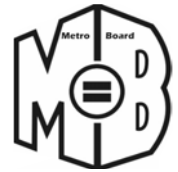


Metro Board Newsletter

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF THE CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE



November 4, 2002

Volume II Issue IV

Magic's Monumental Assist

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Earvin "Magic" Johnson added one more to his career assist record in Chicago recently, and was certainly not booed. On September 9th, the recent NBA Hall of Fame inductee kicked off the *KNOW YOUR MONEY*[™] program with the Metropolitan Board (MB) of the Chicago Urban League in a reception at the Alder Planetarium.

When asked about the success of the event, MB President Steven Casey said, "I think the event went really well. Overall the reception allowed young African American professionals to listen to words of wisdom from someone who transitioned to the business world after he made his mark in the NBA. His [Johnson's] passion was clear and so was his message: Get to be intimate with your money to further your own individual goals as well as your community's by making good, sound decisions and not just following the status quo."

The *KNOW YOUR MONEY*[™] program, an initiative sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc. in partnership with The National Urban League, includes a three-class curriculum taught by financial experts over a 12-week period. It will provide African American professionals, ages 21 and over, with a comprehensive understanding of personal money management. In addition to Chicago, the *KNOW YOUR MONEY*[™] program will be offered in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston and Washington, D.C.

Johnson, who is the spokesperson for the series and attributes good financial education to his success, explained "One of the most important lessons that I had to learn during my sports career was how to understand and exercise control over my personal finances. I'm proud to be associated with *KNOW YOUR MONEY*[™] and the partnership between the National Urban League and Philip Morris Companies.



CUL President and CEO James Compton (second from left) listens intently along with Earvin Johnson and Phillip Morris representatives.

Casey added, "The one missing pillar in the African American community is the financial pillar. With the creative teaching methods and materials used in the *KNOW YOUR MONEY*[™] seminar, participants have a foundation to stand on, for a more prosperous future."

Magic could not agree more. "This is a program that is so much needed in minority communities across the country. Our problems always stem from the fact that we don't know how to budget money, don't know how to invest money, and don't know how to save money. We must stop the jealousy, the envy, and the hatred and encourage each other in our business relationships."

With over 120 people registered for the classes, and 350 attendees at the reception, the revolution may not be televised, but it is, at least, well-funded. The first class was held on Saturday, September 14th and the students have been receptive. President Casey said, "A lady stopped me on the street the following week after the class. She was in her late 30's early 40's. She commented how refreshing it was to be in a room with other young professionals who were open and candid about their finances which, in turn, made her feel open and honest about her own finances. She also commented on how she wished the course was every week, so the interaction would be more ongoing. She totally understood why the class was structured the way it was, but I understood her point," said President Casey.

The final class will be held on Saturday, November 9th at DePaul University starting promptly at 9:00am. A graduation reception will be held after the last class.

-by Damon O. Smith

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MB President Steven Casey takes a time out with Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Phillip Morris representative A. Shuanise Washington during the Know Your Money kick-off reception.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Making Your Money Work For You...and Your Community

As young Black professionals, one of the keys to economically empowering our communities is to manage our personal financial health such that we are in a position to “give back” to or support them. How, in fact, do we effectively give back to our communities? In addition to the commonly exercised option of volunteerism, there is a wider, yet not often discussed area of socially responsible investing.

One of the areas of socially responsible investing that enables investors to see the “fruit” of their investments on the local or community level more readily is *community investing*. For those investors looking to see their dollars work on a more grassroots level, community investing is the logical choice.

In the Chicagoland area, Shorebank has been at the forefront of community investing. Shorebank, the nation’s first community development bank, is able to convert common consumer deposits (e.g. checking, savings, and IRA retirement accounts) into development loans that benefit community residents who participate in the bank’s economically empowering initiatives. Shorebank Neighborhood Institute (SNI), established in 1978, is a nonprofit affiliate of Shorebank that administers five economic development

programs that cumulatively have served over 3,000 individuals. In 2002 alone, they expect to serve over 800 community residents. Each of the initiatives rest upon the tenets of economic empowerment—employment, entrepreneurship and wealth creation.

