

Vol. 18 No. 16

chicago

APRIL 14-APRIL 20, 2010

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The Green Issue

**Q & A with
Environment Illinois**

plus upcoming eco-friendly events

Also Inside:
Chicago Latino Film
Festival preview

Pathways and Portals
at Thompson Center

chicago StreetWise

MISSION: TO HELP PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

From the Director



By Bruce Crane
Executive Director

Going “green” is trendy. That’s for certain by all we see, hear, and read about it. But, at its core, being green is more

than a trend. Responsibility for our environment, in its many forms, needs to be inculcated into a way of life, not a thing we sometimes do.

Take recycling for instance. Do we recycle as a matter of habit, or just when we think about doing so? Do we recycle everything we can even when it requires extra effort, or do we recycle just when it is convenient? Do we throw away our empty soda can in a convenient trash container as we gas up the car or put air in our bike tires? Or do we keep the can with us until we get home and can recycle it? Do we go the next step and use a reusable container for our drinks? These are just some of the self-reflective questions we can ask ourselves about being “green.”

I have a fundamental belief that businesses should be socially conscious. In addition to offering outstanding products or services to our clients, treating its employees respectfully, and returning a reasonable return to our investors, a great business strives to be a great public citizen as well. So it should be no surprise that the

last six months have included a look into how we at StreetWise operate and endeavor to do it better environmentally. We have had both staff and many volunteers assist us in this quest. In the process we have reduced our utility bills by utilizing programmable thermostats, adding insulation, and caulking gaps in our windows and doors. We have fixed toilets and sinks to repair leaks. We have been mindful of our computer and copy machine printing to minimize the volume, and to print on both sides of the paper. We have contracted with a local paper recycling company to efficiently collect our unsold magazines and office paper for recycling.

Another action step is to recycle this copy of *StreetWise*. An even better step is to reuse it by giving it to a friend or colleague, where its usefulness will be doubled. First, by an additional use for the magazine, and second by helping to “spread the word” of *StreetWise* and what we do.

We, at StreetWise, have a way to go, as there is always more to do. But it is a good and worthy journey. As we make “being green” transform from a trend, to a way of life at StreetWise, our precious world will benefit incrementally. As this happens one person and one business at a time, collectively, we will make an increasingly huge difference.

Where the money goes...

Vendors buy *StreetWise* for 75 cents, and the remaining \$1.25 goes directly to the licensed vendor.

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WorldWise



No Money, No Honey

The Swiss street paper *Surprise* explores the difficulty of finding a romantic relationship while living on social benefits.

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Latino Film Festival...

now in its 26th year and featuring over 100 films. Also, Green Chicago events, Modern Vintage Clothing Expo, Point Break Live! Essay Fiesta, and the U.S. Air Guitar Championships.



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Vendor Spotlight



StreetWise strengthens family

Jimmie Beckless uses his *StreetWise* magazine job to help support his family, and create a decent standard of living.

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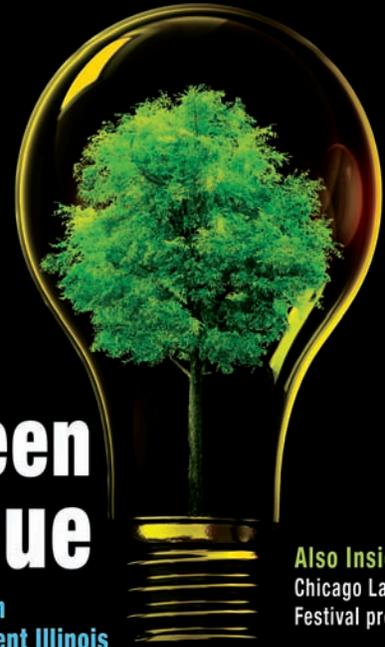
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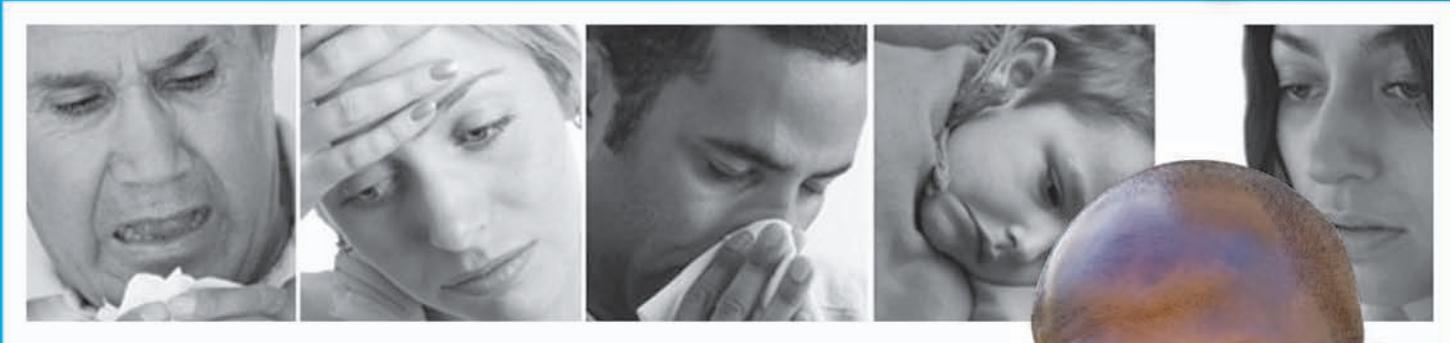
Pathways and Portals
at Thompson Center

Q&A with Environment Illinois

Max Muller, director of Environment Illinois Research & Education Center, discusses where Illinois stands on clean water, solar potential, and creating open spaces.

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The flu season is not over yet



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No money, no honey

WorldWise

By **Reto Aschwarden**

Reprinted from *Surprise* (Switzerland)

We'd all like to have a good-looking, intelligent, and loving partner who also happens to have loads of money. But what chances do people living on social benefits have? Those affected by poverty report the difficulty in finding a partner and the problems that arise once they've found a sweetheart.

