South Street Journal’s Celebration, December 9, 2006

By Donnell Robinson

In September 2006 it was announced that an Olympic Stadium would be proposed for Bronzeville’s Washington Park as part of city’s bid for the 2016 Olympics. The stadium would initially seat 95,000 initially for the games and then would be converted to a 10,000-seat covered arena for track-and-field and cultural events once the games were concluded. The estimated cost of the proposed stadium is at least $300 million.

In support of the effort for the City of Chicago to be chosen in January 2007, Cecilia Butler, President of the Washington Park Advisory Council (WPAC) has been building community forums regarding hosting a portion of the 2016 Summer Games in their community since early 2006. The Washington Park community runs from 51st to 61st Streets, from the Dan Ryan Expressway on the West to Cottage Grove on the East.

Since the community has a great deal of current issues facing it, from redlining of financial institutions to areas centered on drugs and unemployment, there are quite a few things this community must take into consideration.

By Beauty Turner

Condominiums, townhouses and lofts are popping up in gentrifying communities in Chicago like yellow dandelions in an empty field, but that is not the only thing popping up here in Chicago. Police shootings since last year have risen by one from this time last year. “Last year around about this time there were 39 police shootings which was one less than this year,” Pat Camden, spokes person for the Chicago Police Department said.

It rose slightly after adding Michael Smith, age 22 to that list of fatalities. “Since the beginning of this year, 40 people have been shot by police, 37 weapons have been recovered, and 15 of them were fatalities” Camden added.

A makeshift memorial is in front of the Family Food Market located on 63rd Street and South Evans that was made by family residents and community leader. Tokens of love and appreciation in the form of balloons, cards, and a big emerald green bottle of Moet Chandon stood where Michael Smith was shot and killed by a plain clothes police officer on Friday November 17, at 4:00 PM.

An eye witness said that three young men were coming out of a store when they were approached by two plain clothes officers who were pointing a gun at them. Another witness describes one of the officers as White wearing a hook, and the other as a light skinned Black man or Latino.

The Latino or light skin black man allegedly told two of the young men to come toward him with their hands in the air. The white officer told “White Michael” as he is known in the hood to come toward him. “All three of the young men were started.” They

HB4050: “Modern Day Black” Zip Code

Organizers continue the protest

In 1865, southerners created Black Codes, which served as a way to control and inhibit the freedom of ex-slaves. Codes regulated civil and legal rights, from marriage to the right to hold and sell property to the prejudiced definition of African Americans as agricultural laborers. John Paul Jones, President of the Greater Englewood Family Taskforce and Chairman of the Coalition to Rescind HB 4050.

HB4050 to the Black Codes of 1865: “A modern day Black Code.” Homeowners and voters with the Coalition to Rescind HB 4050 took their concerns over the potentially discriminatory housing law known as HB 4050 to the States first official public hearing. A rally was held to encourage the public to speak up and to exchange with others the problems and solutions.

On Monday, November 27th at James Thompson Building (100 West Randolph) an unprecedented action occurred in the first week of the States Vetos Session. State Representative met on 2 separate occasions to examine ways to address the public’s outrage with HB 4050. In addition, the State Department of Financial and Professional Regulations, the agency responsible with maintaining this commercial database held a press event on November 13th announcing a public hearing for November 27th, 1 P.M. at the State Building (Chicago). Prior to this decision, homeowners, young professionals, clergy and civic leaders delivered thousands of petitions and a Five-Point Reform Plan to the Office of the Governor, Majority Senate.
"A Little Bit About A Lot of Things" 

Durbins Drafts Obama 
I have joined Illinois’ Senior Senator Dick Durbin on the Senate to Draft U.S. Senator Barack Obama for President of The United States. 
Dear Mark, Thank you for contacting Senator Obama and urging him to run for president in 2008. I believe that he is the right man to lead our country at a time of such turmoil around the globe, and will bring Americas together at a time in our nation’s history when we need unity more than ever. If you haven’t already, please be sure to forward an email to him and his staff so they can join you in urging Barack to run.

Approval of Former Governor Ryan’s Appeal Was Good 
"It was a good move by The Illinois Appellate Court that former Governor Ryan can remain free on appeal while the merits of his conviction are examined. Even if he has to eventually go through a retrial, it was important to a lot of people that this process be challenged. The arguments sent to the people were in the words of a federal prosecutor who said that Governor Ryan was convicted in part for admitting that he lied under oath to the federal government. The bill that the former Governor was prosecuted for lying under oath to the federal government, the Illinois was absolutely nothing happening taxpayers who are watching him and said that he lied under oath on their federal jury applications.

The system staffed to show the appearance that their test is a level of lying under oath that is acceptable and another level that punishable. People who admit

On December 1st from 3pm to 5 pm King College Preparatory High School at 4445 Drexel Blvd. will have their "Day of Diversity". Commemorating the 51st anniversary of Ms. Rosa Parks historic bus ride.

On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks defied the segregation laws by refusing to move from her seat on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Her actions sparked the Civil Rights Movement and brought about a series of new Federal laws to protect the rights of citizens. Join youth, seniors, transit riders and officials as we present the 2007 "Transit Justice Platform". Meet others who were active in the civil rights struggle.

Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Calvin Morris, Ph. D., Executive Director, Community Renewal Society, and President of the 1960’s movement.

Join youth, seniors, transit riders and officials as we present the 2007 "Transit Justice Platform"

For more information call 312-253-0641 or 312-499-7198 ext. 3868. www.metrorenew.org or www.bettertransit.com

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Bronzeville

Chicago Police Rescue at 50th & Indiana

Two Chicago Police Officers are credited with rescuing residents from a smoky fire in a building at 5017 S. Indiana. The officers, Mark Budzynski and rookie Hosea Alvarez of the 2nd District, were patrolling the area around 5 p.m. when they observed smoke emanating from the window of a third-floor apartment. Officer Eddie Jonas who was in the area serving a summons also assisted.

The officers quickly called for the Fire Department, but immediately rushed in before firefighters arrived to remove residents from the building. The officers began a systematic floor-by-floor search after determining the third-floor apartment was vacant. On the second floor, they alerted and evacuated two adults and five children that are currently displaced due to damage sustained to their apartments. The officers also escorted a 90-year-old male and 85-year-old female from their first-floor apartments.

The quick action of these officers resulted in no injuries to the building residents. The cause of the fire in the vacant apartment is under investigation.

Residents Want Bronzeville Lots

Representatives from Housing Bronzeville at the Department of Planning and Development requested a meeting with Commissioner Healy. (left to right) Kenneth Williams, Rev. J.C. Campbell, Clara Brown, and Valerie Hardy

According to the Chicago Tribune, residents of Bronzeville want the city to set aside hundreds of vacant lots sized for delinquent taxes when the community hit hard times so that affordable housing can be built on the land. And they want property owners to pay an additional tax to support a housing trust fund to make this happen.

Housing advocates say that Bronzeville, once again a fashionable destination for button-down professionals and bohemians alike, could set a precedent for other neighborhoods on the South and West Sides that are riddled with empty-city-owned lots, and ripe for revitalization.

There are 1,156 such lots in Bronzeville, 703 in the 3rd Ward alone, according to an analysis of 2005 city records by Housing Bronzeville. A coalition of renters, property owners and others pushing the trust fund. The properties typically land in the city's hands when owners don't pay taxes and the buildings are abandoned and eventually demolished.

Long-term, the coalition seeks to have 26 percent of those lots set aside at below-market cost to promote home ownership for neighborhood families earning $34,000 to $55,000 a year. Short-term, the coalition is working to establish a Bronzeville housing trust fund supported by a .009 percent increase of all Bronzeville property tax bills.

While campaign organizers are just beginning to tackle the former goal, they've already made traction on the latter.

More than 18,000 voters, nearly 86 percent of all who voted in the four wards that make up historic Bronzeville supported the concept in a advisory referendum in November 2004.

Housing Bronzeville's next step is to pursue legislation at the city or state level that would allow voters to decide on a binding referendum. Their effort is modeled after a successful referendum in 1988 that created self-taxing districts on the Northwest and Southwest Sides to protect the market values of houses as the neighborhoods became more racially diverse.

