Palm Tavern Demolished for good

SSJ is 13

The headline that started it all — the very first edition of The South Street Journal Newspaper from thirteen years ago. From the very first issue, The South Street Journal has always been on the cutting edge of the major issues that have been of importance to our founding communities, and into the areas by which we are celebrating our growth with our upcoming 13th Year anniversary celebration and fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2006 from 5:00 to 10PM at The Police Hall Lodge, located at 809 East 42nd Street (at Cottage Grove). Tickets for the affair are $50.00 which includes a subscription to the all new weekly South Street Journal.

If you’ve ever been a part of this newspaper in any way, we encourage you to call us and help to sell out this event which would thus help position us to where we need to be in terms of the proper news information for the civic education and empowerment of our people. We will reflect on how far we have come as a news source and newspaper, and celebrate the seeds we are planting for our growth.

Some of the highlights include: Celebration of Ron Carter as Publisher and Editor for the past 13 years; New Main Office Headquarters at 449 East 35th Street; New Advisory Board, Chair William Nored of Park National Bank; The addition of veteran political activist/media counsel Mark S. Allen as Associate Editor; The addition of a new Suburban Bureau and Suburban Editor; and the biggest news: The South Street Journal Newspaper is weekly!!!

(Continued on page 11)

The Race for Chicago’s top offices

Walls Introduces Johnson and Cruz

From left: Sally Johnson (candidate for City Clerk), Bill “Dock” Walls (candidate for mayor) and Elida Cruz (candidate for City Treasurer). at Pears Place 3901 S. Michigan

As Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed State Senate Assistant Majority Leader Miguel del Valle City Clerk, Bill “Dock” Walls continued on course to be elected Mayor of Chicago in 2007 by introducing two women who would also be running for citywide offices: City Clerk and City Treasurer.

Sally Johnson, President of Chicago Architectural Windows, and former Director of the Mayor’s Office of Inquiry and Information under Harold Washington, announced that she was circulating petitions to run for Clerk. Elida M. Cruz, a bank VP and Founder and Director of the United Blocks of West Humboldt Park, announced that she would be circulating petitions for City Treasurer.

Walls made the introductions at the “Friends of Bill Walls” monthly Dinner Dialog at Wallace’s Catfish Corner on the corner of California and Madison. Making notice to everyone that the first Thursday of every month the Friends of Bill Walls will be hosting a Dinner Dialog at 6pm at Wallace’s. Walls said “This is a continuation of our process of Westsiders, Northsiders, Eastsiders, and Southsiders getting to know and treat one another as we build a citywide coalition to defeat the incumbent Mayor and win the 2007 Mayoral election”.

The “Friends of Bill Walls” also used the dinner as an opportunity to distribute and collect nominating petitions, register voters, and update everyone on upcoming campaign events. Elida M. Cruz who was a candidate for 26th Ward Alderman in 2003 said “My continual dedication to increasing opportunities” (Continued on page 13)
News Briefs

Roseland is debating the proposal to increase their property taxes for more public improvements. This tool is known as Special Service Areas (SSA). Over 20 attended a city council finance committee meeting to debate the pros and cons. Alderman Beale is supporting two (2) new groups to manage this SSA fund. The business associations continue to be denied public support to run this locally based project. The business council is filing petitions to have the SSA proposal denied. While residential and commercial property owners move to increase their properties, the City is quietly moving to exercise its plan to implement eminent domain to acquire property for outside developers. "Why agree to a tax increase when the city is moving to take your property along Michigan Ave?" one business person on Michigan Ave. asked.

Dalkey Pushes For a National Minimum Wage

Mayor Dalkey said he wanted Congress to pass a national minimum wage that would not allow states to establish different hourly wage levels; as some - including Illinois - already do. Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. said "I am shocked that Mayor Richard M. Daley, a Democratic Mayor of a city and state of hardworking Democrats - after siding with Corporate Republicans on "Big Box" - would again side with the Corporate America's position on raising the national minimum wage.

Mayor Daley's idea would also continue the "rush to the bottom" that he started with his recent opposition to raising the minimum wage in Chicago".

Oprah Makes Rare Public Appearance

Oprah Winfrey made a rare public appearance in Chicago as keynote speaker for the Women's Business Development Center luncheon at Navy Pier. Mayor Daley and Gov. Blagojevich were among the notables in attendance.

Gov. Blagojevich establishes Illinois Parent Leadership Council

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed an executive order creating the Illinois Parent Leadership Council to advise the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on encouraging parental involvement in children's education. Research shows that children with involved parents have higher rates of success in school.

South Street Journal

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October 5—October 18, 2006

Correction of SSI, this is a picture of Ken Rob- ertson, president of the Abraham Lincoln Council not as shown in the September 28 issue on page 3. Hmmm both have grey hair.

Still with no hair. Wallace "Gator" Bradley is studying political science at DePaul University or is DePaul studying the "Gator," no word if this is in preparation for office.

Down the street from the 113th Club on 47th Street, where Gator hangs out, standing, word is the Rosenwald Building up for a big take over by the City.

Some of you that were an active and systematic part of lifting up the candidate of Sylvester Raker for Sheriff, and if he has taught anyone's guidance or support to back up his public endorsement of the campaign of Republican Peter Garza in November. The ad campaign on WYON sure gives the impression that his endorsement meant anticipated or projected sup-
port from Chicago's Black Grassroots community.

50 Cent's That Caught on Tape, 50 (Watch it on youtube.com/watch?v=c-22s9210) courtesy of the AP and You Tube. He was arrested in New York City Friday, Sept. 8 for driving with an expired license plate. or other infractions. The multi-platinum rapper was pulled over while driving his silver Lamborghini. As witnesses watched, New York's finest cite him for speeding, run a red light, and worst of all, not having the car insured.

Rev. Al Sampson and he will present at SSI 13th Anniversary on October 28. (SSL publisher Ron Carter he presented at his 50th in the morn-
ing on October 21, and he will address his 27 year knowing Carter depending on how the truth is spoken on his topics. Rev. Sampson banquet is free. However, why do ministers ask for an offering if it is free.

Joseph C. Ziegel, Jr., Executive Director of 1st Ward CAM, Community Ac-
tion Network, and Independent Democratic Candidate for Alderman of the 18th Ward, has a 5 step plan to reenergize the 18th Ward. Ziegel, Jr. a long time resident and business owner of the 18th Ward said, "The ward is in need of new blood in the current alderman Thomas Murphy, will be vacating his seat to become a Circuit Court Judge. It is impor-
tant for ward leadership to be about the business of the 18th Ward residents. This is why I published my plan so early. It will set the tone of the race." Mr. Ziegel, Jr. plan can be viewed on his web site at Ziegel18.com

Study: 1 in 10 Straight Men Have Gay Sex. Almost 10 percent of men who said they were straight were actually having sex with men, according to a new study on "down-low" behavior. The study also found that 70 percent of the straight men, who said they also had sex with men, were married and about two-thirds were gay. The study was based on findings of telephone inter-
views done by New York City public relations personnel and health and mental hygiene researchers. They found the majority of straight men on "the down-low" were born outside of the city or were men of color and that they were less likely to be tested for HIV infection than gay men. The researchers also said they found that minority straight while having sex with men because of the stigma about being gay. African American men were still a small number of those on the "down-low," the researchers said.
The Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force: Still Making History Today

The Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force led the advocacy to ensure public input in the relocation and construction of a new Kennedy-King College Campus and the construction of a new police station (rendering above) located at 63rd and Paul Robeson. Kennedy King College, a major development for Englewood. The Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force led the advocacy to ensure public input in the relocation and construction of a new Kennedy-King College Campus and the construction of a new police station located at 63rd and Paul Robeson.

From the position of a community organization in Englewood

The Greater Englewood Community and Family Task Force works to empower residents, citizens committees and stakeholder driven organizations to anticipate and respond to conditions that impact our social and economic life. We have identified issues related to public safety, health education, employment/ownership options, economic development, environmental protection, and public education (with special attention to reduce our growing high school drop-outs rates) to be primary areas of interest.

Since 1998, the task force has either led or participated with neighboring groups and councils to win the following actions:

- Led the advocacy for a Special Cold Case team to be assigned to Englewood to address the unsolved murder cases within the district following the summer of 1998.
- Led the campaign to solve the 10 women homicide cases in the New City-Englewood community in cooperation with Mary McDowell Settlement, Area 1 Cold Case Officers and the Pansy of New City in FY 2001-02.
- Led the local campaign in FY 2001 to convince Mayor Daley and Governor Ryan to hire 250 probation officers to monitor the growing number of parolees in the county, (budgeted for FY 2000). State Rep. Tom Dett wrote the legislation. Advocacy that resulted in saving a host of buildings in the Southwest section of 63rd. Halsted from the city’s demolition list.