"In recent years I've only lived for my career. Now I'm looking for a smart, generous man who'll whisk me away to a spa hotel, diving, and the theatre."

Many personal ads sound similar to this. "I've got nothing to offer a woman. Not even a glass of wine," says a social benefits recipient taking part in the current charity campaign "We Are Poor."

Being poor in Switzerland doesn't mean primary physical distress, it means social exclusion: club memberships, party invitations, and holidays are few and far between. If old friends ever go traveling together, the colleague who's had his benefits cut off stays home alone; at some point people stop asking if he wants to come along. His social life breaks apart, and with it, an opportunity to make new acquaintances.

Hans Kennel*, from Winterthur, has had to experience how poverty can hinder the search for a partner. Now 58, he's been unemployed for eight years while receiving social benefits. He had a relationship for many years, but not anymore.

No workplace opportunity

The reasons are varied. For one, daily rituals and annoying habits would have crept in over time, which doesn't make a partnership any easier. This isn't unique to the poor—it also happens with socially integrated high earners. However, the limitations on interpersonal contact are especially tough for welfare recipients.

The workplace is still one of the most important places for social interaction. Those who don't have a job remain outside this "partnership market." Even leisure activities

that could lead to new encounters are restricted for people affected by poverty. Attending cultural and sporting events is rare, and even if it results in an encounter, seeing that person again becomes a problem.

"Invitations to the cinema or to a restaurant are too expensive," says Kennel. The question "my place or yours" is unnecessary, because those affected by poverty rarely live in apartments. "People like me are often pushed into the outlying areas."

No easier for women

Kennel finds that many women still expect a man to assume the role of bread winner, meaning he doesn't meet the criteria. More generally, it would be unlikely, though not impossible, for someone not affected by poverty to choose to enter into a relationship with a social benefits recipient. "I haven't got a car, and I'd appear strange if I suggested a trip and immediately afterwards said, 'Do you have money on you for a bus fare?'"

It seems a little easier for poverty-stricken women at first glance. Even today many gallant men offer to pay for everything on a date. But for Petra Abderhalden* it is "a double-edged sword" that could in turn lead to a man harboring certain expectations of a woman. The 49-year-old is involved in a self-help project in Basel for those affected by poverty and knows all too well the problems faced by poor singles.

"I see those affected by poverty mostly as isolated people. They hide away, become sad or even depressed. On the other hand, many have a great longing for closeness. They won't admit it to themselves for fear of disappointment."

But even those who are interested in a relationship encounter obstacles. In a society in which social status plays an important role, people who've had their benefits cut off aren't seen as a good match. Empathy could only be expected from people with a strong social interest, according to Abderhalden, who's in a relationship herself.



"The others have a lot of advice and tips, and say, 'It will all come together in the end.' Basically, they want a financially independent partner . . . Sexual feelings first develop in these people if the status is clarified."

Studies show that people choose partners with a similar education and comparable social status. Academics generally remain among themselves, as do people with no schooling. So would a poverty-stricken woman perhaps be an option for Hans Kennel? Probably not, he says, because a person who lives on social benefits often brings a lot of emotional baggage—instead of each person in the relationship supporting the other, their mutual economic strife could lead to an escalation of despair. "Such a relationship would hardly be sustainable," he says.

Penalties for lovers

Abderhalden has seldom seen a relationship begin in poverty. "If both of them have no chance at a new job, there is no prospect of a beautiful life together." Once two benefits recipients find themselves together, the reality soon ends the romance. When two single people affected by poverty move in together, it leads to cuts in their social benefits—authorities argue that in a two-person household it works out cheaper than living alone. "Anyone who's in love gets penalized," says Abderhalden.

Love is subjected to a more serious test if a social benefits recipient moves in with a partner who has a job. If a person with paid work earns "enough"—the social welfare office determines the amount—then he or she is expected to support the partner affected by poverty. This can work for long-term relationships. For new bonds, however, the shift from depending on the government to one's partner is a heavy burden, especially since the pressure of poverty is so high nowadays.

Thus, there are benefits fraud agents who make visits to check up on recipients. It may be that the new love birds are still in the getting-to-know-you stage as welfare authorities pull out the calculator to readjust their earnings. Abderhalden says, "If a poverty-stricken man and a working woman fall in love, that's when the problems start."

Anyone who enters into a relationship with a person affected by poverty soon finds him- or herself caught in a cage of official paternalism and accountability. Instead of floating on wings of love, the threat of both partners being incarcerated is a reality. Therefore Hans Kennel is sure that "I'd only ever consider a long-distance relationship, because moving in together would be too expensive."

© Street News Service: www.street-papers.org
* The names of the interview subjects have been changed for this article.

Belly up to eating fat

By Ginny Erwin
StreetWise Contributor, www.ginetics.org



I recently had the pleasure of speaking to an audience about aging and expanding waist lines. Many of their questions were about the belly diet books: *Flat Belly Diet*, *The Flat Stomach Plan*, etc.

Well, I'm here to tell you that not all fat is created equal. Fat in the diet, or what you eat, may or may not show up "on" your body in a noticeable form. Most nutrition experts agree that eating fat every day is just as important as drinking water every day, but too much fat in your diet can be harmful to your health.

What is it about fat that we love so much? Fat adds flavor, moisture, and texture to the foods we eat. What is more important is where the fat ends up in our bodies after we consume it.

One such fat is visceral body fat (VBF), which is stored deep in the body and surrounds and attaches to our inner organs in the abdomen region.

I call this "the toxic belly": you can't pinch or

touch VBF, but it may appear in physical form as a hard or distended belly. Many people who have visible VBF also have thin arms and legs. Stress can trigger cortisol (hormone) release and increase the body's propensity to store visceral body fat.

The body contains another form of fat called subcutaneous body fat (SBF), which is "active." It's responsible for insulating your body from cold temperatures and protecting your skeleton if you fall. It's also responsible for maintaining hormone balance and other cellular functions; fat provides energy and stores vitamins for the body to use.