With February's aldermanic elections on the horizon, Housing Bronzeville volunteers have once again kicked into high gear. They've descended on City Hall demanding information on the status of the neighborhood's vacant lots. They've held meetings at homes and churches to spread the word about the campaign. They've even produced a video titled "Stand Up for Bronzeville!"

Organizers say the goal is to get residents involved in neighborhood development and make affordable homeownership a key issue in the upcoming elections in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 20th Wards, which collectively represent historic Bronzeville.

"We want to see if the four aldermen or their opponents will support this," said Cheryl Spivey-Perry, executive director of the Lutensme Hope Center, a leadership training nonprofit founded in 1994 by Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill). and Sokomi Karanja, president of the nonprofit Center for New Horizons. Established in 1994, the Lutensme Hope Center is a small, nonprofit organization which seeks to build power for systemic change and self-determination within the African-American community by developing the leadership and organizing potential within that community. Over the years, the Hope Center has provided intensive leadership training and mobilization workshops.

(Continued on page 12)
Some 20 neighborhood residents gathered in a community room at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church Nov. 18 for phase two of sessions presented by the Washington Park Leadership Development Training Institute.

"Understanding Policy and Legislation" was the topic of the Saturday session led by John Paul Jones, of Community Outreach for Neighborhood Capital Budget Group. The bi-monthly training lasts six months and is expected to conclude in May, said New Communities Program director Tushi Baker, of lead agency St. Ed-mund's Redevelopment Corp.

Leadership training is especially significant given Chicago's bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics and proposed changes in Washington Park, said Jones. As the Olympics proposal and other developments move forward, there is an expectation and often a requirement for community input, he noted.

Residents, in particular, and other community stakeholders must be engaged, Jones stressed.

Without engaged leadership, a neighborhood can easily be bypassed as decisions are made, he explained.

Jones led the group through defining public policy, tracking legislation, examining the role of lobbyists, critiquing public subsidies, tax dollars and capital improvements, and similar topics.

His presentation ranged from where to look for city money to install lighting and curbs and how to have engaged democratic processes in the city, county and state level.

The idea is to broaden residents' conversations with government officials about policy needs to protect their interests and to increase their wealth, Jones said.

Training provides definitions, possible strategies.

Washington Park has often had a difficult time assembling leaders to talk things through, he noted. "This is a whole new ballgame. They are now ready to begin some policy work and legislation, and that should help them achieve their victories," said Jones.

"Stakeholders have to assemble, they have to be clear about what they expect, from not only themselves but from others, and set the pace. Again, outsiders will be looking for a venue.

Washington Park leaders attended a training session on public policy and legislative issues led by John Paul Jones, of the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group, who is seated in the foreground.

Washington Park resident Betty Owens, Elaine White-Bay and Min-yon Toms spent more than half a day learning about how to engage and monitor government.

I think people who work in good faith do want to communicate with the constituencies, but (Washington Park) will have to provide that venue," Jones added.

Betty Owens, a training participant, was struck by the topics presented and how much residents could learn. "It was so informative to the community, I'm a person who has lost a lot and I would like to get some of it back and there are many people in my community that feel the same way," she said.

"This session has given us the ability to increase the capacity of our local agencies. And our local agencies, if given the opportunity, working hand in hand with government could increase overall government and community effectiveness," said Willie Cochran another training participant.

"It was a wonderful morning and afternoon on gaining insights on how governments work," added Edward Chantry, membership chair for the Washington Park Neighborhood Association.

"The more they become savvy about the items, the better they'll be able to protect themselves from economic disruptions, at least, or at most compete with the new stakeholders that will be coming their way," said Jones, in laying out the value of the training.

Jones hopes to come back to Washington Park to talk about putting together special funds, whether for college scholarships, home improvements or to purchase other redevelopment. It's more than someone just paying for the city to give it to them, he said.

"Washington Park is overwhelmed by new private investors, who need to know they must give something back to the community. Just to give it to City Hall, but to give to the community," he said.

The Washington Park Leadership Development Training Institute is run by the New Communities Program, the Old Communities Association and the New Communities Program. The training was sponsored by LISC/Chicago and the Woods Fund of Chicago.

The goal is to empower residents and develop a core group of leaders, said Baker. Phase One of the training included community engagement and neighborhood relations, she said.

Having attended five core group meetings about the Olympics, Baker has seen mixed reactions. "The residents have been told, no one has invited them to the table and gave them a thorough understanding" of the process, she said.

There are worries the city will mandate expensive improvements for home and condo owners, questions about who will pay for new improvements, and concerns about whether there will be place for current residents, Baker said.

Others think the idea is wonderful and will bring jobs commet, noted. Baker added, if residents don't qualify for the jobs, training will be needed. If the Olympics help our community it should happen Ms. Owens.

Getting residents to think through opportunities, problems and options is important and the current mix is fine, she said.

"This kind of training is crucial because it teaches people how to get involved step by step, without theoretics, know the core information. So when you go to the table, you know what people are talking about and you can add to the process," she said.

Englewood: Keeping Residents In The Hood

According to BlackEnterprise.com, as million-dollar urban revitalization projects take place in cities across the country, African American developers and city officials are working to ensure that the largely minority residents there enjoy and participate in the economic growth.

"We've all seen where you simply move the old economy out and a new economy in," says Vincent Barnes, executive director of the Rebirth of Englewood Community Development Corp. of Chicago's South Side. In many cities, revitalization has increased housing and commercial rent costs, making the cities unaffordable to residents, he says.

To combat this trend, Barnes and others involved with development projects are seeking creative ways to make revitalized areas affordable. "We want to make sure that individuals in the community presently are part of that development process... that they benefit from it," says Barnes. "That is, as incomes grow, community residents' incomes also grow. As houses are built, individuals in the community can buy those houses.

Since 2000, the Rebirth of Englewood Community Development Corp. has spurred more than $59 million in economic growth through new housing, job creation, and small business development. One way the organization has sought to make sure Englewood residents aren't displaced is by partnering with corporations to offer residents jobs that pay $4,000 to $5,000 more than the community's median income.

Kansas City, Missouri, is another city experiencing a renaissance of sorts. City Manager Wayne A. Carney oversees $1.2 billion worth of economic development downtown. Among the planned projects are a $276 million sports arena and an $850 million entertainment district.

To ensure that the city remains affordable, Carney plans to make available both subsidized and market-value units. In addition, some developers' contracts require them to set aside a percentage of affordable housing units.

The Rebirth of Englewood Community Development Corporation office is located: 1912 West 63rd Street (Between Wolcott and Win-chester Street). Phone: 773-778-2371 Fax: 773-778-2410 Email: contactus@revedc.com Source: BlackEnterprise.com
Shuttleworth Marries

Thr Dec. 3
Open Book Program presents Fun Friday’s, Multi facetted after school program for young adoles-
cents. Field trips, book discussions, training, drama instruction, monthly allowances and more. 436 E. 35th St. 773-924-9802
www.openbookprogram.org
Nelth Artistic Expressions Celebrates Chi-
ca go Artists Month, An Exhibition Illustrating The ‘Spirited Artist’ Reac-
ting Beyond Boundaries. In October, 250 exhibitions of emerging and estab-
lished artists, openings, demonstrations, tours, open studios and negotiations art take place at galleries, cultural centers and arts buildings throughout the city. Nelth Artistic Expressions, Lukas Mawry Show-
ning Center 3467 S. King Drive

Fri-Dec. 15
THE LAST Bronzville Art District Third Friday Trolley Tour

Day of Dignity On De-
cember 1, 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks defied the segregation laws, refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Mont-
gomery, Alabama. Her actions sparked the Civil Rights Movement. This year a whole series of new events will allow us to re-
sect the rights of citizens. Rosa Parks fought for fair-
access to public transportation. In the coming year, bus and train commuters are users facing higher fares, poor access to fare 
machines and the loss of public transit service. Let’s learn from the past and continue the public’s call for justice in public transit. Keynote Speaker: Calvin Morris, Ph.D., Executive Di-
rector, Community Renewal Society, respected leader from the 1960’s movement, and current pre-
nary High School, 4444 S. 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Join us as we work to promote and recognize Accessible Public Trans-
ton to the people that need it the most. Spon-
sored by: Metro Seniors in Action and Better Trans-
port (BTT). For more information call 312-253-0641 or 312-757-0988. www.metroaging.org www.bettertransit.org