Though the Studio Air program, started in 1996, South Shore teens ages 13-18 are taught how to develop their business skills in an entrepreneurial environment. SNI CEO, Shelley Hoyt Smith explains, “Program participants use technology and the arts to create T-shirts, caps and other premiums for corporate and retail clients. In 2001, Studio Air grossed \$76,500 in sales, including a single order of 8,000 T-shirts for the United Negro College Fund.”

Also in the spirit of entrepreneurship, SNI’s Austin Growth Fund offers otherwise “risky” small and medium sized businesses loans to meet their expansion needs or mitigate short-

or long-term shortfalls. The Austin Growth Fund serves community residents all over Chicago’s South and West sides as well as the southern suburbs of Robbins, Harvey, Markham, Ford Heights and Chicago Heights. A total of four new minority businesses were funded last year and the program boasts that it has granted more than \$1.8 million in business loans since its inception in 1997.

Additionally, SNI actively teaches program participants how to manage their personal finances. Smith adds that through the Individual Development Accounts initiative, welfare recipients, the working poor, and others not eligible for traditional savings and retirement plans are able to maintain matched savings accounts that can be accessed for home ownership, education, job training or business development. Program participants learn how to budget, develop a savings plan, and understand their credit rating. Since the initiative’s founding in 1998, 540 accounts have been opened with \$217,000 in accumulated savings.

Smith applauds young professional organizations that are actively educating themselves and others on how to achieve financial freedom. “...let me commend the [Metropolitan Board] for their commitment to giving back ...and [their] interest in facilitating economic development initiatives,” she stated emphatically. There are a number of opportunities available to those looking to make an impact. For more information on SNI and its economic empowerment initiatives visit their website at www.shorebankneighborhoodinstitute.org.

-by Tiffany E. Rockette



A Holiday Card designed by Studio Air program participants.

GET INVOLVED: WAYS TO SUPPORT SHOREBANK NEIGHBORHOOD INSTITUTE

- Provide job shadowing for Studio Air participants or use Studio Air services to design T-shirts, caps, or premiums for future events.
- Help SNI identify and inform African American small business owners loan availability for high-risk borrowers in Chicago communities. Loans can range from \$50,000 to \$250,000.
- Contribute to the SNI. Payroll deductions are available through the Black United Fund (BUFI) in Chicago.

The Real Estate Corner

You Can Go Home Again!

Are you a Chicago native shopping for a home? Are you new to the city, and suffering from sticker shock from cubicles selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars? Rather than paying exorbitant prices for housing in the financial district (the Loop), consider some of the other residential neighborhoods the city has to offer.

For instance, while a one bedroom condominium may cost upwards of \$200K in the Loop, traveling 20 minutes south will afford you a 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex home in the South Shore area for the same price. Alternatively, going about 20 minutes north of the Loop will buy you a 2 bedroom in the Rogers Park community.

Remember, high prices correlate with location, but are not necessarily an indication of high quality. For a better value for your dollar, home shop in safe communities near transportation in the city. Broadening your home horizons can save you thousands of dollars per year!

- by Kimberly Thomas



MB COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Volunteering With Open Hands Chicago

As if the statistics aren't scary enough, the all-too-familiar stories of HIV and AIDS infection are enough to make you lock yourself in your room and pray arranged marriages suddenly come into style. But after you've passed out your condoms and given your last lecture on safe sex, *what can you do to help?*

Volunteer with Open Hands.

On Christmas Eve 1988, a group of AIDS caregivers gathered at a friend's home to prepare holiday meals for 35 people living with HIV/AIDS. That night they delivered warm holiday meals throughout Chicago from Howard Street on the north side to 120th Street on the south side. This marked the beginning of Open Hand Chicago.