SBF is better known as the "pinch-able" body fat, or love handles. This type of fat is measurable (like, with a tape measure) and is associated with obesity and being overweight. Like visceral fat, subcutaneous fat can lead to many health problems.

Lifestyle plays an important role in keeping both fats in check. Maintaining a daily schedule of at least 60 minutes of exercise and consuming a diet with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, and lean proteins will help keep fat at appropriate levels.

If you make good, solid sleep and stress reduction techniques part of your daily routine, belly fat should stay at a minimum.

For more nutrition and fitness tips, visit ginetics.org.



Zucchini Hummus (serves 4)

FoodWise Shopping List:

- 1 16 oz can of chickpeas or garbanzo beans (drained)
- 1/2 cup fresh zucchini, chopped
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tablespoons tahini
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Ginny's Cooking Instructions:

- Drain chickpeas.
- Combine remaining ingredients in blender or food processor.
- Blend for 3-5 minutes on low until thoroughly mixed and smooth.
- Place in serving bowl, and create a shallow well in the center of the hummus.
- Add olive oil in the well, and mix well.
- Serve immediately with fresh, warm or toasted pita bread, or cover and refrigerate.

Nutritional Info

Serving Size (100g) Servings Per Container	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 150	Calories from Fat 70
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 7g	11%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 330mg	14%
Total Carbohydrate 19g	6%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Sugars 0g	
Protein 4g	
Vitamin A 0%	Vitamin C 15%
Calcium 4%	Iron 6%

DineWise

By Lee Barrie & Cindy Kurman Barrie
StreetWise Contributors

Athenian Room is a Greek neighborhood standout

All you have to say is "Greek chicken" and visions of Athenian Room dance in our heads. We've never met a harder-working team than the folks at this restaurant, who serve up fresh and tasty Greek cuisine to a steady stream of loyal customers. This venerable Greek eatery at the corner of North Halsted and West Webster caters to a wide demographic, from its affluent neighbors to budget-conscious DePaul students, simply by doing what a great neighborhood restaurant should do: serve memorably delicious food at a very reasonable price so that patrons will come back fre-

quently. The decor, with tiled floors and Greek-styled brick and stucco walls, is comfortable and unpretentious.

A neighborhood spot should also offer great takeout service, and Athenian Room is as busy with takeout customers as it is with the dine-in kind. They know their customers and treat them as part of the family.

Athenian Room's signature dish is the Chicken Kalamata Style, served with a Greek Salad and to-die-for Greek fries (steak fries soaked in a special herbed vinegar sauce). A half chicken is seasoned and broiled and served piping hot. We've eaten this dish dozens of times and we'll never get tired of it. Never. When we get it "to go," the aroma from the bag practically begs us to dig in before we arrive home. You'd be surprised how many times we've savored our chicken at home while indulging in a great episode of *Law & Order* or *CSI*, with our dog begging for a morsel or two.

It would be unfair to talk only about the chicken. The menu offers a nice selection of Greek special-

ties, with great burgers thrown in for good measure. For starters, you can choose from such delights as the Taramosalta (Greek caviar) or the Spanakopita (spinach pie in phyllo dough), and the traditional chicken lemon-rice soup.

The salad selections are fresh and delectable. The specialty is the Greek Salad (large or small), with a wonderfully herbed oil-and-vinegar dressing. You can also order a large salad with tuna, with chicken-breast shish kebab or gyros.

If you're in a sandwich mood, the Athenian Room offers juicy gyros (pronounced "yeer-ose") with or without cheese, served on pita bread, or several versions of a Shish Kebab sandwich, such as chicken breast, cheese chicken breast, pork tenderloin, and cheese pork tenderloin. Don't forget to order the Greek fries on the side. The Charburgers can be ordered with American or feta cheese; they're served with the Greek fries and lettuce, onion, tomato, and pickle.

Main courses are grouped into Kalamata style and Athenian style. The Kalamata dinners are similar to

Pathways and Portals at Thompson Center

By Barrett Newell
StreetWise Contributor

Don't miss *Pathways and Portals: Art, Nature and Science*, an eclectic exhibit on display at the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery through Friday, May 7.

Pathways and Portals incorporates a range of mediums, including mixed-media installations, digital media, sculpture, crafts, drawings, and paintings. Fourteen Illinois artists, many of them Chicagoans, contributed their work to the exhibit.

Curator Jane Stevens said she initially wanted to capture how artists utilize technology and new media to express their worldview, something she's drawn to herself as an artist. However, she quickly shifted gears after realizing the various ways artists explore their relationship with the world through other means. *Pathways and Portals* showcases how artists render certain perspectives creatively through an array of mediums so their audience can experience them as they do. Certain installations even create enveloping mini environments for visitors to inhabit.

Pathways and Portals presents work that delves into science, myth, religion, nature, and other realms. The connective threads found in such a large breadth of thematic material become apparent when one examines how the work shares the gallery space. Although there are separate rooms, the exhibit is essentially an open triangular space with pieces that employ audio at each point so as not to interfere with each other.

The large open spaces between these points help link the work. For example, the sound of wind can be heard in Shawn Decker's *Motion Study (Atr)*, while across the room at another point of the "triangle" lies Joan Truckenbrod's

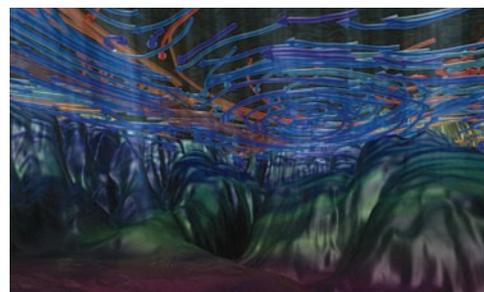
Elastic Soliton, featuring video of a stream. In the middle of these two pieces, Indira Johnson's interactive installation *The Twenty-fifth Bowl* also features elemental components of earth, wood, and water.

