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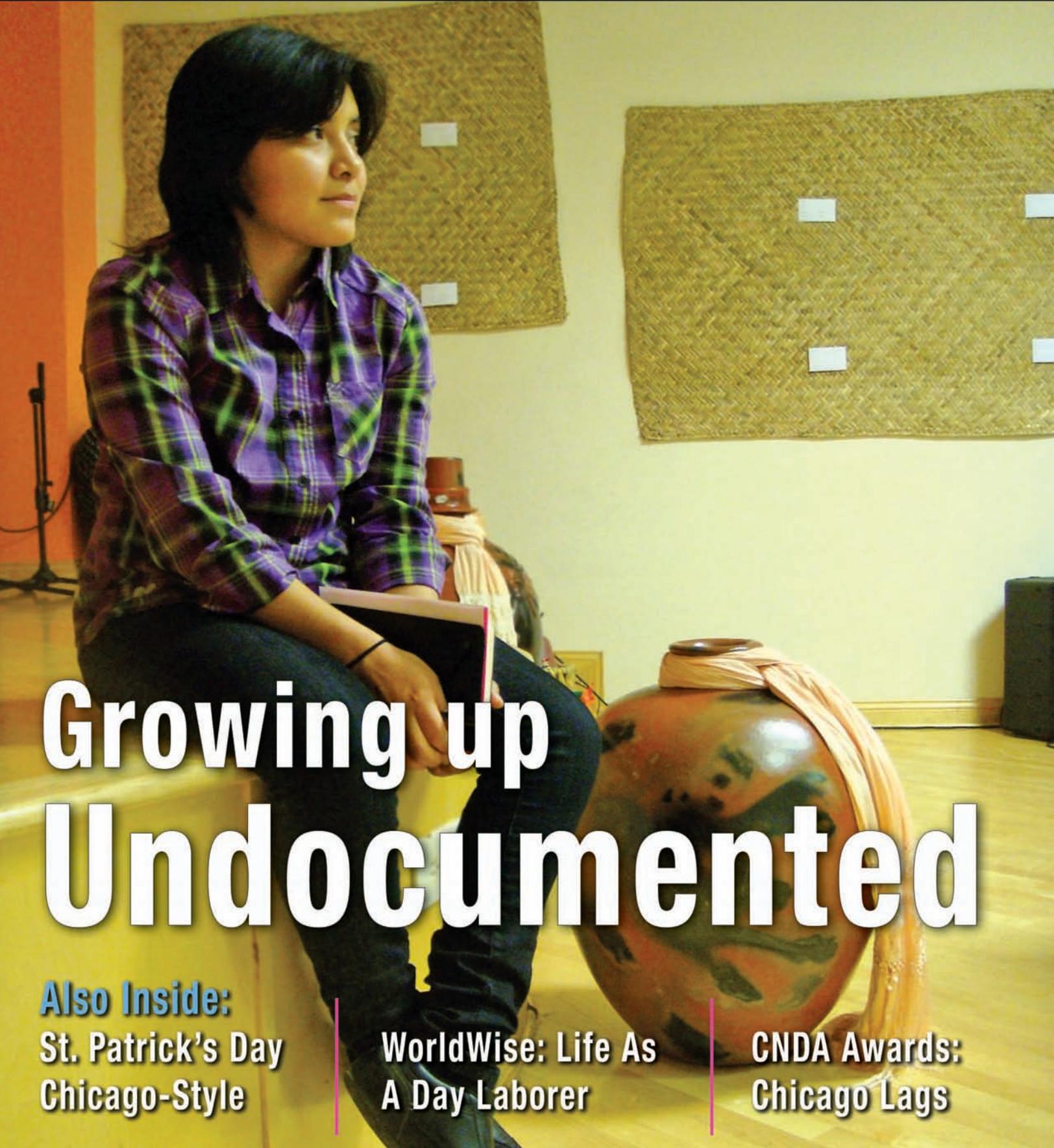
chicago

MARCH 3-MARCH 9, 2010

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Growing up Undocumented

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A Day Laborer

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

Come volunteer with us



By Bruce Crane
Executive Director

People often ask if StreetWise needs volunteers. We certainly do! Volunteering at StreetWise takes many forms, from

tutors and mentors, to event planning and fundraising, and everything in between. We also plan one Saturday a month as "volunteer day," where volunteers descend on StreetWise and perform activities such as: filing, painting, hanging clothes, preparing food, minor repairs, computer maintenance, and publicity work.

