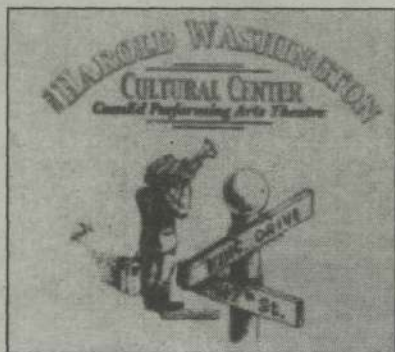
Harold Lucas the undeclared "Mayor of Bronzeville" was noted for his dedication and movement to preserve the Bronzeville community at the annual Mayor of Bronzeville Ball.



The goal of the Rev. Al Sharpton bid for President was at least to present his "Black" agenda to the National Democratic Party convention. He did a well job at it. He would have likely receive from the Federal Election Commission \$100,000 in federal matching money and tax dollars if he would have stayed in the race. However, in a graceful way to end his presidential campaign he opted instead for TV deal for a Reality Show, giving him a Donald Trump like setting to air in September. The show would mostly pay more than the campaign matching funds. Pretty good pay-off to ran for president. So much for John Kerry to adopt some of Sharpton's "Black" campaign positions publicly.

Harold Washington Cultural Center opens on 47th St.

Harold Washington's Center opens on 47th St.



On Tuesday on the corner of 47th and King Drive a host of political, business and community residents took part in the unveiling bronze statue of Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black Mayor took place.

The impressive 20 foot sculpture of the late Mayor Washington is the first of its kind located anywhere in the City of Chicago. African-American sculptor and artist Ed Dwight, jr. developed the statue.

The unveiling was part of a series of events held in honor of the grand opening celebration of the long awaited Harold Washington Cultural Center (HWCC), the city's newest entertainment and cultural arts facility.

Kicking off the opening was legend Roy Ayers and blues master Bobby "Blue" Bland as 47th Street is crowned

"Chicago Blues District"

The HWCC is an anchor part of the undergoing development on 47th Street. Its executive director jimalita Tillman, daughter of the Alderman Dorothy Tillman said the HWCC is to honor the strong historical legacy of the cultural and community spirit of both past community leaders and pioneers.

This building is a neo-classical design that boasts a 1,000 seat ComEd performing arts theatre, a digital media resource and radio/television broadcast center. Future additions to the cultural center include a restaurant and banquet facility.

A schedule of events over August 17—18 is designed to introduce the facility that are free and open to the public starting August 17 at 11:30 pm. Tours will also be available. For information call 773-373-1900.

South Siders Organize for CTA Red Line to 130th

The Developing Communities Project, a major faith-based organization on the City's Far South Side, is renewing its advocacy for construction of an additional 6 miles onto the CTA Red Line to better serve communities all the way to 130th Street, questioning why the Far South Side project has been put on the back burner for the Red Line Extension.

DCP has reached out to NCBG's Campaign for Better Transit to help them inform and mobilize residents and stakeholders about this important transit project.

South Siders have been waiting for 30 years, and had hoped that the Red Line Extension would finally move to the

"short list" of CTA's priorities. But according to CTA officials responsible for its capital program, while the Red Line Extension was included in the long-range "2030" regional transportation plan (prepared by the Chicago Area Transportation Study agency known as "CATS"), it is not a "recommended" project because it currently lacks funding.

CTA views it as a "potential future extension," but has no current plans for this corridor underway.

CTA has begun rehab of the existing "Dan Ryan" leg of the Red Line. That project will be done and funded in three phases - the first of which is underway. The funding will come from federal grants known as "Formula" grants, matched by funds from the Illinois Dept. of Transportation.

The New Circle Line

The plans to create a Silver Line in the short-term were buried in the CTA's and Mayor Daley's plans to build a "Circle Line." The complete build-out of the Circle Line could cost as much as \$2 billion, and would build new elevated tracks south to Bridgeport and a new subway under N. Ashland Avenue. The Campaign for Better Transit has objected to CTA's new



Circle Line, pointing out that City Hall and CTA are ignoring the current transit needs of neighborhoods, such as providing more bus service on the South, Far South and West

Sides, building additional rail stations on the Green Line, building the long-awaited and nearly forgotten Mid City Transit Way, and extending the Red Line to 130th St.



The three Wise Men, artist Tosaint Perkins and Donnie Carter with John Woodson were present at South Side Community Arts Center, where Dr. Margaret Taylor Goss Burroughs is founder as well as the DuSable Museum, who sign her book, Life with Margaret, her official Autobiography.

Mark Allen the former assistant to Rev. Jesse Jackson Jr., latest career move was working for Governor Blagojevich in the Department of Children and Family Services with Minister Obedele. However, word is because of an internal memo Allen wrote resulted in him leaving the job. You can catch the details from Allen at the Sand Piper on 79th and Halsted.

Rev. Joseph McAfee is starting a crusade to protect men from domestic violence. A crusade Melissa Jenkins says does not deserve for any man. So how does she know that? Meanwhile Rev. McAfee brother, Ziff A. Sistrunk, the Chicago Black baseball commissioner announces a Black baseball world series matc ups in Washington park on Saturday, Sept 25.

Other police Biz— a Chicago Police Sergeant identified as a rapist, the Men in Black are protesting their neighbors across the street from their office on 78th Street and Halsted; The police station has on going issues as the same station that had many of its officers busted for selling drugs when it was located on 86th and Vincennes. Too many rotten apples at one station.

Researcher, Revin Fellows is happy on the reelection comeback of Atlanta's former Rep. Cynthia McKinney. McKinney lost her seat two years ago, targeted because she was one of the first to say Bush knew of the terrorist plans to attack the World Trade Center, and her strong support from the Arab and Muslim communities, which view her as a strong proponent of a Palestinian state, making some Jewish fund-raisers looking for ways to defeat her again.

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(Continued from page 1)

Black Construction workers on-going cry

reveals only 10% went to black businesses, with 40% plus of the city population.

With the State of Illinois contracts, the government reported blacks received 2% of its contracts and is 13% of the states population.

Cook County government did not have the figures on hand and would only attempt to provide Black participation information under the Freedom of Information Act.

There has been a consistent decline in African American involvement since the Federal Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) program went into effect in 1982, Black contractors were over 6% of the work funded by the Federal Highway Administration. Today, its less than 1.4% of the work.

Black organizations that address parity issues such as Black Contractors United, Chicago Urban League, African American Contractors Association, R-PUSH all have made bold steps to bring the attention of black contractors.

Despite numerous protests, even work stoppage campaigns, workshops and meetings change has been slow. As securing business opportunities from the government has always been an extremely difficult process for many African American contrac-



SSJ photo by ARMADELL
Third ward Ald. Dorothy Tillman, who promotes 70/30% (70% black contractors) was not able to secure black contractors for special work for her property, contributing to the residential work for black contractors is just as hard to obtain as commercial work.

tors. However, recent and vocal on the issue is the Voices Of The Ex-Offenders (VOTE). VOTE concern is that the established organizations have still not done enough.