Religion and myth surface in the highly symbolic imagery of James Mesple's paintings, which are mirrored by the personal, surreal imagery of Eugene Skala across the gallery. Differences are highlighted as well: the moss-patch-like *From the Shadows ... A Garden ... Gruesome Creatures*, by Michelle Stone, stands in contrast to the electronic viewing box by AnnMarie Cernoch and the drawings of Michele Corazzo, which utilize negative space to create aerial views of forest trails she's hiked.

Pathways and Portals also features the debut of 82-year-old artist Dusty Seno, whose installation contains handcrafted items taken from her home. Stevens described visiting Seno's home as "stepping into a work of art"; she wanted Seno to produce an installation re-creating that experience in a gallery setting.

Nearby, a room designed by Granite Amit acts as another point on the triangle. *On the Water Already* references a meditative experience and surrounds those who step into it with video and audio projections and imagery of Biblical text. It's a different kind of space than Seno's, but it too creates a compartmentalized environment.

According to Stevens, with so much diversity on display, some of the exhibiting artists were unsure their work would end up presented cohesively alongside the others'. However, Stevens not only provided them the chance to vocalize their concerns, but some of the artists ended up helping one another install their work. By the time they'd finished, the art "ended up



Top: *pathways 003* by Gene Skala
Above: *Oceans of Change* by (art)n with NSCA, JPL and MBARI

being connected by similarities that weren't initially obvious," she said.

On Thursday, April 15, Indira Johnson will be available from noon to 1 p.m. to discuss her installation. Granite Amit and Michelle Stone will discuss their work the following Thursday.

The Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery is located on the second floor of the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St. Both the exhibit and lectures are free, and visitors of all ages are welcome.

the sandwiches, but the portions are larger. All of the dinners are served with Greek fries, pita, tomatoes, onions, and Greek Tzatziki sauce (yogurt, cucumbers, garlic, olive oil, and herbs). The Athenian dinners include the Greek Chicken, a tender Skirt Steak Alexander Style, and Chicken with Bar-B-Que Sauce. And if you have room for dessert, the Baklava is a freshly made treat.

The Athenian Room features a spacious, dog-friendly outdoor seating area in warm weather. Parking can be a challenge, but valet parking is available.

Don't wait too long to join the throng of Athenian Room regulars. Ah, the aroma!

Athenian Room
807 W. Webster Ave.
773-348-5155

Hours: Mon.-Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Pricing: sandwiches and salads, \$4.75-\$8.50; dinners, \$8.50-\$14.75



26th Annual Chicago Latino Film Festival Local filmmakers a highlight for 2-week event

The oldest and most comprehensive of its kind in the United States, the Chicago Latino Film Festival will offer 120 films April 16-29, reflecting Latino culture from Latin America, Portugal, and Spain to the United States. This year, for the first time, a select number of films will reach moviegoers in Waukegan.

"The creativity, ingenuity, struggles, and success of our filmmakers continue to inspire us to think of a brighter future for Latinos of Chicago," said Pepe Vargas, founder and director of the International Latino Cultural Center (ILCC) and the Chicago Latino Film Festival.

The two-week festival prides itself on programming special segments, including Women in Film, Made in USA, and LGBT at this year's fest. Audiences will have the opportunity to participate in discussions with local and international filmmakers at most screenings.

Made in USA

Life in Chicago figures prominently among the domestic offerings, from the documentary *Immigrant Nation! The Battle for the Dream*, produced and directed by Esaú Meléndez, to *Little Village*, directed by David Priego.

Immigrant Nation! focuses on several individuals struggling for immigrant rights, including Elvira Arellano, the mother who sought sanctuary in a northwest-side storefront church with her American-born son.

The film shows the reaction to the repressive immigration law proposed five years ago; 500,000 people in Chicago alone marched in protest on March 10, 2006. Later, immigrant workers walked 40 miles from Chinatown to Batavia and the offices of then-Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, a Republican. The bill was ultimately defeated.

After a year in sanctuary, Arellano was deported in August 2007 during a speaking tour in Los Angeles. She is currently attempting to open a center for returning immigrants in her Mexican hometown.

Fourteen-year-old Alonzo is the subject of *Little Village*. His exhausted, depressed mother and his older brother are determined to boss him around, but his life changes when Diego, one of the most colorful characters in the neighborhood, takes him under his wing.

Death Do Us Part, meanwhile, is a dark comedy written, directed, and coproduced by Juan Daniel Zavaleta. After finding out her husband has been unfaithful, "Carmela decides to take

matters into her own hands while underestimating the cost," according to the film's press materials.

Other Chicago films include *Beat*, directed by Melissa Flores; *Second Generation Stories: Growing Up Latino in Chicago*, directed by Gizella Meneses; and *Six Weeks of Change*, directed by Andrés Lombana and María Elena Ponticiello. There will also be a special screening of *La Mission*, directed by Peter Bratt and starring his younger brother, Benjamin Bratt (*Law & Order; The Cleaner*).

Women in Film

Among the more than 20 films directed by women in this year's festival are *Mamachas of the Ring* (Betty M. Park, Bolivia/USA), *Teresa* (Tatiana Gaviola, Chile), *Nora's Will* (Mariana Chenillo, Mexico), *She Is the Matador* (Gemma Cubero, Spain), and *Felicitas* (María Teresa Constantini, Argentina).

LGBT

Celebrating the important artistic contributions of LGBT talent in the Latino film industry are *Undertow* (Peru/Colombia), *Translatina* (Peru), *To Die Like a Man* (Portugal), *Leo's Room* (Uruguay), *Broken Gods* (Cuba), *I've Got Something to Tell You* (Spain), *Miente* (Puerto Rico), and *Breaking Borders* (USA).

Special screenings

The opening-night gala fiesta on Friday, April 16, commemorates the bicentennial of Mexico's independence and the centennial of its revolution.

A special screening of the award-winning film *Viaje Redondo* ("Round Trip") will be followed by a lively cocktail reception featuring live entertainment.

The film's director, Gerardo Tort, is scheduled to attend. The screening is at 6 p.m. at AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St., and the reception is at 8:30 in the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St. Tickets are \$50 general admission, \$45 ILCC members.