Sun-Dec. 3
CITIZENS FOR WILLIE COCHRAN Candidate for Alderman, 20th Ward Invites you to our ETA Theater Event, “Heal” written by Marsha Estell, Directed by Issa Duncan, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. ETA Creative Arts Founda-
tion, 7558 S. South Avenue, Chicago, Two sisters come together to visit their ailing mother, with a daughter in tow, three generations of Black women reflect on the past, lives, disappointments and the shortcomings in the past, they confront past wounds on the familial journey of acceptance the tapestry they are. Meet and greet, photo and refreshments after the show. Ticket Donation $25.00 For more informa-
tion call: (773)955-5610

Thu-Dec. 6-7
Chicago Public Schools will be sponsoring their annual parent involvement conference, “The Power of Parents”. It will be held at McCormick Place, Lakeshore East, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive from 8am-2pm on both days, and include keynote speakers Bill Cosby, Mayor Richard M. Daley. CPS Board President Rufus Williams, and vari-
ous workshops and panel 

Sun-Dec. 17
Mayor Menino’s official residence, Monumental Blast, 729 East Oak Park Avenue, HANDEL’S MESSIAH, 7:30 PM, Church Sanctuary, featuring, Alfredo

Thu-Dec. 7
RTA Community Meet-
ing/Budget Hearings Chicago South The RTA is seeking public input regarding its upcoming Move Beyond Conges-

tion strategic planning and regarding the proposed operating budget and capital budget for public transpor-
tation in the region, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center, 110 E. Hurst Street, Chicago, Central Monday, December 11th, 10 am - 10:30 am,

Michael A. Bi-
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BAN COOK COUNTY, 6:00 p.m., December 14th, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Suburban May-
ors & Managers, Meeting Room C, 1904 W. 174th Street, Hazel Crest. Meetings are open to the Federal laws to. No RSVP necessary. All locations are ADA accessible. For questions please call the RTA at 312-913-3200.

Wed-Dec. 13
Michael E. Mayden (The Coach) cordially invites you to attend a fundraising dinner to benefit his cam-

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Alpha Kappa Alpha’s President Receives Letters: Pledges $100,000 to Stillman

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s international president Barbara A. McKinzie received the Doctor of Human Letters from Stillman College during its recent 130th Founder’s Day Convocation. The honorary degree is bestowed upon individuals who have exemplified excellence in their professions and throughout their lives. McKinzie’s professional accomplishments, her distinguished record of service, and her resolve to create programs to improve the plight of African Americans during her four-year term, make her an ideal candidate for this honor.

Presiding over the observance was Stillman president Dr. Ernest McNeeley, who selected McKinzie for what he characterized as a “well- deserved honor.” In his comments, he hailed McKinzie for having had “an extraordinary career for someone so young.”

The ceremony, which represented a high point of the Founder’s Day Celebration, was held in Biright Auditorium. Over 500 students, alumni, friends and members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority witnessed the moving ritual.

It’s a Allen Affair

Thanksgiving with the Allen Family

South Street Journal Associate Editor Mark Allen shares the love with family on Turkey day with (left to right) Mark’s son, Markus Allen; Cousin Arthur Watkins, Jr., Cousin Stephen Watkins; Sister Michele Allen-March, Mark S. Allen, Brother J. Minter Allen, Kilolette and Cousin Erin Dawn Barnett from Philadelphia. Photo By Barbara Evans

During the festivities, McKinzie observed that Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Stillman must remain viable and vibrant because of the important role they’ve played in educating young African Americans throughout the ages, accounting firms.

CEDA LIHEAP Program

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANT PROGRAM
Open to the General Public
November 1, 2006

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:
1. Third copy of proof of Social Security number for members of your household e.g., (SS card, Paycheck stub showing SSN, Public Aid ID, SSI letters, etc.).
2. Proof of income for all members of household with income, (Incom documentation must cover prior 30-day period.)
3. Current Most recent ComEd and Peoples Energy bill in their entirety, which show customer name, service address, acct. number, and rate.
4. Public Aid Medical Card or Public Aid Assistance letters if any.
5. If you are a renter, a lease or rent receipt from the landlord showing renter’s amount, the landlord’s name and phone number and details are included.

(Even New LIHEAP Guidelines on reverse side)

Evening Star M.B. Church
4235 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Phone 773/536-9527
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Enabling Self-Empowerment

Our Purpose: We seek to provide a range of guidance programs, learning tools, and accessible and affordable resources to help enable individuals to improve and sustain their health and vitality, awareness and understanding, their lives, their future outlook.

Common Concerns: We reach out to bring more participants and partners into the team, sharing common interests and an expanding variety of programs, methods, practical skills, services, special options, and much more holistic in the best sense, offering natural ways to better health.

Areas of Expertise: Natural detoxification and regeneration; raw food nutrition and preparation; conflict resolution; stress management; conscious decision-making; community development; Egyptian Yoga and Conscious Breathing; natural health training and certification; interpersonal and group communications; group facilitation, etc.

Services include:

- Massage Services
  - Swedish
  - Aromatherapy
  - Hot Stone
  - Deep Tissue
  - Chair Massage
  - Aqua Therapeutic
- Naprapathic Services
- Naprapathic Adjustments
- Manual Manipulation
- Clinical Massage
- Fitness & Stress Management
- Hatha Yoga Classes
- Egyptian Yoga Classes
- Fitness & Weight Training Class
- Individual Yoga Training
- Individual Fitness Training
- Guided Meditation
- Health & Nutrition
  - Detoxification & Regeneration
  - Individual Detox and Regeneration Counseling
  - Raw Food Prep Demonstration
  - Raw Food Cooking Workshops
  - Colon Cleanse Detox
  - Energy Work
  - Zero Balancing
  - Body Talk
  - Reiki
  - Other Services
  - Acupuncture
  - Chinese Herbal Medicine

Schedule of coming dates
November 26 – Center Closed
January 18 – Everlasting Life Detoxification and Regeneration Program (6:30pm)
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Call a Chicago Allstate agent or 1-888-ALLSTATE*
"I'm going to fight for people who might not always be able to fight for themselves," says Mell Monroe, candidate for alderman in the 3rd ward. "That's why I'm in it."

Although he seems like a natural at politics, Monroe didn't start out with political ambitions when he first moved to Bronzeville from the South Loop five years ago.

As founder of the Bronzeville Area Residents and Commerce Council (BARCC), a group that advocates for property owners and businesses, Monroe said he grew frustrated when Tillman continually declined invitations to their meetings.

The issue that really pushed him over the edge, however, was when the alderman turned down the Kroc center, a $135 million gift from McDonald's heiress, Joan Kroc that would have built a "family life center" on 47th Street. Plans for the center included an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a gymnastics, a seniors center and a theater.

Like other candidates in the race for 3rd ward Alderman, Monroe was baffled by Tillman's refusal of the facility, which would have generated hundreds of jobs and provided a much-needed recreation outlet for youths. Even worse, Monroe said, was that the community was not allowed to participate in the decision-making process.

"I take her decision to recenter the budget for our kids, families and future, personally," Monroe wrote in an editorial in the Chicago Journal in April. "The fact is, someone needs to speak out about the lack of power held by near South Side residents."

"But the center can serve a purpose," he continued. "For me, the Kroc Center is the beginning of the end of machine-style politics in the 3rd Ward."

Last Spring, Monroe stepped away from his career as head of a successful executive recruiting firm to campaign full time. He started by knocking on doors to introduce himself and learn more about the needs of the community.

The three key areas that emerged from his work form the backbone of his campaign: education, innovative businesses and families. These platforms, Monroe says, are aimed to address the needs of a diverse ward comprising the South Loop, the Gap, Bronzeville, Englewood, Fuller Park and Back of the Yard.

