

# South Street Journal

Vol. 14 No. 3

January 17 2008

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50¢

OUR TIME  
for  
CHANGE  
HAS COME  
Our Two  
Endorsements



Barack Obama  
President of the USA

Howard Brookins  
States Attorney

Vote early from  
January  
14, to 31,  
2008

SSJ new columnist

Marc A. Wiley

CORNER

CAFE

Page 7



## "CHA: They don't care about us"

Ms. Beauty Turner  
Associate Editor

As federal funding for public housing has significantly decreased; just like Hip Hop Artist Kanye West said during a Music Award Show: "President Bush doesn't care about us." And R&B artist Michael Jackson once said in a song: "They don't care about us," meaning Black folks.—Community activist Barbara Moore, 63, a former resident of Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and her daughter, Kolette Moore, a young mother of three are beginning to feel the same way about CHA and this city as well as private landlords.

When tenants refused to just move out and let public housing buildings be closed, as what occurred in 1999, to residents The residents were led by Barbara, the president at the 5266 So. State St. building, in the Robert Taylor Homes projects, they began to resist the CHA Transformation Plan, which required them to be moved from public housing. He joined with the Coalition to Protect Public Housing in hopes of saving the building from being demolished.

In an effort to save the building, they wrote  
(Continued on page 5)



Community Activist Barbara Moore ( now an invalid who is ill an unable to walk) "I need my daughter to look after me," Moore said while barely able too look up from her bed.

## The \$310,000 Police Chief

### In the mist of issue going into the Olympics



J.P. "Jody" Weis, 49, replace Superintendent Phil Cline. As the new Superintendent of Chicago Police Department was Special agent in charge of the FBI's Philadelphia field office.

By Royce Strahan  
Staff Writer

After a string of scandals involving police officers, the City Council voted on the recent appointment of J.P. (Jody) Weis as the Chicago Police Department new superintendent, formerly with the FBI. For most of Chicagoans it was not a surprise that Mayor Richard Daley would not appoint interim Police Chief Danna Starks, who has served since August, and that the new chief would be white. Daley also announced that Starks, will become chairman of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

However, at \$310,000, clouds remain why?

The CPD faces numerous abuse allegations, including two highly publicized bar beatings caught on tape. In an effort to restore public trust, the mayor's office takes control of the agency that investigates police misconduct complaints.

In response to the appointment Pat Hill, and former police officer and head of the African-American Police League, said that "Mayor Daley is just

playing politics with the sentiment of the people."

Weis has never been a police officer, but he arrives in January to lead Chicago's police force of over 13,000 sworn officers. Both cops and community leaders who've worked with him as chief of the FBI's Philadelphia office acknowledge the challenges ahead, but they believe he's up to the task as he received high remarks.

Hill addressing checks and balances saying the system is pointless when two departments work so closely.

Hill reported that "FBI agent Weis was station in the Chicago office at the height of the Trucking Scandal from 2000-2003." She also stated that "it may be a conflict with the mayor and unethical for Weis to be hired," adding the question is whether the mayor can hire and determine the salary of the person he hires.?"

A call was also made to the mayor's press office, no calls were returned.

Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, in response to the new police superintendent who is not a member of a minority group questioned the appointment. But reports are Starks did not want the top cop job.

Jackson said "African Americans are the largest ethnic population in Chicago. We are the most arrested population, and the most abused and victimized by police misconduct. The greatest example of this has been the torture forced confessions obtained under Jon Burge at a time when our current mayor, Richard M. Daley, was the state's attorney."

One highly noted case is that of Aaron Patterson who is part of a \$20 million law suit in which then Daley was States Atty. as a defendant in the law suit.

The Traffic Stops or "Driving While Black", The CPD may call it conducting DUI Strike Force Patrols in a pre-designated area with roving po-

lice officers that continually monitor vehicular traffic for signs of impaired driving. Patrols also place emphasis on speed, alcohol-related and safety belt violations. Police vehicles equipped for speed detection are deployed to apprehend speeding violators.

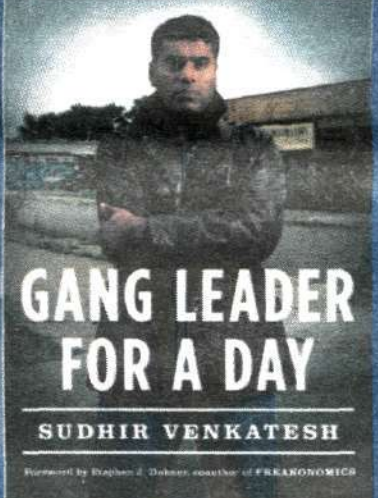
But in the result the court rooms, are of mostly black males.

Continue on page 3



Pat Hill, President of the African American Police League

A ROGUE SOCIOLOGIST TAKES TO THE STREETS



Continue on page 11

## Ron Carter's Rev. Dr. King Q&A

This is the week we are celebrating your life. Early this year we celebrate the life in the passing of James Brown. One of the many songs he is noted for is "Say it Loud' I am Black and Proud" a reinforcement of Black Power. Should it be reinforced today?

King: All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality.....  
....In the final analysis the weakness of Black Power is its failure to see that the black man needs the white man and the white man needs the black man. However much we may try to romanticize the slogan, there is no separate black path to power and fulfillment that does not intersect white paths.

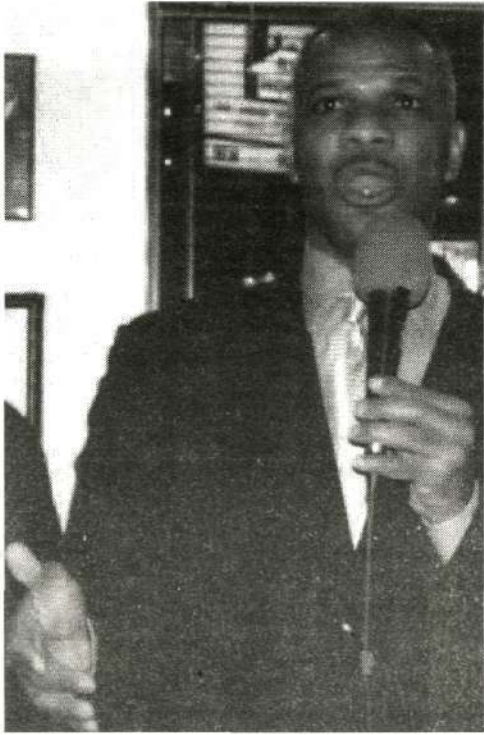
(Continued on page 12)

Fact & Commentary Round Up of Mark Allen

SSJ Associate Editor



Bill "Dock" Walls Has Right To Run Against Rush For Congress



I am writing this commentary in response to the November 1, 2007 Commentary by The Chicago Defender's Glenn Reedus that Bill "Dock" Walls isn't ready to fill Congressman Bobby Rush' shoes.

Bill "Dock" Walls has every right to offer himself and his years of public service to the voters of the First Congressional District.

There were a number of long time political activists who said that then activist Rush did not have the right to take on the political legend Barnett, but it was Rush's right and then the voters had to make the final decision and they did.

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr is doing well in developing his congressional career, but he had his critics who said that his only credentials was his public service through Operation PUSH and had no elected office of any kind.

(Continued on page 14)

News Briefs

Laws fines and suits

Smoking ban in Illinois

On Jan. 1st 2008 Illinois public places officially become smoke-free, extending and superseding current local bans, including Chicago, which was scheduled to go into effect July 2008.

New requirements for teenage drivers

Five new laws created to ensure the safety of Illinois motorists will go into effect on January 1st, 2008. These laws will create new learner's permit and cell phone requirements for teenage drivers.

\$2 Million Illegally Secured by Chicago Police - Thousands of Tickets Wrongfully Issued



A class action lawsuit has been filed against the City of Chicago, Mayor Richard Daley, and various police officers by the Law Offices of Blake Horwitz, a civil rights firm specializing in police misconduct.

Chicago police officers have been arresting and ticketing thousands of innocent civilians for violating the cell phone ban (which prohibits using a cell phone while driving) to the tune of millions of dollars accrued to City coffers.

The law (625 ILCS 5/11207) requires the City to put up signs to inform drivers that they may not speak on their cell phone while they are driving.

There are no signs. The City has certified that it has failed to put up signs. Therefore, the lawyers filing the suit says that every single arrest in this regard has been illegal.

"The City is simply trying to earn more money given the absence of a balanced budget," says police misconduct attorney, Blake Horwitz. Horwitz, who has sued the City more than 100 times for police misconduct violations, points out that since the cell phone ban was passed almost two years ago the city has collected millions of dollars.

Drivers cited for violating the ban are fined \$75, or up to \$200 if the driver is involved in an accident. As of September 2007, over 25,000 citations had been issued citing violations of the Ordinance, representing an influx of revenue to the city of nearly two million dollars.

City, COMED, Comprehensive Settlement agreement

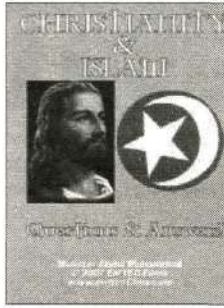
Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) has agreed to pay the City of Chicago and several sister agencies, including the Chicago Transit Authority, Park District, Chicago Public

(Briefs continued on page 8)

UnZip

UnZip it at Editorial@SouthStreetJournal.net

Barack Obama is a member of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ. Its minister, and Obama's spiritual adviser, is the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr.



Every year, the magazine makes awards in various categories. Last year, it gave the Dr. Wright Jr. Trumpeter Award to a man it said "truly epitomized greatness."

one of those instances.

Obama needs to take page from the late Chicago Mayor Harold Washington when it comes to denouncing Minister Farrakhan. When Washington was challenged to repudiate Minister Farrakhan, the Mayor responded that "I am in the healing business, not the repudiation business."

In relationship with Trinity United Church of Christ, Rev. Al Sharpton and his new Chicago Chapter of National Action Network has some more work to do with their relationship with local Black leadership.



Mark Allen ever be able to change his resume from the "former" WJON talk show host to current? Stay tuned. The word is still out if Ron Carter is a cousin or slave to the Daley's since Carter's DNA came back with his roots are from Ireland.



Mayor Richard M. Daley received a mutiny of his Chicago planning commission which he chairs, when the commission voted against the mayor in supporting the Congress Plaza Hotel for expanding.

Rev. Dr. Webb Evans, should be delighted to know that The Warren Ballentine show on 102.5 in Atlanta is talking about a National Black Out Day.

South Street Journal was acknowledged by The (CBC), The Congressional Black Caucus, in a reception repast by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee from Dallas, Texas.

On the political campaigning front, Congressman Jackson has endorsed the 75 year old State Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie over the 2nd candidacy of the 45 year old educator Dr. Sharon Latiker, who got over 30% of the vote in her last attempt against Currie.

"It is the advertiser who provides the paper for the subscriber. It is not to be disputed, that the publisher of a newspaper in this country, without a very exhaustive advertising support, would receive less reward for his labor than the humblest mechanic."

Alexander Hamilton

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# Black Wall Street 3rd Summit Challenges itself for more focus

By Ron Jenkins  
Staff Writer

The campaign to sustain and increase Black businesses and create partnerships in preparing for the creation and development of a Black owned business districts was the focused of the third Black Wall Street Economic Summit (BWSES) that

took place at the Chicago Urban League on Saturday, December 1, 2007.

Simultaneously, the Chicago Urban League announcement its ProjectNext program in early March of this year, the Black Wall Street-Chicago Economic Summit was officially launched May 19 of 2007.

The objectives of the summit were to create a business dialogue among the 200 participants to create a platform to sustain and increase black businesses in Chicago; and to create a business relationship for sectors who attended the summits. The summit is basing its activities from a template of the Black Wall Street District of

Oakland, California, as other cities around the country are developing Black Wall Streets as well.

Business leader and small business owner, Leonard Harris of Chatham Food Center addressed the body on how he got started in the grocery business, and its relationship to family. Saying how he was able to provide for his family as well as his children's college education. He also indicated that he realized that he and his family were just making it. He publicly thanked Mark Allen for convincing him to become involved with the Summit and become a member of the Chicago Urban League ProjectNext program that now has Chatham Foods in line for business expansion. He also pledged a \$500 contribution for the Black Wall Street-Chicago project to further its organizing efforts. Following that, local business owner Kenny Johnson was publicly recognized for being the financial sponsor of the Black Wall Street-Chicago project to host the summit.

**Commitment from Alderman Fioretti.** He agreed to come back to the next Summit after having talked to Otis Monroe and Billy Payne about Black vs. Minority and how to get Blacks more City Contracts.

Bobbie Johnson wanted to get a legal team together to go after developers who have not implemented Section 3 of the

(Continued on page 19)



Mark Allen, Associated Editor of SSJ, Alderman Howard B. Brookins, Jr. (candidate for States Attorney), Morgan Carter and Ron Carter, Publisher and Editor of SSJ and chair of the Black Wall Street Economic Summit, present information to participants about the creation and development of Black owned business districts in Chicago

## The \$310,000 Chief



JP (Jody) Weis, the new superintendent of the Chicago Police addresses the media as interim Supt. Dana Starks looks on. (Brian Jackson/Sun-Times)

the Police and Fire Committee, to hold a public hearing to discuss the police shootings but on the public hearing on the appointment of the new police chief their were less than 50 people at the hearing.

### From OPS to Independent Police Review Authority

Many believe that corruption plays a major part in investigations being handled improperly and are glad to see Mayor Daley finally implementing a plan to strengthen the OPS and restore confidence back to investigations.

The OPS was created in 1974 to investigate excessive force, shootings by the police, and deaths of citizens while in custody of the police department as well as domestic disputes involving officers.

In recent years, the OPS have appeared to be weak as a result of the department not handling situations properly. Mayor Daley has taken a strong stand against corruption within the police department and the OPS. "I've made it clear that misconduct in the department cannot and will not be tolerated in the City of Chicago," Daley said.

However, reports are there are 600 police on the repeatedly list of the former OPS. Of those, one complaint resulted in a 15-day suspension and two prompted reprimands. The officer with the greatest number of complaints, 55, did not receive any disciplinary action. Twenty-nine additional officers each had 30 to 40 complaints against them; of those, two were given reprimands and two received one-day suspensions. Most officers on the list had 11 to 20 complaints.

"The only way for this plan to work is for there to be a department that is completely independent and has no affiliation with the Chicago Police Department," Hill said. In Hill's opinion, the new plan to reform the OPS will not have a positive or negative effect on the City of Chicago.

According to Atty. Meyers,

"Jena was a wake-up call for America and it became painfully apparent that in some jurisdictions in the United States local police departments have developed a pattern and practice of conduct which involves the wholesale violation of the human and civil rights of the citizens; and Chicago stands out as a prime

example of a police department out of control."

"To address these concerns and restore confidence in the department, we've taken many steps. They include creating a new Office of Professional Standards to conduct investiga-

Continue on page

(Continued from page 1)

In a build up of repeated cases, persons get entrapped in the legal system. Jackson further stated "Just recently there is the case of the young African American man who was sodomized by two police officers during a traffic stop. Those police officers in that case need to be charged as sex offenders and taken off the force. The new superintendent must combat this corruption."

As so many cases have been perpetrated against the black community, Rev. Jackson went on to say, "In case after case, we see the black community as a victim of police brutality. In some cases, like that of Freddie Wilson, who was shot by police 20 times last week during a traffic stop, we see a tragic loss of life. This is excessive force and unnecessary."

Hill said, "no one is looking out for our (African Americans) interest. We have a government in place; and when we don't participate in this government it becomes fascist."

"We have a few people in the government (Alderman) who do not know what they are doing."

Hill continued to say that Ald. Ed Smith (28th) said he would ask Ald. Isaac Carothers (29th), chairman of

## Patterson: the million inmate Chicago reach Police Torture Settlement

The city finally approved a \$20 million settlement that claims of police torture led to a re-examination of capital punishment.



Aaron Patterson

Final paperwork has been approved, and the City Council voted on the settlement, city law department spokeswoman Jennifer Hoyle said. The council was supposed to vote last month, but paperwork problems postponed the action.