PUSH continuing its efforts in July co-hosted a joint initiative between the PUSH International Trade Bureau and the African American Contractors Association (AACA), the 4th Annual African American Contractors Day, brining the private and public sectors to the Black contractors at PUSH.

"We are convening these officials to even the playing field and to seek our fair share," said Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., "This industry is about more than brick and mortar. It is about all kinds of opportunities for contractors and for those in professional services."

PUSH Coalition is hoping to

make some progress with leading government and corporate officials meeting with Black contractors and business professionals.

Omar Shareef, president of AACA, said the organization hopes to build bridges with the government agencies and corporations and remove walls of division that have prevented African American contractors from securing some of the contracts that have been offered during the recent building boom in Chicago and Illinois.

Working with PUSHs' International Trade Bureau, AACA will help African American contractors obtain their fair share challenging banks to provide business loans to African American contractors.

Charles Shanklin of SWAT, a black carpenters association says its not as easy as that. Racism is alive and kicking.

Spahtes Construction a white

company working the new 23 luxury homes on 72nd and Vincennes says "We want to hire from the community. But its a matter of bonding, union, and financing to do a job. Cheap labor with quality work. We have to think of our own pockets."

"Bonding, unions and banks are part of the racial institution of the construction industry. Along with the government sitting up barrels of the process in getting work." Explained Shanklin.

Shareef said, "There are a number of banks sitting in our community that may be benefiting by simply acting as high-level Currency Exchanges."

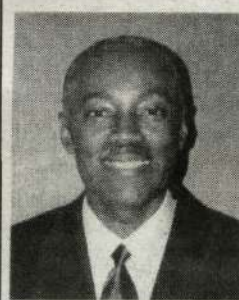
Shareef said the organizations trained more than 3,000 flaggers. "Many of these newly trained flaggers are working on highway projects and we will train 100

people how to use a scaffold." But the diversity means spreading the black pie around among home construction and private developers as well. In the communities most of the construction workers are non-black, said Shankin. "Most blacks think because they are of another race the prices are cheaper, and the work is better."

"It's a matter of a fight that is going on in this city over ending affirmative action. If we're going to be in a fight for work, we want the community to be in this fight with us."

Shanklin suggested for Blacks to address the cry of imparity of Black contractors, "We not only should reach out to use Black contractors but report jobs that lack our own and report it to elected officials and organizations that should be accountable to the community."

Omar Shareef, president of AACA,



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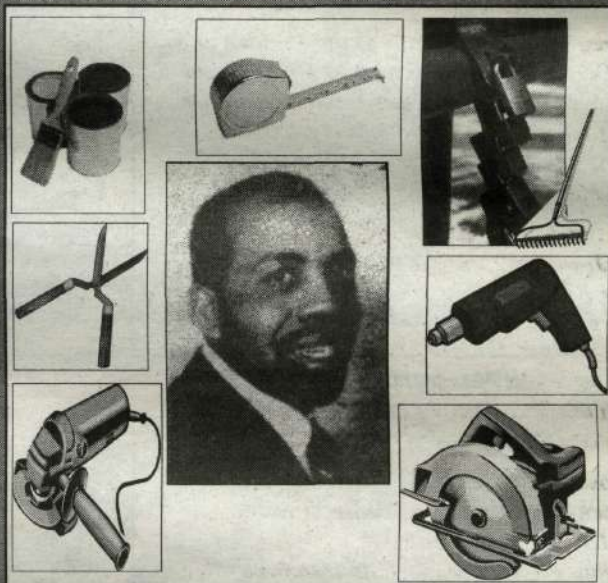
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Charges drop on Dr. Kuranga, Patterson "walking Dog while black"

Bronzeville—On June 26, 2004 Dr. Sokoni Karanja, head of Centers of New Horizons, left his home on 33rd and Giles to do what he does on a daily basis, walk his dog.

This time he was stopped on 32nd and State Street by the Chicago Police. "Hey you." and asked if his dog's license was current.

Wasn't able to produce personal identification for himself nor a dog license, for 6 blocks confrontation with the police lead to five squad cars joining in on Dr. Karanja. He was thrown to the ground, forehead smashed into the concrete, opening a gashing wound over his eye.

Officers then shouted at Dr. Karanja, "This is what we mean when we say stop!"

A retired police officer that live in the area came to the scene and intervened. Dr. Karanja was then taken to the hospital for treatment to his wounds on the forehead and wrist from handcuffs.

He was then taken to the 21st



Dr. Sokoni Karanja, head of Centers of New Horizons

district police station and kept until 2:00 am., where he was arrested and booked for assault (threatening an officer with the dog), and resisting an arrest. In which the police walk that same dog to Dr. Karanja home.

Dr. Karanja has been a staunch community organizer and leader for over 32 years in the Grand Blvd. Community, (Bronzeville) and a recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award among a host of awards.

Dr. Karanja told SSJ that his goal is to find those who have been similarly insulted, and assaulted by the Chicago police, and mount a steady and continuous effort for police accountability.

"You see it going on and I have stop to observe what was going happening." Said Dr. Karanja. "It has to be bigger than me, there are others that are victims that may not have the resources I have."

Dr. Karanja was represented by noted Atty James Montgom-

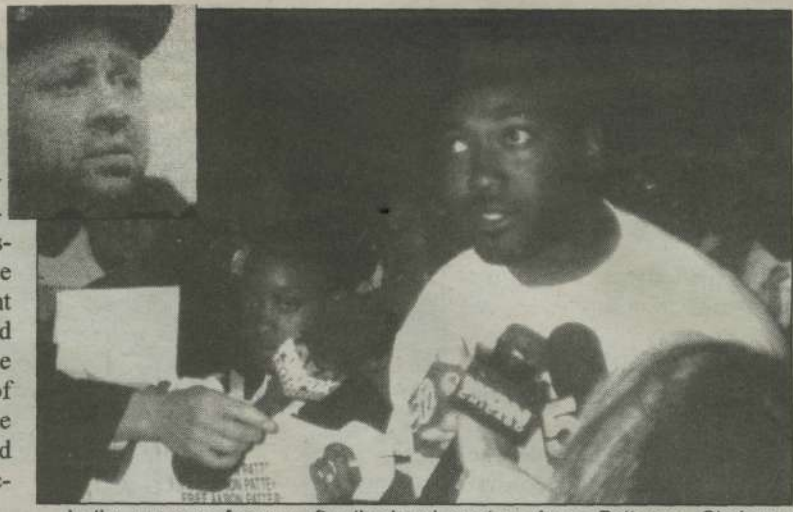
(Continued from page 1)

damages accusing Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine, former Office of Professional Standards Director Gayle Shines and CPD Superintendent Terry Hilliard of being involved in a cover-up of his innocence and torture by suppression of evidence, failure to investigate police officer misconduct and public defamation of his character.

The U.S. attorney's office lead a full structured press conference announcing the charges against Patterson. They were accompanied by the City of Chicago, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office bought charges of gun and drug trafficking.

U.S. attorney's office reported that Patterson 40, and Mark Mannie, 36, were taken into custody during the sting by Drug Enforcement Administration agents and Chicago police. Their car was stopped on the Bishop Ford Expressway as they headed south. Also facing charges was Isaiah Kitchen, 55, who allegedly was part of the drug conspiracy.