Mell Monroe officially opened his Campaign Headquarters on September 30, 2006. Turn out was a success for the kick-off celebration, with over 120 attendees from all socio-economic groups in the Ward. The office is located in the heart of the 3rd Ward at 43rd Street and Indiana Avenue. The office occupies approximately 2000 square feet of the second floor of the former Currency Exchange Building.

Monroe and his campaign manager Ira Williams continue to walk the Ward. Monroe says he has also talked to many business owners and their workers for input on what is needed to grow their businesses in the 3rd Ward. Although there are different concerns with residents in precipitously precipitous and business needs vary, "Ward consensus is that there is an urgent need for a new perspective.—of less division—an end to "machine politics as usual."

Other candidates in the 3rd ward are, Angelica James, Pat Dowell, Ben Harris and the aldermanic Dorothy Tillman. (Partial source: The Media Reparteur)

9th Ward billboard Wars

Stephanie Spaulding, founder and president of INTERCEPT Now!, the nonprofit community-based organization that paid for the billboard advertisements of 9th Ward Alderman Candidate Earl D. Rayburn, through an in-kind contribution, announced that the organization is filing suit against United Billboard Co. for breach of contract.

Spaulding purchased several ad spaces in August from United Billboard that according to the contract were secured through February. INTERCEPT later donated its ad spaces to "Residents for Rayburn," the political organization supporting the candidacy of Earl D. Rayburn, as an in-kind contribution to the 9th Ward alderman candidate. The "Residents for 9th Ward Alderman" advertisements were removed no more than three days after they had been on display.

Spaulding said United Billboard never formally notified her in writing nor verbally that her ads would be removed and that owner El Williams, failed to give a reasonable explanation when she contacted him. This, according to Spaulding, is illegal and warrants legal repercussions.

"We've been fair and ethical during the entire sales process," said Spaulding. "We've given them multiple opportunities to do the same and they have chosen to do otherwise. I don't have a problem with Ald. Beale trying to secure all of the billboard space for himself. But how does one contract out business outweigh that of another?"

Spaulding is referring to Williams' observation that the ads had been removed because of "heat" being applied by 9th Ward incumbent Alderman Anthony Beale's office. Rayburn spoke with Williams over the phone shortly after learning that the ads had been replaced and said that Williams repeated on several occasions that calls coming from Ald. Beale's office were primarily to blame. Nevertheless, both Spaulding and Rayburn agree that despite how difficult Williams' claims might be, he failed to act ethically and professionally, which will result in a suit being filed immediately.

"United Billboard did not behave ethically as the other party beheld the contract," said Rayburn. "We've tried to amend this situation and make it right so that all parties involved can conduct business accordingly; but they clearly have alliances that prohibit them from acting in such a manner."

"[Ald. Beale] probably didn't think that there would be a candidate serious enough to challenge him and start advertising so early," said Spaulding. "This was an in-kind contribution to someone we fully support. A win for Earl. D. Rayburn is a win for the community."

INTERCEPT NOW!, a non-profit community-based organization located in the 9th Ward's Roseland community. The mission of the organization is to improve depressed neighborhoods through economic revitalization, community empowerment, professional and social skills training programs for both youth and adults.

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Cheryl Howard
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3947 S. Michigan Ave.
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cherylhoward@cchicagoouthcenters.org
Or visit: www.chicagoouthcenters.org for a mentor application.
Truth Out

Attack on Baghdad
Shiite slum kills 157

Five car bombs and two mortar rounds struck the capitals Shiite Sadr City slum, killing at least 157 people and wounding 247, police said. The attack by suspected Sunni Arab militants was the deadliest on a sectarian enclave since the war began and Sadr City quickly struck back.

Soon after the onslaught, Shiite militiamen fired 10 mortar rounds at the Sadr City holiest shrine in Baghdad, the Abu Hanifa mosque in the Ammiya neighborhood, killing one person and wounding 14. A 3-foot hole was blown in the dome and some inside rooms sustained severe damage.

Eight mortar rounds later slammed into the top Sunni organization in Iraq, the Association of Muslim Scholars, but caused no casualties, police said.

16,000 Single Mothers

Serving in Iraq

When war started in Iraq, a generation of U.S. women became involved as never before - in a wide-pan across of jobs, for long deployments, in a conflict with daily bloodshed. More than 150,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Among their ranks are more than 16,000 single mothers, according to the Pentagon, a number that military experts say is unprecedented.

How these women have coped and how their children are managing have gone little-noticed as the war stretches across a fourth year.

"It has to be one of the hardest things that a mom and her children have to go through," said Sunny Minter, a University of Houston professor with an expertise in family life. "You can't cuddle a young child over the phone, and you can't cuddle a child through a e-mail."

In the military, parental status is not a barrier to serving in a war. All deploy when the call comes - single mothers, single fathers, married couples - relying on a "family-care plan" that designates a caregiver for children when parents are gone.

The thinking is that a soldier is a soldier. "Everyone trains to a standard of readiness and must be able to be mobilized," said Lt. Col. Mike McMillan of the National Guard Bureau.

The funeral procession for the victims of Thursday's bombing moves past wreckage of a car destroyed in Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday. Sunni Muslim insurgents blew up five car bombs and freed mortars into Baghdad's largest Shiite district, killing at least 161 people and wounding 257 in a dramatic attack that sent the U.S. ambassador racing to meet with Iraqi leaders in an effort to contain the growing sectarian war.

(AP photo by Karin Kadim)

South Street Journal November 23, 2006 Page 9

Monroe Foundation Helps
Emerging Black Organizations

Otis Chandler Monroe, III, President of the Monroe Foundation and facilitator of the not-for-profit capacity building project called P.A.C.T. (Partnership Assisting Community Transformation), stated, "It is our goal to continue to develop the organizational leadership capacity of African-American led not-for-profit organizations in Chicago to become more effective at visioning, developing and implementing community projects that impact lives, transform communities, and become connected to the funding that supports those efforts."

For information about the P.A.C.T. project and how to participate, email Otis Monroe @ womone@themonroefoundation.org

WANTED

Account Executive
South Street Journal Newspaper
773-373-7000
SoStreetJournal@aol.com

Bronzeville Goes to Miami

Harold L. Lucas, president/CEO Black Metropolis Convention & Tourism Council provides an interactive power point presentation of the development of the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center, during a panel discussion at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation Annual Conference in Miami Florida on November 9th, 2006. (photo credit: www.bronzevilleonline.com)

Bacon's

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You Are Cordially Invited To Join In Our 13th Anniversary Celebration Of

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Saturday, December 9, 2006
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At The Beautiful
Prince Hall Masonic Temple
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Tickets: $50.00 Donation (includes, Subscription to SSJ or "Kings" book, Dinner and Halee Ticket
A Night of Awards, Dinner and Live Entertainment
Attire: Gatsby
For More Information Phone 773.373.7000
A Reunion Celebrating Community Legacy and Determination of the South Street Journal

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For More Information Phone 773.373.7000
A Reunion Celebrating Community Legacy and Determination of the South Street Journal

More than just Hats
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Black leaders:
End N Word I n Entertainment

Black leaders challenged the entertainment industry, including rappers, to stop use of the racial slur that Michael Richards uttered in his trade. The Rev. Jesse Jackson and others said they would meet with TV networks, film companies and musicians to discuss the “n-word.” “We do not accept nor will we give our ancestors a present,” Jackson said at a conference. “Dignity over degradation.”

Jackson also asked the public not to buy a DVD box set of the seventh season of the TV show “Seinfeld” that was released last week. Richards, who played the wacky neighbor Kramer on “Seinfeld,” triggered outrage in November when he was accused of using the word while describing a black man who was heckled during a stand-up comedy routine at the Laugh Factory nightclub in West Hollywood. A patton recorded the outburst with a video camera phone.

At the press conference, comediar Paul Mooney said he had used the “n-word” numerous times during stand-up performances but will no longer do so after watching Richards’ rant. “He’s my Dr. Phil,” the black comedian said. “He’s cured me.” U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, charged that only situations such as the Richards incident turn mainstream media attention to issues involving the black community.