In 1989 Open Hands became a fully operational meal delivery program for people living with HIV/AIDS. By 1994, Open Hand Chicago found its clients were living with, not dying of, AIDS. Better treatments and proactive self-care began to enable clients to live longer and become more self-sufficient. In response to this change, Open Hand Chicago opened its first grocery center. Though Open Hands initial focus was feeding homebound clients too debilitated to prepare meals for themselves, the agency has since established a food distribution

program by which HIV infected clients below the poverty line can receive free groceries and toiletries.

Open Hands also offers a medical nutrition therapy program, in which registered dieticians work closely with clients to assess their specific dietary needs and to develop nutrition plans that complement their HIV medical treatments. For some clients, identifying the effects that different foods have on their HIV medications and other health conditions could mean the difference between hospitalization and constant weight fluctuation.

The Open Hands Southside pantry is 90 percent operated on volunteerism. An average of 400 clients visit the pantry every week to collect their groceries. The Metropolitan Board (MB) has volunteered on a few occasions, "shopping" to collect their groceries and bag them as well as miscellaneous tasks to help the pantry operate. MB member Steve Davis has become an active volunteer at Open Hands and is currently working to continue the commitment between the MB and Open Hands. "I think it's a very worthwhile experience. You never know who the disease will affect so it's important to bless everyone with our volunteerism," he noted.

For more information about the Southside Pantry, contact Andrea Alexander at 312-224-1444.

- by Josefina Aguayo

"lounging"

the esoteric ambiance
the seduction of silent subtlety
the have it how you want it sensation in the air

room service

MB's trip to LA chic and NYC hip

all for your sense's pleasure in your present space
take it all in all in, at your own pace, just don't waste

the relaxed mind state that entraps the soul with site and sound
by limits you are not bound be found,

as the MB intoxicates you
to lounge

the esoteric ambiance
the seduction of silent subtlety
the have it how you want it sensation in the air

room service

Join the Metropolitan Board for its 2nd Annual black-tie optional fundraiser
All proceeds will support the annual community service initiatives of the
Metropolitan Board and Chicago Urban League

Featuring:

- A live performance from New York neo-soul artist, SOMI
- Soulful sounds from Chicago's own DJ Shon Dervis Ezuli
- Gourmet international buffet stations from Levy Catering and Restaurant Group
- Complimentary open bar featuring Alize™ and other premium spirits
- Raffle prizes and much more...

MEMBERSHIP

A Glimpse of Heaven Through the Rearview: Recollections of Dominica

I knew I would return to Dominica after first visiting the island while on a Caribbean cruise with my family. Of the five islands we visited, Dominica was the only one that I instantaneously knew I was destined to return to. Fast forward five years to June 6, 2002: the day I arrived at Melville Hall (Dominica's major airport) prepared to fully experience my first solo adventure.

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing"
- Helen Keller

Soon after collecting my luggage I was greeted by Alfred Rolle. He had come to take me to Papillote Wilderness Retreat & a Nature Sanctuary, the place I would be staying while on the island. As we drove through the Central Forest Reserve region of the island, Alfred pointed out the wide assortment of tropical plants, trees, birds and vegetation. The orchids, African tulip trees, ferns, hibiscus and bird-of-paradise growing wild along the roadside were enough to make my heart skip a beat. Who would have known there are over 200 species of the fern plant? The guava, mango and coconut trees were so inviting that it took all of me not to ask Alfred to stop so we could savour their sweetness.

Even the glimpses of the hummingbirds,



parrots, and herons fascinated the bird watcher in me I never knew existed. I sank further into my seat and allowed myself to take it all in. The nature girl in me was coming out!

Dominica is a volcanic island with steep mountains, deep river gorges, lush forests, tumbling waterfalls, and astonishingly beautiful coastlines. Tropical vegetation still covers much of the island; more than

two-thirds of the island is primarily rainforest. It is perhaps the most untouched island in the Caribbean and is often described as the Nature Island, the mating of Jurassic Park with the Garden of Eden.