Prosecutors allege that Patterson was arrested after he paid the informant, known as "Fox," a down payment of \$327 on the



In the press conference after the bond court on Aaron Patterson, Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. using a statement of reminiscent of Malcolm X's "This is the case of the criminals calling the victim the criminal."

SSJ Photo by Jabar

purchase of four guns, including a MAC-10 machine pistol. Upon the arrest no drugs or guns were in their procession.

Police with a search warrant said the guns and drugs were found in Patterson's mother home with no one present at the time.

Supporters voiced their support for Patterson stung by the sentiment that "there's a frame up going on here."

Chairman Hampton Jr. said it is ironic that the day that Patterson was arrested, it was announced that after a decade, Burge was being forced to Chicago from Florida to testify in

Aaron's multi-million dollar civil suit, where Burge tortured him into a false confession in 1986 that landed him on death row.

"This is no coincidence, Aaron's struggle is all of our struggle."

Enough is Enough! Campaign,

Burge in 1993 was fired for operating a torture ring of detectives that used electro-shock, suffocation, burnings and beatings, to force

confessions from over 100 Black and Latino men.) At the infamous "House of Screams. Patterson said he consented to an oral confession but refused to sign the written version. Patterson carved "I am innocent" on the bench while being held at the station.

Prosecutors filed a 59-page criminal complaint containing excerpts of transcripts of wire-tapped conversations that began while Patterson was running for State Representative in the 6th District.

Criminal defense attorney Tommy Brewer, who represented Patterson on the accusations, calling the charges "a farce."

Brewer said the federal case does not make sense for a man

(Continued on page 5)

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Black August

The Ethnic Disparity in Prison Populations

(Continued from page 4)

that was about to become a millionaire and constantly in the public life, from protesting to public speaking.

Patterson said that for the last year he, two reporters and a producer have been working on a documentary, Saying he knew he was dealing with a federal informant and had documentation that proves "this court system is totally corrupt, the police are corrupt and all of them are in bed together."

But that law enforcement authorities broke into his mother's home and confiscated the evidence.

Patterson became a national media story when Governor Ryan pardoned him from death row. Patterson always made it a point to say he and other grassroots community organizations helped to free him. He acknowledged his pardon, but said "he would not take the position of a grateful freed slave."

Just as Lincoln was known as being the emancipator of slaves for political interest, Ryan is seen as the death row emancipator. Patterson was determined to bring his perpetrators to justice and really get free.

Patterson accuses Mayor Richard Daley, as State's Attorney, first assistant Richard Devine, was subsequently elected

state's attorney. Mr. Devine was a lawyer during the time of Mr. Patterson's incarceration.

There is no doubt that these officials knew what was going on. Both Daley and Devine heard complaints of abuse on a regular bases.

He roused attention as a community activist and candidate for office and as he became involved in numerous social causes since his release, police have believed him to be still involved in gang activity.

It was Patterson's third arrest since being released from prison. The others in the form of public up rest. In January, he was charged with assault and impersonating a government official while urging people to register to vote.

In May, he was charged with reckless conduct for allegedly shouting obscenities and pounding on police station windows during a vigil for a man who had died in custody.

Black August

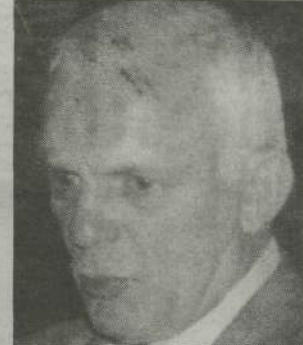
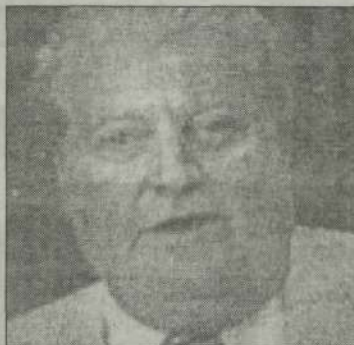
Black August is an international observance started in 1979 dedicated to those who died in prison and at the hands of the state.

Ironic that Patterson was at the first celebration for Black

Jon Burge, former police Commander at areas 2 and 3 leaders of the Chicago police torture ring in which organizer are calling his case the "The Chicago police torture conspiracy".



Nathson Fields, a fellow inmate with Mr. Patterson argues that he was unlawfully arrested by CPD, wrongly convicted of and served 18 years—11 on death row—for a double murder. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has been petitioned to grant commutation clemency to Michael D. Smith who has served 23 years for a conviction of first-



degree murder. Supporters say he was convicted with the absence of evidence and police misconduct with paid witnesses and evidence that links Smith to the crime. In a letter to the Governor implies that the whole foundation upon which the system of justice is established has crumbled and it has become criminal.

August on the 1st saying "The day of the Martyr is over."

In recent times, the County of Cook made an out-of court settlement for \$36 million as compensation for the wrongful imprisonment of four men known as the Ford Heights Four.

"Some fears are universal with the loss of a love one. But going to jail wasting away lives in prison for crimes they didn't commit is a heartship as well. Said Ms. Smith whose husband Michael D. Smith has served 23 years for a conviction of first-degree murder. Charging he was setup by the police she appealed to Gov. Rod Blagojevich for his release.

Due to many demonstrations and protest former Governor George Ryan released 169 innocent men from death row. Add-

ing to say: "If those many innocent were on death row, it's mind shattering to imagine how many innocent people that we still have in general prison population.

At a press conference at City Hall last year the bill was sighted as the "original victim's of terrorism." Sponsored groups such as Committee Eximos Justicia, Enough is Enough! Campaign, Families of the Wrongfully Convicted, October 22nd, Prisoner Relief Foundation along with Patterson, Hampton Jr., and other coalitions and families of police victims. The bill specifically called out Daley, Devine, Burge, and the justice system for using terrorist tactics on the public.

Black August was spawned by the death of George Jackson in prison (1970's), but became a

mandate when Khatari Golden was killed in jail in 1979. Shaka a comrade of George Jackson's said that "The Black August organizing committee was formed to commemorate the assassinations of those incarcerated and to make the community aware of the terror inside jail."

In the press conference after the court for Patterson; Hampton using a statement of reminiscent of Malcolm X's "This is the case of the criminals calling the victim the criminal." quoting a law a, "Which is exercised under cover of law, and with the colors of justice..." U.S. v. Jannotti, 673 F.2d 578, 614 (3d Cir. 1982)

For more information contact Fred Hampton Jr. (773) 426-3900.

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Election Politics continues in the 6th District of Englewood



Rep. Pat Bailey (6) was found by the Chicago Board of Election for filing her candidacy under a fraud address.



Richard Devine Cook County State's Attorney turned the allegations over to Attorney General Madigan to avoid conflict of interest because Bailey's mother works for his



Lisa Madigan State's Atty. General has not made any public moves on the case since its been on her desk nearing deadline for 2004 election.



Michael Madigan, father of Lisa, is the State Democratic Party Chairman calling the shots for Bailey's fate.



John Paul Jones, was encourage to run as an independent, but later turn down the offer hoping to give elected officials a chance to allow the community to have a say.