"A Night of Spain," on Friday, April 23, will feature the film *Un Buen Hombre* ("A Good Man"), followed by a cocktail reception with live entertainment. Director Juan Martinez Moreno is scheduled to attend. Sponsors include the Tourist Office of Spain in collaboration with Instituto Cervantes. The screening is at 6 p.m. at AMC Loews Pipers Alley, 1608 N. Wells St., with the 8:30 reception taking place at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark



Filmmaker Esaú Meléndez making *Immigrant Nation! The Battle for the Dream*



Mamachas of the Ring, directed by a Bolivian woman.

St. Tickets are \$50 general admission, \$45 ILCC members.

Awards Night

Peru's most prolific filmmaker, Francisco Lombardi, will receive the Gloria Award at the Brazilian Night ("Noite do Brasil") ceremony on Wednesday, April 28; Brazilian Night is sponsored by the government of Brazil through the Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago. The evening will also include the announcement of the recipient of the Cinelatino Audience Choice Award, the only competitive award at this year's festival.

Following the awards ceremony will be a screening of the Brazilian film *Olbos Azuis* ("Blue Eyes"), produced by Isabel Monteiro Joffily, who will be in attendance; the night will conclude with a vibrant reception. The screening is at 6 p.m. at AMC Loews 600 North Michigan 9, 600 N. Michigan Ave., and the 8:30 reception is at Texas de Brazil, 51 E. Ohio St. Tickets are \$50 general admission, \$45 ILCC members.

Unless otherwise noted, films are presented in their original language with English subtitles at Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St., and Instituto Cervantes, 31 W. Ohio St. The full schedule of films is available at latinoculturalcenter.org, and a daily schedule can be attained by calling the festival hotline at 312-409-1757. Tickets are \$8-\$10 each or \$70-\$100 for a festival pass; advance tickets for special events are available by calling 312-431-1330 or visiting latinoculturalcenter.org.

Thursday

The U.S. Air Guitar Championships' Chicago regional is hosted by Bjorn Turoque and judged by Hot Lixx Hulahan, with a live performance by Kiss tribute band Slutter. 9 p.m., Metro, 3730 N. Clark. \$15 (18+). For tickets, call 773-549-0203.

Friday

An over-the-top adaptation of Oscar winner Kathryn Bigelow's (*The Hurt Locker*) 1991 action flick starring Keanu Reeves and the late Patrick Swayze, **Point Break Live!** features interactive elements and gives an audience member the chance to play Johnny Utah, an undercover FBI agent trying to catch bank robbers who dress up as former U.S. presidents when they're not riding big waves at the beach. 9:30 p.m., La Costa Theatre, 3931 N. Elston Ave. \$20-\$25. For more info, call 866-811-4111 or visit pointbreaklive.com.

Saturday

The Modern Vintage Chicago Spring Clothing and Jewelry Explosion, a shopping event from the organizers of Randolph Street Market Fest, brings together indie designers and vintage vendors under one roof. Browse clothing, home furnishings, fashion magazines, jewelry, handbags, and other accessories. Includes cocktails, informal modeling and styling, and an on-site seamstress. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Journeymen Plumber's Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd. \$8-\$10. For more info, call 312-666-1200 or visit modernvintagechicago.com.

Mayor Daley's Clean & Green Citywide Volunteer Clean-Up, encourages community groups to make a difference in their neighborhood by volunteering. For two decades Chicagoans have teamed up to

beautify their communities by cleaning up and recycling accumulated litter. The City will work with community organizations to provide brooms, rakes, shovels and bags. To register your organization call 3-1-1.

Sunday

The Oriental Institute Sunday Film Series presents *The Mummies of the Heretics*, an episode from *Akhenaten and Nefertiti: Rulers of Egypt* (2002), a series that explores the reign of the revolutionary pharaoh who replaced the Egyptian pantheon with a single deity, the sun god Aten. After his death Akhenaten was declared a heretic, and efforts were made to erase all traces of his reign. This episode looks at the 19th-century discovery of the pharaoh's famed city of Amarna and the search for the mummies of the heretic king and his queen, Nefertiti. 2 p.m., 1155 E. 58th St. Free. For more info, call 773-702-9514 or visit oi.uchicago.edu/events.

Monday

Local writers Keith Ecker and Alyson Lyon host readings of humorous, true-life tales by Chicago-area comedians, novelists, poets, journalists, bloggers, and playwrights at **Essay Fiesta**. Guests for 4/19 include stand-up comedian Cameron Esposito, Second City instructors Bryan Bowden and Rebecca Rhine-Stone, writer-activist Jim Pickett, and science fiction author William Shunn. Third Monday of each month, 7 p.m., the Book Cellar, 4736-38 N. Lincoln Ave. Free (raffle tickets to raise funds for the Howard Brown Health Center will be available for purchase). For more info, call 773-293-2665 or visit bookcellarinc.com/calendar.



For Saturday: : Modern Vintage Chicago Spring Clothing & Jewelry Explosion

Tuesday

Actors perform humorous staged readings of memorable television episodes at **Classic TV Reruns**. On 4/20 it's "Famous Dicks," featuring *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *NewsRadio*, *21 Jump Street*, and a five-minute *Magnum, P.I.* 7:30 p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. \$10. For more info, call 773-418-4475 or visit arftco.com.

Upcoming

Today's kosher is not your bubbe's kosher (unless you have a very hip bubbe). Today's kosher is innovative, local, organic, ethical, healthy, sustainable—and delicious! Join chef Laura Frankel at **Think Green for Spring** as she shares her strategy for shopping at your local farmer's market, and learn (and sample) seasonal recipes. Wed 4/21, 12:30 p.m., Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 610 S. Michigan Ave. \$25 (\$20 for Spertus members). Call 312-322-1773 for reservations.