“This is not simply about whether or not the black community for gives or forgets, this is about understanding that in perpetuity, that this happens in all of our institutions, one way or the other,” Waters said.

Comedian Paul Mooney said Michael Richards cured him of the n Word

...probably the greatest racial slur created in the English language, and I invented to denigrate African Americans. The word carries power and can be used across racial hatred, and most decent people, regardless of race, cannot bear to write it. How can one word have such power? Is it like to be called, ‘nigger’?”

Here’s a sample personal account that illustrates the ambiguity the word provokes: “My dad’s name is Carl Williams. He’s 63 and spent his early childhood in Oklahoma. When my older brother and I were probably seven and 10 years old, we got into a sandbox altercation with a couple white kids our age. I remember a few kids yelled at us (called us nigger) and threatened us. My dad confronted him. “Immediately I was totally, totally upset,” says my dad. “Because I knew that his intent was to try and dehumanize and to really undercut our motivated and self-actualize. They immediately took both by the hands and walked us back to the man’s house, knocked on his door and as soon as he came to the door, I remember lighting him know that in no uncertain terms, with every bit of force and potential violence that I had in me, that if that ever happened to my boys again, there would be no restraint and I would frankly kick his butt.”

“Every African American has their own ‘nigger’ story, says Dr. Keith Mayes. Mayes is a professor of African-American studies at Morehouse College. Mayes is in his mid-30s and remembers being called nigger by a white boy when he was 12. He felt funny and it ‘stayed with me all these years,’ says Mayes. “I wasn’t ‘funny’ but I was mad, confused.”

Another question was due to his only hearing the word used by other black people, like his friends or in the hip hop music they listened to. Rapper you know that a generation of young African Americans that ‘nigger’ was cool, at least a version of it. Talk to ‘er off the end of the word and replace it with an n’, and ‘nigga’ becomes a term of endearment, of inclusion, of shared circumstance.

During the 1970s, comedians like Richard Pryor began to demonstrate that ‘nigger’ could be funny, that its negativity could be denatured through shared humor. For Pryor, the use of the word was empowering, a successful effort to take a historical weapon out of the hands of whites, and then own it. Single-handedly, Pryor took the pain out of the word and through his gift of communication, gave it another meaning.

“I grew up, comedy wise listening to Richard Pryor,” says Alex Jackson. “And I probably started using it then because it was hip.”

Jackson is a stand-up comedian. He’s 46 and has been a professional comedian for more than 20 years. He grew up knowing the negative power of nigger. “I grew up from Richard Pryor and I didn’t think it could provoke humor. Like many other African Americans his age, Jackson began to change his mind around the same time Pryor did.

In Pryor’s concert movie “Live on the Sunset Strip,” the comedian talks about an epithy he experienced while he traveled to Africa. Pryor and some other day one he looked at the people around him and didn’t see niggers at all, just proud black people, and vowed that day to never to use the word again.

“That really affected me,” says Jackson. “You’ll never hear me call another brother that.”

Some scholars say ‘nigger’ was derived from the Latin word for the color black which is spelled ‘niger.’ Some believe the word ‘nigga’ is a delibera
tion of mispronunciation of the word ‘neger.’ That’s why for many the word carries so much negative power.

There’s something about deliberately and knowingly using something that suggests that it doesn’t matter what your name is, that you have no power, that you matter so little. It is not the phonetics of the word, it’s all the word emotionally conveys about the power of one person over another.

So What’s the Future About the N Word

African identity African sense of self through names: N
When instead of writing it means calling it by another name.
There’s a marginal transformation of the term.
As far to anyone nothing mean.
Mostly it’s a privilege some.

Letters To The Editor

From Robert Taylor Homes

Dear Editor,

Recently, over 300 African American Former Residents at Robert Taylor Homes received a letter from the property management stating that they were not compliant and owed back rent. Chicago Housing Authority from as far back as 1996. Being 3rd Area Jurisdiction Officially President for Robert Taylor Homes (obligated by 24 C.F.R. sec. 964) I am calling for a full and thorough investigation into these matters. Many residents have been
2007: Unity or Bust
Confirm it the first week of the year

Mayoral candidates Bill "Doc" Walls, Syron Smith, and Dorothy Brown, SSJ is calling for an end to factional fighting to create unity in the support of one Black candidate. But, in the wake of the last factional fighting in our community for the good of us all. Only by uniting efforts behind a single viable candidate will African Americans have a serious chance of challenging Daley.

Given the revolving door of crime and corruption in City Hall the last few years, other candidates must be regarded. It is time for a change. The Daley administration has had its difficulties of late, with criminal allegations reaching all the way to the Mayor's political right hand. And, with a mayor so firmly entrenched, with family and friends populating nearly every other level of government, it is time for a change. The first step, however, is to rid the city of the_one that has caused the most pain to the city in recent history.

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. is wrong saying the more moderate candidates is a cheap way to say I will not make an endorsement. Who are the spokespeople for these times and what appointment were they coerced now that the mayor's absence. Lu Palmer is no more around to call the drums and the roll call! As in the past, those who are the most vocal do not automatically qualify to become the stewards of change. Do we have a potential leader who can continue to move Chicago forward or are things better off biding time until the right man or woman comes along, or are we due for a change. Do those members of our community who have already declared their intent to make a run for the city's highest office bring the skills and relationships to the table in sufficient strength to merit replacing a mayor who has done a credible job in charting the course of Chicago?

Perhaps it is time once again, given the larger political picture. We saw during the stewardship of the late Mayor Harold Washington that his administration was forced to provide better government to the citizens of Chicago by the very nature of his initial unpopularity. This was also true of Harold Washington. There was also the hostility born of the legendary Chicago 29, the aldermanic bloc led by "Fast Fiddler" Voldaevsky that tried in every possible way to show the "People's Mayor" that he served at their pleasure, not those elected him. Because of that unrelenting hostility and microscopic scrutiny of his every move, Washington was forced to govern fairly, and govern well.

This current slate of the Daley administration has no less scrutiny compared to that of Washington that the constant undercurrent of corruption and criminal behavior has essentially been given a pass for a decade and a half.

Perhaps it is our duty to shake things up, if for no other reason than to bring a higher level of transparency to the governance of our great city. And perhaps, in the process, bring even more people to the table to do all of what this city has to offer.

Perhaps it is time, but it cannot happen unless the community can all pull together and present a front for a position to win or to lose, unity or bust, then try to gain something in the loss.

For first week of January, one thing Dock Walls, put out for sure is "One candidate."

Black on Black Business

Dear Editor,

I listen with deep interest October 20th to Roland Martin on WVON discussing the large amount of money the city is paying to contractors and the small amount going to black contractors. He discussed what some people are doing to get more contracts for black contractors. People were calling in pledges of money for what ever it cost to carry out their plans. I have worked all my adult life trying to get whites to do what they should do in regards to black. But my biggest efforts have been trying to get us to do what we should do among ourselves to help each other. I was discussed that the city is giving only 9.5 percent of the city's contracts to Afri-

Can Americans?

I have been living where I am since 1945. There have been more buildings rebubbling in the neighborhood this year than any year since I moved here. I think it is a shame that the only blacks I have seen working on a building in this neighborhood is the ones I hired. While I am 100 percent for making the city do what they should do, I think every church leader, black clubs and all other leaders should be doing our best to get all the people we can to spend their money with Black Owned Businesses. I am for others doing all they can to get the city to do right.

I am putting most of my money in the United American Progress Association; getting more people to subscribe for the Black Press, buy their grocery at a Black Owed Grocery Store, carry their clothes to a black owned cleaners, buy their gas at a black owned gas station, eat at a black owned restaurant, have their banquet at a black owned banquet hall, listen to radio station W.V.O.N., buy their clothes at a black owned clothing store and use the services of black contractors and buy goods produced by blacks. At the same time I am asking every business owner to give the best in goods and services and give with courtesy. I know many blacks who are not spending 9 percent of their money with blacks.

These are interesting times for more people to spend more with blacks please contact Webb Evans at (773) 268-1873. If we use my method we will create many of the jobs that we are trying to get others to give us.