(Continued from page 1) for filing her candidacy under a fraud address. An issue one of her opponents' Aaron Patterson a former Death Row inmate, addressed during the primary election campaign.

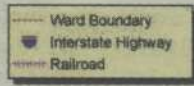
Devine's office said because Bailey's mother works for this (Devine) office, the allegations were turned over to State's Attorney General Lisa Madigan to avoid a conflict of interest.

Madigan's father, the State Democratic Party Chairman Michael Madigan most likely will not warrant his daughter to press charges that would lead to prosecute a fellow democratic.

Veteran political organizer Bruce Crosby, of the Committee to Protect the Voting Rights contents that, "Bailey won the district but the people did not know really who they were voting for." Said Crosby. "Surely Devine and the Democratic party is part of another political crime. They knew she did not live in the district."

Crosby said the 6th District was key to the maneuvering of people and votes due to 2000 remap of the district, resulted in the election of Machine candidate Bailey in 2002 and 2004.

Bailey won the Democratic primary by more than 80 percentage of the vote over her two rivals, Patterson and former state Rep. Jerry Washington.



Illinois House District #6

Bailey did not return phones nor has issued no statement regarding dropping out of the State rep seat in lei of charges of vote fraud.

If charged and convicted, Bailey would have to surrender her seat in which Patterson said the voters are due for a special election and called for a federal investigation. Adding that State Democratic leaders should not be able to fill Bailey's seat. But party committeemen, Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3rd), Ald. Ted Thomas (15th), Ald. Shirley Coleman (16th) and Cook County Commissioner John Daley (11) under Michael Madigan direction would have a say in naming her replacement according to election rules. But there still is support for Baily in the Illinois by silence on the is-

Englewood residents were upset when Senator Margaret Smith retired from her seat and replace with Mattie Hunter, a non-Englewood resident.

"We had great victories out of the Democratic Party with Obama as a national candidate assisting in leading the importance of dumping President Bush." Said Crosby. "But his winning did not insure the voting rights of the 6th District.

As the deadline past to run an independent candidate for the seat, former candidates Keith Harris and Everloyce McCullough hinted as Bailey's replacement.

No elected or public official has taken a position waiting for Atty. Madigan's findings on Bailey.

sue. "It's clear to me that a vigorous debate on the issues that needs to be raised if she remain as a candidate," said John Paul Jones who was identified by community activists as an independent candidate.

Jones later rejected the run. "I won't run hoping that elected officials do the right thing and included the people in the process with accountability."

LETTERS

And More on Lesbian and Gay Marriage

Dear Editor;

As the issue of Lesbian and Gay right to marry makes it's way through Illinois, in the streets and halls of policymakers, in the midst of the debate and demonstration it is my hope that we use this opportunity to address the sober realities public opinion and actions.

Marriage culture in our society is that the couples are expressing their personal intent to care for and to provide for each other and any offspring as a result and debts incurred as a result of their bonding.

The traditional marriage fall to what society considers the dominant, more responsible, mature member of the union. Directly the intent is considered the male to provide for the couple and its offspring. This ideal is in today's economy of color and ethnic diver-

sity is unrealistic and not practical. These ideals of marriage are sexist and discounts the contribution a marriage and the sustaining of a family whether one or both members work. It then can be determined that those that stand on the side of traditional marriage stand in opposition of the full and equal rights of women.

Those that claim some sort of religious content are in error. In not understanding that marriage from its beginning is a matter of state. Only recently within the last 1000 years has marriage been brought in to the church as a gift and a blessing. The forerunner of which was as documented by scholars as acknowledging one to die on the battlefields

That is why there is value in address these concerns. Not in an attempt to simply replicate one segment of, but to liberate society of defining the intent and purposes of intuitions that values and empower all people in our society. In an effort to move this to a



will be
amble that reads:

We the people of the State of Illinois grateful to almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which he has permitted us to enjoy and seeking his pleasing upon our endeavors in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people maintain a representative and orderly government: eliminate poverty and inequality assure legal social and economic justice provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual insure domestic tranquility provide for the common defense and secure the blessing of freedom

more tolerable place that will sure all people to achieve their fullest potential. Along those lines, in Illinois redefining marriage build bridges of freedom that closer to the State's pre-

and liberty to ourselves and our posterity...

Marc Loveless
48th Ward Committeeman elect
Green Party

Bringing About Reform

Tillman's quest for Reparations should begin with repairing her own ward

Dear Editor;

Alderman Dorothy Tillman is accusing J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. of having past ties to slavery and "lying" about it on an affidavit. Now that we've gotten that out of the way, how about a plan to stop the many alcoholics that's drinking out of the same wine bottles up and down east 47th street in the 3rd ward?

Alderman Dorothy Tillman should strongly consider redirecting her priorities. For several years she has been focusing on Slave Reparations despite having the poorest ward in the city of Chicago with a strong sense of hopelessness among many of the residence in the 3rd ward.

As a proud African American, I am deeply passionate about the effects that slavery continues to have on our people. But at the same time, we must not allow

Charlatans like Alderman Tillman to use that painful period in our history to offset their lack of commitment to rectifying the problems that affects our people more immediately.

If you drive through her highly problematic ward, you will see a high level of destitution with no change in sight. With her loud and verbose approach, Tillman has somehow managed to placate the voters on Election Day, which spans over several decades. Her luxury Cadillac Escalade is parked in front of her district office with prostitutes and drug dealers doing business right in her immediate vicinity.

For Tillman, the issue of slave reparations is just a smoke screen designed to divert attention from her ineffective leadership. Given the many problems that we face as African Americans, elected officials such as Tillman should redirect their focus and address the immediate needs of our people.

Perhaps Tillman's over-sized hats are obstructing her vision to reform the perilous conditions that plague her ward.

Derrick Mosley

Maxwell Street and Security

Dear Editor;

It is not just railfans suffering from excessive railroad security measures. Ever since 911 Metra has blocked off the northbound lanes of Canal St. with portable barricades in front of its control center. At least it does this every Sunday, when the relocated Maxwell St. Market is in session. This deprives the market of about a dozen spaces.

I have objected to this at Metra budget hearing and to Metra officials. The advisory board had toured the facility the previous month, the acting chairman allowed me to object to the practice.

Anyone with a truck bomb can drive right up to a chain link fence. Second, even on market day, it is no protection, as someone could easily approach the building from the south and remove the portable barrier4s, without the policeman in a car at the northy end. Third, it is a waste of a policeman's time and salary, especially after the recent spate of kids getting killed by Metra trains.

At his writing Metra police are still blocking off half of Canal St. It is a large topic, but I think we have more to fear from Chicken Little security measures than from all the terrorist bombings. Raifan travails are just a sampling.

William F. Wendt, Jr.

Terrorism 101, for Dummies.

1. The act of terrorizing. 2. A system of government that seeks to rule by intimidation. 3. Unlawful acts of violence committed in an organized attempt to overthrow a government.