Green Chicago Events

Loyola Eco Fair

Saturday, April 17
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Quinlan Life Sciences Building
1050 W. Sheridan Rd, Chicago

Roosevelt University Fair Trade Bazaar

Thursday, April 22
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Columbia College

Thursday, April 22
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

The Morton Arboretum

Green Shopping Event

April 24 and 25

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle

City of Chicago's Fair Trade Day at Daley Plaza in promotion with Chicago Fair Trade

Friday, May 7th

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Daley Plaza- Downtown Chicago

Navy Pier Green Festival

Great Ballroom at Navy Pier
May 22 and 23

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

DePaul University Oxfam Fair Trade Event

Lincoln Park Campus- central quad

Tuesday, May 25

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



StreetWise vendor Glenn Hughes at the fiveACCESSORIES booth at the 2009 Navy Pier Green Festival

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How Green is Illinois?

Q & A with Max Muller,
Director of Environment Illinois Research & Education Center

Max Muller directs Environment Illinois' clean water and toxic program. He is currently working to eliminate 90 percent of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, to phase out the industrial use of toxic brominated flame retardants, and for the eventual adoption of a comprehensive toxics-use policy in Illinois. Prior to joining staff in January 2006, Max served as a legislative aide in the Oregon House of Representatives where he worked on various consumer and environmental issues, including successful bills to establish minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances, protect consumers from predatory lending, and promote bicycle transportation. Max is a 2000 graduate of Iowa's Grinnell College.

By Ben Cook
StreetWise Staff

Let's expand on your 2010 Legislative Agenda. It seems like clean water is where Environment Illinois is putting a lot of its energy right now.

Environment Illinois currently has three campaigns that we're working on related to clean water: cleaning up factory farms, getting phosphorus out of lawn care treatments, and dealing with the Asian carp infestation.

If you look around the United States, one of the big gaping holes in environmental protection in this country—and one of the most profound environmental problems we need to solve—is water pollution. The Clean Water Act was supposed to make it so that all waterways in this country were fish-able

and swim-able by the mid-1980s. Here we are, it's 2010, and around half the waterways nationally don't meet the Clean Water Act standards for fishing and swimming. That's all due to pollution.

The Clean Water Act did a lot to improve the quality of water in this country, but there remain some particular challenges. During the Bush administration there were a couple Supreme Court rulings that called into question the scope of the Clean Water Act, which the administration then codified in the worst possible interpretation of those court rulings.

The result is that the Clean Water Act, which had for 30 years been defined as applying to all [waterways] in the country, now only applies to a subset of them. The smaller waterways—waterways that don't flow all year, small wetlands, about half of the stream

miles in the country and about half of the wetlands—could be interpreted to be outside the realms of the Clean Water Act and are therefore not regulated in terms of pollution, with no restrictions on building. In Illinois there are 1.5 million people, according to EPA estimates, who get their drinking water from sources that are outside CWA protection.

One of our campaigns is to pass a bill through Congress to fix this. It's a really simple bill, only about a page long. It just clarifies that the pre-2001 interpretation of the Clean Water Act is made into statute. That's on our federal agenda.

What's on your Illinois agenda in terms of water protection?

On the state agenda we're trying to plug some holes in water protection. The good thing about the Clean Water Act is that it's really good about reducing point-source pollution—pollution from factories, from city sewage pipes—but it's really bad about reducing pollution from factory farms.

Factory farms are animal farms that are using industrial manufacturing techniques instead of traditional farming techniques to raise lots of animals in a confined space. They create as much waste as a small city, but there's not enough room on their farms to handle it all. One of the things that's done



with the waste is it's spread as fertilizer on other farms; once it's spread as fertilizer, it's no longer considered a point source of pollution. Therefore it can't be regulated by the Clean Water Act. They can be pretty generous on how much fertilizer they apply as a way to get rid of it, which creates a huge source of water pollution.

Of all the water pollution in the country, by far the biggest source is agriculture. It exceeds cities, urban runoff, leaky sewage systems, and individual point-source factories. On our legislative agenda, our factory-farm piece addresses this, and we want to tighten the law that governs the siting of factory farms.

Our laws are so weak now that we suspect that factory farms that want to sterilize the cost of their pollution are looking to site here. And that's what we want to avoid, so we want to bring our laws up to par with the states around us.

Which states are leading the way?

All of the states around us are doing a better job, and they're doing a better job in different ways. They all have slightly different ways of regulating this, Iowa being the big exception. I understand that Iowa might be about as bad as we are.

In Wisconsin they require each large farm to get a Clean Water Act permit that puts an enforceable limit on how much it can pollute and how close it can be to a stream. We don't really have that in Illinois. There's very little local control over the fining of factory farms, and there's insufficient protection for clean water.

Our bill would cover the siting of factory-farm pollution, and aims to give the local people a voice in decisions that could affect their life and health in terms of pollution and odor.

It's no secret that the Bush administration was not made up of environmentalists. Over their eight years they worked to weaken the EPA and other administrative oversight groups. In the last year and a half, what rebuilding efforts have you seen in the environmental cause?

The Clean Water Act was weakened, but it is still the most important law for protecting clean water. It's done tremendous things for cleaning up the Great Lakes, the Cuyahoga River no longer catches fire . . . Those things are all really good. It just hasn't done what it's supposed to do.

The Bush administration underfunded the EPA, and across the country, state EPAs that do enforcement don't have the resources to fully implement the Clean Water Act, and so it's partly a rollback and it's partly states' prioritizing of it.

Across the board, environmentally, we lost ground during the Bush administration. With the number of issues we work on, regulation was significantly weakened. On toxic chemicals, on clean water, on global warming, it was more about preserving the good laws that existed rather than making new ones. It's going to take a while to undo.

So in environmental circles, is there a sense of recovery and positive momentum?

Yeah, [but] it's going to take a while. During the Bush administration one of the things that they did that was really damaging was that it was a fairly common practice to take lobbyists and executives from the industries that were being regulated and then install them as leaders in the agencies they were supposed to be regulating. It made the regulators more like friends to the industries rather than a law enforcement agency. The result is a far weaker application of the law.