The four inmates — Aaron Patterson, Leroy Orange, Stanley Howard and Madison Hobley — claim they were tortured by police and wrongly convicted. George Ryan, governor at the time, pardoned them in 2003 and

(Continued on page 7)

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CALENDAR & PRESS RELEASES



Expressions of You is a time for young lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allies/supporters of these women of African descent to enjoy a safe space and address issues they may be facing at school, at home, in church, and in the community.

March 17-21, Volunteers Needed for Annual Daffodil Days in Chicago: event celebrates the hope cancer will be eliminated. The Chicago office of the American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers for its annual Daffodil Days, which celebrates the progress that cancer treatment is making, and the hope cancer will be eliminated.

man individual table sales at locations around Chicago. Also needed are sponsors. For info contact Emily Phillips at (312) 279-7257 or at www.emily.phillips@cancer.org.

Thurs. January 17th Illinois-Greater Englewood Anti-Violence Coalition session will be: 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Kelly Branch Library (6151 South Normal Blvd.) Agenda Quick review of the notes from December 2007 Brief review of current State efforts More exchange of ideas on Anti-Violence focus for 2008 Calendar of Events. John Paul Jones, Chairman Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force

Book Signing at eta 6-8 pm Thursday, HAROLD! Photographs from the Harold Washington Years by Antonio Dickey, Marc PoKemper and Salim Muwakkil eta Square, 7558 S. South



Chicago Ave eta Creative Arts Foundation in conjunction with the Harold Washington Commemorative Year!, a book that captures in words and more than 100 pictures the powerful emo-

tions that circled around one man in Chicago in the early 1980's. For more information, call (773) 752-3955 or visit www.etacreativearts.org.

Friday January 18 9th ANNUAL MLK HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE FAIR Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Navy Pier, Festival Hall A, 600 E. Grand Ave., Chicago, Workshops and financial aid sessions for students and parents, Contact Elena M. Thomas, 773-298-1590 or www.thec4success.org.

Sat January 19, The 9th Ward will host a Service Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Gwendolyn Brooks High School, 250 E. 111th St., featuring representatives from the Chicago Police Department and Department of Housing as well as NBC/5s Dr. Sandy Goldberg, Park National and Seaway Banks, and mobile units for license renewals, state IDs, immunizations, and dental exams.

Violence Against Women and Girls is on the Rise Fight Back and Live! Women only personal protection and safety seminar Saturday, Jan. 19, 6pm VSK Jiu-jitsu Institute 409 W. 144th St. Riverdale, IL 60827 708-841-7441 \$20 in advance; \$25 at door.

All Fathers, Stepfathers, Foster Fathers, Grandfathers, Great Grandfathers, Godfathers, Uncles, Brothers and Male Caregivers! The University of Illinois at Chicago Flames vs. Detroit Mercy Titans, at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Street (1200 west) at gate 5. Tip-off is at 3:00pm so arrive at 2:30 to pick-up tickets. FREE! Childrens will also be exposed to the opportunity of attending college at this event. Call Dexter at The

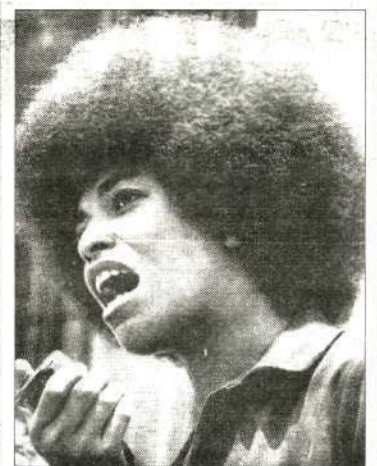


BlackStar Project at 773.285.9600 to RSVP for the event and for more information.

Sun. January 20th Pastor CL Barrett of the Life Center Church will be the guest speaker for the Gift from God Ministries Church Anniversary on, 3:30 p.m. Service at 953West 63rd Street (the SE Corner of 63rd and Morgan). At 1:00 p.m. Rev. Lewis flower, Chairman of the Westside Ministers Coalition will be the guest speaker at Gifts from God Ministries Church. All are welcomed.

Mon., Jan 21, at 12 noon. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Featured Speaker: Loretta Ross Rockefeller Memorial Chapel 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.

Mack D. McGhee, a nationally-known speaker renowned for his high-energy style, is expected to deliver a dynamic speech when he serves as the inaugural keynote speaker for Matteson Public Library's first annual Martin Luther King Day Holiday Program. The event takes place at the Library at 801 S. School Street in Matteson from 3-5PM on nationally-recognized as the official King Holiday. The event is free to the public.



MS. DAVIS, an American social justice activist, and professor who was associated with the Black Panther Party (BPP) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Communist Party. She draws upon her own experiences in the early 1970s who spent 18 months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List." Her story is one of false accusations, incarceration and the ultimate vindication of justice.

Fri. Jan. 26, Sisters Embracing Life Support, West Suburban Hospital, Rooms A&B Lower Lever, 11:30a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 3 Erie Court, Oak Park IL Speaker will be Dr. Rick A. Kittles, PhD Associate Professor of Genetic Medicine, from The University of Chicago.

Alderman Pat Dowel town hall at the Charles A. Hayes Center at 4859 S. Wabash Ave. from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

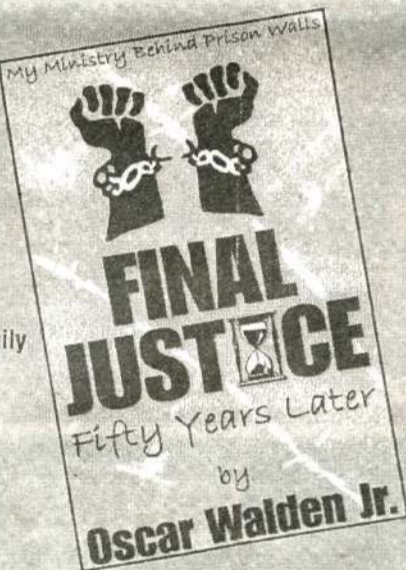
Sistas in the Arts Series! January '08 Explosion... Featuring: Sistas from the STL (St. Louis) Emcees and Poets Ainoku Saadiq & Cheeraz and Ms. Nterpretation 8:30pm Mercury Cafe 1505 W. Chicago Ave. \$10 Cover

Sun. January 27, MPAACT's PRODUCTION OF "Beneath a Dark Sky" Written by Shepsu Aahku - Directed by Kimberly Crutcher 3:30 PM Victory Gardens Greenhouse 2257 N. Lincoln

Sat. Feb. 9th TEMPLE OF MERCY ASSOCIATION, 18th ANNUAL BLACK HERITAGE BANQUET, 2008 6pm - 10pm, Nominees for the Black Heritage Community Activist Award: Marcus Garvey Award: Dr. Webb Evans Ken Bridges Award: Bro. Darronte Lofton Elijah Muhammad Award: Min. Caleb Muhammad Dr. Khalid Muhammad: Bro. Deangelo Muhammad: Bro. Deangelo

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# "CHA: They don't care about us"



(Continued from page 1)  
 letters to the mayor and Congress. They marched on City Hall and the CHA Headquarters. They also held prayer vigils and strategy sessions.

Ms. Moore used the social room at 5266 as the headquarters of the struggle and as a place where people gathered to strategize and organize. This involved a hard fought 33-day occupation to save the building.

Ms. Moore, now, seven years later, is catching the sometimes bad after math of fighting for others.

Barbara and her daughter Kolette moved about a year ago from the last building of the Robert Taylor Homes, at 5135 So. Federal.

"CHA moved me and my daughter into this building together (presently at 4752 South Wabash) because they knew that I could no longer walk and I'm suffering from a lot of different illnesses," Barbara said during an interview and with over 25 students on the GHETTO tours from Highland Park High School in. They all crowd in her bedroom as she told her story. Her daughter lives across the hall from her.

"I haven't even been to court and this landlord is forcing CHA to move me to the Trumbull Lowden Homes," said Kolette.

Barbara added "Now a year later, they are forcing my daughter to move away from me and she haven't even been to court." Explaining, "If I get sick or if there's a fire here, who will help me?" I'm an invalid," Barbara continued. "Beauty, CHA is sending a truck here tomorrow to force me and my children to move to a place that I know nothing about!" Kolette said in a tearful voice.

"I have sons and they will not be safe here! Kolette added.

"How could they just come to your house one day and say you have to move, and they told me that they don't have to have an explanation," Kolette went on to say.

"My mother need me here. She doesn't have anyone to help her get dressed, eat or wash up: this is not right!" Kolette went on to say.

"CHA nor this city or private landlords seem to not care about us!" according to Kolette.

I called the CHA spokesperson, Derek Hill, and told him about Kolette and Barbara Moore's concern.

"She agreed to move last week, now she's complaining," Hill said.

"We are saving Kolette from being evicted by giving her a newly rehabbed unit in the Trumbull Lowden Home," according to Hill.

"These are temporary units we begged the private landlord to let some of our residents stay here."



**Next CEO of CHA.** Mayor Richard M. Daley names Lewis A. Jordan, currently executive director of the Housing Authority of Cook County, to be the next chief executive officer of the Chicago Housing Authority during a press conference at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. A former Rockwell Gardens resident who rose to run the Rockford and Cook County housing authorities was chosen by Mayor Daley today for "one of the hardest jobs on the planet" — CEO of the Chicago Housing Authority.

"I believe Lewis Jordan brings with him the personal background, the professional credentials and the sense of commitment required to complete the objectives of the Plan for Transformation, which is what I have asked him to do," Daley said. Lewis A. Jordan, currently executive director of the Housing Authority of Cook County will be the next chief executive officer of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). He was born when his parents were residents of the Rockwell Garden public housing project on the West Side. He served as executive director of the Rockford (IL) Housing Authority and managing agent of the Rockford Housing Development Corporation from 2002 to 2006.

Hill added: "Why can't she take her mother with her?" Hill said doing a late night telephone interview.

I asked Barbara Moore why she can't move with her daughter.

"My hospital is not too far away from here," Barbara Moore said.

"Trumbull Lowden Homes are too far away from all of the things that I need like my hospital and medication" Moore added:

"How can they just come to our

home and move us without due process of the law?" Barbara asked.

"This is still America," Barbara added.

The next day, bright and early, before the sun begin to shine, a big CHA moving truck pulled up to 4752 South Wabash and moved Kolette and her family to the Trumbull Lowden Homes, leaving her invalid mother behind to care for herself.

Her voice was cracking as she tried to explain to me on the telephone about her dilemma: "Who will go and pay my bills, pick up my medication, and take me to the hospital?"

There were numerous calls to CHA Relocation Department, Representative Sonya Franklin, and the Senior Manager for Relocation for the Chicago Housing Authority. By press time, she could not be contacted.

I called Cast Property Manager for the 4752 South Wabash building, Mr. Onderwal Langworthy and asked him "Did he know Kolette Moore?"

He told me yes; she is a tenant at 4752 South Wabash.

I also asked him have Kolette Moore been to court to be evicted and was she evicted?

His voice tone hit a high unnerving pitch. "I don't know you and I'm not going to answer any more of your questions!" Langworthy squealed.

I called Attorney Nicky Bazer of The Legal Foundation and asked her about the Moore's situation.

"What CHA has done to Kolette needs further looking into" Bazer said.

The Chicago Housing Authority's Five-Year Plan for Transformation is a \$1.5 billion plan, which would result in thousands of poor families being driven out of public housing. The plan calls for the demolition of 18,532 units of family public housing. The city of Chicago will build 24,000 units of new or rehabbed housing, but the great majority of poor families will not qualify for the new housing.

There were 29,296 units of family public housing that was part of the plan. In the city plan, 40% of the new housing would be for senior citizens—no children allowed. The city claims that there will be 14,864 units of family housing, but the plan mandates that all the new housing will be for mixed income families. In reality, this means that only 2,294 homes would be priced for the 16,446 low income families who now have leases in CHA housing.

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# The 26th District, Endorsement kicking in, polls turning

With little more than two weeks left in the campaign, candidate Kenny Johnson has moved into a lead in the in 26<sup>th</sup> District state representative race, according to the latest poll.

Johnson, reportedly, is leading the field of five with 20 percent of the vote, having gained 13 points since a similar poll in September which Phillip Jackson, the former public executive lead. The initial head-to-head running showed Jackson with a wide-margin lead at 26 percent of the vote compared to incumbent Elga Jefferies at 7 percent, followed by Johnson and Will Burns with six and two percent respectively. However, regardless of the poll Paul Chadah reported he has a commanding base of support that represents 30% of the voters.

Nearly 400 voters were surveyed in its most recent poll with an error margin of less than 5 percentage points. Pollster Lester & Associates was accurately predictive of Chicago aldermanic races last spring.

The district have many heavy weight politicians with their hands in the race such as Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. supporting Johnson; who is president and founder of Richmond Group Inc. and owner of The Little Gym of South Loop and Naperville. Then there is House Speaker Michael Madigan supporting Rep. Jefferies; and State Senator Elmer Jones and Mayor Richard Daley supporting Will Jones.

Jefferies was joined by SEIU Local 880 as the guest of honor during the 2007 Quality Care Champion Award ceremony. "I am hon-

State Rep. Elga Jefferies, who replaced the late Lou Jones is up against four well suited candidates.



Johnson said, "My positive message about new leadership and changing the status quo in Springfield is resonating with the voters."

The 26<sup>th</sup> District includes much of the Loop and runs along the Chicago lakefront from the Near North Side to the South Side. The 26<sup>th</sup> District includes all or parts of six wards: 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, and 42.

ored that the hard working men and women of this union have chosen to honor me," Jefferies said. "I am very proud that I have been able to stand up for the working families in Illinois."

Other endorsements received by Jefferies, according to Bob Dennen, include the AFL-CIO, League of Conservation Voters, Jesse White, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the Amalgamated Transit Union (AFI-CIO-CLC).

However, endorsements are piling up for Jones who received the backing of 20<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Willie Cochran the third Chicago alderman to endorse Burns'.



## ELECTION PREVIEW 2008

Paul Chadah's Comments "We absolutely support Senator Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign. He actually represent real if he wins you instantly have change.. He already represents change sends a good positive message to millions of our kids. Imagine the confidence that will surge in a young man of color when asked Do you think you can be president. For Barack has given us hope. Hope and Dreams are the real ingredients."



"This is not a campaign, it's a people's movement," Jackson says. "The people of the 26<sup>th</sup> district want change. The people in the state want change. And the people are using me to deliver this message to Springfield!"



Jones: "I will not be intimidated or bought off by the National Rifle Association," Burns said, adding that Mayor Daley's endorsement

came because of his strong record working on gun legislation in the State Senate.

Burns now has the support of aldermen representing more than half of the expected vote in the Tuesday, February 5 Democratic primary in the district.

Also State Rep. Ken Dunkin became the first member of the Illinois House to support Burns when he announced his endorsement. Cochran and Dunkin join 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Toni Preckwinkle and 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Leslie Hairston, Senator Kwame Raoul, former federal judge and Congressman Abner Mikva, and others in supporting Burns' campaign.

"As a community leader and activist, Will Burns has shown he has the knowledge and the experience and the energy to bring together business, labor, civil rights and civic groups to solve problems," Cochran said. "He has the background in Springfield to get the job done to help improve our neighborhoods," Burns was Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff to Senate Presi-

dent Emil Jones, Jr.

Jackson with a more known name, and Chadha with a solid base of support of the north part of the district, stated he is sure the district would vote for him upon his name getting out over the whole area including the south side.

Johnson said, "My positive message about new leadership and changing the status quo in Springfield is resonating with the voters. Clearly, the voters are tired of the gridlock in state government. They want new leaders with new ideas to improve schools, create jobs and enhance public services," Johnson said.

The latest poll, reported in Capitol FAX newsletter, noted that Johnson is "running a textbook campaign," which includes an aggressive direct mail effort, billboards and e-mails.

Meanwhile in Springfield the Illinois House voted unanimously to accept the governor's amendatory veto to legislation, co-sponsored by Jefferies, to implement the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, which includes a record increase for public schools. Jefferies said. "I am very pleased that we were able to pass a spending plan that includes a record increase in funding for education without increasing the tax burden on working men and women, families and senior citizens."