Terrorism Color

101

For Dummies

By *Donnell Robinson*
Featured Writer

The forefathers of the U.S. of America brilliantly amalgamate the Constitution to be the model for the world over 200 years ago. Even if most of them were slave owners. Those same blind morals of the constitution are preceding the constitution today supporting over 10,000 Iraqis dead—military, civilians, and families, and over 600 U.S. troops dead. Twice as many injured, greater than the mass destruction of the Trade Center, and the 911 dramas. With over billions of dollars spend on the War on Terrorism.

Some Americans were dumb enough to go along with the war on terrorism, just as in 1776 the Declaration of Independence was enacted as the forefathers believed in the Rights of all men while enslaving Black people.

Because of 911, Americans rejoiced when President George Bush stood as the Texan Ranger proclaiming, "Dead or Alive". It was the first attack of defense for the White House. Many Americans will not admit it, but it was clear the color of the enemy, just as it was during War World II of Japanese American citizens.

Bin Laden committed an international crime on America. It was not a nation or country or government that caused 911, or even a single Mid-East people. Bin Laden knew the revelations that America would enter to innocent people of Afgantain, and on other Arab countries such as Iraq. He took advantage of the white supremacy, "The Ugly American" under George Bush. Black people from the beginning smelled racism and warned America not to trust and vote for Bush.

The Iraq people did nothing to Americans; 1) No weapons of mass destruction; 2) No evidence of a link between Iraq and al-Qaida; and 3) The US media failed to represent the majority of Americans, who opposed attacking Iraq before weapons inspections were found and without international support from the United Nations.

And now, American businesses are taking over their jobs as well and the daily devastating sight of Iraq children burn from massive bombs that came from America. Surely the National

Rife Association and the KKK would publicly join forces to stop such actions here in the U.S. Americans hang burning from a bridge in Iraq, is no different than a tree in Mississippi.

Journalist John Nichols claims: "If we had an honest, get-to-the-truth media, George Bush would not be president, and we would not be at war in Iraq."

The death and devastation caused by the invasion is rarely reported on civilian casualties in Iraq or Afghanistan because, as Colin Powell says, "We don't count the enemy dead."

How dump could America been? Not to see the White House is exploiting a tragedy for political gain.

Now reports are that there is an uprising among the people

in Iraq. A potential civil war. The media has abandon the use of calling Iraqians terrorist, replacing it with the term Sergeants, "Radicals, and anit-establishments against a free Iraq.

Now Bush says Iraqis must assume responsibility for their own future, to avoid terror spreading to other parts of the world, and the United Nations must provide troops as well. Before the invasion on Iraq, the UN was classified as unaccountable and irresponsible.

On CNN news a U.S. Captain in Iraq said his command will and must use violence to have control, "Control violence is what we are doing."

Surely if Hass could have been bought out by the billions of dollars spend on the attack by Bush. Or British Prime Minister Tony Blair could have sent 007 to assassinate him.

And the US continued to promote the risk of America being attack by terrorist. It is frighten what is going on.

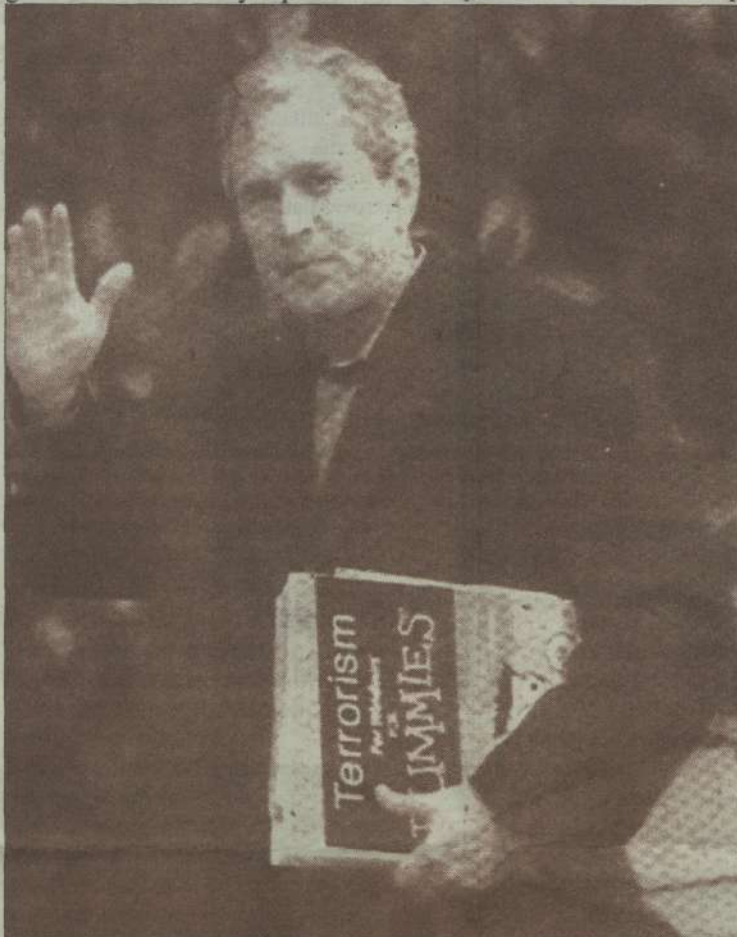
The tragedy is that the people ask for little more than conditions that will enable

them to achieve their dignity to live their lives in peace.

Jeff Cohen, who directs the media watchdog organization Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR), pointed that "If a lie is big enough, and repeated enough, it will eventually pass for truth". "All tongue will speak in the same tongue." Acts Chapter 2.

in with peace on earth as it is in heaven.

Native Americans referring to the forefathers, saying 'folk tongue' is more like it.



Our Legacy:

More than a family reunion



Ron Carter, Publisher and Editor

Last month during a backyard family gathering cousin Carneil Carter asked the question regarding the movie Fahrenheit 911. "Why did President Bush rush to attack? He answered, "Because he was protecting the legacy and business relationship of his father, the former president George Bush, in the wake of Sr.'s ties to the Bin Laden family business, the Carlyle Group and its influence in the U.S. citizens opinion on his father's legacy.

It wasn't just a matter of pursuing the American dream that Mid East families got off the plane at O'Hare airport, and founded their family dreams in the Black community. They have far reaching ties and influences to owning just about 95% of every corner store and gas station in the Black community.

Their America and family dreams in the community just so happen to materialize faster than any migration of Blacks of the 1930 and 60's the Carter family or any Black family have had in this country.

Whatever, the hesitated answers that Blacks have not achieve as the Bush family and others, family is one of the most united institutions, even over the church regardless of race. It is just the matter of how the families transform their strength and their legacy.

Family reunions are taking place every year. At the Carter Family Reunion as many families, most members will just be pleased to see lost members and to know who is family. Beyond just the family gathering, if there was a time and need for our family to come together, the "Living Legends/Passing the Torch" awards is a major example produced by the Black united Fund of Illinois (an organization our cosine Natalie Puryear help organize) is just as equally important to the worldwide known bud Billinkin Parade. It is an illustration of actively mentoring and preparing the next generation to take their places. The honorees included Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.



