At City Hall, Mayor Daley just “Keeps On Truckin”

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

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

(Continued on page 7)

Englewood Wants Landmark Celebrating Gospel Music Roots

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

(Continued on page 8)

Woodlawn share ©f $17.5 Mil

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

(Continued on page 5)

WVON’s Winning Elections 101 with 21st ward Howard Brookins

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

(Continued on page 10)

Two, Black Political Conventions for Chicago,

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

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

(Continued on page 11)

Mix messages in changing the housing stock in Bronzeville

By Beauty Turner Freelance writer

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

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

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

(Continued on page 2)
Voters Numbers for March 16, 2004 election

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

As of the February 17 registration deadline, 1,297,066 residents in suburban Cook County were registered to vote in the primary, the highest number of eligible voters prior to a presidential primary. That figure compares to 1,221,254 in March 2000 and 1,155,588 in March 1996 (see below).

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

The highest percentage of new registrations since 1992 is reflected in townships - primarily in the northwest and southwest portions of the county - that have experienced new growth and development: specifically Lemont (up 94 percent), Orland (up 74 percent), Hanover (up 55 percent), Rich (up 35 percent), Barrington (up 24 percent), and Palatine (up 20 percent).

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

For the State of Illinois

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

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

Board officials estimate that 1.1 million of the state's 8.8 million voting-age-population is unregistered.

For additional information contact the State Board of Elections at (217) 782-4114 in Springfield or (312) 814-6440 in Chicago.

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

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

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

In March of 2003, IDOT presented its plan to recon- struct the Dan Ryan Expressway. The plan suggested an improved version of the Skyway and the addition of 3rd local lanes south of 47th Street in order to speed and smooth traffic on the Expressway.

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

(Continued on page 11)
Bronzeville

Messages for Bronzeville

Where You Can Purchase

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Maximum Household Income

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(Continued from page 1)

moved from the area due to massive demolish of property.

Despite Bronzeville's millions of federal tax dollars and massive financial contributions from the private sector and the foundation in support of the "Restoring Bronzeville" theme, many residents call it - at the expense of ridding blighted communities. The majority of the new residents have been black but on 35th and State Street a billboard stands with an image promoting diversity of the new State Street corridor, that residents from project the wrong image of the future populated community that it is.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Getting in on the development to populate the future homes for Bronzeville, is the University of Chicago Hospitals (UCH) promoting their pilot, New Employee-Assisted Housing Program (TASH) in strengthening the revitalization of mid-south side communities, excluding Bronzeville.

It is promoted as avoiding the hassles and expenses of commuting to work. Downtown amenities, major highways, and public transportation are easily accessible from all community areas. The UCH is providing their employees a $7,500 interest-free loan.

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

However the City under HUD is pushing for low income housing such as: Pershing County, at the northeast corner of 30th and State Street, of 80-unit affordable apartment complex to be developed by Pershing & State L.P. in another TIF district.

Along with the new housing development for the community, as reported in the Lakefront Outlook, the area of Oakland-Kenwood will be receiving the police service of the UCH private police, and an overhaul of its public schools is in the planning. Harold Lucas part of the initial "Restoring Bronzeville" campaign since 1993 is concerned with the direction Bronzeville is going.

"As a 4th generation, native born at the 5th and 5th Polk public housing development, it hurts my heart and wounds my soul to know that millions of our federal tax dollars and massive financial contributions from the private sector and the philanthropic community have been spent in support of a CHA Transformation Plan and the "Restoring Bronzeville", that has systematically disenfranchised the truly disadvantaged residents."

No more Devine

Its Tommy Brewer time,

Democratic Candidate for

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

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

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

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

Relocated CHA residents gets a taste Danville, II.

Ms. Beauty Turner

"Seems like there is a modern day Jim Crow going on in the south as Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) relocated residents are allegedly feeling the tight loop, literally being twisted around their necks, as they try to settle in Danville Illinois. Stereotype, stigma, and mis-treatment reported by Andrea Webb a young lady who is black and lives Danville all her life.

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

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

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

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

Let's keep our eye on Danville, Mississippi, lets watch closely as this story continue to develop.
Spring Clean your body at Winkfields Health Studio

By Beverly A. Reed

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

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

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

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

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

The program consists of a six-week age retarding course, detoxification, internal cellular cleansing, maintenance, and a personal body analysis. He also provides presentations for teaching/training groups or individual private consultation. Actress Brandi Chandler, multi-interest businessman Eric Mitchell and many other prominent Chicagoans have participated in the Winkfield program with good success.

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PUNCH #262
Woodlawn

Woodlawn gets another

‘Jump Start’ share of $17.5 Mil

(Continued from page 1)

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

Due to public sentiment, the City has promised and most cases delivered, a variety of capital development programs to developers in acquiring land and special financing packages to “Jump Start” Woodlawn. Many residents felt that the demolishing of the “el” was a poor choice in planning, looked for improvement to Prev. In Woodlawn, state and local resources, from the Empowerment Zone and TIFD funding have been channeled to the community. But all still have missed the extent of the vision of Woodlawn.