# Sessoms weathers ballot Challenges in 5th Subcircuit Race

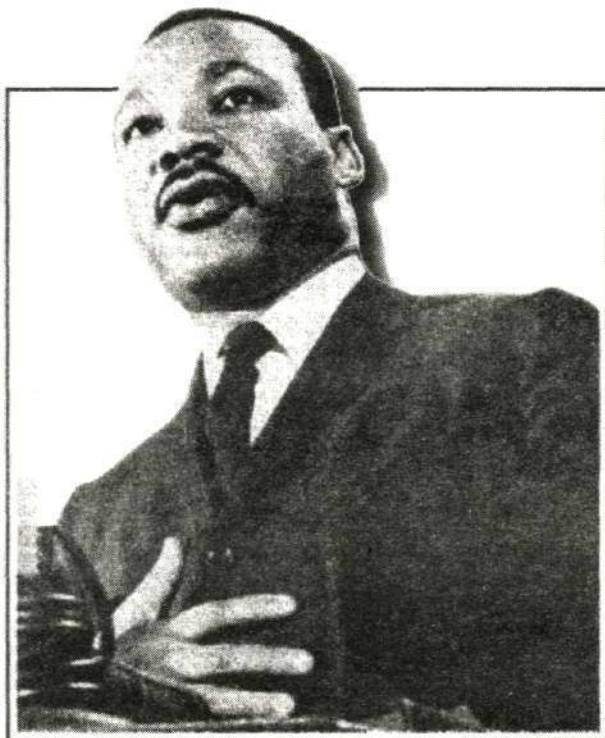
"It's really a shame what honest candidates have to go through sometimes," said Judge Furmin D. Sessoms after surviving "frivolous" challenges to his nominating petitions from both opponents in the race for 5<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit of the Court of Cook County.

"I wasn't worried," said Sessoms, who has held the position since his appointment by the Illinois Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created when Judge Bernetta Bush retired. "I needed 500 signatures to get on the ballot. We filed over two thousand, and 692 were not even challenged. It should have ended there."

Instead, one opponent challenged addresses with abbreviations for Chicago, such as "Chgo" or "Chi." The other opponent raised questions that required consulting voter registration binders in the Cook County Clerk's office to authenticate signatures and other information provided on Sessoms' petitions.

Although both challenges were dismissed, Sessoms acknowledged, "It tied up 5-10 of my volunteer staff for nearly three weeks, during a peak period for planning and fund raising. It was also an incredible waste of our public servants' time and taxpayer money, in terms of several Board of Elections clerks who had to do the verifications."

Sessoms says he is putting the petition challenges behind him and concentrating on the next few weeks leading up to the February 5 election. "It proves you can run a clean campaign and prevail." He expressed confidence in his name recognition as a former deputy public defender and executive director of the Southside Branch of the NAACP. "My goal as judge of the 5<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit is to continue serving my community - especially those who need it most."



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It's hard to believe that on January 15, 2008 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will have turned 79 years old, but the stark reality today is socially, racially, economically and educationally the civil rights gains of the 1960's are fast eroding.

As the world celebrates this national holiday, Dr. King's unfinished agenda continues to unravel. Affirmative action is under attack, a resurgence of hate crimes raises its ugly head, fewer dollars granted for federally subsidized healthcare, hospitals and schools closing, a growing foreclosure crises, warnings of global warning, talk of a recession, police brutality on the rise, more than 2 million in prisons and jails, shootings and violence increasing, high school dropouts on the rise, drugs and a sense of hopelessness on the upswing.

Dr. King, we miss your guidance, your wisdom, and the hope you gave us, but we thank you for being a human sacrifice so that today African Americans can enjoy basic human rights.

We thank you, Dr. King for going against the grain and putting your life and reputation on the line by raising the issue of peace rather than bombs. We praise your display of non-violence in your quest for equality.

We thank you, Dr. King for coming out of the pulpit into the streets for the good of mankind. By so doing, you have raised the bar for all preachers and your inner strength and belief of racial harmony continue to unite both races for a better America.

No, Dr. King, you were not just a dreamer. You were a man of action-a master change-maker and today blacks, whites, Asians and Africans continue to echo your words of fairness as they work to complete your unfinished agenda.

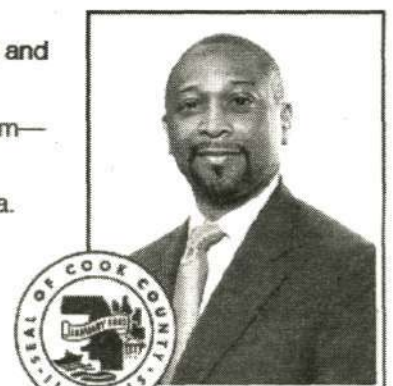
You were living proof of being a civil rights leader who was not for sale and we thank you for being un-bossed and un-bought and for raising the bar of social justice.

But, I suspect if Dr. King were alive today, he would have led the Jena Six marches that protested the two-tiered judicial system—one for blacks, a less stringent one for whites and the subsequent displays of nooses and Swastikas all across America.

You, Dr. King, are the master teacher of social change, and I hope some day, this nation will complete your unfinished agenda.

Happy birthday, Dr. King, and we miss your moral leadership.

**Todd H. Stroger**  
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners



(Continued from page 3)

# The new Chief issues

tions into the allegations of misconduct and disbanding the Special Operations Unit. But we must do even more," he said.

"I will be serving two groups of people," he said. "I will be serving the Chicago Police Department with a great deal of enthusiasm and pride, but I also will be serving the community, and it's a balancing act."

The Mayor identified numerous challenges the City and the new superintendent must address.

These include: Using all the tools to go after the drug kingpins and gang thugs, and using technology - especially the use of neighborhood safety cameras - to help prevent crime. Continuing efforts to install cameras in police cars to record traffic stops and other interactions with the community.

Again Chicago is imposing on hiring more police officers with the issue of the lack of black police officers.

In addition Daley is calling for the new system to replace OPS, which is called the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA). Some critics question the independence because all members are appointed by the Mayor. It forwards all complaints filed against police officers to the department's internal affairs division.

The City reports IPRA final summary reports must be open to public inspection, except to the extent that information contained therein is exempted from disclosure by the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, collective bargaining agreement, or any other applicable law.

According to Father Pfleger, "We've experienced a lot of negativity about the plan but if the structure works well, the police will be very happy. If police are falsely accused the matter will be handled properly under a fair and just system to everybody, the citizens of Chicago as well as the Chicago Police Department."

## Sharpton to petition Olympic

Reverend Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network, announce the elevation of a campaign to remedy the pattern and practice of police misconduct and abuse against citizens. Rev. Sharpton announced that he will petition the International Olympic Committee to reject Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Olympics in wake of a pattern and practice of police brutality and misconduct if the mayor and city officials do to take concrete steps to deal with the rampant police brutality.

Citing international human rights law, the civil rights leader said "I will meet with the International Olympic Committee to ask it to reject the city's bid to host the 2016 Olympics unless it immediately institutes police reforms."

While speaking to reporters on the fifth-floor of City Hall, where Mayor Richard M. Daley holds office, Rev. Sharpton was flanked by a group of legal experts, religious and com-

munity leaders who have been in the forefront of fighting police misconduct, which expands more than two decades.

Participants included Atty. Lewis Myers, Jr., who is spearheading a legal team, and Rev. Marshall Hatch, who is leading efforts to organize the ecumenical and lay community.

"We are standing here to serve notice on Mayor Richard M. Daley that until there is a remedy for the pattern and practice of police misconduct in Chicago; we are prepared to recommend to the International Olympic Committee to refuse the city's bid to serve as the site of the 2016 Olympics," Rev. Sharpton said.

Rev. Sharpton also said "we are targeting the Olympics--because Chicago has become an international embarrassment and this unchecked behavior must end."

Documents will be released to the U.S. Justice Department and to the world community in Sharpton's efforts to draw international support for the U.S. campaign against police torture, brutality and official misconduct. "We intend to



Rev. Al Sharpton and Atty. Lewis Myers, Jr. leads the legal team



release our findings to the Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro and Madrid who are competing against Chicago for then 2016 Olympics, and it is our contention that the United States should not be rewarded for violating the human rights of its citizens," Rev. Sharpton said. The International Olympic Committee will select the host city in 2009.

Based on a manifesto presented by Rev. Sharpton and his group, the Chicago Police Department continues to violate the human and civil rights of its citizens under 42 U.S.C. 14141 -Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement--State and Local Law Enforcement--Police Pattern or Practice which address a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that cause a violation of in appropriate pattern or practice.

Rev. Sharpton also released a list of recommendations included; disciplinary complaints against officers and their disposition be maintained during and for seven years following an officer's employment; call for an immediate federal investigation under the Omnibus Act.

In his first remarks after being named, Weis acknowledged the hurdle.

Weis also established credibility with the community by prosecuting crimes against Arab-Americans. Under Weis' command, the FBI helped win the conviction of a Philadelphia woman on hate-crime charges for slipping notes such as "Remember 9/11" and "You and your children will pay" under the door of her Arab-American supervisor at a Philadelphia hotel.

"I will be serving two groups of people," he said. "I will be serving the Chicago Police Department with a great deal of enthusiasm and pride, but I also will be serving the community, and it's a balancing act."

# Marc A. Wiley CORNER CAFE



I have been contacted over the past week for my comments about Senator Obama's recent win for the Democratic Iowa Caucus. I have always been forward on my opinion when it comes to candidates. I have monitored this man for quite sometime now from his travels to Africa and appearances with Oprah Winfrey. I reflect back to his rising star status since the announcement he is running for President. Speaking with others about Senator Obama for President has some mixed views. Individuals I have spoken with from a multitude of backgrounds have given me strong opinions. Will Obama have the support of the "whole" black community or just a few asked a Senior citizens from Ford Heights? He speaks very well and has lots of charm, but can he run the country asked an African American citizen from Hazel Crest? I would be concerned for his safety is the response from a middle age Polish American Man from Glenwood. Let's talk about it in the cafe.

## Race Should Not Be The Issue

What would make crowds flock to see and hear the man who symbolizes the promised dramatic change Americans crave. Obama's words are soothing and energizing, there's no doubt. He's a younger, appealing candidate. But he's more. He's black. And electing an educated, sophisticated and seemingly kind man with African-American lineage to the White House could help effectively ease the subconscious guilt some white Americans feel for the injustices American blacks have suffered throughout our nation's history. The draw for "The Great Debaters" for me was the fact that one of my favorites, Denzel Washington, played the key character. Washington played Melvin Tolson, a free-thinking literary professor in the late 30s and early 40s who mentored Texas' Wiley College debate team to unprecedented victory. Everyone loves the story of a self-sacrificing teacher or coach whose students are challenged to achieve beyond their wildest dreams. "The Great Debat-

ers" is one of those stories. But after getting into Robert Eisele's story line, one quickly realizes "The Great Debaters" is more complicated than simply retelling a small college team's struggle. Because the setting is about a black college in the Jim Crow-ruled South, its real theme is racial and social injustice.

Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios produced the film and it was brilliantly directed by Denzel Washington, who also played the starring role. Being the film's release correlated with Oprah's public endorsement of Barack Obama for president, one has to suspect an underlying political strategy that has been a part of the American public's warming to the idea of a black president.

Let's hope the reason Barack Obama continues to rise in prominence is because of the majority of Americans are convinced he's qualified to run the world's most successful democratic republic and not because we've been made to feel guilty for the sins of other's forefathers. Electing Barack Obama for president should not be mistaken as a chance to make up for past injustices. While the thought of such relief is nonetheless appealing and comforting, it's just not enough.

I would suggest the American Voters look at the qualifications of a candidate and not just because of their ethnic background. Cook County and Chicago voters are still dealing with the election of Cook County Board President Todd Stroger and giving Rod Blagojevich another term to run this State. Both elected by African American majority. In my personal opinion, I would not put Senator Obama in the same category as these two elected officials. But be informed at the polls!

In the next upcoming week, I will discuss the elections covering the Cook County States Attorney's Office and several State Representatives races in the Southland.

## Police Torture Settlement

commuted the sentences of every death row inmate in the state.

Wallace "Gator" Bradley, now known as The Urban Translator will be speaking soon in a regular column in the South Street Journal regarding the innocent in jail.

Right now Gator is celebrating the fact that on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday he was a part of the historic police brutality legal settlement being signed that will bring multi millions of dollars to split between victims like Aaron Patterson and others. The accusations are like something out of a wartime prison: electric shock and cattle prods; near suffocation with a

typewriter bag; mock executions with a pistol. Gator says that he has a lot to talk about, like proposing that The Chicago City Colleges develop a new curriculum of civic education.

Patterson now sits in federal jail sentenced on what he says are false charges by the City, and the FBI due to his political involvement and the law suit. Patterson's release from prison made him an important symbol for opponents of police torture. But just two years later, a federal jury convicted him on drug and gun charges.

He is now suing one of the attorneys that represented him leading to his conviction.



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# News Briefs Cont'

(Continued from page 2)

Schools and City Colleges, a total of \$55 million over five years as part of a comprehensive settlement agreement that resolves numerous ongoing legal disputes, and provides benefits for the City and ComEd customers in Chicago in the areas of energy efficiency, project prioritization and system improvements.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the City will drop its appeal of an Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) decision in ComEd's 2005 rate case. The agreement also resolves the following legal matters: the City's lawsuit against ComEd to recover environmental remediation costs incurred by the City at property bounded by 118th, 119th, Loomis and Racine Streets (the City continues to pursue this litigation against other defendants); municipal code citations related to placement of ComEd poles; emergency services costs incurred by the City related to ComEd outages and fires; costs incurred by ComEd as a result of dig-ins by City crews; and costs incurred by ComEd for construction relocations.

The Chicago Police Department faces numerous abuse allegations, including two highly publicized bar beatings caught on tape. In an effort to restore public trust, the mayor's office takes control of the agency that investigates police misconduct complaints.

It costs the city of Chicago \$24 million each year in police misconduct lawsuits.

## Ald. Sandi Jackson named to Democratic National Committee

Given her years of service, dedication and expertise in Democratic politics, Chicago Alderman Sandi Jackson (7th Ward) was named by Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean to serve on the Rules Committee of the upcoming 2008 Democratic National Convention. Jackson is one of 25 elected officials personally selected by Dean to assist in the coronation of the Democratic Party's nominee for President of the United States.



## Park Dist 2008 Capital Improvement

Three times during his nearly 27 years in prison, Charles Chatman went before a parole board and refused to admit he was a rapist. His steadfastness was vindicated Thursday, when a judge released him because of new DNA evidence showing he indeed wasn't. The release of

Chatman, 47, added to Dallas County's nationally unmatched number of wrongfully convicted inmates. "Every time I'd go to parole, they'd want a description of the crime or my version of the crime," Chatman said. "I don't have a version of the crime. I never committed the crime. I never will admit to doing this crime that I know I didn't do."

## HIV/AIDS Numbers Worse Than Previously Thought

A new report on the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic will soon be released by the Department of Health and Human Services and is expected to convey that the new HIV/AIDS case estimates are 50 percent higher than previously believed by federal health officials. This new information demands greater national attention and action. Unlike the United States, other nations - such as many in the Caribbean and in sub-Saharan Africa - have national plans to address HIV/AIDS and are starting to see results. In fact, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) recently reported lower HIV/AIDS numbers in the global community; changes that are due to better reporting and surveillance. And while they do not suggest that 33 million - instead of 39 million - global HIV/AIDS cases is acceptable, they do indicate that attention to the global pandemic - though still flawed - has yielded positive results.

## U.S. Falters in Terror Case Against 7 in Miami

One of seven indigent men charged with plotting to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago as part of an Islamic jihad was acquitted on Thursday, and a mistrial was declared in the prosecution of the six others after the jury said it was hopelessly deadlocked.

The outcome was a significant defeat for the Bush administration, which had described the case as a major crackdown on homegrown

terrorists.

Officials had acknowledged that the defendants, known as the Liberty City Seven for the depressed section of Miami where they frequently gathered in a rundown warehouse, had never acquired weapons or equipment and had posed no immediate threat. But, the officials said, the case underscored a need for preemptive terrorism prosecutions.

In acquitting Lyglenson Lemorin, 32, a Haitian immigrant who was cast by the prosecution as a junior foot soldier in the group, the jurors were compelled by evidence that suggested he had tried "to distance himself" from the others, Jeffrey Agron, the jury foreman, said outside the courthouse.

Mr. Lemorin had split with the group's leader, Narseal Batiste, 33, and moved to Atlanta months before the seven were arrested last year, according to The Associated Press.