- Led the advocacy to ensure local control of the 7th District Youth Police Program from FY 2001-03.
- Led the advocacy to determine the final site for the planned 7th District Police Station from the city’s recommended Ashland corridor to the new 63rd and Loomis location. Construction is scheduled for the fall 2006.
- Led the advocacy to ensure public input in the relocation and construction of a new Kennedy-King College Campus and the 7th District Police Station to be located at 63rd and Halsted. In fall 2006, a KKC Campus Board will be established to help ensure good programming and student/community participation at the new KKC.
- Participated in the organizing and site selection of a new West Englewood Library, located at 63rd and Woods which opened August 2003.


In 2004 BMTC received a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to build their first CTC located in the heart of Bronzeville at 444 East 44th Street, Suite 1 East. Currently, BMTC applied on September 12, 2006 for a second Digital Divide grant in the amount of $50,000 from the state of Illinois to support the completion of the technology infrastructure built-out of the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center. BMTC has also submitted an application to become a Bronzeville Illinois Main Street Project.

Because Wi-fi involves constantly changing technology, we have retained the services of the Chicago Computing Society and Mac Trading, who have helped the BMTC and the BVC to develop a plan that meets the needs of the Bronzeville community’s digital network infrastructure for Wi-fi. (Continued on page 17)
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A Simple:
Vacation In Englewood

By Richard Blackman Jr.

It’s been about three months since I saw my old friend, so, I called him up and we agreed to meet at his place again. When we talked, he went on and on about being on vacation and some dudego “Convent in Black America,” being premature. Well, look-a-here, I must be seeing things. ‘It ain’t gone believe it!’ This boy then dumped sand on the vacant lot next to his house, set up one of the big ole beach umbrellas and lawn furniture, got on this flowered Hawaiian shirt, white shorts, flip-flops, and a big ole straw hat. ‘What’s up homie or should I say Aloha homie,” he shouted through the car window. “So you got jaks,” he replied. “Get out the car man, and come partake of the spirits. I got White Zinfandel, beer and Stony Island ice Tea,” he says. “Don’t you mean Long Island Ice Tea?” I asked. “Don’t start, Sonny O, you heard me loud and clear,” he said Stony Island Ice Tea. It’s my little contribution to teetotology. It’s a little Hypnotic, Allure, gin, gin, vodka, rum, honey, lemon, orange and pineapple juice, gently blended with ice cubes on the side and served in an old mason jar or jelly jar,” Simple proudly proclaimed. “That sounds like one mean hangover to me, however, a brother don’t want to be rude, so, please,” I disgustedly replied. I continued, “so what you been up to, I mean other than making a fool out of yourself with this hunch stuff?” “See what’s wrong with black folks, you don’t know nothing. Any fool could see that I’m on vacation and I been on vacation all summer. No phone, no computer, no meetings and no headaches,” he barked. He continues, “A vacation is not about going somewhere, a vacation is a state of mine.” “You mean state of mind, don’t you,” I asked. “Nah, I meant state of mine, because, whatever state you’re in, good or bad and business are in, that determines how and where I vacation. This year I had vacant lot next-door money and your own lawn furniture reservations, thus, I’m vacationing in the South of Englewood. About that time his wife comes out the front door wearing a bad floral linen outfit, white straw hat with matching sandals, carrying a small grill, CD player and two blue goblets. She speaks to me, gently kisses Simple and takes a seat right next to him. Before I could open my mouth and question her obvious allegiance to this debacle, she raised her hand like a crossing guard halting wayward children from entering a busy intersection and said to me: “Don’t knock it till you tried it. This man and I have vacationed in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, Asia and South America. So if this summer we can only afford to vacation in the South of Englewood, so be it. As long as we are together, that’s all that really matters, now isn’t it.” “Yes ma’am,” I quickly responded. “Now do you want grilled chicken breast, steak, or salmon for dinner,” she lovingly asked me. “I’ll have the chicken breast,” I replied. She turned, picked up the ice chest, gently nibbled Simple’s face and went back into the house. “You are one lucky brother, cause that girl truly loves you and I can see that you love her,” I said to my friend. “Ya’ll be tell me about it, she has a kind of quiet strength and perseverance, she is the kind of woman that will stick with a brother through thick and thin. My honey is sweet,” Simple remarked. “Give me some more of that Stony Island Ice Tea, I yelled. “Now what’s all this with black folks, are you talking about Tavon Smiley’s book and the Project titled "Convent in Black America." I calmly asked Simple. “That’s the one, man, I’m just concerned because I think Tavon got the right idea, but, he jumped the gun. Now, I know hick sight is 20/20, but, I think African Americans need a Treaty with America’s, they need a "Treaty with America’s," he held up his finger. "Whatever do you mean" I asked. I demanded. He continued, “To be specific we need a Vassal Treaty, made between a major power and a small people that were either conquered by them or forced to cooperate or be taken over. The other kind of treaty was a Parity Treaty, entered into between equal powers or nations. See covenant implies that we are on equal footing,” and respected by America, but the real truth is that this nation has conquered our people. In order for us to end all conflicts and battles, both internal and external, we need, America to leave us alone. No more reforms, projects, initiatives, experiments, or developments. What African American people need most of all from this Nation is to be left alone. When left alone, we will figure out what to do. But, America cannot help us until we learn to love, value, respect, trust and help ourselves. We need America to end the “War on Drugs,” stop the flow of drugs into our communities. Stop locking us up. Stop trying to take care of us and solve our problems by giving us the economic crumbs off America’s table of plenty. Stop lying to Black Folks and yourselves, you don’t have any answers for us, because you don’t have any answers for yourselves. For our part, Black Folks must stop: selling and using drugs; buying and using pot; spending our money with those that don’t shop and spend their money with us; accepting and expecting handouts; allowing others to educate our children; working to make others wealthy; and, fighting each other. We can start there,” Simple said.

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Woodlawn -New initiative to address domestic and sexual violence against Black women
By Richard Mahmoud

The South Side Coalition of Chicago's Anti-Violence Project, the Asha Group, and partner organizations will host a weekend kick-off of "SOS: Saving Our Selves, Saving Our Sisters," an event designed to highlight the violence experienced by Black women in Chicago and find ways to address this crisis. The weekend event, Oct. 6-7, will include a community information, training, counseling for survivors, performance art and films, and a chance for everyone in the community to come together to coordinate their efforts.

"By confronting the issue of violence against women, we can begin to create a space for sisters to heal. We also hope to use the arts as a tool to create compassionate and community action," said Sharon Powell, of the All Hall Project, one of the principal organizers of the event.

"This weekend is not only about holding a larger discussion about domestic violence and sexual violence, it's also about bringing different organizations and individuals together to a common table to look at how violence against Black women is connected to other violence, how we value life, and what we can do to end this crisis," added La Vida Davis, of The Asha Group. After the weekend, SOS will engage in community organizing, community meetings and anti-violence trainings on the south-side neighborhoods of the city. According to the RedEye, an edition of the Chicago Tribune, there was a lot of coverage reported in Chicago last year. The RedEye analysis found that 4,377 cases of rape occur each day in the city. Advocates warn that even the rape numbers don't tell the whole story of the level of violence Black women face. Other types of assaults are taking place and depending on whether a woman goes to a private physician, the assaults might not be reported. Other times women simply keep silent and endure the suffering out of fear for their children.

Friday, Oct. 6, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn Avenue; on Saturday, Oct. 7, 12 noon to 6 p.m., with evening performance session from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Partners of All Hall Project: Affinity Community Services, Chicago Metropolitan Bar Association's Ten-20 Network, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, YMCA Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago Harris Center Services, and Support Services Program, Columbia College Chicago Department of African Studies, and Media and Education, Chicago Foundation for Women, The Institute for the Study of Gender and the Arts in Media.

Enrollment is open now and enrollment includes 10 months of classes, membership in the Studio of the South Side Academy, and complimentary classes at the studio. Scales $95, and includes all materials. ENROLLMENTS CLOSE ON OCTOBER 15, 2006.
A Toxic House

Chicago Housing Authority's Trumbull Lowden Homes

By Ms. Beauty Turner

"Little black bugs with wings are flying around in my house," Patty Walker said in a high pitch tone over the telephone receiver on September 12th. "My house is extremely toxic," Walker added.