Never having lived in nor visited a rainforest before, I did not know what to expect from Papillote other than what had initially attracted me. I was looking forward to staying in the secluded eight-room hotel on 43-acres of property. I was eager to stay in a hotel that had been recognized internationally for its ecological approach to tourism as well as being amidst one of the best botanical gardens in the world. Additionally, I was delighted that the rooms were not equipped with TVs, radios, or telephones that would distract me from the peace and quiet I longed for. It all seemed heavenly on paper - however, that changed when we arrived at Papillote around 6 PM. Nightfall was fast approaching and we were far away from any signs of urbanization. I began questioning my decision to stay in Papillote.

By 7pm I could no longer see my two feet in front of me. Who would have thought to bring a flashlight? The other solo woman adventurer staying at Papillote was already using the hotel's only loaner flashlight. For just a moment I allowed myself to become frightened. I wasn't accustomed to the darkness of the night, the sounds of the rainforest, or the heavy rain pour that awoke me from my evening nap. It soon dawned on me that this vacation was not going to resemble any of my trips to Jamaica. Yep, this adventure was going to be like no other. I was staying in the rainforest after all!

"Adventure is a state of mind— and spirit"
- Jacqueline Cochran

Within a few days I had immersed myself in the Dominican culture. My days were filled with adventurous experiences: hiking 3,000 feet above sea level in the World Heritage Site of Morne Trois Pitons National Park; swimming in the Caribbean Sea off of the coast of Scotts Head, a fishing village; visiting Carib Territory where 3,500 descendants of the South American warriors who arrived in Dominica in 1000 A.D. live; exploring Dominica's numerous water falls; relaxing in the island's many natural hot mineral baths and pools; or shopping at the local market and stores in Roseau.

My adventures continued into the evenings with me either hanging out with the Papillote staff; relaxing at the home that Alfred shared with his wife, Sharon; listening to compass (music originating from Haiti's national dance music with Spanish, French, English or Creole lyrics) or bouyon (electronically-generated sounds with drums and prominent keyboard originated by Dominican-based band WCK) while enjoying a bottle of Kubuli (the local lager beer) at River Rock Café Bar; dancing at Soul Food (the local dancehall) in the village; or winding down with a good book. Most nights ended with me in one of the three hot mineral baths on the Papillote property, followed by a pot of fresh ginger tea.

I was no longer afraid of the darkness of the night or the sounds of the rainforest. I began looking forward to the ten-minute hike in the dark from the village to Papillote and the frequent rain pours during the night. I was waking up by 6 AM each morning energized about the possibilities that the new day offered. This solo adventure was sweeter than I had ever imagined.

"The best way to live is by not knowing what will happen to you at the end of the day"
- Donald Barthelme

Soon enough June 14th arrived and Alfred came to take me to the airport. "Me check you later," I promised Evalyn, Eslee, Cindy, Christina, Francis, Andy, Brian, Clyde and Cutbreath, my new Dominican friends, as I begrudgingly climbed into Alfred's van. As we drove along the East coast enjoying the Atlantic Ocean's breathtaking coastline, I became increasingly silent the closer we got to Melville Hall. I hadn't left Dominica, yet I already missed the country I had fallen in love with! Noticing this, Alfred turned to me and in Kweyol said, "Kaiman wai-bouka" (Come on! Let's go!) as if we were going to return to Trafalgar. Thoughts of me returning to the village flashed through my mind. What if I was to stay another week? Teary eyed I smiled back at Alfred knowing I had just had an experience of a lifetime. "Me soon come," I said with confidence knowing I wouldn't allow another five years to pass before I returned to country that had captured my heart and soul.

-by Althea McIntyre

MEMBERSHIP

Sak pase?

In Creole, that is the informal greeting passed back and forth like a piece of *griot* (traditional cooked pork) in the tiny Caribbean island of Haiti. My father is Haitian, but he immigrated to the United States in the 1960's and has never been back. Last month, I had an opportunity to go back to my roots for the first time in my life. As the day for my departure drew nearer, I was both excited and nervous. My family had always told me what a beautiful country Haiti is with rolling mountains and striking vistas of the sea, palm trees, and wide-open uncultivated land. But in my mind, I had a different picture. All the images I had ever seen of Haiti presented a sharp contrast—a politically unstable government; a people who practiced Voodoo and lived in squalor in overrun ghettos infested with disease, hunger, and unsanitary conditions. But I love to travel and nothing could have stopped me from making this trip, so away I went not quite knowing what to expect.