The Carter family photo of 1936, on 36th and State Street: The overwhelming Black families that migrated from the south in the 1930's and then the 60's, has not nourished or materialize the America and family dreams with a legacy as witness by other migration of people to the United States and in Chicago. However, with the Black United Fund of Illinois with its passing the "Torch Award" and family reunions Black America can witness benefits that others have.

with his son, the Honorable Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., William Garth, Sr. and his son, Robert I. Johnson and his daughter, Johnny Brown and his two sons, James Montgomery and Robert D. Blackwell and others for bearers and the protégés of their children to carry on their work.

The Carter like many families does not have publicly known members receiving a "Touch Award." But we do have businesses and had business, just as the Moseberry's corner store at 5959 S. State Street, now operated by Alderman Arenda Troutman.

Family reunions must begin a concept of the Torch Awards, to recognize the importance ritualizing reunions. Something that people form other countries implement, expanding Planned Family-hood to "Planned Family Legacy", making not of accomplishments, and making it into a celebration, uplifting the heart and soul for many. Families are the first and last institution, quietly are doing a good job for our communities. The Fund with their historical contribution to funding and assisting programs in the African American community could extend the Living Legends/Passing the Torch to the quiet storm of institutional family reunions in its con-

cept.

It could perhaps produce more individuals to build successful businesses and careers, putting in place a larger strategy to encourage generational continuity in business and the professions that same as those other people that own the businesses in the Black community.

This August the Carter Family had their Family reunion as well as many other families. However, at the next "Soul food" dinner, after the loud mouth relative settle down, the families can expect the usual having fun, but the BUFI event has put another agenda item on the table for discussion that can lead a different soul inspiration for the future with insight and support in an endeavor that can guide a lasting direction in addressing the quiet leadership of family.

Let the many families focus on our legacy, before the traditional reunions.

Moreover, whatever the Bush family or any other family does, the family will carry on but the branches of future generations are counting on us to have legacy they can proudly carry on.



SSJ Photo by Jabar

Did their "Gas Fast" reduce gas prices?

New coalition kicks off Addressing local & national issues; Gambling & Meigs Fields with focus on 2007 election,

"There is going to be someone, pumping gas, and going to make the statement; 'Someone needs to do something about these gas prices.' Proclaimed Hal Baskin, of the 16th Ward Political Task Force and a member of the newly formed Committee For A Better Chicago (CFABC). Convened by Bill "Doc" Walls (I), their efforts triggered international attention as CFABC coordinated a citywide "Gas Fast" that started May 5th when gas was \$2.29 at many gas stations.

"Rather than sit idly by and silently endure fast rising gasoline prices; if we fight back, we can encourage them to increase production and lower prices." Said Baskin.

CFABC "Gas Fast" recommended that, drivers refrain from purchasing gasoline on Wednesdays and, instead, gas up on any of the six remaining days.

Walls indicated that their effort will not stop the production of gas, but it will make a statement.

In wake of the war in Iraq, America has on the surface intervened potential catastrophic cutoff of oil from the Middle East and the sabotaging of the oil pipelines throughout the region and U.S. However, for each of the five weeks, the cost of gasoline has reached to a new record explained Walls.

From all indications, the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the major oil companies intend for gasoline prices to continue to skyrocket out of control. Reports even predicted to reach \$3 a gallon, a 100% increase since the summer of 2003.

OPEC will continue to boldly use production quotas, as well as wholesale and dealer prices to inflate pump prices. Said Walls.

"Individually, consumers are helpless and unable to affect pricing." Stated Baskin

"If consumers organize and fight back through collective action, we can discourage OPEC and the oil companies from engaging in practices beneficial to them, yet detrimental to consumers." Said Baskin.

"CFABC's objective is not necessarily to have people buy less gasoline (although reducing gasoline consumption may be an unintended consequence). But simply to

demonstrate to OPEC and the oil companies that we are capable of fully organizing and thus warn how foolish it would be to continue to take consumer dependence and reliance upon gasoline for granted.

Meigs Field

Addressing an earlier issue CFABC joined with a number of groups to call for a halt to Mayor Daley's campaign to "dismantle democracy" at a press conference on the One-Year Anniversary of Meigs Field democracy was bulldozed and obliterated by Mayor Richard Daley. "He (Daley) absolutely abused absolute power, and destroyed Meigs Field—a precious city asset."

Mayor Daley standing fast that the Meigs issue is dead that plans for the land is a 90-acre nature park.

Walls said the Park District is attempting to pull a political fast one on the public. With little or no advance public notice or discussion, they are meeting to authorize the development of Meigs Field (A.K. A. Northerly Island) into a park."

"Given the Park District's current financial condition, there is no timetable nor solid sources of funding for work and no target date for completion of the new park. Walls said. "We do not believe it's too late".

CFABC endorses the "Planes and Parks" plan proposed by Friends of Meigs Field that can be accomplished without the expenditure of taxpayer dollars. The plan calls for reopening the 55 years of Meigs Field and the creation of the Bessie Coleman Sky-park, a Chicago Air Museum dedicated to the education of Chicago children.

For Meigs Field was an important component of the city's aviation network, with over 100,000 flights per year—with staging area for emergency fire, police and coast guard rescue activities. And, most importantly needed—in post 9/11-homeland security climate—Stating it was a violation of FAA rules

However, one city official says the group is only staging issues for the Mayor election of 2007. Walls admitted that

CFABC has a political agenda. "And rightfully. Our purpose is to memorialize and restore democracy and call on all Chicagoans to coalesce around an issue that affects all of us."

"Joining forcing with the Hip-Hop Political Action Committee to registrar 2,000 voters by October 2004"

"We will begin community dialog, engaging several community groups, civic and environmental groups to at least begin a discussion on future plans for the 2007 election."

Joining forcing with the Hip-Hop political Action Committee, CFABC has engaged to registrar 2,000 voters by October 2004"

Earlier the group was proposing a referendum on the November ballot to pose to the voters if gambling should be operating in the City of Chicago. Walls said. 'Gambling does not help economic depress communities. As the Mayor has championed a casino in Chicago as a means of generating new revenue for the State and City. "Numerous studies have shown that for every dollar of revenue gambling generates, three dollars are lost to the economic and social costs.," said Walls.

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Minister Group hold meeting with Assessor's office on Church taxes

Rev. Wardell Newsome, president of Voice of Community Ministerial Association (VOCMA) is calling a special informational meeting of VOCMA, August 19th at 6 pm, where a staff member from the Assessor's office will be present to give vital information regarding churches and property taxes.

Rev. Newsome said that VOCMA organized a year ago is concern with Church "Land Grab" that could be taking place with a lack of knowledge on the tax laws as it applies to churches. And that, "God is calling us to economic evangelism and the destruction of all idols.

Pastors, Minister and members of their congregations are invited to find out and receive information and pass on.

The meeting will be held a Faith Community M.B. Church, at 3456 W. Flournoy.

Englewood Pastors of Englewood Unify on Matah

Ms. Beauty Turner
Freelance writer
Freelance Writer

The Pastors Of Englewood (POE) has embraced the Matah church initiative as a vehicle to create jobs in the church as well as in the community.

MATAH products are produced and manufactured by Black people of African descent. Min. Darrell Wilson, board member of POE says, "When I met Bro. Gaston Armour of MATAH he introduced me to the concepts of how Matah can help churches raise funds and create jobs, I immediately shared this information with Pastor St. John Chisum, Chairperson of POE."