Walker and her three children relocated out of the Chicago Housing Authority's Trumbull Lowden Homes on the far south side at 2249 East 102 with a Section 8 Housing Voucher about four years ago. It's not too far from where she used to live. Her explanation for that was that her children could continue to go to their schools uninterrupted.

A tried, as well as busy, Ms. Walker who has a long disease, had to take her three children to the emergency room at South Shore Hospital. "My children as well as myself had all of these red blistering bumps on us. I didn't know what they were, so we went to the hospital," Walker said. Patty works as a school teacher and already missed three days of work. "What a way to start the year?" Walker continued. It was unclear whether she sounded like that from having a cold or from crying all night.

"The problem is the house" Patty said. "When I first moved into this house from the outside looking in, it looked nice. After living there for over three years and after extensive inquiries, she was informed by the city that a pipe broke underneath the house and that is where the problem stems from. "The city came out and told me that this place is uninhabitable," Walker added. The house is infested with mice, as well as her front door broken and the landlord is taking her time to fix both.

CHA Spokesperson Derek Hill and Denise Johnson, one of the heads of the CBA Section 8 Program, was informed about Ms. Walker's dilemma. Finally a call was received from Denise Johnson, but only in the form of a voice mail stating that she received a telephone call and that she was working on Ms. Walker's case.

After calling three times, Ms. Walker's landlord, who requests that her name not be used, finally called back stating that she was out of the country right now, but she is the one that made the call to the city so that they could fix Ms. Walker's living situation. "Matter of fact" the landlord reassured, "that little problem that Walker is having will be fixed tomorrow."

"And by the way, that little problem that Walker's having," raising her voice to a high pitch (I guess trying to scare me), "is being taken care of and that's all I have to say."

"The conditions in this house are toxic as well as bad. I had to send my children to a relative's house, and I had to sleep on a friend's sofa all night long," Walker said. "The Doctor at South Shore hospital told us not to go back to that house; it's bad for our health."

Almost a month later I followed up on Patty Walker's "toxic house" and the CBA and the Landlord had still done nothing. Once I got there I saw that this young woman wasn't lying. Before I could get in the house good, a disturbing odor punched me in the nose hard like a prize fighter; almost knocking me down to the ground. I have to describe this smell like an old wet mildewed cat mixed with toxic gas. A bad combination. If that don't beat all, a group of little black bugs greeted me at the door, as if they were welcoming me into their house instead of hers. A "For Sale" sign with the Landlord's name on it was perched near the street in the yard so that all of the passing cars could see what they were getting.

This was a bad situation, plus she lived in a bad situation. Ms. Walker showed me documentation about the landlord failing the inspections and about the nasty odor that seeped from the walls of her house like a dead skunk in a trunk.

I called CHAC once again trying to tell them about Ms. Walker's situation, but all I received was a dial tone for over thirty minutes. I left a voice message on CHAC and CHAC's telephone and not to long after that my cell phone lit up like a Black man's Barbque grill on the Fourth of July.

They said that Walker's situation was being looked into, that she was telling the truth about her situation, like I didn't know that and they thanked me for bringing this delicate case to the fore front.

Patsy Walker was in the process of receiving her moving papers that very day. Her family is on the verge of being relocated out of that unit but still is allegedly being harassed by her landlord.

"That landlord will never receive any more Federal dollars in this town again," a reliable source said.
many groups, including the once 47th Street Business Association, lead by SSB publisher Ron Carter, and struggled to keep the operation afloat. In 2004, Landmarks Preservation Commission of Illinois (LPC) recognized the Palm Tavern in its “List of the Ten Most Endangered Historical Places in Illinois.”

The battle proved to be a gathering place for Black power brokers and celebrities. Historical preservationists felt that something has been lost in Bronzeville with the disappearance of several of its landmarks — including the Radio Ballroom, the Regal Thea- ter, the Checkerboard Lounge and now, the Palm Tavern.

Mayor Richard M. Daley just the year before the city took over the Palm honored Oliver with a Procla- mation that recognized her as a "cultural icon, for refusing to alter the Palm Tavern and refusing to give up on 47th Street.

As development projects unfolded for 47th street, Alderman Dorothy Tillman (3^rd) declared "We are going to take the building." The city de- clared the building unsafe and ordered Oliver to move out costing the city over $600,000 in the process. The city later acquired the building by eminent domain.

Contributing to the end was the years of neglect by David Gray and Midwest Partners, owners of the building up to 2004, the City’s action to take the premises away from the landlord has been viewed as a good one, said Aldman Oliver, City’s interest and lack of a public plan endangers the historical character of the Palm Tavern. In contrast, the creation of a plan by the city to restore the Palm Tavern was with mix reactions for business and community development opportunities.

The move drew criticism from community activists and preser- vationists who feared the building would be demolished.

Ald. Tillman said she wanted to make the Palm Tavern a cultural player of the 47th Street redevelopment ef- fort, which is anchored by the Harold Washington Cultural Center across the street.

The city sold the property for just over $58,000 to Nostalgia LLC, an African-American-owned company, represented by Sammie Parr, who worked as a truck driver. Parr plans to incorporate two adja- cent buildings into a redeveloped Palm which will be called the Nostal- gia Jazz and Wine Club. The project emerged with a $580,000 redevelopment of a combined 6,100- square-foot concert space, according to planning department officials.

With no development background, Tillman said the developers were a little nervous because this is their first major project. But she said she is trying to promote black entrepreneurs.

When the Palm Tavern was still open the “Friends of Palm Tavern” urged the City to work with the com- munity development task force to make the Palm Tavern a cornerstone in the redevelopment of the 47th Street neighborhood and leverage its "world class star power," an attraction for capital investment and tourism to the 47th Street neighborhood.

The Friends of the Palm Tavern wrote a letter to Mayor Daley and Tillman with grave concern about the future of the Palm Tavern, pointing out that it was a Chicago cultural institution, internationally recognized as an important link in the history of American music.

Pat Dowell, a 3rd Ward resident who has announced plans to run against Tillman next year, questioned Parr’s ties to Tillman. "I questioned the propriety of granting control of this property to a developer who has a direct public link to the alderman of the ward, particularly since this prop- erty is a cultural, if not a civic land- mark,” she said.

Dowell question a conflict of inter- est saying that Parr has provided security for Tillman and some of her pro- jects, and that he has volunteered to provide Tillman’s security detail in the past and that it is her daughter’s company, "Up To Par," has con- tracted to provide security for Tillman’s projects. Tillman office did not return SSB phone calls on the present status of the property.

"The community hasn’t been presented even with what the building is going to look like," said Dowell.

The Palm Tavern stood as 47th Street's only representation of the glory days of the Bronzeville Era.

Former Governor George Ryan honored Gerri Oliver in his 1999 "Salute to Living African American History" and then wrote a personal letter stating in support of the Palm Tavern.

The Palm Tavern was opened in 1953 by James "Genius" Knight, the first Mayor of Bronzeville. In 1956, upon his retirement, he trans- ferred ownership to Oliver. Under the management of Oliver, the Palm Tav- ern was a living link to what was ar- guably the greatest era in Chicago's African American history: "The Bron- zeville Preservationists and African American, " Mama Gerri" noted as a living testament to the narrating of Black economic life in Bronzeville.

The guest list of local and interna- tionally known entertainers, custom- ers and friends of the Palm Tavern include such notables as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Ethel Waters, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Dinah Washington, the Driffs, the Coasters, Dakota Staton, Dizzie Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, Billy Branch, the Drifters, Billy Holiday, the Temptations, the Jackson family, James Brown, Koko Taylor and Jose- phine Baker.

It evolved to serve Chicago's political and artistic community as well. As the political climate of Black America changed in the 1960s, the Palm Tavern also took on the role of forum for political discussion and organization.

In 1983, the Palm Tavern hosted a reception celebrating Congressional Representative Harold Washington's victory in the Chicago mayoral pri- mary. Washington went on to be- come Chicago's first Black mayor. Many feature and documentary films have used the Palm Tavern's interior in their scenes. The crew of the Bruce Willis film Meat (lo) riding left behind a new stage and neon decorative inte- rior signage. The Palm Tavern contin- ues to provide a venue for live blues and jazz music, including a critically acclaimed gig about a neighborhood blues joint and weekly performances by now and established talent.