Stepping off the plane and into the airport, I grabbed my bags tightly as several men crowded around asking if I needed any help. I had been warned to be overly cautious and not let anyone hold or take my things and fortunately, since I was traveling with other family members who spoke Creole, I had no problems. People everywhere, the overcrowded airport was packed with men and women trying to earn a few dollars. And even within those first few minutes the potency of hopelessness and desperation wrapped around my sticky skin, draping my shoulders like a shroud. I felt the heat and, even more, the oppressiveness of political confinement.

As we drove through the streets of Port-au-Prince on the way to my aunt's house, I sat in a daze wondering how people could live with piles of garbage six feet high and six feet wide (and still mounting) so close to their homes. The streets were abuzz with impatient drivers honking their horns in streets with no traffic lanes or lights and men



and women shouting, "*Es coeur oeuvre dlo? Water! Anyone want water?*" The usual crowds were going to and from the market on their way to visit friends or, perhaps, in search of work for the day. Everywhere I looked, the dirt roads looked like mine-

fields. My aunt only lived a few miles from the airport, but it took us nearly an hour to get her house. Before leaving for Haiti, I had been nervous about seeing such poverty. Now, in the midst of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, anger and frustration rose within like the dense smog and pollution covering the city. I felt my spirit slowly begin to drip dry and began to understand what it must feel like living in a world where one's options in life are so limited. But still, I was happy to be "home" and slowly came to see that despite their lack of material goods my Haitian brothers and sisters took delight in the miracle of being alive.

While I was staying with family, I desperately wanted to get a real feel for everyday people and how they spend their day. I managed

to make it to the *marche*, or market, several times. The *marche* was in the heart of downtown Port-au-Prince and consisted of a large warehouse with artisans eager to make a profit and stores with anything and everything you can imagine. Surrounding the *marche* on every street were hundreds of other vendors selling fruits, vegetables, clothes, mechanical parts and the like. From the moment I stepped off the tap-tap bus and into the streets I had to watch my step to make sure my foot didn't land in a puddle or pile of trash. The piercing stench burned my nostrils and gave me a severe headache. Multiply that by intolerable heat; loud zouk and kopa music bursting out of every car and every store; and hundreds of people whirling about like a thundercloud and you have an idea of what the *marche* is like.



After spending a week in Port-au-Prince, we left the capital and went out into *Fondu Blanc* (where my grandfather grew up) and *Jacmel* (where my grandmother was born). The countryside, in contrast to the city, was a sprawling landscape of rich hues of green, brown, and blue. One is reminded that Haiti is, indeed, a tropical country. In Fondu Blanc, we stayed at an uncle's three-room house with no running water or electricity. There was an outhouse in back and pans underneath the bed for late at night when one just had to "go." Later that night, the moon was the only light aside from our kerosene lights. I breathed deeply and thanked God for being alive, trying to memorize the maze of stars and the bright moon dancing across a jet black sky.

One night in Jacmel I went out to listen to my cousin's band play. The streets were lined with men playing cards or dominoes, friends on their front porches laughing and passing away the time, women braiding each other's hair, and others returning home after a long day's work. I smiled at such a beautiful celebration of life. "This is life," I thought. This is what it's all about because who knows what tomorrow will bring.

Haiti, the land of my ancestors, is the only country to have successfully fought off their French colonizers, becoming the first black independent country in the world after colonization. Haiti marks a crucial chapter in black history and yet, it is so heart wrenching to see what the country has become. The government needs reform, people need jobs, education must be improved, healthcare has to get better, and the list goes on and on. But like many other poor nations in the world, the *shackles and chains of political greed* can't kill the spirit of the people. We Haitians will choose life over death always because that is the only option in heaven on Earth.