Some of those same people are still there. I think we're seeing that in the FDA's slowness acting on the chemical bisphenol-A (BPA), which is used in food packaging. I think it's toxic, and I think the FDA

“

Across the board, environmentally, we lost ground during the Bush administration... it's going to take a while to undo.

isn't reacting fast enough. They're prescribing more and more studies, and I think the reason they're doing that is that some of the people in the FDA are sympathetic to the people in the chemical industry. I think it's going to take a while before things are back to normal.

Your report says that Illinois has a really high solar potential. Could you explain that?

Solar technology doesn't really spring to people's minds. It seems kind of weird that Illinois would have a really high solar potential.

If you look at the countries in the world that have a thriving solar industry, they're countries that have solar potential that's not better than ours. Japan and Germany are really leading on solar technology, and providing solar panels for the rest of the world.

Illinois has as much potential to generate solar energy as either of those two countries. We're a big state with a lot of surface area, and the state is sunny a lot of the time. There's no reason why we can't take advantage of the energy from the sun. A state like Nevada's always going to have more absolute potential, but we can meet a significant fraction of our energy needs with solar power. In doing so we can displace coal, which causes global warming and health problems . . . It's the direction we need to move in.

There's a bunch of economic factors that have caused a glut of solar panels in the marketplace, and solar panels are cheap as a result. If we can create policies that promote the use of solar technology in Illinois, and take advantage of this economic window to get that industry off the ground, then we can be a leader. We could be exporting solar technology; we could have people installing panels and fixing them and making them, and export it to other states. Solar is always going to be there, but now is a good time to get into it.

Is there a reason for using solar technology over wind?

No, both are part of the energy mix we're going to have in this state in the future. We have a campaign goal of getting Illinois to 100 percent clean energy . . . someday. We'd like to be getting all of our energy from clean, renewable sources; both wind and solar are going to be a part of that mix.

We already have a renewable energy standard in Illinois that requires that a certain percentage of our state's energy needs will come from renewable sources by a certain date [currently, 25 percent by 2025]. There's a requirement for solar and a requirement for wind.

The thing is, wind has taken off already. We have wind farms in Illinois, we have wind energy busi-



nesses—now we just need to catch solar energy up. As solar power and wind power spread across the midwest, it would be better if the energy and parts were made here rather than Manitoba.

A recent *Crain's* magazine article detailed how a statute that allows this to happen is about to expire, and we would love to extend that, but right now that bill seems to be dead in the water. Exelon, a powerful utility, has been lobbying against it.

Your report says that there have been raids on funding for open spaces. Has anything like that happened recently?

It happens basically every year. I think the new governor [Pat Quinn] has yet to be tested on this. In last year's budget we saw some small and useful investments in open spaces. I would say that it was a pretty good year.

But overall Illinois has probably done the worst in the midwest, and we're in the bottom five states, nationally, in preserving natural areas. We have less per-capita, publicly held land for conservation, and that's been the case for years and years. When you look at this state, 99 percent of it is either a city, a suburb, or a monoculture crop like a corn field; very little of it is in its natural state. We've lost all of our tall grass prairie, our wetlands. It's kind of an ecological crisis—there's no habitat for flora and fauna.

We need to do a better job of protecting natural spaces in Illinois, both for the purpose of having healthy ecosystems and for people's enjoyment. In Illinois there are two programs, and every year they're supposed to be funded: the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development program (OSLAD) and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF). NAAF is about critical species protection; OSLAD is about

helping communities build public parks and recreation areas. Both of those are funded by the real estate transfer tax. Part of that tax goes to affordable housing programs, and the other half of that part goes to fund OSLAD and NAAF . . . The revenue is supposed to be used in these areas.

But year after year, in these tough budget times, the legislature has raided those funds to patch budget holes elsewhere, and so these programs haven't been funded. Even if we were funding these programs, we would still be doing far less to protect open spaces than those states around us. We're actively pushing to make sure that those two programs are fully funded this year.

Chicago likes to tout itself as being part of the green movement. Do you think that reputation is justified, or could we be doing more?

Chicago's been the leader in a lot of ways, and there's always more we can do. Mayor [Richard M.] Daley's been a champion of protecting the Great Lakes. We've got the city environment department, which has created a great, visionary climate action plan that's going to respond to climate change . . . I think it's a very good document, and the city's working to implement it. The City Council, last May, unanimously passed the world's first city-level ban on BPA in children's food containers.

I also think that we could be doing better. We have two coal-fire plants in residential neighborhoods in Chicago. We've got the Chicago River flowing through the city that is not clean enough for swimming. It is not a designated primary-contact river, and I think we should change that. So it's kind of a mixed bag, but I think the city's done a lot of good things.



Ask Eugene

“all the brilliance that will fit”

Dear Eugene,

Why is it that you felt qualified to weigh in on health care in last week's column? I doubt that you know what you're talking about.

— Barry R.

Dear Barry,

I'm afraid that all doesn't matter. To be a talking head, you must do two things: talk, and have a head. While I might be challenged in the latter, I can still talk. It doesn't even matter what I'm talking about. If I raise my eyebrows in a regal manner, and talk with a smooth, even, richly sonorous voice, I can convince you, and indeed anybody, of anything. Unfortunately, my medium is print, so all that quality voice work just makes my pet bulldog howl in contempt.

In print, tone still accounts for a lot. If I say something firmly, even arrogantly, even if I'm wrong, I still come across as powerful. I might be a powerful idiot, but I am still a presence and an elemental force. Next, it is important to create as many red herrings and straw men as possible, to seduce the reader into a house of mirrors.

It doesn't matter how ridiculous things get as long as the reader comes away with a vague, unexplainable sense that you are right on a basic subversive level.

And as to your question: I feel personally qualified to weigh in because it effects me. I'm participating in our democracy, even if all I did was irritate you enough to stop pricing used lawnmowers on Ebay and write in your disappointed musings.

You can send Eugene your questions at 1201 W. Lake, Chicago, IL, 60607 or e-mail him at supreme_eugene@yahoo.com.