This past Saturday was a rocking day at StreetWise. We had a great group of seven that attacked the list with a vengeance. We did small projects like installing doorstops and making soup for the vendors' lunch for Monday. We hung all of the donated clothes up for our vendors to peruse. Then we attacked two bigger projects. We used foam insulating material to weatherize the garage door that leaked badly around the framing

members. This will make our vendor space more comfortable and reduce our utility bills as well. Similarly, we caulked the cracks in our cinder block walls. We closed up a four foot wide and 12 foot tall opening in a wall. Originally, this was intended to be an additional walkway, but it has never been used that way. Instead, it was blocked with a desk and the space on one side is used for our social work intern to have confidential conversations and interviews with our vendors. This opening compromised that confidentiality. We framed out the opening, and cut and installed the drywall. On our next volunteer day, we will tape and fill the joints, and prime the new wall. Then we will have the appropriate setting for our vendors and social work intern to have their discussions.

We welcome anyone to join us on our volunteer Saturdays, or any other capacity in which you may desire to get involved. Please contact our volunteer coordinator (yep, she's a volunteer too!), Whitney St. Pierre, whstpierre@gmail.com. Our next Saturday will be March 27. Come join us, have fun, and help us make a difference.

Where the money goes...

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

Our Contributing Writers

Brenna Daldorph, was a 2009 summer intern at *StreetWise* and wrote two cover stories about immigration. She returned to cover immigration in January. She became passionate about immigration issues after first-hand experience volunteering with undocumented migrants crossing the Sonora Desert. She is now a senior of the University of Kansas.

Ginny Erwin has written nutrition and fitness articles for several local and national publications, such as the *Chicago Tribune* and *On-Health* magazine. She has a bachelor's degree in nutrition science and dietetics and a master's degree in nutrition communications and marketing.

Amanda Anderson is a student at Loyola University Chicago majoring in Journalism and International Studies with a minor in Photography. She has written and taken photographs for the LUC Department of Fine and Performing Arts for the past four years.

Cindy Kurman Barrie and **Lee Barrie** are the principals of Kurman

Communications, Inc., a Chicago-based marketing and public relations agency. Please follow all *StreetWise* restaurant features on Twitter @DineWise and subscribe to the blog at: <http://dinewisechicago.blogspot.com>. Or visit their blog at gotbuzzatkurman.com

Noleen Kelly Power hails from Dublin, Ireland. She studied Social Science at University College, Dublin and Photography at Dublin Institute of Technology. After college she spent a year traveling the world on a shoestring budget with her husband, Joe. Currently raising two small children, she plans to concentrate more on writing after returning to the workforce.

Lindsay Edmonds Wickman is a Chicago-based freelance writer who covers education and social issues. She has written for *The Greenville News*, *The Chicago Reporter*, *Cape Times*, *The Star*, and *Bloomberg News Services*. Wickman earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University in 2005.

Susan Fong is a Chicago-based, award-winning cultural writer for *StreetWise*, a staff writer with *Gazette Chicago* and a contributing writer on women's health issues for www.justanumber.com. Susan lived eight years in Germany and worked as a scriptwriter, visual artist and postal worker.

STREETWISE STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER

BRUCE CRANE
BCRANE@STREETWISE.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SUZANNE HANNEY
SUZANNESTREETWISE@YAHOO.COM

DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTION & VENDOR SERVICES

GREG PRITCHETT
GPRITCHETT14@YAHOO.COM

PRODUCTION & MARKETING MANAGER

BEN COOK
BCOOK@STREETWISE.ORG

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

GRACE FEDERIGHI
GRACE@STREETWISE.ORG

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES

MARY FAITH HILBOLDT

PROOFREADER

ROBERT CASS

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1201 W. LAKE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607
OFFICE: 312.829.2526 FAX: 312.829.2623

features



WorldWise Life as a day laborer

Travis Dodds writes for Vancouver, Canada's *Megaphone* describing the day-to-day struggles and dangers of being a day laborer.

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St. Patrick's Day

A brief history of Irish culture, plus a lineup of Chicago parades and music starting this weekend.



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Worldwide Vendor Spotlight



From Lviv, Ukraine

Prosto Neba's Volodymyr is slowly building up his self-esteem again after a divorce by selling street magazines.