As for the six defendants on whom the jury deadlocked, the United States attorney's office here said Thursday that it would retry them. The judge, Joan A. Lenard, ordered jury selection for the retrial to begin Jan. 7 and barred prosecution and defense lawyers from discussing Thursday's outcome with reporters.

The defendants - five Americans and two Haitians - worked in a small construction business owned by Mr. Batiste and were members of the Moorish Science Temple, a sect that blends Islam, Christianity and Judaism and does not recognize the authority of the United States government.



Seniors, Do it now! "Before Its Too Late. Lorene Richardson University of Chicago Retiree and Bill Barker Sears Roebuck and co. Recently appeared with George O'Hare (also a Sears Retiree) on a special senior network Chicago can TV cable 19 TV show entitle "before its too late. Ms. Richardson and Mr. Barker told of how extremely challenging it is for senior citizens to make the right decisions about their very important medicare part D prior to the deadline of December 31, 2007. For those who need help they can go to the website www.medicare.gov then click on the top line that reads "medicare drug plans 2008 plan data" on the next page they can enter your current prescriptions one by one. If the do not have computer access or skill they can call toll free 800 MEDICARE.



## A 114-year old woman registered to vote


in the U.S. elections on Thursday. Virginia Call was visited by the chairman of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners to enlist in the official book of voters, thus enabling her to participate in the presidential polls next month. She registered on her birthday and the family, who is unable to present her birth certificate, showed a family Bible as evidence of her birth date. Call was an active voter until around the '80s. She has since moved in with her grandson, 80-year-old John H. Taylor, who failed to update the voter registration record of the family. The registrant was in a wheelchair wearing a blue sweater and white cap on her head when she enlisted.

IN COMMEMORATION OF  
**Dr. Martin Luther King**  
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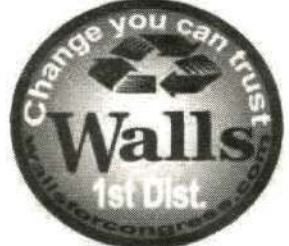



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# Ministers for Brookins Center

By Ron Jenkins  
Staff Writer

A group of some of the most influential members of the Chicago area clergy have endorsed Howard B. Brookins, Jr. for Cook County State's Attorney. "The church is a vital component of our campaign, says Brookins. Brookins adds, "We have picked up a tremendous amount of support from the clergy throughout Cook County and we will continue to seek their endorsement by speaking "truth to power."

At a minister's breakfast for Brookins held at the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church of Reverend Joseph Felker, located at 2976 South Wabash on, preacher's came together to announced their support for Brookins as well as to offer strategies to galvanize their respective faith communities. With a sign posted on the wall that said, Howard B. Brookins, Jr. for Cook County States Attorney "Justice For All Now"

Calling the primary elections "a historic time for African-Americans", Reverend Walter Turner urged his fellow pastors to support Howard B. Brookins, Jr. for Cook County State's Attorney.

Following Reverend Turner's lead, more than three-dozen prominent pastors pledged their support and resources to getting Brookins elected during a ceremony at Providence Missionary Baptist Church on the South Side.

Brookins, visibly humbled by the outpouring of support from such a

high level group of African American clergymen, proclaimed it "a great day for our campaign." Added Brookins, "I am ecstatic and I know that this endorsement will provide the lift and momentum we need to carry us to victory on February 5th."

Reverend Turner, who is President of the Baptist Minister's Conference of Chicago and Vicinity, proclaimed to the group that, "Howard Brookins is the most qualified candidate in the race and he is the only candidate who can bring about the kind of change necessary to restore the faith in the criminal justice system that so many of our people have lost."

Reverend Turner went on to urge the pastors to stress the importance of the State's Attorney's race to all of their parishioners. "This race", said Turner, "is about change. Not only for this generation, but change for unborn generations to come, and Howard Brookins will bring about that change."

Chuck Bowen said the meeting was "to ignite support for the next States Attorney, a candidate who will practice justice for all." Even though the media was invited to attend the event, John E. Davis, Press Secretary for the Brookins campaign, reminded the minister's that "the media will tell you there will be no campaign until we say it will be a campaign. The media is not here. The only media here is South Street Journal. We don't mind if the media comes or don't come. Like a submarine runs silent but when we come up be ready for bat-

tle." Rev. Willie Doss, Rev. Clifford Tyler, Rev. J. Leon Tyler, Deacon Sam Smith Representing Rev. Bar-

bara, Minister Angel Gomez, Rev. Thomas A. Barclay, Rev. Larry Roberts, Sr., Rev. Darnell Griffin, Rev. James Sanders, Rev. Leroy Elliott,

Rev. Arthur Gould, Rev. Marshall Sutton, Rev. Charles Jenkins, Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Felker - Rev. Felker hosted the event..

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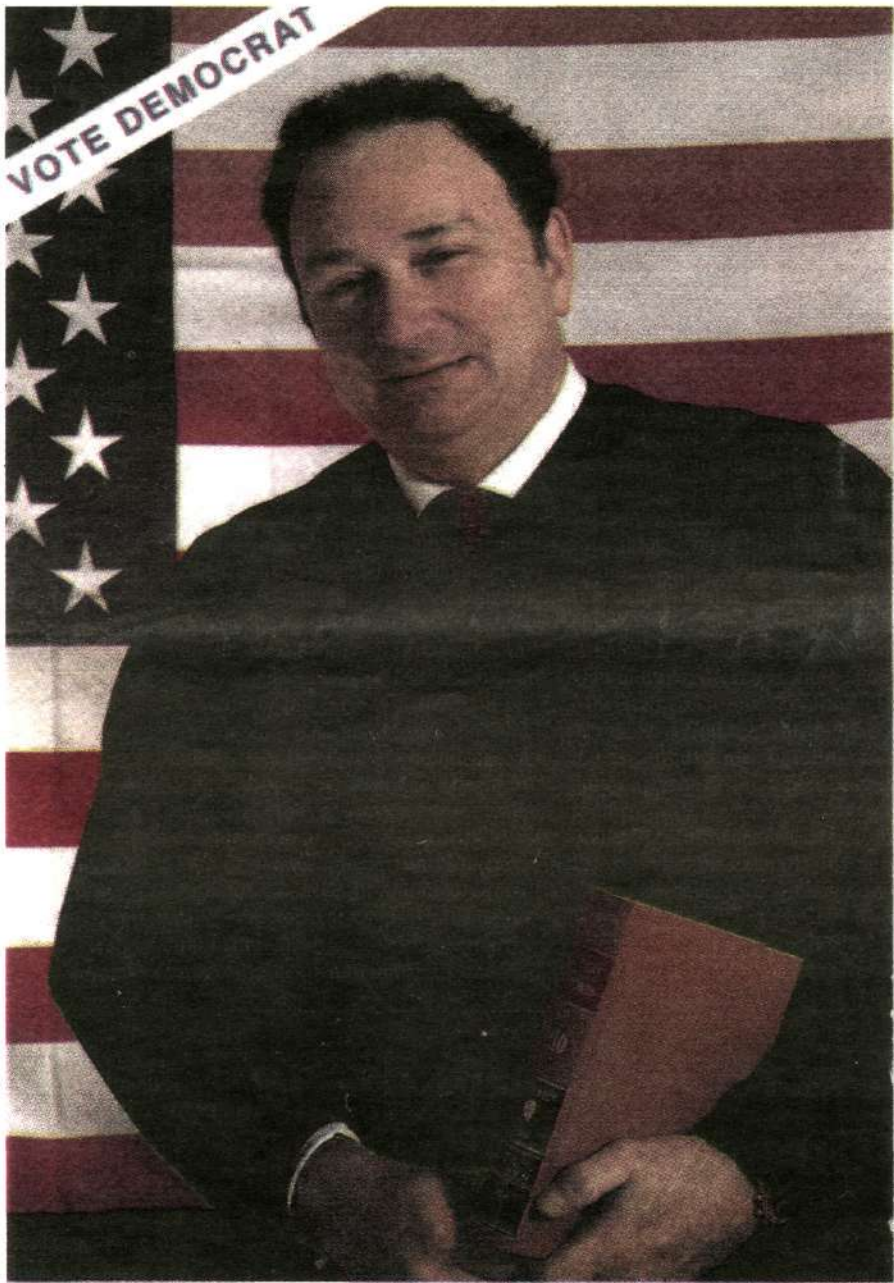
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## Chicago's Next Great Senator??

By: Okema J. McLoyd

Is Chicago really in store for another Super-Senator? That's the question that comes to mind about Jonathan Bedi, a very promising 5<sup>th</sup> Ward candidate. His outstanding resume and educational background is outdone only by his genuine and undying love for Chicago. If nothing else, Bedi is sure to win the popularity of the people.

Bedi has been a long time community supporter going back to college. While attending law school at the Washington College of Law, Bedi taught a government class to students at an underprivileged high school in Washington D.C. While in college, Bedi also focused on helping underserved citizens by volunteering legal services to needy residents in the area. Even then, Bedi says "he wanted to move back to Chicago to live, raise his family and work to make a positive difference in the community. Jonathan Bedi hopes to bring economic prosperity to the west side's 5<sup>th</sup> district by utilizing all resources including private partnerships and maintaining a well working relationship with other city and community leaders. "It's not all about passing legislation," Bedi says. He will continuously support a close relationship with the community to ensure that their needs are met.

Reaching out to the community, Jonathan Bedi is working to provide single parent homes increased access to childcare and after school programs. Bedi will provide incentives to attract more medical professionals to the underserved community. He is also seeking innovative ideas and resources to create living wage jobs for citizens. Bedi seems to have thought long and hard about his future plans as Illinois State Senator, not to downplay his already impressive history as a community activist in Chicago and abroad.

Bedi has already begun to utilize several different resources to help prepare our children for the future. He plans to provide schools with the funding needed to ensure the area's kids receive a quality education. Bedi also worked with the Urban Synergy program whose mission is to improve the quality of life for young people and

create opportunities to increase educational and vocational experiences.

As Senator, Bedi plans to make the community safer and less vulnerable to crime and drugs by working with law enforcement. Bedi also plans to develop and expand ex-offender programs. Bedi values equal rights and opportunities for all. He hopes to provide rehabilitated non-violent offenders with more opportunities for job training and placement by working with local businesses.

Chicago's west side 5<sup>th</sup> District is very unique. This is because the 5<sup>th</sup> District is the most economically, racially and socially diverse area in the state of Illinois. Bedi says life experiences have prepared him to deal with such a multicultural area. He was raised in a multi-cultural family. His father was a first generation immigrant and his mother American. Bedi also attended school in Brazil where he experienced life as a minority first hand. Bedi's wife is also Chinese-American. He appreciates the value of diversity and respects the many cultures that populate this place we call "home."



Jonathan Bedi says he felt encouraged to join community organizations such as P.E.A.K. Partnership to Educate and Advance Kids, where he is a youth mentor on Chicago's west side. The

National Organization of Women was especially impressive to Bedi because he values and is concerned about women's rights. Bedi joined the NOW organization and says he is appreciative of his strong, independent mother, sister who is a lawyer in Michigan and his loving wife who are all supportive of him.

Bedi is confident that he has what it takes to bring about a positive change in the 5<sup>th</sup> District and he feels the area is long over due for help. Bedi feels Mayor Daley is doing a great job with the city but admits that the west side has been neglected while the rest of Chicago is growing. Bedi hopes to be a voice for the 5<sup>th</sup> District and address the people's issues and concerns as Senator. Bedi reminds me of the same driving passion for the people that continues to elevate Senator Obama.

### Inter-National

## Italian Says 9-11 Solved



**It's common knowledge, he reveals, CIA, Mossad behind terror attacks**

*American Free Press* -Former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who revealed the existence of Operation Gladio, has told Italy's oldest and most widely read newspaper that the 9-11 terrorist attacks were run by the CIA and Mossad, and that this was common knowledge among global intelligence agencies.

In what translates awkwardly into English, Cossiga told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera*: "All the [intelligence services] of America and Europe...know well that the disastrous attack has been planned and realized from the Mossad, with the aid of the Zionist world in order to put under accusation the Arabic countries and in order to induce the western powers to take part ... in Iraq [and] Afghanistan."

Cossiga was elected president of the Italian Senate in July 1983 before winning a landslide election to become president of the country in 1985, and he remained until 1992.

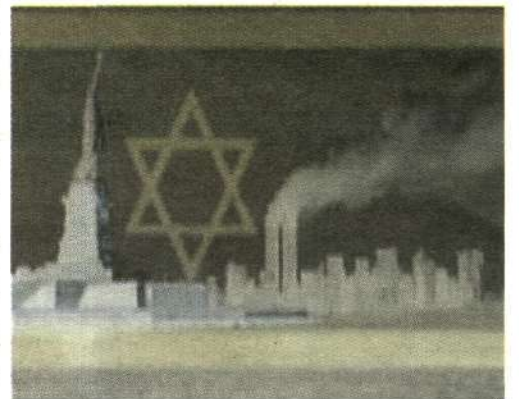
Cossiga's tendency to be outspoken upset the Italian political establishment, and he was forced to resign after revealing the existence of, and his part in setting up, Operation Gladio. This was a rogue intelligence network under NATO auspices that carried out bombings

across Europe in the 1960s, 1970s and '80s. Gladio's specialty was to carry out what they termed "false flag" operations—terror attacks that were blamed on their domestic and geopolitical opposition. In March 2001, Gladio agent Vincenzo Vinciguerra stated, in sworn testimony, "You had to attack civilians, the people, women, children, innocent people, unknown people far removed from any political game. The reason was quite simple: to force ... the public to turn to the state to ask for greater security."

Cossiga first expressed his doubts about 9-11 in 2001, and is quoted by 9-11 researcher-Webster Tarpley saying "The mastermind of the attack must have been a sophisticated mind, provided with ample means not only to recruit fanatic kamikazes, but also highly specialized personnel. "I add one thing: it could not be accomplished without infiltrations in the radar and flight security personnel."

Coming from a widely respected former head of state, Cossiga's assertion that the 9-11 attacks were an inside job and that this is common knowledge among global intelligence agencies is illuminating. It is one more eye-opening confirmation that has not been mentioned by America's propaganda machine in print or on TV. Nevertheless, because of his experience and status in the world, Cossiga cannot be discounted as a crackpot.

SOURCE: [www.americanfreepress.net](http://www.americanfreepress.net).



First introduced in *Freakonomics*, here is the full story of

# Sudhir Venkatesh,

the sociology grad student who infiltrated one of Chicago's most notorious gangs

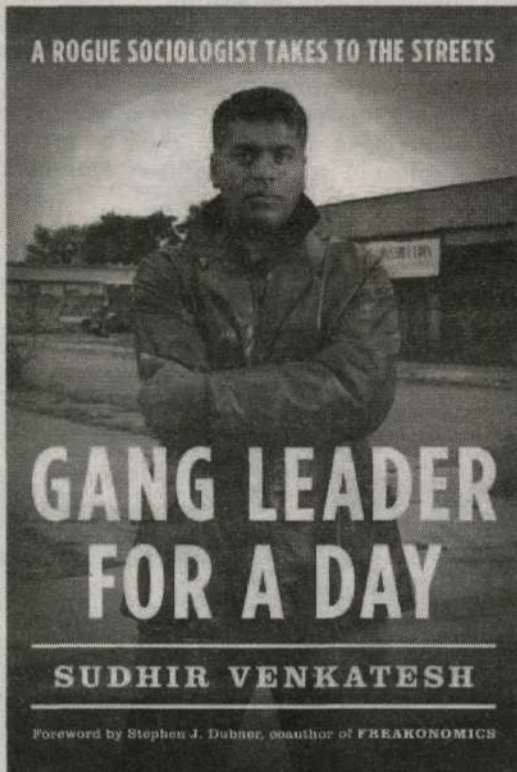
The story of the young sociologist who studied a Chicago crack-dealing gang from the inside captured the world's attention when it was first described in *Freakonomics*. *Gang Leader for a Day* is the fascinating full story of how Sudhir Venkatesh managed to gain entrée into the gang, what he learned, and how his method revolutionized the academic establishment.