The middle-class patronage of the 47th Street district disappeared over the years, and eventually such anchors as the Regal Theater, the Savoy Ballroom and the Metropolitan Theater fell into decline and disappear. Today those landmarks and the way of life that supported them are gone. "The architectural demolition isn't the issue; it's the cultural demolition," said David Behman, president of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. "It was an incredible place where some of our most important historical figures went to mingle."

Nathan Thomas, author of Kings: The True Story of Chicago's Policy Kings and Numbers Games, described "The Palm" as a hangout for some of the city's most notorious black gangsters. "The whole district seems manufactured, without any sense of true history," he said. On a recent tour, Parker Coffman, Rich- ard Wright, poet Langston Hughes, and Ebony publisher John Johnson frequented the Palm Tavern over the years. A "Wall of Fame" on the north wall of the club featured same piles- ends of these and many more accom- plished visitors, patrons and friends.

The Palm Tavern collection includes hundreds of photographs documenting both the famous and workaday pa- trons, as well as the important events inside the club and on 47th Street.
Early Voting at 26 Chicago Sites

Early voting for the November 7 General Election will be conducted at 26 Chicago sites from October 16 through November 2. No reason or excuse is needed to participate in the early voting program, which went into effect under a new state law this year.

Early voting hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and Sundays.

Chairman Don D. Neal, Chairman of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, said that the 26 early voting sites represent an increase over the March 21 Primary Election, when there were 21 early voting locations.

A total of 14,437 Chicagoans took advantage of the March Primary early voting program, and Chairman Neal said he anticipates this will substantially increase for the November General Election.

"This is a great program that makes it easier for every voter to cast his or her ballot," Chairman Neal said. "It means that voters can cast their ballot at their convenience, Saturday, Sunday, or any day of the week. We hope this will increase voter participation." Chairman Neal pointed out that no prior arrangements or appointments are necessary for early voting.

Since only touch screen units are being used for the early voting program, voters can visit any of the 26 sites to cast their ballots. The touch screen units contain all ballot styles for the city.

The 26 early voting sites are scattered throughout the city, and include a downtown location in the Board's headquarters building at 40 West Washington Street. The early voting sites include Chicago Public Library facilities, Park District buildings, City College facilities, and district polling places.

By law, persons who wish to vote early must produce government-issued identification, such as a driver's license, state identification card, passport, etc.

Englewood

Campaign to rehab 51 ares homes (3 in the 15th Ward and 48 in the 17th Ward)

Since 2004, we have worked with the Southwest Community

Corporation to market the LSC election for a host of area

organizations.

Led the advocacy to ensure land access for commercial and industrial attraction in Greater

Englewood.

Led the local advocacy and networking to win the 2/1104 city council approval to a $1 million TIF/NEF bond to provide home repair grants in Englewood property owners.

Advocated for land use protection of a Amur CTA Bus Garage at 69th and Ashland for commer-

ciable reuse. After monitoring the completion of the site cleanup, we are now monitoring the permanent jobs opportunities (September 2006) and to further leverage community benefits from this new development.

And a host of other social and political matters facing greater Englewood.

Currently, the Task Force is working to track our Produc-

tivity and Employment for Engle-

wood Residents (PEER) Inc. Ini-

itiative. In 2006, we continue to make Poverty Reduction the number 1 issue in Chicago during the FY

2006-07 election cycles and to continue our work with City Col-

leges to plan educational and
corporate partnerships associated with the newly created

Englewood Community College campus located at 63rd and Kimbark.

For more information on the Community Task Force, its cam-

paign activities for 2006, please call John Paul Jones at (773) 436-4964 or email johnpj@hhs100.org.

Mayor's New Plan for School Construction

According to the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group, an non-profit organization serving Chicago's neighborhoods since 1983, Chicago's neighborhoods have changed, school-age populations shifted, and school construction funding has declined, parents, edu-

cators, and other community stakeholders struggle to understand where their school fits into the big picture.

Now, in light of several years of school closings and cutbacks, the launch of the Renaissance 2010 initiative, and now the Mayor's proposal to use $500 million in TIF funds for school construction, the public needs and deserves a voice in determining the future of our public school facilities and programs.

On June 15, 2006, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced plans to build or renovate 27 Chicago Public Schools over the next six years. The plan announced that $600 million of this reported $1 billion construction plan would be funded with Tax Increment Financing dollars, dough that have historically been used for economic development.

Will the Mayor's Modern Schools Across Chicago plan work? By taking the revenue from the South Suburban TIF districts, the Mayor is compromising the ability of these neighborhoods to fund the economic recov-

ery and development of these blighted neighborhoods. Tax-

payers in TIF districts and throughout the City have a right to know what tradeoffs they're making.

Taxpayers are being taxed twice! This year, CPS has proposed a $55 million increase in property taxes and planning to use TIF tax dollars for school construction.

When Mayor Daley gained control of the Chicago Public Schools in 1995, he inherited a crisis of crum-

bling and overcrowded school buildings.

The re-structured CPS responded to the school facility crisis by launching a major building and renovation effort, or "Capital Improvement Pro-

gram" (CIP) 2000.

CPS initially identified 3 broad goals for spending the money that it, raised through bond issuances and through State of Illinois allocations: Relieve overcrowding, bring existing facilities up to minimum building and educational standards, and provide educational enhancements.

Between 1996 and 2006, CPS has budgeted $5 billion for facility improvements and construction in their Capital Improvement Plan. While CPS has yet to approve $625.6 million ($359.3 million in new bond revenues in '07, plus $263.3 million carried over for previ-

ous year's projects, Mayor Daley announced his "Modern Schools Across Chicago" plan on June 15, 2006. This year-long plan calls for building 24 new schools, and reno-

vating three others. The Mayor's Press Office has stated that it would cost $1 billion and would tap City redevelopment funds from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dis-

tricts to supplement Chicago Public School's bond funds.

The chart below shows how this new budgeted amounts for each year of CPS' school repair and construction program.
Mean-Streets Helping Kids

By Okema McLevy Staff Writer

(Continued from page 1) basketball and cheerleading sponsored by former pro athlete Tai Streets. Meanstreets doesn't just condition the kid's athletic abilities, it teaches them real life lessons. Koran, a teem from Harvey says he likes playing for Meanstreets because it actually lets him off the mean streets of Harvey, IL where his father was killed in a shooting. Koran says "basketball can prevent the same thing from happening to him." Playing ball with the team provides a sense of security some teens can't seem to find anywhere else.

Meanstreets is a non-profit organization that started in 2001. Based out of Cote, IL it was founded by Tai Streets and Carlton DeShou, Karen Streets founded the Meanstreet cheerleaders. Their mission statement "to give something back to the community." The organization is providing a service to the community and society as a whole, building character and athletic ability by providing children with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. Meanstreets gives kids a place to be and something constructive to do. The kids have an extended family and don't have to belong to gangs or hang with the wrong crowd. Organizations like this help reduce the probability of kids getting into trouble or participating in illegal activities. They actually increase the kid's chances of being successful in life by having less time to for negative activities. So it's a two-way-street.

The team plays in various AAU tournaments based upon age groups. Meanstreets is no joke! The team is known to be highly competitive as well as talented. Innovative strategies push the players to be more than average. I once watched the team win a basketball game without any dribbling. The players were told if they dribbled the ball they would be pulled out of the game. Good coaching and discipline caused the team to win by passing and shooting.

Until joining Meanstreets some players had never flown on an airplane. Now the team's first class to tournaments at no cost to the player. Streets exposes the kids to what professional sports travel is like and what life can really be like if you work hard. Participating in college nation wide but practice in local schools such as Thornton High where Tai attended school.

Participants are encouraged to keep up their grades. This isn't all fun and games. Streets' ultimate goal is that all the kids go to college. My son played previously played with the 13 and under Meanstreets team. They pushed the boys hard and took joy out of seeing them win.

Streets himself had amazing success in college, was drafted to the NFL by the San Francisco 49ers and more recently played for the Detroit Lions. Even after his continued success with the youth organization, Streets is humble. Good appearance and a good heart make him a big brother and a father figure to these kids. He's a positive role model and gives the youth someone to look up to. Meanstreets was home to Derrick Rhodes of Simeon, known as one of the best high school players in the country. Maurice Aker who attended Hillcrest also played for Meanstreets and has since gone on to college. Minister Louis Farrakhan's grandson, Mustafa of Thornton also played with Meanstreets but Meanstreets doesn't discriminate. They make all the kids feel like "all-stars."