Webb Evans, President
United American Progress Association

Illegal immigrants, displaced, and forced to move from their homes have moved into homeless shelters or with other family mem-

Housing Interest until this day nothing was done.

I have presented this issue to the Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to none avail.

I have addressed this issue to HUD in Washington D.C. & Chicago to no avail. (A response was received back on August 18, 2006 by Steven E. Meis, Director Illinois State Office of Public Housing Region V (312) 355-1915 ext. 2814.

I have addressed this issue to Robert Taylor Homes Local Advisory Council Attorney Renal Roden (working from a Department of Justice Grants to Protect Low-income Residents Rights) who addressed these federal regulations violations to Chicago Housing Authority's Deputy General Counsel Charles W. Levesque, May 31, 2006. In which she was relieved of her duty for address such violation by the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chi-

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Bronzeville
Lots
(Continued from page 3)

Who's Gone CRAZY
This Week?
By Ronnie Tatum
"A SPECIAL THANKS

goes out to Michael Richards

for heightening the contradiction".

Self-disrespect, leads to disres-

pect from others' i.e. Michael

Richards proved that point.

People that are respected usually don't get

disrespected! Are we expecting too

much from people that are basically

ignorant and really don't respect

even themselves. Africans in

America, should continue to

stand up and confront

ignorant and injustices
everywhere. Let's not lose our minds by believing

that disrespectful people

even have a desire to re-

spect others.

The Cook County
Assessors' office will be
increasing property tax on average
of 36% and in some area of the city
as high as 151%. Property owners
need to contact the state legislators
and tell them that they need to re-

new the homeowners' protection

bill. SB1275 will increase the mini-
mum wage from $6.50 per hour
to $7.50 per hour. The opponents of
the legislation argue that, the in-
crease will hurt their bottom line.

Why should the little people have to
stay on the bottom and suffer at the
expense of those, business people
that are too lazy to use their crea-
tive energies and find a way to off
set the additional expense?

Until next issue please keep your
eyes and ears open for the CRAZY

FOLKS around us! Arm yourself
with the TRUTH and you will re-
main FREE!

Coming soon: How to free your-
self from WAGE SLAVERY and
remove yourself for the Corporate
Plantation.

O.J.: "Of Course I Got Paid"

O.J. Simpson told The Associated Press he participated in the ill-fated "If I Did It" book and interview project for one reason, personal profit, and he acknowledged that any financial gain was "blood money."

"This was an opportunity for my kids to get their financial legacy," Simpson said. "My kids understood. I made it clear that it's blood money, but it's no different than any of the other writers who did books on this case." Simpson said the reported advance payment figure of $3.5 million was inaccurate. Although he would not specify how much he was paid, he did say it was a "windfall" that would go mainly to pay bills and support his children.

"Would everybody stop being so naive? Of course I got paid," Simpson said with a laugh. "I spend the money on my bills. It's gone," Simpson said. He added that the money would also be used to meet his tax obligations.

Simpson said he was convinced the book would have been a best-

seller.

"My kids would have been com-
ing into a lot of money," he said, adding he desperately needs the cash because his retirement funds are dwindling.

Prepublication sales for "If I Did It," had been strong, but not sensa-
tional. It cracked the top 20 of Amazon.com but had fallen to No. 51 by the time the cancellation was announced.

Making Mentoring Meaningful is a mentoring program that provides youth 4 to 14 years old, that have an incarcerated parent, the opportunity to be matched one on one with a volunteer mentor for academic and recreational support.

Making Mentoring Meaningful mentors meet with their mentees at least twice a month for 2 to 3 hours per activity/outing. If you enjoy a variety of activities, like to have fun and want to make a difference in the life of a child...we have a great opportunity for YOU!! For more info contact:

Cheryl Howard
Chicago Youth Centers
773-268-3815
cheryl.howard@chicagoyouthcenters.org
Or visit: www.chicagoyouthcenters.org for a mentor application.
**Entertainment**

**Dream Girls Back With Beyoncé**

Dream Girls, the much-anticipated $75 million film version of the early 1980s hit Broadway musical that won six Tony Awards, will be in theaters this holiday season.

"It's such a classy film, something that children, parents and families can see together," Beyoncé said. "I love the themes feeling like anything is possible, literally. We all go through trials and the negative things experienced by all of our characters. We eventually end up in the next chapters of our lives. It is a beautiful story."

Jennifer Holliday is still revered in her role as the difficult vocal powerhouse Effie. Effie White, who was kicked out of the group in favor of a lighthearted and slender and prettier singer, Holliday’s show-stopping performance of "I’m Gonna Love Me Again" earned her a 1982 Tony Award.

Dreamgirls boasts a string of other A-list actors, including Academy Award-winner Jamie Foxx (who plays the manipulative manager Curtis Taylor Jr.), comedian/actor Eddie Murphy (as performer James "Thunder"

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**Wesley Snipes Speaks**

Actor finally talks about his indictment on tax fraud

Wesley Snipes is speaking out about his Oct. 17 indictment on tax fraud. In an e-mail to a newspaper columnist, the actor says he’s being unfairly targeted by federal prosecutors who seem bent on nailing famous faces.

"It appears to be the scapegoat, because there’s more public interest in celebrities gone bad than 'rich people being taken advantage of,'" Snipes wrote in an e-mail to Orlando Sentinel columnist Scott Maxwell, according to AP.

The U.S. government accuses Snipes of fraudulently claiming refunds totaling nearly $12 million in 1996 and 1997 on income taxes already paid. This "Blade" star was also charged with failure to file returns from 1999 through 2004. If convicted, Snipes, 44, faces up to 16 years in prison.

The indictment was handed down when Snipes was in the African country of Namibia shooting a film. He remained in the region despite a warrant for his arrest issued in the U.S.

"I will abide by the law, seek the protections the law affords me and, as always, seek the advice of competent counsel in effort to resolve this situation," he said in his e-mail. "I'm not running, I'm not a fugitive, despite the misrepresentations in the press."

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**An Anita Baker Christmas**

Grammy-winning singer will give her fans a reason to rejoice this holiday season with five select concerts and a special performance on national TV.

December 9th Baker will visit the Chicago Theater for a holiday performance featuring songs from her holiday CD Christmas Fantasy (Blue Note) as well as songs from her acclaimed CD My Everything (Blue Note) and past favorites.

Baker also teamed up with jazz great Dave Koz and an array of international skiing stars including Nancy Kerrigan, EKaterina Gordeeva and Todd Eldredge, for The Capital One Holiday Celebration on Ice skater special, which will air on NBC.
The Black Plague

Despite a Slight Decline, African Americans Still Represent Almost Half The AIDS Cases In The U.S.

Despite a 3% average annual decline in the rate of HIV diagnoses among African Americans from 2001 to 2004, the magnitude of the AIDS epidemic among this group remains severe, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CDC reports show that in 2004, African Americans accounted for 20,962 estimated AIDS cases, constituting 49% of diagnosed cases among U.S. adults. That year, the rate of new HIV diagnoses among African Americans was more than eight times higher than the rate among whites. From 2001 to 2004, blacks accounted for more than half of all new HIV diagnoses (51%), even though they were only about 13% of the population.

The numbers come from a subset of 33 states with longstanding, name-based HIV reporting, says Jennifer Rath, spokeswoman for the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. "These more detailed analyses show that despite possible signs of success, HIV continues to exact a devastating toll on African Americans in the U.S.,” she says.

Blacks have accounted for more than 39,000, or 40%, of the estimated AIDS cases diagnosed nationwide since the beginning of the epidemic. Through December 2004, more than 200,000 blacks were estimated to have died with AIDS. Blacks have accounted for 38% of estimated deaths among persons with AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic.

No matter how you look at it, AIDS in America is a black disease, says Phill Wilson, founder and executive director of the Black AIDS Institute.

"Black people bear the brunt of the AIDS epidemic in America," Wilson says. "In the beginning, we were sleeping and not paying attention. Black America has not taken ownership of the disease."

Patrick Oliver: Turn the Page and You Don't Stop

Patrick Oliver, literacy advocate and editor of "Turn the Page and You Don't Stop: Sharing Successful Choppaes in Our Lives with Youth" announces the Books for Holiday Campaign scheduled to begin Saturday, December 2, 2006. The Books for the

gan this summer (July 2006) where Patrick Oliver facilitated a literacy panel at the Harlem Book Fair. The panel was televised live on CPBN BookTV.