Now with foundations lead by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur, financial institutions, and federal agencies investing in 16 Chicago neighborhoods in the project of Living Cities. Woodlawn is one of the initiatives. Funding is provided for staff, loans, and technical support. The Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corporation (WPIC) was selected as the lead organization, sponsoring community meetings to assess the needs of Woodlawn with the University of Chicago and The Woodlawn Organization as leading partners.

“Residents participation is the main demand for us,” pointed out Willie Cochran of WPIC, A resident and business owner in the Woodlawn community. "The community will have by the end of August, a report that will guide significant goals for Woodlawn.” Cochran reported that there are 100 residents meeting regularly with developing a working plan based around ‘Quality of Life. We have a mandate in Woodlawn to break the cycle of poverty,” he said.

Cochran said plans in the pass help toward the future for Woodlawn, which can and do change is reasons the Task Team of Woodlawn has gathered as well. Skeptics of the initiative Robert Winbush, Chief Operating Officer of the Coalition to Revitalize West Woodlawn/Washington Park. “We have submitted a plan for the Woodlawn/Washington Park community three years ago.

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

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

“Our plan seeks for definitely assessment of buildings whose salvageability is not yet known,” Jewel Dixon, a resident and Area representative for the National Block Club University (NBCU) organizing blocks in Woodlawn said. “I think the process is a good start. The meetings are good in that we know what we are doing to work better together.”

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

Winbush concerned about social service over economic development charged the initiative in Woodlawn as ‘They are focusing on social service. And being undermined by the University of Chicago and the city.” Historically there has been some concern regarding the University of Chicago’s role in shaping the future of Woodlawn and their plans to expand the campus south into Woodlawn community. And try to take over the land.

A claim Cochran says is false in that WPIC has data on every property in Woodlawn and the UC has not one south of 63rd Street.

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

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

But said there must be some bases for the community to be concerned of the University agenda that its cloud is still there.” Cochran said “The UC care in that the improvements of the community are in their interest as well. They have been very responsive in the community planning process.”

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

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

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

The next meeting in Woodlawn will be held April 17, from 9 am to 1 pm. For location contact Ms. King at 773/363-4300. For information on NBCU call Ms. Dickson at 664-6384.
By T.J. Crawford
This past week, the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana was invaded by hip hop heads from all across the state when members of the UC Hip Hop Congress hosted Hip Hop Awareness Week—a week of cultural exhibition that culminated in a weekend chocked full of activities that included b-boy battles, dj demonstrations, breakdancing workshops, panel discussions and a concert. Friday night set it off, as b-boys, b-girls and intellectuals packed the Illini Union to bear witness to an insane display of acrobatics and artistry.

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

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

Several noted panelists included Isela Estrada, Amina Norman-Hawkins, Christie Z. Pabon, Luke Demarte, David Muhammad, TJ Crawford (myself), Mario Africa, Jeff Chang, Kevin Coval and Dr. Will Patterson, all of whom shed light on hip hop’s emergence as a dominant culture, and explained the need for hip hop to become more accountable and responsible for the world in which it exists; The need for well thought out principles and a value system to seem to highlight the day, as each panelist reinforced the notion of stepping up and controlling the culture to enhance all aspects of the community—acting as the anti-bias to the flawed realities of mainstream media and political systems that seem more obsessed with flash and cash than actually empowering members of the hip hop community.

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

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

“The best thing, in my opinion, was how many people showed up for the b-boy battle,” he said. “Overall, I hope that people understood that there is a strong hip hop culture in Champaign. People are doing more than just breakdancing...even if people didn’t come to all the stuff, the fact that there were so many events going on is a testament to the culture’s various uses and diversity. This is the fifth year that we’ve pulled this thing off. At last we’re only going to get bigger and better.” -TJC

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

However, the law was never enforced. Denied the right to “Homesteads,” Bush’s friend Colonel Simms, in 1846, member of the Oregon Legislature, had congress pass a special act granting Bush 640 acre plot. The Bush family became very wealthy but often times were at odds with less fortunate “white” settlers. The only of Bush’s sons raised a prized wheat crop that was later placed in the Smithsonian Institute.

Another son was elected to the Washington Legislature. In 1889, George W. Bush’s grandson, William Owen Bush, the son of George Owen Bush, was the only Black man elected to the first Washington Legislature.

If more would only read and reflect, they would be a nine year old then, you’d say to yourself you should give that person a hand washed your car and set your pace. It’s not impossible to walk away from the confusion. You seem to have conveniently forgotten that you set the new love interest and stuck in unreasonable demands by your friends. You think you must conform to stay connected. You seem to have conveniently forgot the confusion.