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

		7	4					
	2	3	5				9	
8			6					
1								4
	6	2						
5		9		8				1
					7		8	3
				2				5
	1							

Crossword

Across

- 1 Combat
- 4 Vase name
- 8 Prompted
- 12 In the past
- 13 Venezuela
- 14 Foray
- 16 Morning planets
- 18 Use a key
- 19 And others, for short
- 20 Desire
- 22 Maiden name
- 23 Brush up on a subject
- 27 Direction
- 29 Wishful thinker
- 31 Coarse file
- 35 “___ show time!”
- 38 Sicilian city
- 39 ___-upper
- 40 “Alley ___!”
- 41 Child of another, at times
- 44 Compass pt.
- 45 Plays a horn
- 47 Town in Calif. or Italy
- 48 Hog haven
- 49 Choir part
- 50 Make believe
- 53 Scarlett's home
- 55 Contestant
- 59 Stomach muscles, briefly
- 62 Camping gear
- 64 Food thickener
- 65 Venue

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
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- 67 Headquarters
- 71 Clodhopper
- 72 Retired
- 73 Human race
- 74 Farm females
- 75 It can be barbed
- 76 Cockpit reading (Abbr.)
- 9 WWW address
- 10 Collar type
- 11 Gaming cubes
- 14 Building caretaker
- 15 Barely get, with “out”
- 17 Coaster
- 21 Be in arrears
- 24 Bailiwicks
- 25 Rip apart
- 26 ___-second
- 28 Before angle or cycle
- 30 Sugar source
- 32 Sacks
- 33 Dispatched
- 34 Quarry
- 35 Small amount
- 36 Hammer, for one
- 37 Detect
- 39 False move
- 42 Carry
- 43 Paradise
- 46 Youngster
- 50 Primp
- 51 Dashed
- 52 Ho-hum
- 54 Book of maps
- 56 Terrestrial lizard
- 57 Twangy, as a voice
- 58 1545 council site
- 59 Priestly garb
- 60 Dullard
- 61 Harbor vessel
- 63 Defrost
- 66 Grow old
- 68 ___-Wan Kenobi
- 69 Sea (Fr.)
- 70 Dutch city

Last Week's Answers

3	9	1	2	5	7	8	6	4
7	6	2	9	4	8	1	3	5
4	8	5	6	1	3	2	7	9
9	4	8	3	2	5	6	1	7
2	1	7	4	6	9	3	5	8
5	3	6	7	8	1	4	9	2
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6	7	3	8	9	2	5	4	1
8	5	4	1	7	6	9	2	3

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StreetWise strengthens family

By Ben Cook
StreetWise Staff

"I had known about StreetWise, but I wasn't really hip to it. Troy Dixon, a current *StreetWise* vendor, gave me an orientation flyer and I went from there."

Before Jimmie Beckless came to StreetWise, he worked part-time doing side jobs. It was unsteady, unreliable work that eventually dissolved into panhandling.

"When my friend Troy got clean, he told me that you can really come down to StreetWise and make a living without panhandling. I came in and went through the orientation.

"When I first started off it was rugged, but I really wanted it to work. There were a couple setbacks," including Beckless's three-year-old son tearing up his two-week training badge and flushing it down the toilet. Although it was stressful at the time, he's able to chuckle about it now. "Thankfully, Greg let me have another one. Now I'm holding on pretty good. I don't have to sit around and mope all day wondering where my next dime or penny is going to come from," he says.

"I've been at StreetWise now for several months, and everybody that I know that's done a profile has seen their business pick up. A lot of my customers and supporters have been asking, so I decided I would as soon as possible.

"I have some very loyal *StreetWise* customers. I sell my magazines between 53rd and Harper in the morning, near the Starbucks. I leave there about 10:30 or 11 and go to sell near

the subway at 53rd and Dorchester. Sometimes on Saturdays I go and sell at 52nd and Lake Park. People seem like they care, and they do support StreetWise loyally, and they're a great help to me and my family.

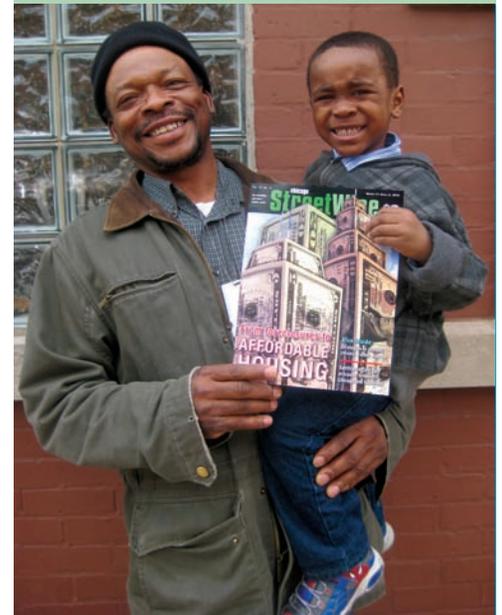
"My son is three. He's turning four April 29. My wife is 41, I'm 54. We've been together for four years. When we first started out it was great but then started getting rocky; we were having a hard time paying our rent and the bills. Ever since I came to StreetWise, though, things have been looking up—we can pay our bills and keep up with our rent." Beckless flashes an easy smile full of relief. "She's happy and I'm happy."

Although he and his family are now able to cover their financial obligations, they're still looking ahead to building a better life for themselves.

"I'm not trying to be out here selling StreetWise my whole life. It's cool for the time being, but someday I'd like to do something different. Maybe I'll work at the StreetWise office someday," Beckless says. "I have a very smart wife. I'm not the bright one, she's the bright one. She's got a great head on her shoulders. She said that she would like to open a restaurant or something like that, which would be great. I just want to have a good life for me and my family."

To his customers he'd like to say, "My name is Jimmie Beckless, and I just want to say thank you for supporting the *StreetWise* vendors and assuring that they have a great future ahead of them. That's it, and thank you."

Meet: Jimmie L. Beckless



//

Ever since I came to StreetWise... things have been looking up. We can pay out bills and keep up with our rent

chicago
StreetWise

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