Upcoming events, dates and location are:
Saturday, December 2, 2006, 2:00 p.m. Reading and Writing Herstory: Let's Talk About It with Felicia Pride, the founder of BackList (www.backlist.com) a website and publishing blog dedicated to keeping books in style. Registration, book sale and signing to follow discussion. Africa International House, 1525 E. 53rd Street, Chicago, IL Saturday, December 2, 2006, 4:00 p.m. Books for Teens, Turn the Page and You Don't Stop book signing and distribution of teen reading information Source Booksellers, 4301 Con Ave, Detroit, MI

Sunday, December 3, 2006, 4:00 p.m. WYON Pre-Kindergarten Festival www.wvon.com Getting Black Boys to Read Community Discussion Moderator Patrick Oliver Panelists Azim Amanuel, Fred Kepheu, Turtel Odi, Boyo Cukula, Book signings to follow discussion. South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S South Shore Dr.
Chicago Olympics

By Lawrence Hayes

It is about time that an organization comes to Englewood with the professionalism and talent needed to make a difference. Within a short period of time BITAS (Blacks Taking A Stand) has organized an event for the Wendell Phillips High School. Over thirty business professionals have committed to support Wendell Phillips and give the youth an opportunity to experience most of what we have in our school years enjoyed. For more information please e-mail lawrencehayesemailing@yahoo.com.

Well Les Brown tried to do a good deed it just does not seem to pay off. From the bad press in the Defender and the fighting between the Peace Center and Rev. Williams we know there will be a great loss to Englewood if Les Brown gives up on the creative programs he was trying to institute. So stay tuned Englewood residents.

After review of the Biotech convention it was finally decided the heat on over 41 new professional areas of job opportunities in the Biotech industry. The head of the National Alliance of Black Expo, Lawrence Hayes spoke with the President of the National Alliance of Black Expo, Dr. Donald Kendall, CEO of BITAS (Blacks Taking A Stand) community organization on media, a regular TV show on WTBN TV. It is an up and coming columnist with The Chicago Communicators Network and the Coalition at the Hartland Institute.

THE BLACK TALK ABOUT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Lawrence Hayes is the President of the National Alliance of Black Expo, a standing member of the National Association of Black Journalists, CEO of BITAS (Blacks Taking A Stand) community organization on media, a regular TV show on WTBN TV. It is an up and coming columnist with The Chicago Communicators Network and the Coalition at the Hartland Institute.

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New Census Bureau Data Highlight Changes in Housing Values

Across the country, real median home values soared 32 percent, according to new 2003 American Community Survey data released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. "Just about anyone who owns a home or has been in the market for one in the past few years knows first-hand how home values jumped from 2000 to 2005," said Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon. "This is an example of the kinds of local data that policy makers can use to assess housing needs and better plan for services such as schools, roads and other community needs."

The American Community Survey (ACS) provides timely and updated information about the nation's changing and diverse population every year. Without the ACS, this type of information, historically gathered just once a decade, would not be available for communities until 2012. To view the survey go to http://www.census.gov/acs/www.

The 2005 ACS data includes housing characteristic information such as occupancy, units in structure, year built, rooms, occupants per room, vehicles available, household heating fuel, value, mortgage status, gross rent, selected monthly owner costs and other characteristics.

Additional subjects covered in this release include means of transportation to work by work place geography, geographic mobility by selected characteristics, characteristics of households and families, grandparents and the foreign-born population. Also surveyed are disability characteristics, work status in the past 12 months, occupancy and financial characteristics. Real median selected monthly owner costs for owners with mortgages have increased 5.0 percent nationally between 2004 and 2005. Though not statistically different from each other, some of the highest increases among the largest cities in real median monthly owner costs were found in Detroit (34.1 percent), Chicago (21.7) and San Francisco (19.6). For more information on how your community compares with the nation, a state or another city, county or congressional district, visit American FactFinder at http://www.census.gov.

Shoppers Rise Early, Website Goes Down

From specialty boutiques in Chicago's neighborhoods to the mega-malls of the city's suburbs, shoppers on Friday morning showed up early and spent, giving retailers a reason to believe in a busy holiday season.

As expected, electronics were selling well with digital cameras and mp3 players in high demand, but even apparel seemed to be selling well. Luggage was a top seller at Macy's as shoppers took advantage of a four-piece set that sold for $49.99 from 6 a.m. until noon, said Jennifer McNamara, spokeswoman for the retail chain. "It is a very popular item this year," she said. "And customer traffic has been really great today. We remain confident with our business strategy."

Shoppers were hauling home cashmere sweaters, wrap dresses, belts, electronics and diamonds "which are very popular" from stores at the 900 Shops on Michigan Avenue, said Barbara Corrigan, spokeswoman for the center. Even specialty stores that do not offer traditional sales and early-bird incentives were seeing strong business on Friday. "Friday has been a good day for us," said Karl Sorensen, owner of a specialty housewares store in Chicago. "We are up over last year for sure.

The first stores cracked their doors at 5 a.m. with the rest of the mall opening two hours later, said Erica Strom, a spokeswoman for Yorktown Center. By 10 a.m., the parking lot was still full.

More than 300 people were waiting in Schaumburg for Sears to open its doors at 5 a.m. while a Dallas boutique showed up early and offered customers a reason to believe in a busy holiday season. Black Friday, which gained the moniker for once signifying the day when retailers saw their financial calendars turn black, has not been the biggest shopping day of the year for years. Procrastinators de-throned the day after Thanksgiving and crowned the Saturday before Christmas as the new holiday season title holder. Still, Black Friday continues to mark the traditional kick-off to the holiday season and the period in which retailers reap a significant portion of annual sales and profits. About one-third of 2005 profits for the retail industry came during the last three months of the year, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The Score On Your Credit Score

With the upcoming holiday season it would be a good idea for us to be aware of our credit score. Even though you may have no clue what your score is, plenty of businesses come in contact with sure know your score. Your credit score plays a big role in stuff like, the interest rate you are offered on a mortgage, the interest rate you are offered on a car loan, whether you can get a cell phone contract, whether a landlord will rent to you, the premium on your car insurance or whether a prospective employer will hire you.

Your credit score tells businesses what sort of credit risk you are. With a good score, everyone is going to be happy to do business with you and offer you good credit deals. But a bad score is a big fat warning flag for them. Businesses might still be willing to deal with you, but they are going to be nervous about your ability to pay your bills on time and they are going to charge you more. Their insurance policy in case you do indeed turn out to be a lousy credit risk.

So how can you not know what it is? More importantly, how crazy is it not to be doing something possible to make sure your score is as high as possible?

There are a handful of companies that compute credit scores, but scores, computed by Fair Isaac & Co. One FICO score which costs $14.95, is the grandaddy of all scores. Other businesses offer cheaper credit scores, but you can't afford to go with cheap. Businesses true FICO and use its scores when checking up on your financial health. So if a mortgage lender or financing company is going to be checking your FICO score, you better make sure you know exactly what your FICO score is.

Go to www.myfico.com to get your FICO credit score. You actually have three FICO scores, one from each of the three major credit bureaus. Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Typically any score above 720 is considered top notch and will qualify you for the best deals. But in some instances lenders are going to want to see a score above 760 to snag a super offer like a zero-percent car loan. Here’s a recent breakdown of typical categories used by lenders across the country. Your FICO Score and what interest rate you might qualify for on a 30-year fixed-rate loan, based on these FICO score categories.

The numbers are just as compelling if you’re looking for a new car. Your FICO score is based on all sorts of financial info that is tracked by three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. The credit bureaus know how many credit cards you have, whether you pay your bills on time, and all the details on any loans you might have, such as mortgages and student loans. Sadly, although all this access to your personal records is no guarantee of accuracy, the truth is that the credit bureaus can have faulty info on you. An old account you paid off might show up as being unpaid. Or you may find that someone has hijacked your account—the epidemic known as identity theft—and is running up credit card and loan debt in your name.