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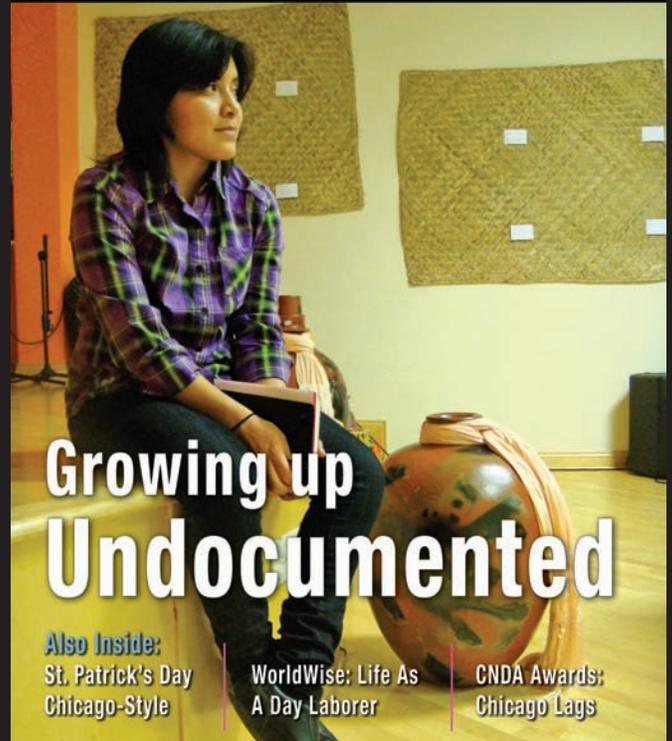
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cover story

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Growing up Undocumented

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Growing up undocumented:

Meet the men and women of the Immigrant Justice Youth League, who fight for immigrant rights even though they face the constant threat of deportation themselves.

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From the Street:

Chicago lags: what needs to be done

By Lindsay Edmonds Wickman

StreetWise Contributor

Chicago's economy has been stagnant for the past 10 years, and it's time for a change: the city lags behind the rest of the nation, according to a panel discussion that took place February 9 at the 16th annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDAs).

"Increasingly, the metropolitan area as a whole has not kept up with the nation," said Greg Hinz, moderator of the "Back to the Future: What Our Neighborhoods Can Be" panel and a weekly columnist for *Cra in's Chicago Business*. "Our job growth, our economic growth has trailed, and it's been pretty consistently trailing."

The panel consisted of Scott Myers, executive director of World Sport Chicago; Toni Preckwinkle, alderman for Chicago's 4th Ward and the Democratic Party nominee for Cook County Board President; Raul I. Raymundo, chief executive officer and cofounder of the Resurrection Project; and Robert Weissbourd, president of RW Ventures.

"We are stagnated, and it's not transparent yet because it's partly hidden by the great recession that's hit everywhere. But we're doing worse than other places," Weissbourd said. "So it is very important that we get more strategic about what we do with our metropolitan economy."

Preckwinkle said that while the loss of the 2016 Summer Olympics bid was upsetting, the city can take advantage of the collaboration that developed to create its own plan for 2016. One part of that plan should include education, as half of the city's teenagers currently do not graduate from high school. On top of that, Illinois is 49th in terms of state contributions to public education, according to Preckwinkle.

"That's disgraceful," she said. "I don't know how we're going to anticipate future growth for our local economy or our state economy if we're not investing in our children."

Weissbourd concurred.

"Economists agree on very few things, but one is that the single biggest input to economic growth is human capital, and that's expressed



At left: an eastern view of Casa Morelos (affordable housing) from the community garden (which is open to everyone with a passion for gardening). Below: mariachi bridge program students



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

through education," he said. "If you had one thing to invest in for your economy, education is it."

The panel also discussed the status of some of the city's neighborhoods.

"Certain parts of the city have staged a remarkable renaissance," Hinz said. "At the same time, the growth has not been evenly [spread] around town. Some neighborhoods have come back, some have not."

One that has had such a comeback is Pilsen, thanks to the Quality-of-Life Planning Process led by the Resurrection Project and the Pilsen Planning Committee. It won the Chicago Community Trust Outstanding Community Strategy of the Year Award at the CNDAs.

The plan is the result of collaboration between local organizations, businesses, elected officials, faith-based groups, and other stakeholders, and it encapsulates the major issues within the neighborhood: education, housing, family, economy, and image.

"A lot of dynamic organizations in Pilsen were working in silos, sometimes competing for the

same money," said Alejandro Morales, a resource development associate with the Resurrection Project. "By coming together, we're able to better plan how we're going to pursue resources and implement programs in each of these [areas]."