When Venkatesh walked into an abandoned building in one of Chicago's most notorious housing projects, he was looking for people to take a multiple-choice survey on urban poverty. A first-year grad student hoping to impress his professors with his boldness, he never imagined that as a result of the assignment he would befriend a gang leader named JT and spend the better part of a decade inside the projects under JT's protection, documenting what he saw there.

Over the next seven years, Venkatesh got to know the neighborhood dealers, crackheads, squatters, prostitutes, pimps, activists, cops, organizers, and officials. From his privileged position of unprecedented access, he observed JT and the rest of the gang as they operated their crack-selling business, conducted PR within their community, and rose up or fell within the ranks of the gang's complex organizational structure.

In Hollywood-speak, *Gang Leader for a Day* is *The Wire* meets Harvard University. It's a brazen, page turning, and fundamentally honest view into the morally ambiguous, highly intricate, often corrupt struggle to survive in what is tantamount to an urban war zone. It is also the story of a complicated friendship between Sudhir and JT—two young and ambitious men a universe apart.

*Gang Leader for a Day* is not another voyeuristic look into the supposedly tawdry, disorganized life of the black poor. Venkatesh entered the Chicago gang world at the height of the crack epidemic and what he found was a tightly organized community, held together by



friendship and compassion as well as force. I couldn't stop reading, and ended up loving this brave, reckless young scholar, as well as the gang leader J.T., who has to be one of the greatest characters ever to emerge from something that could be called sociological research."

-- Barbara Ehrenreich  
*"Gang Leader for a Day* is an absolutely incredible book. Sudhir Venkatesh's memoir of his years observing life in Chicago's inner city is a book unlike any other I have read, equal parts comedy and tragedy. How is it that a naive suburban kid ends up running a crack gang (if only for a day) on his way

to becoming one of the world's leading scholars? You have to read it to find out, but heed this warning: don't pick up the book unless you have a few hours to spare because I promise you will not be able to put it down once you start."

--Steven D. Levitt, co-author, *Freakonomics*  
"This extraordinary book features the fascinating research of a brilliant young sociologist. Sudhir Venkatesh spent several years closely interacting with crack-selling gang members and struggling poor residents in a large and very dangerous public housing project in Chicago. His riveting portrait of day-to-day life in this poor community, including the challenges confronting parents in a drug-infested and violent social environment, is disturbing. But, *Gang Leader for a Day* is rich with original information and insights on poor families, drug dealers and even the police. It will leave an indelible impression on readers."

--William Julius Wilson, Harvard University Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser Professor

"Whether you enjoy fiction, history, or biography you'll be drawn to Venkatesh's gripping retelling of his experiences in the Robert Taylor Homes. *Gang Leader for a Day* poignantly reminds us that there continue to be separate and unequal Americas that ultimately impact us all."

--Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)



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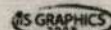
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In honor of the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Let us carry on his work



# Stephanie Neely

Treasurer, City of Chicago

[www.chicagocitytreasurer.com](http://www.chicagocitytreasurer.com)



In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech, even now it is still one of the most inspirational speeches ever. It serves as a timely reminder and inspiration to how insignificant his words are today.

As there are many question to ask him, of the trails and tributaries of the movement he lead, this Q & A is just a reminder of how the past still have influence on the fu-

ture.

The mock participation in providing a positive impact with a message that can carry his words in on-going issues of SSJ.

This newspaper will remain an affluent readership and relevant to the progressive moves in our neighborhoods and to greater the greater good of Chicago and the world.

Sincerely,

*Ron Carter*

Ron Carter, publisher and editor

### BIOGRAPHY

Martin Luther King the great civil rights leader was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later decided to change his name to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tradition as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta when he served from 1914 to 1931. Martin's father also served there, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as assistant pastor.

King attended segregated public schools in Georgia. He graduated from high school at the age of fifteen. Later he received his B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College. He then studied in theology at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was eventually elected president of a mostly white class. Dr King was awarded the B.D. in 1951. He enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, finally completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953. He received his degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott. As ac result of their union two sons and two daughters were born into the famiy.

In 1954, King decided to accept the pastoral of the

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in M bama. Dr King was, by this time, a me tive committee of the National Associ vancement of Colored People, the lea of its kind in the nation. In December, the leadership of the first great Negro stration of modern times. This act fin preceded success as by Decembe preme Court of the United States dec tional the laws requiring segregation and whites rode the buses as equals. Dr King was arrested regularly, his he he was subjected to personal abuse, stop his passionate civil rights camp;

On the evening of April 4 1968, wh balcony of his motel room in Memphi where he was to lead a protest march striking garbage workers of that city, nated.



# In His Own Words

And there is no separate white path to power and fulfillment, short of social disaster, that does not share that power with black aspirations for freedom and human dignity. We are bound together in a single garment of destiny.

We must stand up and say, "I'm black and I'm beautiful," and this self-affirmation is the black man's need, made compelling by the white man's crimes against him.

**SSI:** Your Religious Development has been a very substantive part of your life, how was this developed?

**King:** It is quite easy for me to think of a God of love mainly because I grew up in a family where love was central and where lovely relationships were ever present.

My parents would always tell me that I should not hate the white man, but that it was my duty as a Christian to love him.

Even though I have never had an abrupt conversion experience, religion has been real to me and closely knitted to life. In fact the two cannot be separated; religion for me is life.

**SSI:** Here in Chicago we have more churches than businesses, and more churches that goes opposite of the will of the people. It is putting a negative taste in the minds of many with the church leadership.

**King:** There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period when the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society. Whenever the early Christians entered a town the power structure got disturbed and immediately sought to convict them for being "disturbers of the peace" and "outside agitators." But they went on with the conviction that they were "a colony of heaven," and had to obey God rather than man. They were small in number but big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be "astronomically intimidated." They brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contest.

We will win our freedom because the sacred heritage of our nation and the eternal will of God are embodied in our echoing demands.



**SSI:** This year is a presidential election, there is a chance for a major historical change, in which there is a cloud of fear upon White people and some Blacks, Barack Obama will win. How would you address this concern?

**King:** Courage is the power of the mind to overcome fear....

But be assured that we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and one day we will win our freedom. We will not only win freedom for ourselves; we will appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory

will be a double victory.

**SSI:** Another concern with this election is that many of your associates here in Chicago do not support Obama, and the others take the position of being silent. How do we address issues such as this in leadership?

**SSI:** ... Speech in Memphis, April 3, 1968, the day before King was assassinated

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.... Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. ....

"Cowardice asks the question - is it safe? Expediency asks the question - is it politic? Vanity asks the question - is it popular? But conscience asks the question - is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but one must take it because it is right."....

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity...

The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict ....We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.



**SSI:** How do you address the concern of the "N" word that once was considered very degrading. Now, it is developing a new meaning of acceptance

rappers (see Entertainment), and Dave Chappelle comedic strip joking with the term. And now a Taiwan store selling a clothing line with your name 'Nigger King'. What is the physic of the word, do you see a self hatred among black people now ?

**King:** Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.

As long as the mind is enslaved, the body can never be free. Psychological freedom, a firm sense of self-esteem, is the most powerful weapon against the long night of physical slavery. .... And, with a spirit straining toward true self-esteem, the Negro must boldly throw off the manacles of self-abnegations and say to himself and to the world...with dignity and honor. I have a rich and noble history.

**SSI:** Police misconduct is an issue that continues, even though the Chicago Police Department has the Office of Professional Standards that investigates police misconduct. There are two prominent community representatives on its board, Rev. Michael Phleger and Atty. André Grant. Should this be a direction to address the ill actions of police?

**King:** "It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important."

**SSI:** On the war in Iraq, most Americans did accept President Bush attack on the country because of 911. Bush was in some ways given a mandate to "Get Even" with a growing hatred of what happen on that day. What is your take on 911?

**King:** As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my



deepest compassion while in a situation that social change can come through nonviolent action. rightly so — what about violence to solve its problems if our own nation wanted. They knew that I could never agree against the violence of the government. ...Returning without having first spoken purveyor of violence in the government. ...Returning multiplies violence, adding night already devoid of star out hate: only love can do it

...Nonviolence is the answer to the deepest moral and moral questions of our time. It must evolve for all human beings a new foundation of such a method of reducing more wars — must be plunged into the dark abyss

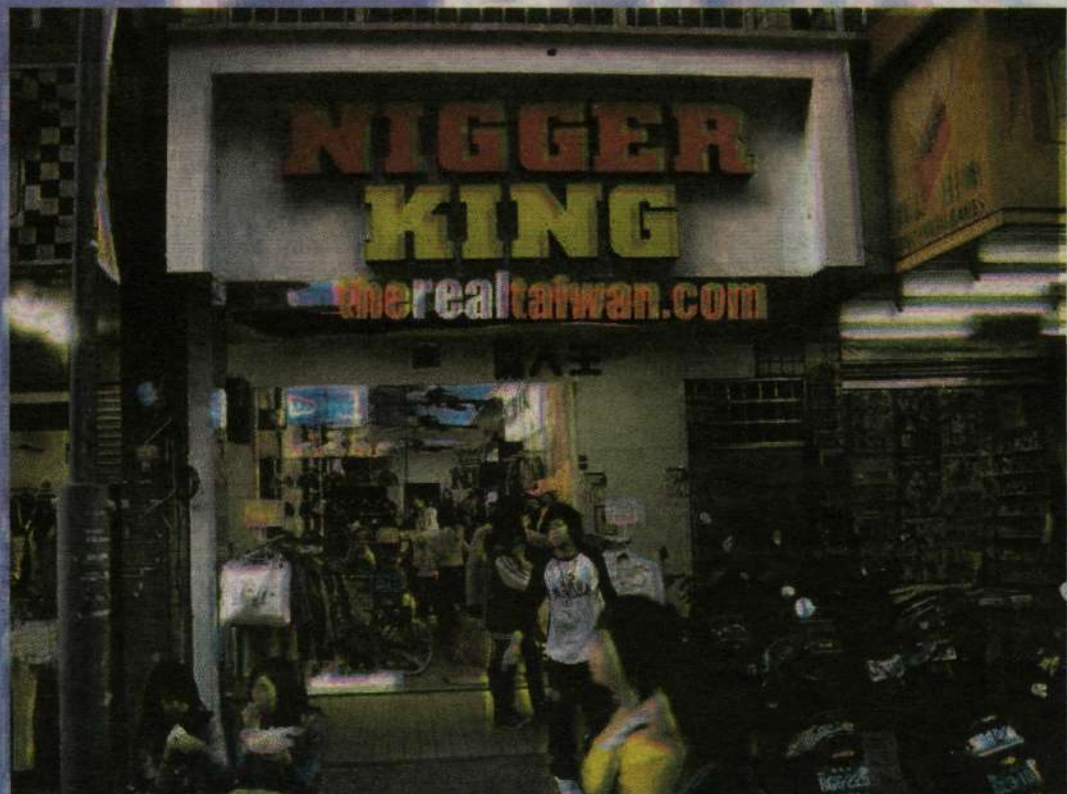
Our scientific power has unleashed a power. We have guided men.

**SSI:** You are now, known as an extremist. No still an extremist even among Whites. What is the physic of social

**King:** When you are too radical; when you are too conservative....

Was not Jesus an extremist for them that despitefully Amos an extremist for just down like waters and right mighty stream." Was not the gospel of Jesus Christ the marks of the Lord Jesus Luther an extremist — "E none other so help me God an extremist — "This nation slave and half free." Was an extremist — "We hold evident, that all men are

So the question is not who is an extremist but what kind of Will we be extremists for



tremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice—or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?

**SSJ:** So what do think of Malcolm X?

**King:** You know, right before he was killed he came down to Selma and said some pretty passionate things against me, and that surprised me because after all it was my territory there. But afterwards he took my wife aside, and said he thought he could help me more by attacking me than praising me. He thought it would make it easier for me in the long run.



**SSJ:** People still question your stance on 'love thy neighbor'.

**King:** I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in some circles today. I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love... I have seen too much hate. I've seen too much hate on the faces of sheriffs in the South. I've seen hate on the faces of too many Klansmen and too many White Citizens Councils in the South to want to hate myself, because every time I see it, I know that it does something to their faces and their personalities and I say to myself that hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we are moving against wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love. He who hates does not know God, but he who has love has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality.

**SSJ:** From those that are at the bottom to those at the top of the social class. There are those of us that can not see a future, 35<sup>th</sup> street is witnessing more homelessness on the streets with a vast number of condos going around them. Chicago has transformed over 20,000 black people from Public Housing over the last five years, many out of the city even to other states, for some it cut down crime, for others, the poor were an eye soar to the city, and then there are those that say, what the city has done to black people here in Chicago is a total shame of the leadership. How do we address the issue of the poor?

**King:** Today the poor are less often dis-



missed, I hope, from our consciences by being branded as inferior or incompetent. We also know that no matter how dynamically the economy develops and expands, it does not eliminate all poverty.

The problem indicates that our emphasis must be twofold. We must create full employment or

we must create incomes. People must be made consumers by one method or the other. Once they are placed in this position we need to be concerned that the potential of the individual is not wasted. New forms of work that enhance the social good will have to be devised for those for whom traditional jobs are not available.

**SSJ:** So for the homeless on the street, and those that are misusing the homelessness and poor status as laziness, that we are not sure of to help?

**King:** "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But then the Good Samaritan came by. And he reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

**SSJ:** Should the Black community accept more from outside of it community as it seeks self alliance?

**King:** We don't have to argue with anybody. We don't have to curse and go around acting bad with our words. We don't need any bricks and bottles, we don't need any Molotov cocktails, we just need to go around to these stores, and to these massive industries in our country, and say, "God sent us by here, to say to you that you're not treating his children right. And we've come by here to ask you to make the first item on your agenda — fair treatment, where God's children are concerned. Now, if you are not prepared to do that, we do have an agenda that we must follow. And our agenda calls for withdrawing economic support from you."

**SSJ:** Does this count for you and others going to jail and even to the point it caused your life?

**King:** I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a butchery of my conscience." In that dramatic scene on Calvary's hill, three men were crucified. We must not forget that all three were crucified for the same crime—the crime of extremism. Two were extremists for immorality, and thusly fell below their environment. The other, Jesus Christ, was an extremist for love, truth and goodness, and thereby rose above his environment.

**SSJ:** So is going to jail in your case, a Declaration of Independence?

**King:** I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.

**SSJ:** Still in your course in life, should it be an example of many to follow?

**King:** As June approaches, with its graduation ceremonies and speeches, a thought suggests itself... Whatever career you may choose for yourself—doctor, lawyer, teacher—let me propose an avocation to be pursued along with it. Become a dedicated fighter for civil rights. Make it a central part of your life. It will make you a better doctor, a better lawyer, a better teacher. It will enrich your spirit as nothing else possibly can. ...Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for human rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.

Excerpted from "The Drum Major Instinct", a sermon by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968. Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's "Theory of Relativity" to serve. You don't have to know the Second Theory of Thermal Dynamics in Physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love, and you can be that servant."

**SSJ:** Where Do We Go From Here?

**King:** Address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (1967-08-16)

Now, in order to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?" which is our theme, we must first honestly recognize where we are now. When the Constitution was written, a strange formula to determine taxes and representation declared that the Negro was sixty percent of a person. Today another curious formula seems to declare that he is fifty percent of a person. Of the good things in life, the Negro has approximately one half those of whites. Of the bad things of life, he has twice those of whites. Thus half of all Negroes live in substandard housing. And Negroes have half

the income of whites. When we view the negative experiences of life, the Negro has a double share. There are twice as many unemployed. The rate of infant mortality among Negroes is double that of whites and there are twice as many Negroes dying in Vietnam as whites in proportion to their size in the population.

...Where do we go from here? First, we must massively assert our dignity and worth. We must stand up amidst a system that still oppresses us and develop an unassailable and majestic sense of values.

This is no time for romantic illusions and empty philosophical debates about freedom. This is a time for action. What is needed is a strategy for change, a tactical program that will bring the Negro into the mainstream of American life as quickly as possible.

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation.



**SSJ:** This newspaper is embarking on a campaign known as the Black Wall Street (Chicago) Economic Summit. The next summit will be March 1, 2008. It will address sustaining and increasing Black businesses and capturing the economics of the communities. How do you view this campaign?