These kinds of erroneous info can send your FICO score south. So the one to make sure the info on your credit reports is correct. Once you clear up any mistakes, your FICO score should improve. The good news is that a new federal regulation entitles everyone to a free credit report once a year from each of the three credit bureaus. You can check whether you live in a state that is already eligible for free reports at www.annualcreditreport.com, as well as a few other options.

And here’s a neat credit report tip for the new system: you can create an ongoing free monitoring system of your credit by getting just one of the three free reports every four months. For example, start with Equifax and then four months later get the Experian report. Then four months after that, check the TransUnion report. And you can repeat this system every year. If you find any incorrect info, file the directions on your report to file a dispute.
Microsoft Releases Windows Internet Explorer 7 for Windows XP

Microsoft Corp. released to the public its Windows Internet Explorer 7 for Windows XP, the latest version of the world’s most popular Web browser. Customers can upgrade and browse the Web with confidence knowing that the new browser provides a greater level of security, makes everyday tasks easier, and works well with the Web sites they visit.

“We listened carefully to our customers and are delivering a safer browser that makes the tasks they do every day much easier,” said Dean Hachamovitch, general manager of the Internet Explorer team at Microsoft.

Financial institutions and security vendors such as PayPal and VeriSign are lining up to support the newest generation of the browser and encourage their customers to upgrade to Internet Explorer 7.

“Security is a top priority for PayPal, and we encourage our customers using Windows to download and use Internet Explorer 7,” said Michael Barrett, chief information security officer for PayPal Inc. “The new Internet Explorer 7 browser has significant security enhancements, including features that help customers protect their personal information when browsing, communicating and transacting online.”

Safety and Easier

In response to the increase in and changes of attack patterns, security threats, Internet Explorer 7 provides advanced safeguards that help protect against malicious software and phishing attacks. In Internet Explorer 7, Microsoft has tried to reduce the exposure to these attacks by fortifying the browser itself and providing better information to users to assist in making safer and safer decisions online.

“Making the consumer experience more secure helps improve consumer confidence online,” said Patrick Gauthier, senior vice president at Visa International. “Microsoft’s security improvements in Internet Explorer 7 will certainly further this endeavor.”

As the industry leader in Web site authentication, VeriSign believes that Microsoft’s new Internet Explorer 7 browser will help increase user confidence and help make consumers more secure when using the Internet, said Tom Callam, product marketing director at VeriSign Inc. VeriSign has always been on the leading front of offering the most current technologies to help secure consumers online, which is a concept that Microsoft brings to life with Internet Explorer 7. We encourage users to move to the new browser.

Internet Explorer 7 delivers a new look and enhanced capabilities that make everyday tasks — such as searching, browsing multiple sites and printing — simpler and safer.

“We do more with the browser. Microsoft is introducing users of Internet Explorer to tabbed browsing. With tabs, users are able to view multiple sites in a single browser window and easily switch from one site to another. In Internet Explorer 7, Microsoft情趣 ses tab functionality with a new feature called Quick Tabs, which provides an “At a Glance” snapshot of all open tabs on a single screen, enabling easier and faster site selection and navigation.

Increased Compatibility and Manageability

While Internet Explorer 7 includes significant end-user advancements, it was also designed with developers and IT managers in mind. Microsoft engineered Internet Explorer 7 for compatibility with existing Web sites by adhering to some of the most important standards for Web site development. Internet Explorer 7 also frames improved manageability for enterprises through the enhanced support of Active Directory Group Policy, which enables IT managers to easily deploy and centrally manage the browser on each of the desktops in their network.

Microsoft to Provide Customer Support

Internet Explorer 7 for Windows XP is now available in English and soon on Windows XP Service Pack 2, Windows XP 64-bit Edition and Windows Servers 2003 Service Pack 1. Internet Explorer 7 will be made available in other Windows-supported languages over the coming weeks.

Microsoft will continue to provide consumers in North America running Internet Explorer 7 with unlimited phone support for installation and download issues at no charge until November 1, 2007. Free phone support is available in English Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, and on Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. PDT by calling (866) 214-6620. Availability Details

Microsoft encourages all genuine Windows customers who want a safer and easier browsing experience to download Internet Explorer 7 free of charge at http://www.microsoft.com. Microsoft will also begin distributing Internet Explorer 7 as a high-priority update via Automatic Updates in November. Microsoft encourages all customers to install Internet Explorer 7 when notified by Automatic Updates.
Deputy Superintendent Dana Starks answers questions from family members of the deceased, residents and community leaders as Alderman Arne Anderson (20th Ward) looks on. (SJJ photo by EJ Jackson)

(Continued from page 1)

said "he's known Michael ever since he was a baby. When asked what kind of child Michael was, he replied, "Michael was a good kid, just like most kids are around here." "I'm afraid that after this interview there will receive numerous violations from the city," Fadu said, forting his business.

This incident sparked numerous protests, and a town hall meeting held by Alderman Arne Anderson (20th Ward), and that lit a fuse for more protests.

One day after Thanksgiving activities set up shop on 63rd and Cottage Grove informing the general public about police terrorists in our communities. While many were sitting around watching a foot ball game or trying to let their turkey and dressing digest, Voices of the Ex-Offender (VOTE) Paul Mc Kinney, and Mark Carter and Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC) Chair Fred Hampton Jr. as well as others were seen on 63rd and Cottage streeting the general public know what they feel about police terrorist. "The Chicago police don't like Black people!" Paul Mc Kinney said out loud over a bull horn.

"They shot a 22 year old black boy in his stomach the other day," McKinney added. "They are giving us bogus tickets as well as locking us up on bogus charges!" McKinney said. People that were walking past nodding their heads in agreement.

A few CPD blue and white squad cars rode pass only slowing down long enough to monitor the area. A few vehicles honked their horns in agreement while driving by.

On Monday November 5th at 1:00 pm Michael Smith was edged at AR Lake Funeral Home. But a protest later that same night on 63rd Street hit up controversy between upset community residents and Chicago police surrounding Michael's death.

Alderman Troutman held a press conference Monday Nov. 16th at the site of the Nov. 16th final shooting of Michael Smith at 63rd Street and South Evans. Tempers were high resi dents and community leaders listened to Troutman's demands of police ac countability. There are questions about the weekend shooting involving a Chicago police officer on the city's South Side. Investigators say Michael Smith was shot and killed after he allegedly lunged for an officer's gun. But some witnesses and relatives say that's not what happened. They want the officer who fired the shot charged with murder.

Over 50 people filled the back of Troutman's office on 59th & State St. for another press conference regarding the final shooting of Smith on Novem ber 18th by police. Tempers were high, tears flowed and cameras reflected. The crowd wanted not just justice for the two-sided incident but protection for the witnesses. Protection from the police! Family members of the deceased, organizers, constituents, and community residents all wanted to know in what way their witnesses were locked up on the scene for disorderly conduct and bogus drug charges? Why are witnesses afraid to come forward?

Deputy Police Superintendent Dana Starks was on hand but could not handle the crowd. With explanations like "no information can be told while preliminary investigations on going investigations were in effect" offered little solace for the beleaguered crowd. Troutman mediated the crowd with passion, understanding and re spect. The following is an excerpt of the statement Alderman Troutman gave at the press conference.

"I called this informational Town Hall meeting at the request of my constituents in the 20th Ward. I believe that in a Participatory Democracy, one of the fundamental rights of the people is their constitutional right that prohibits unlawful searches and seizures. In a democracy, the rule of law and the fundamental right to privacy are sacred.

I am against violence when it is perpetuated by citizens on citizens, and I am against violence if it is perpetuated by those in law enforcement who we hold to a higher standard because they have been given certain powers and authority to protect and to preserve.

Therefore, when eyewitness accounts are different from police accounts, there is a natural conflict.

I sent a letter requesting the Superintendent Phil Cline to be here to face the citizens of Chicago and answer our questions. I understand that there are representatives from the Office of Professional Standards here today to answer any questions that we may have for them. I hope that we win the Black community can be treated with respect and dignity. I hope that the darkness that you receive is not predicated on the amount of money that you have or lack thereof".
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