"This Church initiative allows churches to become a Network Business Center, thereby creating a revenue for the church based on members purchasing everyday goods and services

from the church." Said Pastor Chisum.

POE is an inter-denominational organization of clergy whose primary mission is to promote unity among the local churches while encouraging outreach beyond the four walls of the church.

"MATAH can help us do just that, it's like the underground railroad to our economic freedom. We've been waiting on this train for a long time" Says Min. Wilson.

The POE Unity Coalition consists of 30 Ministers with the main focus on unifying the Church, the State and the Community. The Clergy committee purpose is to oversee and ensure the Englewood Unity Coalition maintain a spiritual thirst and hunger to for fill the community needs

Hopefully this is the start of something big that will be bene-



Min. Darrell Wilson, board member of POE

15 ward protest seeks ouster of alderman,

As leader announce her candidacy for office.

Every year, since 1998, the Mayor has provided City Council members \$1.2 million annually for the 'Aldermanic Menu' program to make basic neighborhood infrastructure improvements in their ward. The aldermen decide where the work will be done in their wards.

However, a vocal new organization, the Englewood 15th ward, The Accountability Committee (15TCA) held rallies calling for accountability of the funds



Alderman Ted Thomas 15th

resulted in calling for the ousting of 15th ward Alderman Ted Thomas for excluding residents in the decision made in the community.

"Ineffective in leadership incomplete staff and non-disclosure of funds. And information received but not follow-up on". Said Lorraine Harrell president of the 15TAC.

Thomas addressed the concerns of the residents waging a counter protest. And noted progress in the ward with the groundbreaking for West Englewood's first new library in more than 20 years, a new Police Station to be build and addressing banks to offer conventional lending an alternative to predatory loans.

Charging the protest was a ploy to challenge him. Recently, Harrell announced her candidacy at a fundraiser for the 15th Ward.

"The ward is starting to be cleaned up after the demonstration". Said Harrell.

"Too often, they (Aldermen) only respond upon pressure, and there is a challenger to their job. That should not be the recourse to get the alderman to work for the community." Said Harrell.

"But if that's the way to get him on his job, we will continue the protest and I will continue to be a candidate for alderman of the 15th Ward."

Chicago ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) had mix reaction on the protesting of Thomas. He was the organization's former board president.

However, in 2002 ACORN member ran against him and in April 1999, the mayor and his allies had mobilized Thomas for defeat.

A representative of ACORN said to often officials do not seek out community input to prioritize neighborhood's needs." Which reflects a report released by the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group report on the

The report released last April is a 3- year review of the choices made by Chicago Aldermen when selecting public works projects for their wards.

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"The movement of VOTE"



In the late '60's a volatile period of social/political upheaval in this nation, Alderman Dorothy Tillman, represented an extreme segment of the movement under Dr. Martin Luther King. She has since stated that the movement now must be fought under different means. Perhaps, the ground has been laid for a coming conservative time that would span 35 years and nearly buy the last of the radical era. In watching VOTE many may sense an link to political activity and sentiment. VOTE are considered the most aggressive political organization in recent Chicago history. Could these people plant the seeds of dissent in the minds of the youth as escort the street of the community of a new street life. That notion was very real to the elected officials. VOTE are pictured with Congressman Danny Davis (center) and State Representative Connie Howard.



(Continued from page 1)

community."

"All we are doing is bringing attention to issues that has been continually overlooked by the status quo leadership and elected officials."

VOTE members have been bringing aggressive action to all. Even at times when other progressive organizers say their actions of bravery and sacrifice are noble and debatable, "They need to hold and fold then come back again", in their tactics.

VOTE has demonstrated at Rainbow/PUSH vowing. "We are the new Sheriffs in town,"

They have unset meetings of Gov. Blagojevich, Mayor Richard Daley, Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Chicago Defender, and on and on. Their confrontational protests have made both seasoned community activist and elected officials affect the conscience of community organizing.

Elected officials have called on the FBI, the State's Attorney office, and the Chicago Police to do what they can to stop the aggressive nature of VOTE. Today, the law has Watkins in Cook County waiting for a sentence, from actions of Ald. Preckwinkle. And McKinley faces charges stemming from Ald. Tillman. A close

associate is Aaron Patterson arrested for allegedly in procession of drugs and guns. (Story page 1).

Watkins reoccurrence of the law began at Alderman Toni Preckwinkle office where a lot of chaos jumped off which lead to Watkins being arrested accused of assaulting two police officers-

"We need jobs, we need home, and we need the basic needs just like every body else. Watkins said. "We still have families that need support."

Watkins made it perfectly clear how hard it is out here in the real world for ex-offenders and low-income people to live.' Why must we who are ex-offenders continue to serve time even when we get out?

McKinley proclaimed over the loud speaker "They owe us, 'What do we want? JOBS, When do we want them?"

The crowd reply back to VOTE Spoke-person McKinley-NOW. A large crowd of 50 to 75 people approached the construction site

Bart E. Beals, attorney for VOTE says it is due to the vast un-employment roles in the low-income black communities and to the ex-offender dilemma of not having a job, housing or a chance for a real life after serving time in prison the leaders are called thugs. Though, it comes at a cost.

But, their actions have produced an average of five (5) people per day getting jobs. And has transform public policy from the Dan Ryan construction to the leg-

isolation rights of ex-offenders.

Mark Carter an organizer of VOTE says "We've been beating our drums, asking for police review boards, more jobs, better housing and we are not shutting up and going to lay still while the issues on our community are piling up on our people. We understand that the problem is elected officials."

With considerably mixed feelings, VOTE is no difference than those before them. During the late 80's and early 90's 21st Century VOTE, roused as a youth movement that faded. Professor Bob Sharks replied on VOTE. "They are not thugs, they are not gang bangers. They are ex-offenders that have served their time and standing up for what they know is the right thing to do. They (Preckwinkle) have to understand they are here and not going any where."

Community Capital Improvement

"Who's working and who's benefiting"

Community hearing held earlier this year for Chicago's 2004-08 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), was a crucial opportunity to address improvement in neighborhoods under the City Office of Budget & Management. (OBM).

CIP is an addition investment to the Aldermanic Menu. The funds are for major infrastructure repairs or improvements. It has a broader coverage of work such as: sewer and water line repairs or replacement; bridge and viaduct repairs; commercial streetscaping projects and industrial street improvements; repair or construction of public facilities such as libraries and health clinics.

The Exodus Renewal Society, Inc. ask, "Who's working in the wards and who's benefiting from these investments for our community". Chris Moore of ERS points out his organization has began taking steps to not only what are the needs of the community residents but to the boarder economics of community residents working on the projects.

"We are not just concerned with the \$1.2 mil, the alderman are in controlled. The TIF from 99th & Halsted to 127th & Halsted is targeted for millions of the residents' taxes. We should at least benefit from our own taxes."

Moore said the 9th and 34th ward is where Exodus start doing "neighborhood drive-by sur-

vey", going door to door taking assessments from the people, then holding community organizing meetings at Fernwood United Methodist Church, 10057 S. Wallace.