Aja Streets who manages the cheerleaders with her mom and sister bears on the girls. She says they are just as competitive as the boys. Aja is proud of the cheerleader's success. She said, "they don't have a lot of time to cheer for the boys because they're busy winning competitions of their own. Like they boys, they travel. The girls practice a lot and spend a lot of time together. Sports and extra-curricular activities are just as necessary for girls as they are for boys.

The young men and women of Meanstreets may not know it but they are already beating the odds. Winning is inevitable but, providing new experiences for kids who come from underprivileged areas in Chicago and the suburbs is what Meanstreets does best. Some kids travel from as far as Chicago's west side to participate. The youth organization increases the chances of its kid's success. It helps them beat the odds by being leaders, which is what Tai himself stresses to his players. The Meanstreets organization has been successful keeping kids off the streets and has had victory on the competitive sports level as well. We wish them continued success and hope the organization continues to grow and help our youth.
Louis Farrakhan in 'serious pain'

USA: Louis Farrakhan, one of America’s most famous black men and leader of the Nation of Islam, has revealed in a letter on Friday that he is seriously ill. In the letter, signed by Nation members, which appeared in the Final Call newspaper, the 73-year-old said he was suffering from "serious pain" and urged his supporters to continue with his movement after his death.

Farrakhan said he is "postponing indefinitely all engagements, meetings and appointments."

The charismatic leader, who has been accused of being an anti-Semite, believes that African-Americans should have their own nation.

He is well-known for his controversial views and opinions.

The letter is also published on Nation of Islam’s website.

Louis Farrakhan in 'serious pain'

The Following letter by the Honorable Louis Farrakhan has been published in Volume 25, Number 48 edition of The Final Call Newspaper. Dated September 11, 2006, the letter was addressed to all Labourers and Believers of the Nation of Islam and Supporters.

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan National Organizer of The Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam.

In The Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

September 11, 2006

To all Labourers and Believers of the Nation of Islam and Supporters, I think it is proper that you are made aware of my health condition. As you know, I have been suffering from the after-effects of an extremely high dose of radiation and implantation that indeed killed the cancer cells that had breached the prostate capsule, but over time, these seeds have done severe internal damage. I am more fortunate than I am blessed by Allah (God) to be alive. Last year, 2005, five years after a major operation in November 2000, I had a colonscopy to examine the colon to make sure that no other complications had arisen. Ashe Minister Louis Farrakhan's doctors discovered an ulcer in the area, similar to the ulcer I had in 1998-1999, which had caused the loss of my life. The doctors in Cuba felt that my health at that time was near perfect, except for that ulcer, but from that time, March 2006, I have been steadily fighting serious pain and infection. In the last month, I have lost nearly 15 lbs., and over the last six weeks, I have lost over 20 lbs. So, I decided to go back to the hospital at Howard University to have my original doctors assess my condition. I was thoroughly debilitated, anemic, and low in protein, vitamins and iron. Although I have some of the finest cooks who always prepare the finest meals for me, I was in a nutritionally depleted state, because the pain that I was in took away my appetite. The Howard University doctors discovered serious infection and inflammatory processes, which is presently being treated, and now I am forced to do what is necessary to restore myself nutritionally. Otherwise, my present condition could be life threatening.

Therefore, in this period of testing, I am postponing indefinitely all engagements, meetings and appointments so that I can concentrate, with Allah's (God's) help, to bring myself back to a state where I may be able to continue to serve the rise of our people. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad in the days of His serious illness always used to say, "My illness is a test for those around me." This is a test, not only for me, but it is a test last for the members of the Nation of Islam, as well.

In this period of testing, you can prove to the world that the Nation of Islam is more than the charisma, eloquence and personality of Louis Farrakhan. In this period of testing, you can prove that the Nation of Islam is under-girded by an idea that represents the Kingdom of God on Earth, an idea that can never be uprooted, never be destroyed and can only increase its power and influence over the hearts and minds of people of the Earth. In this period of testing, you can prove that the Nation of Islam, a body of people committed to the Will of Allah (God), is more than the physical presence of any individual, and that it will live long after I and we have gone, because it is rooted in the heart and corner directly from Allah (God) Himself.

I will be available to give guidance in any major situation that may arise, but I would prefer that the Executive Board of the Nation of Islam help to solve the problems of the Nation, without asking me. Then, at this time of testing, it will show me that you are ready and willing to live and die for the Nation of Islam on the principles that make personalities attractive.

In closing, Commander Fidel Castro has a very serious operation and he relinquished power to his brother and all those who were trained to carry on in his absence. While many people have been thinking and thinking and thinking, if Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution expired, they could lose Cuba and the Revolution as we know it. This is all. As far as I am concerned, my only proof that Cuba will not fall apart over the absence of passing of his illustrious leaders.

Such a challenge is bound to bring the challenge to work as hard as I can to come back to a nutritionally strong and healthy body, as much as I can be expected given my overall condition, so that I can continue to serve because I do not believe that my earthly work is done. Know that, you are the work, I have the challenge to move our Nation forward, being ever watchful for my smart, crooked, deceitful and hypocrite who would create confusion over my present condition.

But wishes to all for our success. I pray that Allah (God) will bring me before you again soon.

I Am Your Brother and Servant

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan

Servant to the Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the West

HMLF/Am

The View From The Ground: Portrait of Impunity - Part I

Dear Editor,

The special prosecutor’s report on allegations that African-American suspects were tortured by former police commander John Burge and officers under his command, released on July 19, reaches three broad conclusions.

Burge and other officers committed serious crimes. Although the report does not use the word “homicide,” deputy special states attorney Robert Boyle did at the press conference at which it was released. They cannot be prosecuted for these crimes, because the statute of limitations has run out.

The Chicago Police Department and the Cook County State’s Attorney have corrected the underlying conditions that allowed Burge and his men to commit crimes with impunity. "I don’t believe," Boyle said at the press conference, "this could happen again."

In a statement issued on July 21, Mayor Daley echoed the last of these conclusions. "The City supported the release of the report," he said, "because the public deserves to know the full story of this shameful episode in our history. Citizens also need to know that the city has, in the two decades since, put in place a series of safeguards aimed at preventing such abuses."

“As a Department,” Police Superintendent Cline declared in a July 19 statement, “we take this matter very seriously because past perceptions can evade all the good work and progress that has been accomplished over the years.”

More recently, on September 7, when four Special Operations officers accused of robbing drug dealers were indicted, Superintendent Cline and Cook County State’s Attorney Deviney took the occasion to press the argument that the CPD aggressively investigates allegations of misconduct. “This case happened,” Cline said, “because the Chicago Police Department made it happen.”

The next day Mayor Daley praised Cline and his department, saying, “They did a thorough investigation and they uncovered it. That says a lot about the Chicago Police Department—about the integrity of the system and about those individuals.”

He added, “The Chicago Police Department is doing this. No one else is doing it. They’re doing it.”

The city’s legal staff has accepted official claims that the structural conditions that allowed Burge and his associates to operate with impunity have been corrected. Thus, for example, on the public television program “Chicago Week in Review” on September 22, 2005, Andy Shaw of ABC 7 News observed of the Special Operations investigation, “I’m mostly surprised at the stupidity of these elite officers to actually think that you can shake down a lot of drug dealers, and because they’re drug dealers they’re going to do it with impunity. I can’t imagine how you could think you could get away with this.”

None of the veteran journalists participating in the panel discussion challenged this assessment. How do the facts support the official narrative? Has the CPD instituted reforms that serve to prevent abuse? Do victims of police misconduct now have effective forms of recourse?

Jamil Kalven Source: The View from the Ground kalven@invisibleinstitute.com

Letters to the Editor...

The political landau proved...
A Tribute To Silas Purnell: The Man Who Sent 55,000 Students To College

Dear Governor Billehavie,

I write this letter asking you to make a formal request to President George Bush that he declare the south side of Chicago a federal disaster area in order to qualify for federal relief funds. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the President can only make such a declaration upon request from you and alone as Governor of the State of Illinois.

As a result of a powerful storm with intense rain and hail, along with severe thunderstorms, the south side of Chicago has been declared a disaster area. The storm caused widespread flooding, with several homes damaged or destroyed. Some areas experienced power outages, and some businesses were closed due to the storm.