**King:** Now, we are poor people, individually, we are poor when you compare us with white society in America. We are poor. Never stop and forget that collectively, that means all of us together, collectively we are richer than all the nation in the world, with the exception of nine. Did you ever think about that? After you leave the United States, Soviet Russia, Great Britain, West Germany, France, and I could name the others, the Negro collectively is richer than most nations of the world. We have an annual income of more than thirty billion dollars a year (1960s, today 800 billion), which is more than all of the exports of the United States, and more than the national budget of Canada. Did you know that? That's power right there, if we know how to pool it.

**SSJ:** This may be an unfair question but, do you regret you died at a young age of 39, or maybe taken a different route in your ministry?

**King:** Speech in Detroit, June 23, 1963. I decided early to give my life to something eternal and absolute. Not to these little gods that are here today and gone tomorrow, but to God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. (1963-02-04) Every now and then I guess we all think realistically about that day when we will be victimized with what is life's final common denominator — that something we call death. We all think about it. And every now and then I think about my own death, and I think about my own funeral. And I don't think of it in a morbid sense. Speech at Civil Rights March on Washington, August 28, 1963. I submit to you that if a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live....

If physical death is the price that I must pay to free my white brothers and sisters from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive. Every now and then I ask myself, "What is it that I would want said?" And I leave the word to you this morning.

**SSJ:** What should I tell people about you?

**King:** Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize, that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards, that's not important. Tell him not to mention where I went to school.

I'd like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. ... that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody. ... I tried to be right on the war question. ... say that I did try, in my life, to clothe those who were naked. ...that I did try, in my life, to visit those who were in prison. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness.

**SSJ:** Thank you Dr. King for your time again.

**King:** And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here



Montgomery, Alabama, of the execution for the Ad- ding organization 1955, he accepted nonviolent demon- ally met with un- r 21, 1956, the Su- ared unconstitu- on buses, Negroes During these days me was bombed, but he didn't let this signing. 1st standing on the s, Tennessee, in sympathy with he was assassi-

ords



maintaining my convic- es most meaningfully But they asked — and etnam (Iraq)? They sn't using massive doses lems, to bring about the estions hit home, and I ain raise my voice oppressed in the ghettos clearly to the greatest world today — my own violence for violence deeper darkness to a rs... Hate cannot drive hat.

ver to the crucial politi- or time; ... Mankind conflict a method which , and retaliation. The d is love....

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own for your deeds and ring your life you were like Malcolm X, but ng some Black people. l engagement?

right you cannot be wrong, you cannot be

mist for love — "Love that curse you, pray use you." Was not tice — "Let justice roll teousness like a Paul an extremist for — "I bear in my body us." Was not Martin ere I stand; I can do d." Was not John Bun- ot Abraham Lincoln on cannot survive half not Thomas Jefferson these truths to be self- created equal." hether we will be ex- extremist will we be. hate or will we be ex-

Fact & Commentary  
Round Up of **Mark Allen**

(Continued from page 2)  
old Washington. The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr attracted over 7 million votes for President and paved the way for through his national voter registration and voter education drives that created new progressive public policies and new elected officials, and this from a man who never held an elected office.

Who would have thought then State Senator Barack Obama, after suffering a sound defeat after presenting himself as a candidate against Rush for First District Congressman, would become U.S. Senator and now our historic national political leader, breaking fundraising records in his run for the U.S. Presidency. Despite the many critics of Mayor Daley, he continues to defeat any

Black candidate. Voters decided. Despite many national critics that say Obama has no credentials to be Presidency, he is currently before the voters, and they are deciding. And this is what the process needs to be now as voters in the First Congressional District have to decide if they want to continue under the leadership of Congressman Bobby Rush.



We are now in a situation where there more voters not voting than voting and who knows what they will think about various candidates at different times. And based upon the history of how Congressman

Rush has went against critics who said that he should not run for Alderman or Congress, he surely would not oppose Bill "Dock" Walls offering himself as a candidate for First District Congressman in the same manner in which Rush presented himself to the voters over the years. Bill "Dock" Walls has the right to present himself and his public service credentials as a candidate against Rush for Congress. And with all the dynamics of political races including Walls versus Rush, its for the registered voters of the First Congressional District like myself to decide.

# 88 vs. 08



**"When Barack wins," Rev. Jackson said, "it sends another message to the world of what the United States is about." "This is the most important election of our lives," Rep. Conyers said.**



At critical crossroads in our nation's history, leaders of bold strength and compassion have arisen to lead us all to a higher destiny. 1984 is that crossroads and Jesse Jackson is that leader Not since Abraham Lincoln has a candidate for President of the most powerful nation on earth felt more deeply and acted more decisively to meet the cry of the American people for social justice worldwide.

Fresh from the victory by U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) in Iowa's caucuses, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and a diverse panel situated Obama's campaign in the context of Rev. Jackson's Presidential campaigns in 1984 and '88 during today's taping of the "Upfront with Jesse Jackson" radio program.

Butch Wing, national political coordinator for Rainbow PUSH Coalition, noted Rev. Jackson's ability to participate in Asian American and Latino communities, as well as the peace movement in El Salvador, during the 1980s. "Those movements became a part of the Jesse Jackson '84 and '88 campaigns," he said. "They became our issues as we were organizing around the country. Being able to bring all of those groups together became the agenda for the presidential campaign."

Along with Wing, Rev. Jackson was joined on "Upfront" by U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), who chairs the House Judiciary Committee; U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Tex.); Katrina vanden Heuvel, publisher of The Nation

magazine; and Prof. Charles Ogletree of Harvard University Law School. "Barack Obama is following your trail," Ogletree said. "The fact that you were inclusive is what everyone is following up with now. The issues that affected the poor then -- labor, housing, racism -- are coming up now, and we need to address them." "You laid this whole roadmap of hope," Rep. Jackson Lee said, praising Rev. Jackson as a "visionary of hope." Rev. Jackson said America is "ready" for what he outlined 20 years ago, with a leading female candidate in U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and a leading Black candidate in Obama.

"When Barack wins," Rev. Jackson said, "it sends another message to the world of what the United States is about." "This is the most important election of our lives," Rep. Conyers said. "We are all globalists now. You cannot become successful globally if we cannot solve the problems at home. This is the groundwork that makes what you did in '88 so important." Rev. Jackson noted the excitement and optimism of Harold Washington's first mayoral campaign in 1983.

"We believed that Harold could win in Chicago," he said, and the victory energized all who witnessed it. "Rev. Jackson was saying 'free Nelson Mandela' and 'stop apartheid,'" Wing recalled, highlighting Rev. Jackson's foresight in tying South African politics to U.S. campaigns. "At the Democratic convention," Wing said, Rev. Jackson "called these [issues] a 'moral disgrace.' While it sounds common now, back then, these were revolutionary ideas."

"Progressives were birthed by the '84 and '88 campaigns," said Vanden Heuvel, whose magazine endorsed Rev. Jackson in his campaigns. "Now we need to energize this next generation of voters who have grown up with Reagan and now Bush administrations."

Rev. Jackson was in New York City for the Wall Street Project Conference in Manhattan. The "Upfront" program was taped at the historic Trinity Church, America's oldest burial ground for African people. "Upfront with Rev. Jesse Jackson" airs Saturdays at 10 p.m. EST on the WORD Network.

## Senator Obama's Bronzeville Connection

By Beverly Reed  
Featured Writer

Call it a premonition, call it a lucky guess, but I called it like I saw it at the 1st annual Bronzeville School of Film Awards Ceremony presented by Ziff Sistrunk nearly ten years ago. All right, by now, nearly all the organizers in Chicago have told their when I met Obama story. So I guess its alright to tell mine.

I first met Senator Obama as a student at then fledgling Lugenia Burns Hope Center, a leadership development and organizing institute located in the Bronzeville community.

The Center was founded in 1994 by Senator Obama and Centers for New Horizons CEO Dr. Sokoni Karanja. "We recognized that without a organized community whatever we established could be lost," said Karanja.

The Hope Center provides ongoing training to teach organizing skills and techniques to the low-income and working class residents of Bronzeville and other communities in an effort to foster civic engagement and empowerment among the disenfranchised.

Senator Obama not only founded the class he also taught us organizing techniques. Before you can serve an individual or group you must determine their self interest. *In order to determine an individuals or group's self-interest you must determine where that individual spends their time, energy and money.* I have never forgotten that dictum, what I refer to as the organizers golden rule. That knowledge continues to assist me in all aspects of my life.

Several years later after apprenticing at the South Street Journal, I was fortunate enough to become a reporter/columnist at the Chicago Defender Newspaper where I became re-introduced to State Senator Obama. It was through editorial board meetings, attending press conferences and interviews that cemented my belief that the brother was who he said he was and his constituency was being served by a just and honorable man whose pedigree enhanced rather separated his relationship with the people.

You just knew he was a man on the rise. And so it was with great delight that I accepted the opportunity to present the Senator with the Bronzeville Community Service Award.

As Mistress of Ceremony I felt truly honored to have the opportunity to introduce the cultural and political icons of that time and those who continue to soar.

Negro Leaguer, Double Duty Radcliffe, Bronzeville Don, Harold Lucas, Former Police Superintendent Terry Hilliard, the legendary William Barnett and then State Senator Barack Obama.

It was a stellar group of outstanding Black men and I can still see the pride in the Ziff's young male student's eyes when they looked at their history and saw their future.

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**Award-Winning Author Jacqueline Woodson Meets with 150 Open Book Students on December 15th**  
**Students Perform Skits Based on the books *Miracle's Boys* and *Locomotion*.**

## Unique Open Book Program Stimulates the Love of Reading

More than 150 African American inner city students, aged 9 - 14, got a chance to meet award-winning children's book author Jacqueline Woodson as part of Chicago's unique Open Book Program during a talk-show style Student/Author Event on Saturday, December 15, 2007 at Williams Multiplex, 2710 S. Dearborn in Chicago. The Open Book Participants performed excerpts and asked interview questions based on Woodson's books *Miracle's Boys* and *Locomotion*. The young people also got a chance to have their books signed by Woodson.

Open Book participants were from Lawless Gardens and several elementary schools including Beethoven, Gregory, Johns Academy, Mayo, McCorkle, Ryder, White Career Academy, Williams Multiplex, and University of Chicago-Donoghue.

Woodson reacted to their performances by stating that she had never before sat in an audience and watched scenes from her books performed.

Another highlight of the event was an Appreciation Award presented to Open Book Founder and Executive Director Marrice Coverson by Williams Multiplex.

*Miracle's Boys* and *Locomotion* are the latest books experienced by students in the Institute for Positive Living's Open Book Program, a youth development program that stimulates love of reading through an exciting exploration of literature. During each 10-week after-school program module, Open Book incorporates dramatic arts and media to spark imagination, build skills and broaden horizons.

In *Miracle's Boys*, three brothers who are orphaned by the death of their mother, are trying to get by. Twelve-year-old Lafayette tells the story of what happens to him and his older brothers, fifteen year old Charlie and twenty-one year old Ty'ree, after Charlie comes home from a juvenile-detention center where he has spent time for armed robbery. *Miracle's Boys* is the winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the Coretta Scott King Award.

*Locomotion* is about Lonnie C. Motion, a boy who has had some tough breaks in his life. But, Lonnie's fifth grade class is learning to write poetry and suddenly, Lonnie is finding the words to tell the world



Open Book 150 Open Book participants from several elementary schools got a chance to meet the award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson. They also performed excerpts and asked interview questions based on Woodson's books *Miracle's Boys* and *Locomotion*. The young people also got a chance to have their books signed by her. The event was on Saturday, December 15, at Williams Multiplex, 2710 S. Dearborn in Chicago. Another highlight of the Open Book Student/Author event was an Appreciation Award presented to Open Book Founder and Executive Director Marrice Coverson by Williams Multiplex.

about his family, the fire that took his parents away, his little sister, his world. *Locomotion* is National Book Award Finalist and a Coretta Scott King Honor book.

Woodson spoke to the young people from Open Book about her journey from a child who always loved to tell stories to a professional author with over 20 published books. In her biography, Woodson stated that she told a lot of stories as a child—not "Once upon a time" stories but basically, outright lies. This all changed in fifth grade when a teacher told her that a story she wrote was "really good." Woodson told the students that this is how she found out that when you put a lie in a story on paper, it's not a lie any more. These are the type of lies that win you prizes.

"Author interaction is a key ingredient in the success of the Open Book Program," states founder Marrice Coverson, president of the Institute for Positive Living and executive director of Open Book. "The talk-show format gives students the opportunity to interact with one an-

other and to experience the books through the dramatic productions that each school has prepared."

The Open Book Program focuses on stimulating interest in reading quality, culturally relevant children's literature through a variety of activities including literary circles, drama, and Internet experiences. During each program segment, participants do an in-depth study of one or two books. Authors and author/illustrators have included Sandra Belton, Ashley Bryan, Debbi Chocolate, Sharon Flake, Jan Spivey Gilchrist, Nikki Grimes, Harriette-Gillem Robinet, Charles R. Smith, Jr., Glennette Tilley Turner, Darwin MacBeth Walton, Walter Dean Myers, and Camille Yarbrough.

For information on the Student/Author event or the Open Book Program, contact Marrice Coverson at 924-9802. Information about Open Book including examples of student work can be obtained on the World Wide Web at [www.openbookprogram.org](http://www.openbookprogram.org) <<http://www.openbookprogram.org>>

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### Entertainment Brief

**Talk show host expands empire with her OWN cable channel.** \*She can not be stopped. Oprah Winfrey has announced that she will launch her own television network through a 50-50 partnership with Discovery Communications to be titled the Oprah Winfrey Network, or OWN.

**BLIGE, 50 CENT, PERRY, WYCLEF IN STEROID PROBE:** New report says singers and rappers among thousands who have either used or received illegal substance. \*Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent, Wyclef Jean, Timbaland and Tyler Perry have been named in a steroid trafficking investigation that has exposed just how far its use has traveled beyond the world of sports.

**VIVICA A. FOX CLAIMS THERE IS NO SEX TAPE:** Actress says if one existed, she'd be trying to profit from it herself. \*Film and TV star Vivica A. Fox is denying that she is the woman featured in a sex tape that has been circulating on the Internet.

**WESLEY SNIPES PRAYS BEFORE TAX FRAUD TRIAL:** Actor attends service at nearby church before heading to Ocala courthouse. He made sure he was prayed up before attending the first day of his tax fraud trial Monday in Ocala, Florida.

**DR. BRIAN EVANS SHEDS LIGHT ON PLASTIC SURGERY:** Board-certified Surgeon talks tuck. \*With the recent stories and reports about the dangers of and "addictions" to cosmetic and plastic surgery, plastic surgeon Dr. Brian Evans took time out to talk with EUR's Lee Bailey and discuss plastic surgery in general and clear up some questions about nipping and tucking.

**SERENA WILLIAMS REVEALS BROKEN HEART:** Defending Australian Open champ Serena Williams took the first step in retaining her title with a win over unseeded Australian Jarmila Gajdosova 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the second round.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEBRON - HERE'S A SPEEDING TICKET:** NBA star clocked driving 101 mph in 65 mph zone. \*LeBron James kicked off his 23rd birthday Dec. 30 with an early morning speeding ticket in his home state of Ohio.



**LIGHT: Playwright-turned-filmmaker to adapt movie based on his 2005 novel.** \*With his inaugural film foray "First Sunday" currently sitting at No. 2 at the box office, playwright-turned-filmmaker David Talbert has secured a home for his follow-up film "Baggage Claim."



**Actress lands female lead in comedy opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Bernie Mac.** \*The cast of dimension Films comedy "Soul Men" just got a big dose of estrogen. Actress Sharon Leal will join Samuel L. Jackson and Bernie Mac in the Dimensions Film road trip comedy about two bickering former singers.



Kerry Washington has replaced model Naomi Campbell in the upcoming Spike Lee film "Miracle at St. Anna," reports Blackfilm.com.

**Byron Allen salutes celebs living King's dream; TV One, Starz inBlack offer specials.** \*A two-hour Martin Luther King Jr. Day special from Byron Allen's Entertainment Studios has been cleared in 90 percent of the country, while cable networks TV One and Starz InBlack plan to commemorate the holiday with MLK-related specials.



**T-Pain, Cool and Dre among producers for new CD.** \*Jermaine Dupri was asked recently by Billboard to explain the holdup regarding Usher's follow-up album to 2004's "Confessions," which set the bar high with 9.4 million copies sold in the U.S., according to Nielsen SoundScan.