Because of the Quality-of-Life Planning Process, Pilsen now has 118 units of affordable housing. There are new cultural festivities; school improvements have been made, including a new school-based health center; and there is a new communal green space.

The \$20,000 that accompanied the award will be put toward upcoming projects, including a new affordable-housing complex for senior citizens.

"The reason why we can do more is because we're already proud of what we have here," Morales said. "In a sense, what we had was a good community that just needed some guidance."

"If a community is aware of their needs and assets, they can really start working to improve the quality of life."

Organizations recognized for making Chicago better

The Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards recognized 10 entities that have made a significant contribution to Chicago and its surrounding areas.

• **The Chicago Community Trust Outstanding Community Strategy of the Year Award** (see article): The Pilsen Quality-of-Life Planning Process is led by the Resurrection Project and the Pilsen Planning Committee.

• **The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project:** The Homan Arthington Foundation preserved the Sears, Roebuck and Co. Power House facility in North Lawndale and created the Charles H. Shaw Technology and Learning Center.

• **The Polk Bros. Foundation Affordable Rental Housing Preservation Award:** Mercy Housing Lakefront created a model to preserve and improve existing affordable rental housing in Malden Arms Apartments.

• **The Outstanding For-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project Award:** Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation and Turnstone Development created Whistler Crossing in south suburban Riverdale. The development mixes historic and modern buildings and offers housing at a range of affordable levels.

• **The Special Recognition Award:** The Community Economic Development Law Project connects individuals and organizations in Chicago to legal assistance. The organization has helped thousands of community organizations, hundreds of small businesses, and many first-time homebuyers.

• **The Norman Bobins Leadership Award** was given

to Bernita Johnson-Gabriel, the executive director of Quad Communities Development Corporation, for being an innovative leader in community development.

• **The Friend of the Neighborhoods Award** was given in honor of Michael W. Scott, the former president of the Chicago Board of Education, who devoted his life to improving Chicago.

The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Awards for Architectural Excellence in Community Design:

• **First place:** UrbanWorks, for the UNO Veterans Memorial Charter School Campus in the Archer Heights community;

• **Second place:** Farr Associates, for the Whistler Crossing development in Riverdale;

• **Third place:** SMNG-A Architects, for Langston Hughes Elementary School in the Roseland community.

What a way to make a living: a week in the life of a day laborer

WorldWise

Author's Note:

A short essay like this one, about a week's work at a day-laboring agency, is long overdue. Unlike similar investigations by George Orwell or Barbara Ehrenreich, there will be no long-winded explanations or apologies for dressing down or impersonating poverty in order to document it. I was broke, and like the thousands of others who line up for work at these agencies across the continent, I was drawn in by the company logo: "Work Today, Paid Today."

By Travis Dodds

Reprinted from *Megaphone* (Vancouver)

On the first day workers are, in fact, not paid. Two pieces of identification are required, and a long application process must first be completed. The many pages of legal contracts include much about injury at the worksite, but I also had to sign off on things like promising not to share information.

The contracts were followed by multiple-choice tests on the subject of hazardous materials, and more general tests with questions like "Who is responsible for your safety on the job?" with one of the possible answers being "Your mother."

The tests were boring, and chuckles could be heard from the other workers as they read through the questions. I might have been bored if I hadn't been sitting beside a man who couldn't read English. Using my very limited knowledge of Spanish to talk him through the booklet of paperwork was, to say the least, a challenge.

After the tests were completed, the lady who marks them simply changed any wrong answers and we moved on to an instructional video starring a "typical" laborer named Bob. An accident-prone slacker whose chief concern is lunch, Bob wanders around his worksite demonstrating incorrect, unsafe behavior.

The next morning I arrived at the office before 6 a.m. A line had already been formed with four other workers. When the agency opens each morning, there are more than a dozen hopefuls, and by 7 a.m. on this particular day, the chairs in the waiting room were all taken. People began to sit on the floor.

Just two of the waiting hopefuls were women. A man in the corner snored. The coffee was free, but it was weak, rusty-looking water in little Styrofoam cups with powdered whitener. The hours dragged by, and every time the phone rang

people perked up, in the hopes of being chosen.

Workers were called up to the front, with no apparent correlation to their place on the waiting list. Some of the men who arrived before me were still waiting to hear their names, but others who came in later got their assignments almost immediately. In the washroom there was a sign above the mirror: "Would you hire this person?" And next to the toilet someone had written, "Do your job and get me a job."