I urge you to consider this request, and I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

His dedication to helping “inner city” kids go to college has redefined what it means to be resilient, determined and resourceful. His “no nonsense” approach to education meant that he would not allow anyone to get in the way of qualified students attending college or afford college.

As many recount their experiences with Mr. Purnell, they remember him giving generously of his time, energy and money. Whatever a student needed, Silas Purnell found a way to get it.

After 34 years as Director of the Educational Services Division of Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Mr. Purnell retired in 2000. Sadly, in November 2003, Mr. Purnell passed away. However, his legacy will live on forever in our hearts and minds of all those who knew and loved him as well as benefited from his hard work, determination, role model counselor, leader, father, husband, a true humanist and “the father of higher education” in the African American community!

By Megen Rose

Please send Letter to the Editor to SouthJournal@aol.com.
People

South Street Journal

October 5—October 18, 2006

People

Black United Fund of Illinois (BUFF) Board Members Oreet Grammy-Award Winning Entertainer Yolanda Adams at “Living Legends – Passing the Torch” Awards Gala.

Harry Porterfield, feature reporter for ABC News-WLS, for his many contributions in the media arts field and for his dedicated community service. His granddaughter, NBC news intern Amanda Shepshere, who has picked up his torch by following in his communications footsteps, was also the recipient of one of the vaunted awards.

The Black United Fund of Illinois “Living Legends – Passing the Torch” benefit gala awards ceremony was a magical evening celebrating BUFF’s more than two decades of continuing service, support and commitment to the organization’s strong philosophy of “helping people help themselves.” Among this year’s sponsors were Jewel-Osco U.S. Cellular The Boeing Co. WYON Radio, 7-Dige Magazine and the Chicago Defender.

UniverSoul Circus honors President Bobbie Steele; The historic and popular UniverSoul Circus is holding a “President Bobbie Steele L. 7:30 p.m., Wednesday October 11th, where those mentioning the President’s name at the ticket box office will get a discount price of $15 to attend this very special performance. UniverSoul Circus opened Thursday, September 11th at 51st and Payne Drive located inside of Washington Park; however, those wanting to attend the special Oct. 11th “President Bobbie Steele L. Steele” might buy their tickets in advance simply by giving to the ticket box located at the circus site and mentioning her name.

While this is the 13th year that UniverSoul Circus has rocked Washington Park with its breath-taking, high-energy and soulful acts, President Steele, the first female president of the Cook County Board in 175-years, will add yet another level of uniqueness to this foot-stomping star-studded evening of entertainment.

Dr. Sokoni Karanja founder

and president of…….

Centers for New Horizons

“Centers”25 Years of Strengthening Families & Building Communities On October 1, 1971, Centers for New Horizons began its journey of Strengthening Families & Building Communities through self-reliance. (kujitumia). Centers for New Horizons, affectionately referred to as “Centers” has played a vital role in the transformation of Bronzeville. For the past 35 years it has provided a holistic approach to community development centered on the strengthening of families. The results of Centers work has been a bounteering of energy and momentum to ensure that this historic African American community, known for producing legendary cultural, academic, entrepreneurial and sports heroes, continues to nurture the brilliance that has been part of its legacy as it encounters new challenges and opportunities linked to its renewal. Happy 35th Birthday

Black Men and Prostate Cancer

Raoule Tatoum was diagnosed with prostate cancer more than three years ago. As a single father with two daughters, he felt it was truly a blessing to have his cancer detected early. Until 2003 Tatoum had never been screened for Prostate Cancer, by taking a simple blood test to check his PSA levels. Preventative care is needed for all men every 1 to 2 years. But the rate of African American males to be tested for prostate cancer is resulting in alarming statistics. Prostate Cancer kills one man every 1 minute. Officials say Black men are 60 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer than any other racial or ethnic group in the country, and they are 140 percent more likely to die from the disease. If detected early enough, prostate cancer can be cured. It is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths within the African American population. "There are no symptoms," Dr. Terry Mason said. "That's the problem!" Despite the growing need for Black men to undergo routine screenings, local doctors say patients only obtain help when symptoms appear. But that could be when the cancer has already advanced.

Tatum realizes how important it is for his community to rise above this fear and take an active stance against cancer. "I've been on a one man mission to try to save as many men's lives as possible, my personal campaign," Raoule stated. He acknowledged there is a tendency among Black men to avoid finding out if they have medical problems. "They take the attitude, I don't want to know," Tatum said. "They don't understand that early detection is the best protection." Doctors recommend African American men over 40 get screened and get a blood test annually. Tatum also recommends that Black men should track their PSA on an annual basis. He notes that a change of 25% or more is a red flag. For more information please contact Maya Tatum, Prostate Cancer Awareness and Educational Programs, (312) 671-5653

Ephraim Martin, known for the African/Caribbean International Festival of Life (IFOL). the Jamaican born entrepreneur, media personality and publisher, who is the president of Martin's Inter-Culture, Ltd and Executive Producer for the world re-knowned Annual International Reggae and World Music Awards (IRAWMA)-Apollo Theater- New York, the Annual Chicago Music Awards (CMA), and the Caribbean Festival (CAF-Chicago) has been selected to receive the Black Heritage Award for Excellence In International Relations. The Chicago Black Heritage Awards, sponsored by Mahogany Scholar- ship Foundation takes place on Saturday, Mar 26, 2006 at the Sabre Room located in Hickory Hill.

Raynoul at participating in the Chicago Run, Walk "3Roll event among Black men to avoid finding out if they have medical problems. "They take the attitude, I don't want to know," Tatum said. "They don't understand that early detection is the best protection." Doctors recommend African American men over 40 get screened and get a blood test annually. Tatum also recommends that Black men should track their PSA on an annual basis. He notes that a change of 25% or more is a red flag. For more information please contact Maya Tatum, Prostate Cancer Awareness and Educational Programs, (312) 671-5653

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Steele implements changes to reduce County government costs

On Thursday, September 28, Cook County Board President Bobbie L. Steele addressed her colleagues on the need to look at the County’s IT budget with an assessment of the progress her administration has made since she took the oath of office on August 1. Co-chaired by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and Senate Minority Leader Richard Durbin, President Steele’s “Transition Team” is comprised of 60 individuals from both the private and public sectors. “I applaud the members of the Transition Team, for they were not only asked to produce an important body of work, they were invited to do so in a very limited period of time,” said Steele. “However, they worked tirelessly to deliver a product that we can all take great pride in.”

On August 3rd, just two days after being sworn into office, President Steele’s Transition Team was assembled and set a target date of September 7th for the submission of their findings. The Team was organized into four committees: Budget and Finance; Health and Hospitals; Contracts and Procurement; and Legislative. They were provided with past Cook County auditors conducted from 1999 to 2006 and the Team’s at-large committee met on a weekly basis to provide ongoing progress reports.

A key component in the Transition Team’s report will be the results of Cook County’s first Employee Suggestion Survey, which allowed the 8,000 employees of the County’s Bureau of Health Services to become the “Policy Group” for this major fact-finding endeavor. To safeguard the integrity of the data, the surveys were managed by an independent, outside third-party.

“This inclusive process has been credited with creating a measure of “transparency” that has never been witnessed in my twenty years of service in Cook County government,” Steele added. “By identifying recom- mendations that can be executed immediately, we hope to produce tangible results in very limited time in sufficient documentation that can be passed on to the next administration so they can move forward on these recommendations without delay.”

President Steele has already implemented several changes to reduce County government costs. They include:

* The issuance of an Executive Or- der freezing hiring that will save $20 million in the 2006 budget.
* The reorganization of the Bureau of Public Safety, which will save $1 million in the 2007 budget.
* The downsizing of Nurse Management at Stroger Hospital to save more than $500,000 in the 2007 budget.
* The elimination of all non-performing employees in all departments which fall under the Bureau of Administration and the Office of the President, which will result in significant savings to taxpayers.
* The offices of the other independent elected County officials (Cook County Sheriff, State’s Attorney, County Clerk, Clerk of the Court, Recorder of Deeds, Treasurer, Chief Judge, Assessor and Board of Review), which make up the remaining 60% of the County budget have been asked to spend down to 90% of their 2006 budget. They have also been asked to examine their core mission and take a 10% cut to help balance the 2007 budget.

“Treasurer Finley has expressed a desire to cut the sales tax and give back the savings to the people of Cook County.”

More than 1.1 million vehicle stickers and 50 thousand residential parking stickers.