**LONGORIA, T.O. IN DALLAS QB DRAMA:** Eva advises Jessica on girlfriend challenges; Owens cries while defending Romo after playoff upset. \*Eva Longoria has some words of advice for Jessica Simpson. Both ladies have mates who are professional athletes, and both have at one time or another been blamed for a bad performance by their famous sweetheart.

**MARIO VAN PEEBLES HEADS TO PINE VALLEY:** Mario Van Peebles will join the cast of ABC soap "All My Children" later this month as a prosecutor running for Senate, the network has announced.

**MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN CATCHES 'SALMON':** troupe Broken Lizard. \*Burly actor Michael Clarke Duncan is set to topline comedy troupe Broken Lizard's fifth film, "The Slammin' Salmon," reports Variety.

**Stevie, Alicia, Gladys among stars at inaugural event as coalition pickets against negative images.** \*Black Entertainment Television threw its inaugural BET Honors ceremony Saturday night in Washington, but it wasn't without controversy.

**CASSIE PREPARES NEW ALBUM FOR SPRING:** attempt to move past her admittedly sub-par live performances that accompanied the 2006 release of her self-titled debut album with new and more "grown" material for a sophomore

**DAVID TALBERT BRINGS 'BAGGAGE' TO FOX SEARCH-**

**Cultural Connections**  
Whipping Up Community in the Kitchen  
Co-presented by Bronzeville/Black Chicagoan Historical Society and Irish American Heritage Center with the Chicago History Museum  
Sponsored by the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change at The Field Museum  
Community bonds are sometimes formed at school, church, festivals, or sporting events. But often the tightest bonds are cemented on a smaller scale. The modest setting of the kitchen has been central to nourishing Irish music and African American quilting. Come hear how these very different expressive arts entertain, empower, build unity, and create beauty.  
Sunday, December 9, 1:00-3:30pm at the Chicago History Museum 1601 N. Clark Street (Clark Street at North Avenue)  
Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Reserve your seats by calling (312) 665-7474 or e-mail ccuc@fieldmuseum.org  
Teachers can receive 2.5 Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) for each Cultural Connections program attended.  
General admission is \$15; teachers, students, and seniors are \$10; children under 12 are free. A sampling of traditional foods is always served. Admission fees will be collected at the door. Cash or check only please.  
The Field Museum  
Center for Cultural Understanding and Change

**Chicago Music Awards:**  
An affiliate of Martin's International Culture Nominees & Special Awardees for 27th Annual Chicago Music Awards  
Chicago Music Awards presented by Martin's International Culture, a non-profit organization  
The Chicago Music Awards (CMA) is celebrating 27 years of demonstrated commitment to recognizing the thousands of outstanding Chicago entertainers. The 2007 Nominees for the 27th Chicago Music Awards will be announced along with the 2007 special honorees.  
The Chicago Music Awards recognize outstanding home-grown talent. Each year, the highly anticipated event pays tribute to Chicago's rich and diverse musical culture and heritage. From Jazz and Blues to Rock, Country & Western, Classical, Gospel and Polka, the CMA is the only annual event that honors entertainers in all musical genres in the Chicago-land area.  
To draw attention to the plight of thousands of musical artists who are without health care and literally left out in the cold after providing years of musical enjoyment, this year's ceremony is dedicated to "Health Awareness." The 27th event on January 27, 2008 is sure to be a star-studded celebration of nominees, performers, honorees and lifetime achievers who have each contributed their magnificent share to Chicago's ever-growing music industry.  
There will be special performances by current and previous nominees.  
Please RSVP to chitownmusicbest@aol.com or please call 312-427-0266



# Rapper Nas Plans to Title Next Album N-Word

As reported in the *Source Magazine* both Nas and Def Jam are denying reports from Fox News that the label balked at his decision to title his upcoming album, "N\*gger."

Last week, FoxNews.com quoted a "source close to" Def Jam chairman Antonio "L.A." Reid as saying that a Nas album is not on the release schedule, and it most certainly would not be called "N\*gger." But Reid said don't believe everything you read.

"We support everything our artists do, everything!" Reid told MTV News during the New York premiere of the film *American Gangster*. "We stand firmly behind and beside our artists with pride and with pleasure. Anything Nas wants to do, I completely stand beside him. Nas is prolific, he's prophetic, he's a genius, an amazing artist of respect. So, while I'm not sure exactly all that [the title] entails, I know it's smart, so I stand behind him. That's real."

Common, who co-stars in *American Gangster*, was also supportive of Nas and respects his artistic decisions.

"I love Nas," he told MTV with a grin. "Nas is always bringing something new, bringing something for us to think about. He's one of the best ever. If it wasn't for Nas, a lot of cats, including myself, wouldn't be rhyming the way they do. So I mean, I know [the title] is something behind what he's doing, he's making statements. That's something we need in hip-hop. Last Poets did it, Gil Scott-Heron did it, Marvin Gaye did it. We gotta keep making statements."

Nas first announced the title of his album and its scheduled Dec. 11th release date during a concert last week in New York. The news was met with outrage from the NAACP, Rev. Al Sharpton and Rev. Jesse Jackson, who said the title "makes a mockery" of the race issue.

"I'm a street disciple," Nas explained. "I'm talking to the streets. Stay out of our business. You ain't got no business worrying about what the word 'nigger' is or acting like you know what my album is about without talking to me."

"If Cornell West was making an album called 'N\*gger,' they would know he's got something intellectual to say," he continued. "To think I'm gonna say something that's not intellectual is



Nas Performing at Madison Square Gardens

calling me a n\*gger, and to be called a n\*gger by Jesse Jackson and the NAACP is counterproductive, counter-revolutionary." Meanwhile, Rev. Al Sharpton added his voice to the chorus of discontent over Nas choice of title.

"Again, I'm opposed to anybody using the term," Sharpton said. "We're in an age where they are hanging nooses; they're locking our kids up in Jena and Florida. We do not need to be degrading ourselves. We, get degraded enough. I think we need artists to lift us up, not lock us down."

Nas told MTV: "Whether you in the NAACP or you Jesse Jackson. I respect all of them ... I just want them to know: never fall victim to Fox. Never fall victim to the sh\*t they do," he stressed. "What they do is try to hurry up and get you on the phone and try to get you to talk about something you might not know about yet."

"We're taking power from the word," Nas added. "No disrespect to none of them who were part of the civil-rights movement, but some of my n\*ggas in the streets don't know who [civil-rights activist] Medgar Evers was. I love Medgar Evers, but some of the n\*ggas in the streets don't know Medgar Evers, they know who Nas is."

"And to my older people who don't know who Nas is and who don't know what a street disciple is, stay outta this mother f\*cking conversation," he continued. "We'll talk to you when we're ready. Right now, we're on a whole new movement. We're taking power from that word."

"Davis, William C." wrote something to think about. A Little known Black History Fact. This information can also be found in the African American Archives at the Smithsonian Institute. Although not taught in American learning institutions and literature, it is noted in most Black history professional circles and literature that the origin of the term "picnic" derives from the acts of lynching African-Americans. The word "picnic" is rooted from the whole theme of "Pick A Nigger. This is where individuals would "Pic" a Black Person to lynch and make this into a family gathering. There would be music and a "picnic" "Nic" being the white acronym for nigger.") Scenes of this were

depicted in the movie "Rosewood" We should choose to use other words like "Barbecue" or outing instead of the word picnic.

### What David Sylvester found while in Africa,

I found was a store selling what the owner called 'hip hop' style clothing. It was manned by two gentlemen --- one of them asleep! (Talk about living up to or in this case down to a stereotype) I asked the guys what was up with the store name. After hearing my obvious non - Malawian accent and figuring out that I was from America, the man thumped his chest proudly and said "P-Diddy New York City! we are the niggers!"



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### Business Brief

## Papa John's Pizza charged with Fraud Scheme

businessman, **Abdelhamid Chaib**, was added as a co-defendant to a pending indictment against Chicago area businessman and political fundraiser **Antoin Rezko** and **Ali D. Ata**, a former executive director of the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in connection with a newly-expanded scheme to fraudulently obtain an additional loan for approximately \$2.6 million to finance the sale of approximately 17 pizza restaurants in the Chicago and Detroit areas and also defrauding investors in businesses that operated the franchises. The new indictment is part of *Operation Board Games*, an ongoing federal public corruption investigation of insider-dealing, influence-peddling and kickbacks involving private interests and public duties related to various state boards and non-profit organizations, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Chaib, 53, of La Grange Park, also known as "Al Chaib," was charged with three counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud. He will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court. According to the indictment, Chaib was an officer of several restaurant businesses operated by Rezko, including Rezko-Citadel, doing business as Panda Express, which was partially owned by Rezko Enterprises LLC. Chaib also owned and purportedly operated Al Chaib LLC and Chaib Investments LLC, which had offices in Chicago. Beginning in

approximately December 2002, Chaib, doing business as Al Chaib LLC and Chaib Investments LLC, purportedly owned and operated Papa John's Pizza stores in and around Chicago and Detroit.

## New Loan Fund for Chicago's Small Businesses

The City of Chicago, LaSalle Bank and Chicago Community Ventures announced the launch of a new loan program for Chicago's small business owners. The program is targeted to businesses with less than \$5 million in revenues and who are seeking capital to grow their business. Term loans and purchase order financing between \$25,000 and \$250,000 with extremely favorable interest rates and low origination fees will be available to qualified businesses. Minority and women-owned businesses are encouraged to apply at [www.chiventures.org/financial/loans](http://www.chiventures.org/financial/loans). Or call 773.822.0320.

## Businesses in the 3rd Ward

**By Alderman Pat Dowell**  
**Starbucks** In partnership with Earvin "Magic" Johnson, a new Starbucks Coffee store was opened at 35th and State. It is a partnership that is aimed at investing in neighborhoods that are typically overlooked by other major retailers.  
**National City Bank** Banking facilities are now available to residents at the new National City Bank location at 35th and State. In addition to creating new jobs for our residents, our office has worked with National City Bank to organize a contribution from National City Bank to the Metropolitan Youth Development Academy; a

youth-oriented not-for-profit organization.

**Subway** There are two new Subways in the ward that are locally owned by two young entrepreneurs. One is located at 51st and Indiana and the other is at 55th and Wentworth.

**Record Breakers/ Reggie's Record Breakers** is a cutting edge music store and coffee shop recently re-located from Hoffman Estates to 21st and State. They specialize in buying and selling CDs, LPs, 45s, DVDs, and other music related merchandise. Reggie's Music Joint is quickly becoming one of Chicago's top live music venues. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.reggieslive.com>

**Opening Soon State Farm Insurance and Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles, Bronzeville Cleaners, Maxima Barbershop.**  
**Real Estate News**  
**Vacant Lots** The ward have over 3000 vacant lots that are either privately owned or owned by the City of Chicago or the Chicago Housing Authority. My office is working hard to bring responsible economic development to these lots that will benefit the community while reducing the crime and garbage associated with vacant lots. If you have any concerns about litter in a vacant lot in your neighborhood, please call Glendale James at the Department of Streets and Sanitation 3rd Ward Yard Office at (312) 747-6181.

**47th and Calumet/52nd and Union** I have been in discussion with the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Housing to assist me in developing a Pa-

rade of Homes which will include affordable and market rate housing for sale on these blocks that have been neglected for over 15 years.

**Dearborn Homes -28th and State** Phase I of the renovation is nearing completion. Phase II is scheduled to begin in 2008.

**Harold Ickes- 22nd and State** My office is working with the CHA to secure money from the Federal Government for the renovation of these homes.

## 47th and King Drive SW Corner Request for Proposal (RFP)

I am pleased to announce that plans for achieving commercial development through the RFP process is underway. My office is working with the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development to ensure that this process includes diverse, responsible, and forward-thinking proposals from all parts of Chicago, particularly the Third Ward communities. Click here to visit the Department of Planning and Development's page on the City of Chicago's website and learn more about pending RFPs.

**43rd and Calumet RFP** The Department of Planning and Development, Chicago Transit Authority, and my office are discussing ways in which 43rd and Calumet can be a transit oriented development (TOD) location. This would make the location more accessible with pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities. Additionally, we want to integrate existing homes and businesses while attracting new develop-



ment.

## 2008 Developments

The Grand Imperial Hotel will be located at Archer and Clark and will feature 200 spacious guest rooms, a banquet hall, and meeting rooms. The South Loop Hotel will be located at 2600 S. State St. and will have 200 spacious guest rooms and 50 suites in addition to a banquet hall that seats up to 350 people, meeting rooms, and event spaces.

The second phase of the Robert Taylor Homes off-site redevelopment commences in 2008. It will consist of 118 units of rental housing which include 23 at market rate units, 43 affordable units, and 52 units for public housing residents. A mixed use retail and housing development consisting of 181 market rate and affordable units with parking will open at 1935 S. Wabash. A 36 unit condominium building with retail outlets on the ground floor located at 31st and Indiana is scheduled to be completed in early 2008.

We are also exploring opportunities to bring a grocery store to 39th and State.

**The Rosenwald Building** Not long after the election, the Rosenwald was finally boarded-up and secured. The property is privately owned and I have met with the owner who is wanting to sell. At this point, I will continue to monitor the progress of this property and encourage the owner to continue keeping it secure and free of debris and litter. I will be hosting a Community Urban Planning Workshop that will consist of urban planning experts and residents to explore ideas about the use of this building and identifying resources for funding. Please contact my office for more details.

**3rd Ward Townhall Meeting** January 24, 2008 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Charles Hayes Center (4859 S. Wabash)

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Morgan Carter moderator of the Black Wall Street Economic Summit along with Mark Allen seating front, as attendees look on. (photo right) Bobby Johnson of Bronzeville proposed a legal team to go after developers who have not implemented Section 3 of the Hope VI Grant, as BWS committee member



(Continued from page 3)

Hope VI Grant Jonathan Johnson – proposed to create a Network for Youth.

Otis Monroe of The Monroe Foundation proposed to see some concrete outcomes and use Alderman Howard Brookins plan for Wal-Mart in his ward as a model for the Wal-Mart at 119th.

"We need to be at the table during meetings with legislatures regarding access to capital to change the laws and enact policy that represents change in the Black Community.

Harold Lucas of Black Metropolis Tourism proposed a designation of specific geographic areas of Bronzeville as a National Heritage Area. He's asked the BWSES to partner with him in that effort.

Liz O'Gillvie proposed creating a definition of economic development and a committee to do this. "We need people to commit to bring people with them to these Summits to help it to

continue to grow," she said. She suggested participants commit to bring five people to the next Summit.

Collette Armstead wanted answers to why banks are under capitalizing Black businesses at the start up level when that is when we need the most financial sustainability.

**Other commitments:** Wanda White, Professional in Economic Development, volunteered to help the BWSES create an Economic Guide; Bob Fioretti, 2nd Ward Alderman committing that he will request the land to be green. He wants city jobs to be created for everyone in this city. He wants the contractors who obtain contracts to be residents of the City of Chicago. He wants job training with the top priority being the training of people in the City of Chicago for jobs from the City of Chicago.

Harold Lucas proposed the acquisition the old Defender News Paper Building at 3433 S. Indiana. The 2nd Ward Alderman also agreed to talk to Otis Monroe and Billy Payne about Black vs. Minority and how to get Blacks more contracts from the City of Chicago. The BWSC will conduct a full and complete assessment of the facts and circumstances surrounding black business. BWSC will enter into an investigation of targeted areas to determine whether or not black economical benefits are guaranteed to the immediate community.

"Because business organizations are invested with the responsibility to commence and economic remedies and practice of racially deprived communities of their just future." Lucas explained. BWSES will convene a special task force to determine whether or not municipal, state and local departments that have accumulated an excessive number of projects continue to engage in patterns and practices of Black vs. Minority.

Another major announcement was that the

group is working with The State Treasurer's Office on plans to create Black Business Development Banks within the Black community.

BWSES conjunction with community business organizations and associations will prepare, draft and present proposals and legislation that calls for the enactment of responsible reporting of "Black" versus "minority" empowerment.

Mark Allen announced that he would be working closely with Real Estate Development Elzie Higginbottom on creating a new generation of Black developers and contractors prepared to build and rebuild Black owned and operated development projects in the Black community.