Instead you start to blame the other people and put yourself out there (as if you really yourself should give that person a hand washed your car and set your pace. It’s not impossible to walk away from the confusion. You think you must conform to stay connected. You seem to have conveniently forgot the confusion.

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Englewood; Home of Gospel Music
A proposal

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

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

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

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

Dorsey as a young man moved to Chicago, where he found success during the mid-1920's as pianist and bandleader for blues singer Gertrude "Ma" Rainey. After the loss of his wife and son in August 1932, Dorsey composed what is arguably the greatest of all gospel songs—"Take My Hand, Precious Lord" (1932). The song was a personal favorite of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the song that Chicago noted gospel singer Mahalia Jackson performed at King's funeral.

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

(Continued from page 1)

The Prosecution & Persecution Race:

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

"Breuer has very definite views on what it will take to reform the office."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued from page 1)
Lawndale Community rises up over the selling of Lawndale Bank

Free Public Forums at IIT

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

Topics of discussions for these intimate forums include Tax Tips for Community Businesses, Economic Leadership, Spiritual Intimacy, Career Change, Career, Business Owners and others. Each Thursday at 6:30 PM, through April 15, a new topic will be examined at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Forums include Tax Tips for Business Owners with Taxation Specialist, Robert Clamp, and Tax Tips for Real Estate, Business Owners and More. The eclectic panels will include community activist, TV and radio personalities, authors, ministers, business owners and others. Each Thursday at 6:30 PM, through April 15, a new topic will be examined at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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

Attendees have a chance attend a free forum, will receive an opportunity to share their views for economic solutions in the community with a variety of personalities, hear the opinions of people that are creating opportunities and gain a chance to win up to $250.00. The releases of the specific panel members and each week’s topic of discussion are available over the Internet http://littleskillet.com or can be requested by e-mail at leadership@littleskillet.com. Registration for the Free Forum at IIT and the Cash Door prizes can also be completed at http://littleskillet.com, by e-mail or by fax at (270) 633-1604. Those that register by fax should include their name, contact phone number and fax.

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

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

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

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

In on going demonstrations the protestors were greeted by a long line of police squared cars, party wagons and barricades.

Reverend Hunter standing in front of the bank doors for a prearranged meeting by Jackie Wang on the board of Director for the bank, and spokesperson for the protestors said, "We are here today to have a meeting with the new owners of Lawndale Bank."

"Do you have an appointment?" Wang asked.

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

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

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

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

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

"Most of those minister that out there do not live in Lawndale they live in Austin area," Welch continues, "Only one person has a CD in this bank and that is Reverend Johnny Miller, the rest of them do not have money in this bank," Welch continues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

An elderly lady who express that she (Continued on page 11)
Traffic overpass proposed for 95th Street

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

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

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

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

A Trinity spokesperson said the church is in support of the overhead proposed by State Representative Monique Davis. The form letter continue to state that the citizens of this community and those of us who worship on 95th street.

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

With an array of quest from around the city attending the WVON’s live radio broadcast special note is give to Brookins as the son of former Senator Howard B. Brookins Sr., they own and operate the Brookins Funeral Home located at 9155 S. Ashland for more than 30 years.

Noted as the front-runner in the 21st ward committeeman race with two opponents on the ballot with him, and former alderman and committeeman Jesse Evans, as a write-in candidate.

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

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

And “over this past year, our office has processed more than 3,800 requests for city services from the residents.” He continued.

You can continue to receive all the news and views. From a different source. Ensure yourself uninterrupted delivery of South Street Journal.
Two, Black Political Conventions in Chicago,

(Continued from page 1)

The call this April in a separate orga-
nizing effort a national Black Convention
will on April 30, and May 1, at Chicago
State University, organized by the Na-
tional Black Political Convention Coordi-
nating Committee to plan—the African
American Platform—

Organizers say that five hundred dele-
gates across the nation will develop a pro-
pose for improvements in foreign policy,
housing, electoral politics, art and culture.

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

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

In Boston from March 17 to 21, 2004 a
pre-convention meeting is being held with
similar objectives. The various proposals
will be discussed at the subcommittee meet-
ings during the April Convention. The Pla-
form Committee will meet to fi-
nalize the Platform and the plenary session
will vote approval. To become a delegate
must be an African American regis-
tered voter.

Pleasant Stephens of BPAC explained
that his organization is in support of the
national convention and added, “Both con-
ventions have the similar structures. How-
ever, the Illinois convention is to convene
once a year. ‘to make our local concerns
on a state and national level. The two con-
ventions will join our nature efforts.”

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

For information call 773-539-6855.

The History of Black Conventions:
On September 20, 1839 in the City of
Philadelphia a ten day meeting was held,
which was proposed by Hezekiel Grice.

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

From August 7 to 31, 1920 Marcus
Garvey was chairman of a Convention in
New York that produced the document,
“Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peo-
ple of the World”. 

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

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