- by Julie Felix

NOTEWORTHY

National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP) are making waves all over the country! Check out some of their recent achievements!

San Diego Young Professionals Chapter (SDYP) 2002/2003 Achievement Matters Scheduled Events

SDYP has partnered with the San Diego Urban League's Education Department in a campaign for African American achievement. SDYP members have helped to coordinate and facilitate the panel discussions and events listed below.

Saturday, October 26, 2002 @ 2PM

Best Academic Practice Schools Awards

United Front, SDUL Youth Leadership T.E.A.M., SDUL Young Professionals and SDUL Family Resource Support Network will award San Diego Unified School District's 45 Best Academic Practice Schools for African American Children
Location: Bayview Baptist Church

Saturday, December 14th, 2002 @ 8:30AM

National Campaign for African American Achievement:

Panel Discussion on the Achievement of African American Students in San Diego Unified School District, State and Nation.

*Sponsored by United Front for the Education of African American Children, SDUL 21st Century Youth Leadership T.E.A.M., and the YLT's Family Resources Support Network and members of the San Diego Family, School, Community Partnership (A NEA/NUL Partnership).
(Location: TBD)*

Saturday, December 14, 2002 @ 3PM

Golden Pyramid Best Practice Teachers Awards and NAS Inductions Keynote Speaker, NUL President, Hugh B. Price, *Special Guest Invitees: Lt Governor, Cruz Bustamante and California Speaker of the Assembly, Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.*

Location: Bayview Baptist Church

January 2003 Saturdays @ 8:30AM

Golden Pyramid/National Achievers Society Higher Education Collaborative Workshop #1 Test Taking and SAT/ACT preparation
Location: S.D. State University

February 2003 (Monday–Friday)

Africans in America and Eyes on the Prize

This documentary series will be shown during the lunch hour (daily) in the Manpower Board Room and during the Youth Leadership Academy timeframe, (Tuesdays, & Wednesdays @ 5pm). Ta[es will be available for overnight checkout.

Harrisburg Urban League Young Professionals: The New Movement

The Harrisburg Urban League Young Professionals, **The New Movement**, celebrated its one-year anniversary in July 2002! Since its inception, The New Movement has:

- Held **monthly** organizational meetings & socials
- Formed a wonderful, hard working & dedicated **Executive Committee**
- Recruited more than **25 dues paying members...**and counting
- Adopted the entire 7th grade class of Camp Curtain School and created the "Lunch, Learn & Lead" **mentoring program** where members have lunch and conduct empowerment workshops with the students once a month for the entire school year
- Held our **1st annual event**, The "Talent" Showcase, at the Harrisburg Forum Auditorium on April 26, 2002
- **Sponsored** a total of 6 Harrisburg High School students to attend their senior prom, get yearbooks, and receive their caps and gowns for graduation
- Were **featured** in the June 2002 segment of the "Life Esteem Show" on Harrisburg's WHP-TV 21
- **Attended** the 2nd Annual meeting of the National Urban League Young Professionals at the National Urban League 2002 Conference held in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Convention Center
- Held the first of a series of **voter registration drives** in cooperation with NGOZI, Inc.

F.Y.I.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 10, 2002

3:00 PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2002

6:30 PM General Body Meeting at CUL Headquarters

Fundraising Kick-off: "Room Service—The Luxury of Lounging"

Sunday, November 17, 2002

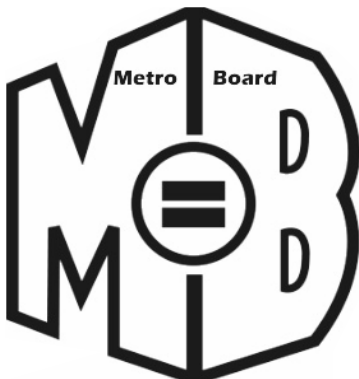
3:00 PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2002

6:15 PM PR Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2002

**7:00 PM Community Service Meeting at Java Oasis
(2240 South Michigan Avenue)**



METROPOLITAN BOARD OF THE CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE

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"Mixing Business With Pleasure"