The next summit will be held on March 1, 2008, 8:00 am to 3 pm at the Chicago Urban League, participants are encouraged to RSVP and to received the planning proposals call SSI at 773 373-7000. The committee meetings are held on Thursday mornings RSVP to attend.

In August 2007, during a political rally, Cook County State's Attorney Dick Devine's top deputy, Bob Milan, declared that the office of Cook County State's Attorney should be the "largest political organization in the state."



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# Mr. Buy Black Speaks on the Economic Agenda

Concerning Dr. Martin Luther King. I stood at the rally in Washington D. C. in 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King stated that he hoped his four children would not be judge by the color of their skin. Dr. King

is dead and gone and his are grown, they are judged by the color of their skin as much as Dr. King was.

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**Concerning Senator Barack Obama** what is his plans for helping businesses in order to create jobs for some of the many unemployed workers due to the many mergers, many companies moving a broad and others going out of business. I do believe with Obama being president of the United States he will be the same to the country as Mayor Harold Washington was to Chicago. Washington tried his best to make it possible for everybody to receive justice regardless to race, creed, or color. I believe Obama will do the same being president of the United States.



**Everyday we see Arabs, Koreans, Jews every ethnic group** taking the business dollars out of the black area. We don't see any black business owners bringing any business dollars from the other communities. Those who are selling to blacks don't seem to be buying anything from blacks. I don't know but I would like to know the number of black published newspapers sold in the white area compared to the number of white published newspapers published in the black. The same thing about our banquet, somebody may have this information. If you do I would like have such information. According to the press at present, every race in America is doing better than blacks. There is a cause. The latest news state that, black are at the economic rock bottom. Others races will not get blacks off the bottom and they



Webb Evans, President United American Progress Association

should not expect others to do it. African Americans can start getting off the bottom this by spending every dollar possible with a business owner who lives in the black community.

## CRA Coalition Proposes Illinois CRA Law: Prepares for Springfield Hearings at Forum:

The Community Reinvestment Organizing Project (C.O.P.), a community banking, lending and reinvestment organizing and public policy initiative of the Monroe Foundation and coalition of over 50 community development groups, held a CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) Leadership Training and Springfield Mobilization Workshop on: at Marquette Bank

The training and forum focus on mobilizing community leaders to prepare testimony to the Illinois Financial Institutions committee on the need for Illinois to pass a CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) law that hold financial institutions that serve as state depositories and investment banks more accountable in how public funds and investments are used to leverage community banking, lending and investments. State Senator Mattie Hunter has taken the lead in sponsoring an amendment to the State Deposits of Moneys and Public Funds Investment Act which will require more accountability and



disclosure from banks seeking to state deposits.

Otis C. Monroe, III, president of the Monroe Foundation stated, "Our coalition has asked Senator Hunter to sponsor this amendment to the State Deposits of Money and Public Investment Act because as the banking lobby weakens the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, it is become easier for banks to say they are meeting the credit needs of their communities, and receive a strong regulatory compliance rating. "But to truly safeguard communities from banks and their affiliates who don't do enough to benefit their neighborhood markets, not just their global markets, there must be ac-

countable measures in place, and the Illinois State Treasurer, as the "people's banker", should be the one to hold institutions accountable through disclosure and more transparency".

State Representative Ken Dunkin is planning to hold hearings in Springfield on CRA and predatory banking fees issues.

Specially, the law will require: - Illinois State Treasure to issue a public notice when a financial institution or investment bank is seeking to serve as a public depository or investment bank, requiring more transparency in the process, and public review - Allow for a 30 day public comment period, providing an opportunity for the citizens of Illinois to offer written comments on an application by a financial institution or investment bank, additionally, providing an "alert" opportunity from the public of financial institution's or investment banks that may have engaged in predatory banking and lending practices that may be potentially harmful to low-moderate income communities in Illinois - Requires financial institutions and investment banks to disclose any affiliations, subsidiary or investments with sub prime lenders or brokers.

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# How to Obtain a Mortgage

—President/CEO of Proficient Title Abstractors

By: Teresa D. McKelvy

With everything that's going on with the economy and the recent increase in foreclosures, people are still buying and selling houses. Obtaining a mortgage is still very easy as long as you have the credit and income, ignore what you hear on the streets. Just because your neighbor was denied for a loan doesn't mean you'll be denied.

The first thing you want to do is pull your own credit report from any of the free websites, [www.freecreditreport.com](http://www.freecreditreport.com). Its harder being taken advantage of if you already know what's on your credit report. Under no circumstances do you tell the real estate professional that you have bad credit. Why open the door to that negative situation?

The easiest way to understand and correct your credit report is to schedule an appointment with a loan officer. They will go through your credit, debt, and income. They'll calculate what's known as your debt to income ratio. This is your debt versus the amount of money you make. The rule of thumb is all of your debts should come out to less than 50% of your income. The lower the better, this will factor into your interest rate. This will allow them to

calculate how much of a loan you qualify for. Make sure the lenders provide you with a pre-approval letter. A pre-approval letter legitimizes you as a serious borrower. It also gives you additional negotiating leverage to negotiate a sales price.

Just because you qualify for a \$200,000 loan doesn't mean you purchase a house worth \$200,000. You must know your limitations. Managing a mortgage is not an easy task and can be quite stressful at times, especially if you fall behind. If the most money you've ever managed is your \$30,000 Nissan Maxima you shouldn't jump in the ring with a \$200,000 mortgage. Use your intuition, when it comes to choosing a loan officer and realtor. Remember the larger the loan amount or the more the house cost, the more money they make. So it's in their best interest to buy at a higher sales rate. Don't allow them to convince you to exceed your limitations.

While you're looking for your house, use this time to tie up those loose ends on your credit. Pay all credit card and utility bills from college and you'll see an increase in your overall credit score. Once you receive the satisfactory letter fax it to all three credit bureaus. [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com) — [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com) — and [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com) Also, contact all

those collection agencies on your report. Let them know that they are simply a liaison for you creditor and you want them removed immediately. This will make a significant improvement in your score and you can re-negotiate for a lower interest rate. The higher your credit score, the lower your interest rate.

In your search for your new home make sure you have your down payment and closing cost saved. There are several agencies that will pay your down payment and or closing cost. But trust me when I tell you, your life will be a whole lot easier if you have your own money saved; and should you receive assistance, it's a gratifying bonus. It's better to have the money and not need it — than to need the money and not have it.

Even if you're not a first home buyer have a real estate attorney review your sales contract. I know your cousin is a lawyer that does not qualify them to review your real estate contract. Just like you don't want a cardiologist to deliver your baby, please believe me when I tell you that you don't want a lawyer that practice family law to review your real estate contract. I've seen it too many times before and it's not a good outcome. Only a real estate attorney knows what to look for,

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**County Approves President Stroger's Re-entry Employment/Bid Incentive Program**

*Committee chaired by Commissioner Earlean Collins Votes to Approve Bid Incentives for Prospective construction contractors who employ ex-offenders on jobs of \$100,000 or more.*

-Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger applauded Commissioner Earlean Collins and other County Board members who voted to approve his much-anticipated Re-entry Employment/Bid Incentive program in an ordinance before the Board's WorkForce Development and Job Opportunity Committee today. The ordinance allows bidders seeking County construction work valued at \$100,000 or more a chance to have their bids reduced up to one percent in the competitive bidding process in exchange for agreeing to use ex-offenders to perform between five and fifteen percent of the hours contracted.

"Any realistic efforts to reduce the jail population must include real opportunities for ex-offenders to work and earn a living," said President Stroger. "This ordinance provides positive reinforcement for businesses to join us in a realistic effort to provide job opportunities for people who are serious about improving their lives. I'm proud that my administration has been able to work with Commissioner Collins and other members of her Committee to advance this program. The ordinance calls for the creation of a Re-entry Employment Committee to work with non-profits to identify

former offenders who might become candidates to work with private companies on County contracts. If approved, the Re-entry Employment Committee will consist of seven members including a representative from the Cook County Bureau of Human Resources or a representative from the Department of Capital Planning.

A representative from the President's Office of Employment and Training or a representative recommended by the Office of Contract Compliance or a representative of a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reintegrate ex-offenders into society; and two representatives appointed by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, one of whom shall be a representative of organized labor and one of whom shall be a member of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

The ordinance also provides that the County shall work with nonprofit organizations approved by the Board of Commissioners, whose missions are to help former incarcerated individuals re-enter their communities and reduce recidivism. These nonprofits will work with the President's Office of Employment and Training to create pools of former offenders who can enroll in courses in State certified programs to learn trades, thereby enabling the Cook County Re-entry Employment Committee to recommend these former offenders to vendors.

**Plan a reality to put people to work**

Dear Editor:

A new report this week from Northern Illinois University and the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability found that while Illinois has been adding new jobs at a record pace, it's experiencing a troubling trend being seen across the country: the rate of new good-paying jobs is going down.

In response to the report, economist Mark Zandi of Moody's advises "The only way out is investment in your infrastructure and education of your workforce."

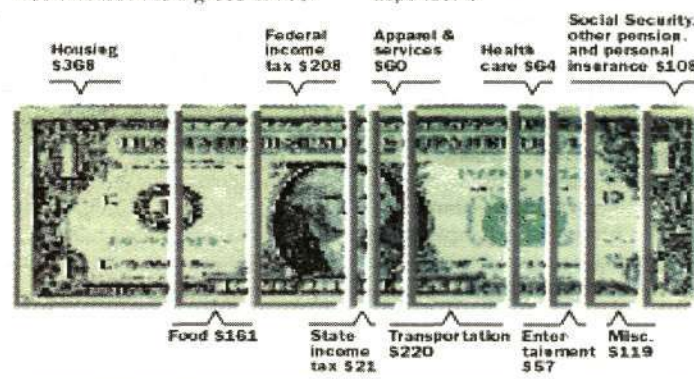
This is yet another important reason why the legislature needs to approve a

capital infrastructure plan. In September, the Illinois Senate passed a bipartisan infrastructure investment plan, but the bill has been stalled in the Illinois House of Representatives. Since then, Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and House Minority Leader Tom Cross have been working together on a comprehensive solution to Illinois' transportation needs - including a more than \$25 billion plan to build roads, bridges and schools and a plan to keep trains and buses running in Chicago.

This capital plan will support more

**WHERE THE PAYCHECK GOES**

These are hypothetical monthly expenses for a full-time call center worker making \$8 an hour, which would amount to a gross annual income of \$16,840, or \$1,386.66 a month. Taxes are figured at the rate for a single person with one dependent.



SOURCES: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Federal and state tax tables. The Arizona Daily Star

**True Star Magazine THE NEXT CHECK :**

*How are you gonna spend it?*

**Youth Financial Literacy Symposium**

True Star Magazine's event planning team has planned and executed its first youth financial literacy symposium. This team of 25 teenagers from Harlan Community Academy have planned and executed this event from beginning to end as part True Star's after school programs. True Star is a partner with leading Chicago non-profit After School Matters.

True Star Magazine will hold its first youth financial literacy symposium. In this seminar True Star will address how to avoid financial pitfalls that are deliberately introduced to young people during early adulthood, before they receive any training in the proper handling of funds. The goal of this event is to give urban youth the money management skills they need to become responsible consumers.

As a youth operated publishing company, True Star educates and trains minority high schools students in the fields of writing, editing, designing, marketing, advertisement sales, and event planning. Through True Star and the True Star Foundation, Chicagoland teens can safely take part in activities that build positive relationships, skills that translate to the workplace, and provide exposure to career and educational opportunities.

The financial literacy gap among white youth versus black youth continues to widen. Studies show young African-Americans place more emphasis on spending than on saving. Fewer African-American students than white students report learning money management from their parents and a higher proportion report receiving a regular (no chores required) allowance from their parents.

Contact: Christi Harber, Publicist Deanna McLeary 'Na-Tae' Thompson. [christiwithaney@aol.com](mailto:christiwithaney@aol.com), [dmcleary@truestarmagazine.com](mailto:dmcleary@truestarmagazine.com), [nthompson@truestarmagazine.com](mailto:nthompson@truestarmagazine.com) 773.826-8605, 12.498.8066, 773.383.6289.

than 700,000 jobs across Illinois. Consider these facts. Seventy-five percent of Illinois' highway system is more than 40 years old, but the highways are built to last only 40 years. Schools built 50 years ago are overflowing with students.

Schools report a need for more than 1,500 new Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms in addition to 13,000 repair and renovation projects. These infrastructure problems need solutions. Illinois needs good paying jobs. A strong capital program accom-

plishes both. We urge Speaker Michael Madigan to join the discussions with Governor Blagojevich and the other key leaders.

Make a capital plan a reality to put people to work.

Sincerely, Jack Lavin, Director James P. Sledge, Director Illinois Department of Commerce and Illinois Department of Employment Security Economic Opportunity

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Foster Parent- Full time, salaried position. Starting at \$22K + benefits, a home, a minivan and more. Positions available in Chicago (76th & Parnell) and in Lockport, IL. http://sosillinois.org/jobs.htm a contract employee with a proven record in foster parent recruitment/ Licensing. This is a 6 month contract with benchmark requirements. It may transition into a full time position in January. Joel K. Johnson, COO, SOS Children's Villages Illinois. www.sosillinois.org. joel.k.johnson@gmail.com

Job Opportunity

Health Systems Research is soliciting resumes for three HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Coordinators for US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee), Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) and Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington). The HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Coordinator position will be a full-time employee of Health System-san HHS contractor. will be one HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Coordinator assigned to one of the HHS Region Offices in Atlanta, GA, Chicago, IL or Seattle, WA. If you have questions or need additional information contact Dr Jamie Hart by sending an e-mail message to jhart@hsmet.com Mildred Hunter Regional Minority Health Coordinator Office of Minority Health, Office of Public Health and Science U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region V 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60601 PH: 312-353-1386 Fax: 312-353-7800 Website: http://www.omhrc.gov

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

D&G HOLDINGS, is an establishment that deals in the Import and export of Art & crafts, antiques, textiles and fabric materials. We are looking for a trustworthy representative in the united states that will aid as a link between us and our customers in the USA. Respond only if you will like to work from home part-time and get paid weekly without leaving or it affecting your present job. (PAY IS GOOD). Please if you are interested, fill the require below and forward the following info to: E m a i l : allan\_bluman@yahoo.com 1.Full names..... 2.Phone number/fax..... 3.Full contact address.... Hoping to hear from you soon. Mr. Allan Bluman

The Assistant Commissioner of the Natural Resources and Water Quality Division

contributes to the Department's mission by creating and expanding healthy green spaces, promoting protection and conservation of the region's waterways, demonstrating green building practices, providing job training opportunities for residents and other programs related to natural resources. Manages the Department's public outreach efforts, including but not limited to, brand identity, creating marketing tools, developing and implementing a marketing plan, developing templates for departmental presentations and managing special events. The Assistant Commissioner will be responsible for developing and implementing public outreach campaigns, developing new businesses and/or policies to encourage new business development. Experience developing and implementing a fundraising campaign is preferred. This position supervises a variety of staff including interns. Performs related duties as required. Qualifications Bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy, Environmental Science, Urban Planning, Architecture, Economic Development and three years of work experience in the area of Natural Resources and Water Quality. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Residency in the City of Chicago is required of all employees at the time of hire. If you are disabled and require a reasonable accommodation to file your application, please contact the City of Chicago, Department of Human Resources at 312.744.4976. You will be required to provide information regarding your request. The City of Chicago is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer Joann Mcneil Supervisor of Personnel Services Department of Environment 30 N. LaSalle Street - 25th Floor Chicago, IL 60602 www.JMcneil@cityofchicago.org Naomi Davis, JD, President Daughter's Trust THE VILLAGE BUILDERS

Residential Construction Program

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REGARDING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES. B. E. W. Local 134 and the Electrical Contractors' Association sponsor an apprenticeship program in Cook County, Illinois through the Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Trust (EJATT). EJATT has permission from the U.S. Department of Labor to open a registration for new applicants for its Residential Construction Program. In the Residential Construction Program, apprentices learn to install and maintain power, communications, and lighting systems in residential settings. Applicants who are selected into the program from this registration will begin classes in 2008. For more information on this program, please go to our website at www.intechonline.org.

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