With a staff of 120, the Clerk is the second highest ranking official and the most visible office in City Hall. Some wonder why we need a city clerk — when we seem to be functioning just fine without one. — vehicle stick- ers and budget to support the supervisor and the records of the council are being kept.

Judith C. Rice, 45, was elected City Treasurer of the City of Chicago on February 25, 2003. She has held that office since her appointment by Mayor Richard M. Daley in November 2000. The Office policy: that treasurer is the custodian and manager of all cash and investments for the City of Chicago. It is also custodian and manager of short-term investments for the School Board and Chicago Board of Education pension funds. In addition, the Office manages several programs that promote economic development and financial literacy.

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South Holland
3449 King Dr.
Uptown

Toyota on Western
69th and Western
Piper Steak
43rd & King
South Loop
4526 S. Cottage Grove
Harri’s Bank
47th & Drexel
Unity Church of God in Christ
821 W. 69th Street

Peace Center
6457” Peace
Park National Bank
321 N. Michigan

Hari Branch Library
48th and Michigan

Side Credit union
44th and Cottage Grove

Baldwin Free
337 E. 79th Street

Daley’s Reitl
63rd Cottage

Copy Cat
406 East 79

E. Dale McNeil
8441 S. Cottage

Lea & Sons
7838 S. Cottage

Underground French Books
1727 E. 87th Street

Ald. Brookers Office
9040 S. Halsted

101 East 75th St

Temple of Mercy
78th Halsted

Joff’s Hardwood
7359 S. Halsted

African Images
2000 W. 95th

SAGO Technical
1824 W. 95th

Pharmacy
11513 S. Michigan

Foodland
5502 S. State Street
Mr. Jacks
5901 S. State Street

Cahoots Foods
43rd and Halsted

Rainbow/PUSH
930 E. 50th Street

Polar’s Place
3051 S. Halsted

Urban League
45th Michigan

The Club
113 East 77th Street

City Club
700 East Oakwood

Tautus Flavors
8334 S. Stony

Brothers Bar & Center
7915 S. Exchange

The Sullivan House Community Technology Center
1677 S. Calles
South Street Entertainment
Jeffrey Osborne:

From LTD

(Continued from page 1)
solo career has earned him five gold
and platinum albums, in-
cluding Stay With Me Tonight, Ay-
mek, and Only Human will be per-
forming at the Chicago Theater Sun-
day, October 15, 2006. He began his
professional singing career in 1964
with a popular funk and soul group
called Love Ltd.

Born in Providence, RI, Jeffrey
Osborne was the youngest of 12 chil-
dren and was constantly bombarded
with music as he was growing up.
His father, Clarence "Legs" Osborne,
was a popular trumpeter who played
with Lionel Hampton, Count Basie,
and Duke Ellington, and died when
Jeffrey was only 13. His mother,
Wanta, is an ancestor of a Pequot
Indian sachem. His oldest brother,
Clay Osborne, is a singer and pianist,
and Billy, another brother, is a song-
writer and producer in Los Angeles.
The band moved to Los Angeles in
1970 and changed its name to LTD
(Love, Togetherness and Devotion).
Osborne was originally brought on as
the drummer and eventually became
the lead vocalist. After more than
10 years with the band, he decided to
pursue a solo career, which produced
such Top 40 hits as "Don't You Get
So Mad?" "Say With Me Tonight,"
and "Love Power," which he per-
formed with Dionne Warwick.

Although first formed in 1968 it
would take several years for LTD to
score a major hit. Along the way
the group laid dormant for 18 years
between reunion tours. As an annual
festival still for any musical act, LTD was
no ordinary group.

After landing in New York, the
two-some recruited guitarist Johnny
McGhee, horn player Carl Vickers,
saxophonists Anthony "Lorenzo" Car-
negie, Toby Wynn and Abraham
Miller, and trombonist Jake Riley Jr.
The new formed group began playing
clubs around the tri-state area. As
their musicianship became tighter they
 gained local notoriety but an
elusive recording contract was not on
the horizon. A collective decision
was made to head west and Jeffrey
Osborne was recruited as a vocalist
and drummer before the move. Once
in Los Angeles Osborne's brother
Billy was added as an additional
keyboardist.

By 1976 the group was emerging
from the underground and LTD was
ready for the plunge. New producers,
Larry and Fonzie Mizell, they turned in
a first rate offering. The album was
so good it gave them their first hit single "Love Ballad." Osborne's powerful
vocal gave the group an edge over other
soul groups like Ohio Players and Earth, Wind and Fire. "Love To The World"
peaked at number seven on the black
album charts and heralded the arrival
of the group.

By 1977 disco was in full swing
and two young songwriters, who
themselves would be disco stars the
following year, gave LTD their
monster breakthrough hit. The
to Platinum

"Something To Love" album was a
mixed bag of soulful numbers and
danceable grooves. The Grease
and Hanka penned "Every Time I Turn
Around (I'm) Back In Love Again"
was given a 12" remix and shot the
group to international stardom. Sales
of the album doubled their previous
releases combined. And the group,
and particularly Jeffrey, found them-

To 10 Platinum

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of the overall quality of the album was excellent particularly
Jeffrey's powerful vocals.

Since the group's first national hit
"Love Ballad," Jeffrey Osborne had
been the featured vocalist for LTD.
By 1980's album, "Shine On," it was
apparent that Osborne was headed
for his own solo career. The album
was a return to their ballad style util-
izing Jeffrey's tenor to the max. Two
single charted, "Shine On" and
"When Did We Go Wrong," but
neither hit the upper reaches.

With Osborne gone it was a huge
loss for LTD and 1981's "Love
Magic" was proof. Osborne was re-
placed by two new lead vocalists:
Leslie Wilson and Andre Ray, both of
them talented, expressive soulsters
who demonstrated that they could
handle the job nicely. This album
produced only mildly successful 12"
singles, "Kickin' Back," and though
the overall quality is excellent the
album didn't quite seem like an
LTD offering. Osborne on the other
hand went on to a rather successful
solo career while LTD faltered and
disbanded shortly thereafter.

After an 18 year absence from
touring and recording Johnny McGhee
reformed the group with new lead
vocalist Greg Henneshan.

1999's "Marry You" was released on Cleat Records and despite a fabulous title

Live Jazz are
Exchange Cafe, 7201 S. Ex-
change Ave. Featuring saxo-
phonist, Jabari Liu & Black Ele-
ment, Thursday, October 5th.
7-11pm, $5 admission (includes
one comp. drink), Seating is
limited, please arrive early. For
more info please call 773-338-
8592. "All So Saxophonist Jabari
Liu is one of Chicago's most fresh &
exciting young saxophone play-
ers in jazz. Jabari Liu has played
with Wynton Marsalis, Jon Fad-
dis, Roy Hargrove, Corey Wilkes,
Maurice Brown, Von Freeman,
Kahlil Q Jay Dezel, Ledi and many
others. Jabari now leads his own
group which is a member of
Corey Wilkes 5th Element and
Maurice Brown's Souls' U Out.
Come listen to Jabari Liu & Black
Element as they play an array of
jazz, neo-soul, and hip-hop.

India.Arie at the Ch-
icago Theater, Thursday, October
12 at 7:30 PM. Since her debut
in 2001 she has earned a reputa-
tion as a powerful and soulful
artist who is unafraid to speak her
mind. Tickets are $45 to $35. Box
Office Hours are Monday-Friday:

Entertainment Briefs

Round 2 Sat, Oct 22nd, Round 3
Sun, Nov 12th, Finals Wed Nov 22nd,
@ Cafe 917, 917 E. 79th Street.
Enjoy dinner while you watch the slam!!! The slam list goes out at 6:30pm. The slam begins at 8pm.

Sean Drops Hididy

1200pm - 6:00pm. For more information call 773-749-0550 or ticketmaster.com

Music mogul Sean Combs just
settled a lawsuit filed over use of the
name by London based mu-
sic producer Richard "Diddy"
Drelovitch, who's used it since 1992. Combs will now be known as
Sean Combs/Sean John.

TOMA Records, of Spokes-
word, and Contemporary Jazz Featuring the Smooth
E. 79th (Bet. Evers & Phillips).
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information or to perform call:
773-649-1372. A T.O.M.A. PRODUCTION.