Shortly after 9 a.m. I was called up to the front counter and issued a job moving scaffolding for a house off of Jericho Beach. My partner was a young man from Liberia, who's working to pay Canada for his plane ticket back home—and to get a phone so he can give his number to girls.

We were issued hard hats and reflective vests and told we were responsible for returning them in good condition or their value would be taken out of our paychecks. Gloves were provided at a \$3 deduction, and two retail-price bus tickets were handed to each of us. We arrived at the job site just after 10 a.m.

The house is huge and belongs to a Chinese developer. "Worth \$30 million," the contractor tells us. Tennis court, underground parking, indoor swimming pool. The view from the scaffolding is stunning, but the agency has forbidden us from going higher than six feet in the air, so we spend our shift on the ground, lifting and carrying.

The boss is friendly and buys each of us a Gatorade for our unpaid lunch. He tells us that although we're receiving \$10 an hour, his company pays the labor agency nearly twice that amount.

We're off at half past four and back to the agency's office just after five, clutching our little white papers that declare six hours of work completed. I've earned \$54, but after taxes and deductions it's just over \$40. Workers then receive their checks and line up at a nearby corner store that cashes them for a small fee.



The next day, Wednesday, I'm lucky enough to get a full eight hours carrying buckets of stucco, two at a time, up a stairwell all day. Sent to a Jim Pattison development at the University of British Columbia with three other workers, my \$5 transportation deduction goes to the worker who owns a car and drives us to the worksite. Many day laborers have been assigned to this site through the agency for months.

At the end of the eight-hour day we get about \$72, but nearly \$15 is taken out through taxes and deductions. The men grumble about paying employment insurance they could never collect themselves.

On Thursday there seems to be a slightly shorter wait for work since the monthly welfare check came out the day before. The staff behind the counter recognize me as one of the few sober workers in the room—the others are still reeking of booze from the night before.

Some of the party animals get sent out too, and at one point I'm charged with hammering apart metal warehouse shelving, passing down the metal beams with one side in my hand and the other in someone else's. My partner's good, but our man on the floor is hung over and in a foul mood. Every time we pass off one of the beams, we're reminded that we're placing our lives in his hands.

At the end of a long week, my grand total in take-home pay is \$220. (The absolute maximum a person can make in a week is about \$300.) I'm exhausted, and a pile of dirty laundry is waiting for me when I get home. I'm still expelling dust when I blow my nose. The weekend is spent letting my aching muscles heal, and mentally preparing myself to do it all over again.

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“My partner's good, but our man on the floor is hungover and in a foul mood. Every time we pass off one of the beams, we are reminded that we are placing our lives in his hands.”



Photo & Food by Chef J.

By Ginny Erwin
StreetWise Contributor, www.ginetics.org

Blue Gills and Blackberries

What is “sustainable local cuisine”? That phrase has been on the lips of every trend predictor and celebrity foodie queen lately. Though the foodie queens certainly have plenty to say about the subject (at least when they’re trying to sell their latest book), even the true food experts have been a little stumped on this one.

Last week I had lunch with Casson Trenor, a self-proclaimed expert on “sustainable seafood.” We shared a meal at the wonderful Kendall College dining room. The meal was great, but the conversation was even better.

Trenor is the author of *Sustainable Sushi: A Guide to Saving the Oceans One Bite at a Time*. Truth be told, he’s both intelligent and witty. He may well be a great sushi chef, but he’s also a talented public speaker and a true believer in his cause. However, as a veteran professional chef, world traveler, culinary adventurer, and political “objectivist,” I couldn’t help but find a few flaws in his theories.

You see, Trenor is totally against “farmed” seafood of any kind. He believes that only fish

caught in the wild should be eaten. In his mind all fish farming, either now or in the future, is a danger to the environment.

The fact is, I’ve traveled to Chile and inspected both fish hatcheries and offshore fish farms. I’ve also toured state-of-the-art organic tilapia fish farms here in Illinois, and I can say from personal observation that not all fish farms are alike. Some are great, some aren’t.

As with anything else, each situation must be judged separately. Yet this argument may be missing the biggest point: the human population of our planet keeps growing. Unless we somehow address this very serious issue, there won’t be enough fish in the sea to feed everyone who will need them. Perhaps there’s a happy medium between conservation and fish farming guidelines.

Recently, during a business trip to rural Ohio, I had lunch in a local restaurant. On the menu was fresh baked blackberry pie. It was made from local-grown berries, preserved from the summer before. The specials board touted another local dish: “Fried Blue Gill Fish and Chips,” featuring local “sunfish” caught in a local river by a local teenager.