"This means first we must all come together, block by block, to practice cooperative economics and community development. And that includes government and public officials must practice cooperative economics themselves. Stop letting other benefit from our taxes.

Black Caucus Chair Ald. Ed Smith, on the Westside 27th ward, said he is not speaking for what other aldermen do in their wards, but explains the work that comes from the CIP is contracted and awarded by the City government. "We (aldermen) do not have no say in who gets the work, we (27 ward) informs the city what work we have identified as a priority.

Ald. Smith agreeing that there should be more representation of the community doing public work added that the community should express their concerns to the city on fair representation in the work allocated in the wards. But the community should be aware of the qualification standards of doing business with the city and the qualified lowest bids gets the jobs

Copies of the proposed public works plan are available for public inspection at all of the City's public libraries

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The VIP operates through a partnership between the Exodus Renewal Society, Institute for Family Development, and Habilitative Systems Inc. It is partially funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

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The Dan Ryan Express "A slap in the face."

When the Dan Ryan was first constructed over 40 years ago there were probably no Black workers on the project. Today, the Committee to Save the Dan Ryan (CTSDR), and later joined by VOTE (Voice Of The Ex-offenders) raised the concerns.

To ease community tension, Gov. Rod Blagojevich appointed a Task Force of African American representation with the task of making recommendations to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The Taskforce presented 10 recommendations which resulted in IDOT changing its goal to permanently close 12 Southside ramps between 43rd and 76th Streets and offered the cutback of closures from 12 to 6 ramps.

With many of the Task Force recommendations still not resolved, that included contracts and employment opportunities should be greater than 60 percent of the community, the Task Force was

disbanded with only 5% of the work contracted to Black contractors.

"That's a slap in the face," says, Bernard Lloyd, of Bronzeville Comm. Dev. Partnership. And former chair of the disbanded task force

According to IDOT it was disbanded because the Task Force for filed its duties. Not implying if the order came from the Governor or not.

Charges and questions were raised by members of the Task Force that there was a deliberately exclusion of black workers on the development. And that IDOT enacted a "divide and conquer" premise. Because of a



Gov. Rod Blagojevich disbanded the Dan Ryan Task Force with only 5% of the work on the project contracted to Black contractors. "That's a slap in the face," says, Brenda Lloyd, former co-chair of the Task Force.

\$2.6 million community outreach campaign to replace the Task Force in order to increase more community involvement on the Day Ryan development, to overshadow their recommendations.

"It's something that we've been doing since the beginning of this project." Said IDOT, Secretary Tim Martin.

IDOT has stated that their outreach goes beyond the Dan Ryan project to working on projects related to highway, airport and transit construction.

"The community at large is eligible to receive free professional assistance and other areas focused on business growth." Said Martin. "In addition there are Twenty-one so-

cial service providers and agencies under IDOT to assist non-white workers to qualify for the jobs."

The federal IDOT budget of \$430 million is targeted for the Ryan construction in which the governor said could translate into the infusion of \$100 million or more to DBE contractors and firms. Preparation for reconstruction began in 2004 with major construction occurring 2005-2007.

IDOT award contracts to two African-American businesses for the Dan Ryan project; Foster Electric Group, Inc. \$220,000 and Bouie Construction, Inc. a \$400,000 contract.

"Overall, blacks have received less than 1/3 of all contracts awarded". Said Lloyd. "IDOT is being allowed to give a blind eye to our community".

Martin also stress that the federal government does to mandate keeping record of different minority groups. "Some people may not like it but that's the law."

Kim Morreale, Public Information Manager for IDOT noted that IDOT awarded \$2 million to the Chicago Urban League and United Services of Chicago for onsite jobs, contracts, training opportunities, and professional and financial services.

Vowing to keep the Task Force concerns active, "We are going to do our own monitoring," Said Lloyd.

The Committee filed a Civil Rights complaint to the U.S. Department of Justice based on IDOT discriminate on race and adverse effects on minorities in communities," a representative of the Committee said.

For more information contact: Rochelle Williams Secretary Committee to Save the Dan Ryan, 773-627-4474. Contractors wanting information on the DBE certification process should contact the DBE Resource Center at 312-939-1100 or IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity at 217-557-4593.

Wal-Mart Plan Generates Opposition

The fights to set standards for Wal-Mart's entrance into the Chicago marketplace is still an issue as the proposal for a Wal-Mart store on the West Side site was approved and the 83rd and Stewart TIF District was rejected again in committee before it could go before the City Council.

However, Ald. Howard Brookins (21) is still pushing for the 83rd location. South Siders have formed a local Task Force to monitor and hold future redevelopment in their TIF District accountable by drawing on a model that Neighbor Capital Budget Group introduced to Chicago last December. Wal-mark for 83rd street missed committee vote by one last June and will go before committee again on September 1, 2004

But Labor and community groups are still opposing retail giant Wal-Mart's plan to open its first store on the West Side.

Chicago Jobs With Justice, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the Illi-

nois Food Retailers Association were among 22 organizations testifying against Wal-Mart's proposal, according to Elizabeth Drea of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 881.

While approving Wal-Mart's application, the Chicago Planning Commission noted concerns about its potential impact on small businesses and wage levels, and voted to forward a transcript of the hearing to the Chicago Workforce Development Board.

Wal-Mart has proposed a 150,000 square foot store at the site of the former Helene Curtis plant at 1657 N. Kilpatrick in the West Side community of Austin.

"When Wal-Mart enters a metropolitan area, it targets low-income communities that are hungry for jobs," said Drea. "Then they go in and wipe out local businesses," driving down wage and benefit levels. Local 881 is concerned about the potential impact on its members working in area groceries, she said.

Nationally, opposition to new

Wal-Marts has grown as the company has sought to move into major metropolitan areas. Critics score the corporation for cutthroat and predatory business practices; low-wage, poor-benefit employment practices; and hostility to union rights. Wal-Mart faces scores of unfair labor practice charges nationwide, as well as an in-house audit, which found exten-

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sive violations of child labor and overtime laws.

The South Austin Coalition is seeking a community benefits agreement with Wal-Mart, according to Elce Redmond. They want the corporation to agree to hire locally, provide living wage jobs with comprehensive, affordable health coverage, and respect employee's rights to organize, he said. More Info: Elizabeth Drea at UFCW Local 881, 630-954-1800, ext. 407 and Elce Redmond at South Austin Coalition, 773-287-4570

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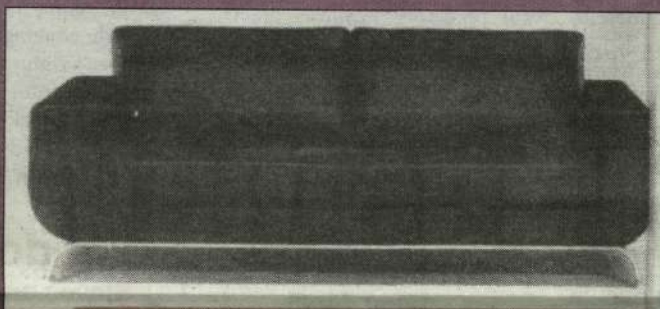
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