The Legendary "Sax Preacher"

Mel-Rob... The Voice of the People (Actor, Poet, Model) Mel-Rob has been in the performing arts since his child-
hood. His entertaining personality has landed him in recent independent films and plays, as well as perform-

(Continued on page 15)
“Lifetimes on the Streets,” a gritty, dramatic comment on Black life in urban America by Gus Edwards, directed by James Pringle, is now playing at the ETA Mainstage through November 5, 2006. “James Pringle’s elegant staging and mime actors give these portrayals immediacy and compassion,” says Mary Shon Ramirez of the Reader. “Lifetimes on the Streets” is about ordinary people caught at crossroads, leading lives affected by social and cultural change. Characters range from a woman on her way to her hairdresser who enters into a strange relationship with a painter who invites her to have a cup of tea with him, to an old man carrying a bag who warns that Harlem is entering a new Ice Age.

This play takes New York City types and allows them to step forward and open up their lives to you,” says the director. “And because they live in New York, their stories are not always pretty but extraordinarily compelling.”


James Pringle (Director) is the founder and executive director of The Harlem Theatre Company in NYC. He has taught pantomime, voice & speech, scene study and character analysis. An MFA Candidate, New York University, he holds a Bachelor of Arts—Cum Laude in theater from City University of New York and is a seasoned actor, teacher and arts administrator.

Show times are 8 pm Thursday through Saturday; 3 & 7 pm Sunday at eta Square, 7588 S. South Chicago Avenue. The popular “2-for-1” tickets Thursdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 7 pm continue, subject to availability, except opening and closing nights. This production is partially supported by Conrail. General admission is $25 /student, senior and group discounts. For tickets, call 773-752-3955 or visit the eta web site at www.etacreativearts.org.
Report shows black consumers spending more

As the American economy continues to move sluggishly, African-American households are curtailing their spending in many categories, including food, clothing and basic household items, while investing more in home repair, home entertainment and consumer electronics. Although they are trimming back, black consumers are still spending more than their white counterparts on most of these products.

According to the newest edition of "The Buying Power of Black America" report, African-American households are tightening their belts when it comes to dining out, expanding their wardrobes and leisure activities out of the home. At the same time, they are increasing their spending on home repairs and remodeling, radio and visual electronics, and online purchases of books. The report also estimates that black households collectively had earned income of $679 billion in 2004.

This trend is highlighted in the annually published report from Target Market News, a 17-year-old research and information company that specializes in tracking African-American marketing, media and consumer behavior. "The Buying Power of Black America," which has been published annually for the past 12 years, is one of the most widely quoted sources of information on black consumer spending.

"This change in expenditure by black consumers means that obtaining and holding on to their loyal will be more competitive for marketers," said Smith. "This represents a time of opportunity for those companies that can demonstrate they are serious about providing value for these customers."

According to the report, black households had $679 billion in earned income in 2004, an increase of 3.5% over the $656 billion earned in 2003. Among the products and services that showed the greatest one-year increase were sound systems (+127%), computer online services (+38%) and sports and recreational equipment (+19%), dishwashers (+42%), washing machines (+45%) and contributions to churches (+19%).

"The Buying Power of Black America," a 104-page report, is based on an analysis of expenditures reported by 3,000 black households for the Department of Commerce's Consumer Expenditure Survey.
Chicago based Minar Products partners with Walgreens for distribution

After nearly a year of establishing successful partnerships with some of the nation’s top retailers, Minar Products announces yet another corporate alliance. The signature all-natural soaps and toothpaste are now conveniently available to consumers worldwide at Walgreens.com. The division to make Minar Products available on the Walgreens website was finalized in late September after months of negotiations.” Prior to this, we were only available in select Chicago-area Walgreens stores,” said Henry Stewart, President of Minar. “Now, we are available to virtually anyone with access to the internet,” he concluded.

Spokesperson Martina Power said Minar is proud to be associated with Walgreens, a company that has established itself as one of the nation’s premier retailers. “Walgreens is a name you can trust. Making Minar Products available on their website adds credibility to our brand and validates the high-level of quality we have always provided to our customers,” she said.

Until last year, Minar Products had existed in virtual obscurity since being established in 2001. Through the all-natural soaps and toothpaste were popular among small “ma and pa” stores and some mid-sized, health-oriented retailers, the company brought in lackluster revenues and showed little growth. It wasn’t long before Stewart decided that just because the product was all-natural didn’t mean it had to be relegated to small outlets.

In 2005, Stewart took the helm as sole owner after buying out his partners, and set off on a mission to position the company for the national brand recognition it is currently enjoying.

In addition to Walgreens.com, Minar Products are also available at Jewel-Osco, Cub Foods, Dominick’s and regionally at Food 4 Less stores. For more information, visit: www.minarproducts.com. There, consumers can also check on the Walgreens’ link and go directly to that site to purchase the product.

Chicago Cavalcade of Homes

The City of Chicago is offering free tours of affordably priced homes for sale at the first Chicago Cavalcade of Homes. Prospective homeowners will take free bus tours and self-guided walking tours to see affordable developments in 24 neighborhoods, including single-family homes, condos and townhouses. With the help of city housing programs that provide financial incentives to developers and buyers, City Department of Housing staff will be on hand to educate buyers on city-backed mortgage products and other tools designed to help working families purchase homes. October 7th - 9th from 3-9 pm, University of Illinois-Chicago, Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted St. Tour maps will be available at the UIC Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted St., where tour buses will depart regularly. To make reservations for the tour bus, or for more information, call (312) 377-3484 or visit www.cavalcadeofhomeschicago.org

South Street Business Briefs

Manufacturing, leveraging human capital and creating a multi-channel approach to customer value. According to a recent study by Stratascope, Inc., companies that run SAP are 32% more profitable than those that do not. (1) Using publicly available financial results from NASDAQ and NYSE companies, the same study found that SAP customers generated a 28% better return on capital than companies that do not run SAP.

Restaurants threatened with fines and suspension

SPRINGFIELD – Dr. Eric E. Whetaker, state public health director, issued an alert to restaurant owners to beware of a letter alerting them of new hygiene codes and requiring them to purchase hand washing posters. The letter is from a company calling itself the Illinois Food Service Compliance Center and has been sent by food service establishments in Illinois and other states. The Illinois Food Service Compliance Center is not affiliated with any state or federal agency.

Local Media

Company to host Voice Work Shop

October 2006—On Wednesday, October 11, 2006, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Barry White and other telephone operator sound-a-likes will find themselves in a room that takes to make it big as voice-over talent when south suburban-based Momentum Media Group hosts its very first voice-over workshop.

The interactive session, entitled “What a Voice," is designed for people who want to learn the basics of launching a career in the very lucrative voice-over industry. Co-facilitating the workshop will be professional voice-over talent Nicki Bautero and Monique Caradine, President of Momentum Media Group and long-time media personal.

They’ll also participate in a mock business meeting. They’ll also participate in a mock business meeting.

Bronzenville’s Digital Divide

(Continued from page 3)

WiFi is great for aBronzenville’s Main Street project because it draws people into the district where they can meet their neighbors, compare prices and shop online, visit cultural and entertainment attractions and check E-mail all in the same area. And, it provides business owners with free access to profit making technology. Wireless technology as a component of an Illinois Main Street project has the potential to make the 35th Street Bronzenville Parkway—Technology, Transportation & Tourism Initiative a successful, inter-active, more vibrant, customer friendly commercial business district.

In preliminary discussions with the Bronzenville Merchants Association membership, small business owners were immediately intrigued by the proposed creation of a WiFi zone at the Gateway to the Black Metropolis Historic District. WiFi has an element of the unexpected and unusual which makes it a great marketing concept for emerging commercial business districts in underserved communities. In the proposed Bronzenville Main Street project we seek to promote and market the authentic and unique cultural experiences of the Bronzenville area, as a premiere heritage tourism destination and as a tool for wealth creation and economic empowerment for lower income resi-dents.

If we can service the 2006 State Digital Divide grant award and form collaborative CBA agreements with the city of Chicago, local institutions, community banks and other private sector partners, the successful launch of a WiFi hotspot demonstration project in Bronzenville will help provide a working model for other emerging markets in Chicago that would like to become internationally significant tourism attractions.

The installation of a low-cost WiFi solution to connect visitors, workers, and residents in the greater Bronzenville community to the Internet can be implemented now, by the creation of an effective Main Street program at the neighborhood level, while looking toward future citywide de-velopments. By leveraging existing resources and establishing collabora-tive working relationships to achieve common goals, the Bronzenville Main Street Initiative will be ready for the future wave of WiFi enabled visitors. For more information please contact Harold L. Lucas at the Bronzenville Visitor Information Center (773)- 373-2842
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