Every week this small-town tradition continues. The teenage boy actually keeps his fishing spot a secret. He throws the little ones back, only keeping the big ones so he can “harvest” them later. Is this fish farming? Maybe it is. It’s also absolutely sustainable local food being sold in a restaurant and eaten by local residents. This is a small business putting cash into the local economy.

Would our best-selling author approve of our young fish farmer? Who can say? However, I approve of both the fisherman and the cook who sell their sustainable local cuisine—not because I’m an objectivist, but because it’s delicious!

Now, if we can only keep our lakes, rivers, and streams clean, perhaps we can all catch our own fish!

Easy-bake Cod with Veggies

(serves 2)

FoodWise Shopping List:

- 1 lb. fresh cod [cut into two pieces]
- 1/2 c. chopped cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 c. sliced onion
- 1/2 c. sliced celery
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp. fresh thyme [optional]

Ginny’s Cooking Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 425.
- Lightly spray baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.

- On bottom of pan, evenly place celery, onion, and tomatoes.

- Place fish on top of vegetables, then lightly salt and pepper; add thyme if desired.

- Place an oven-proof lid or piece of tinfoil on top of pan.

- Bake in hot oven for 20 minutes. Serve hot and enjoy!

NUTRITIONAL INFO

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 210 Calories from Fat 15	
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 1.5g	2%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 85mg	28%
Sodium 310mg	13%
Total Carbohydrate 5g	2%
Dietary Fiber 1g	5%
Sugars 2g	
Protein 41g	
Vitamin A 8%	Vitamin C 25%
Calcium 4%	Iron 4%

DineWise

By Lee Barrie & Cindy Kurman Barrie
StreetWise Contributors

The new Prairie Fire brings excellence, warmth and comfort to casual Fulton River District dining

When veteran 4-star chefs Sarah Stegner and George Bumaris left the Ritz-Carlton in 2004 to open the casual Prairie Grass Café in Northbrook, their foray into everyday dining, with a sustainable/organic emphasis, was an instant hit. Now they’ve expanded their empire from one to two with the recent opening of Prairie Fire in the Fulton River District, just across the Chicago River from the Merchandise Mart (Clinton is one block west of Canal Street). We’re very happy—the food is wonderful, the room is beautiful and comfortable, and it’s just a two-block walk from our office.

Even if your trip is a bit longer than ours, you will be very pleased with the experience (and valet parking makes it convenient). The restaurant, open for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch, offers a wide selection of contemporary American creations, crafted with a master’s touch yet simply presented and perfectly appropriate when you’re in a casual mood. The menu is similar to that of Prairie Grass Café, and their signature wide screen TVs, showing scenic video footage from Bill Kurtis’s Kansas ranch, are in full display.

Speaking of Bill Kurtis, the menu features his delicious and healthy Tallgrass Beef that he and a network of beef suppliers raise on their prairie grass ranches, following Kurtis’s exacting standards. But beyond the beef dishes, the menu offers many choices that will please fish and poultry lovers as well as vegetarians.

The lunch menu features a delicious assortment of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, burgers, entrées and desserts. There is some overlap on the dinner menu, but the evening selections focus more on the inspired entrées. We’ve eaten lunch and dinner at Prairie Fire, so here is our first take.

The appetizers are wide-ranging and one could easily create a meal from a combination of them. Among the intriguing choices are Baked Feta Cheese with slices of spicy banana peppers and tomatoes; Duck Ballotine Pate with cornichons, whole grain mustard and Cognac marinat-

ed prunes; Nueske’s Bacon Pizza with Pleasant Ridge Reserve cheese; Tender Braised Mint Creek Farm lamb with cucumber, mint and yogurt sauce; French Lentils slow cooked with tomato marmalade, crumbled Capriole Farm goat cheese and crispy shallots. Do justice to the apps and share them with your tablemates; this is no time to be stingy.

Salads are creative and very tasty, with sublime flavor combinations derived from primarily organic ingredients. The dinnertime Farmer’s Salad, with Green Sister’s Garden greens, chopped Romaine, roasted root vegetables, pomegranate, pumpkin seeds, Pleasant Ridge Reserve cheese and herb dressing, is excellently conceived, large but not huge. The Citrus Honey Marinated Beets, with sliced pears, Capriole Farm goat cheese and toasted hazelnuts, are fresh, crisp and enchanting. The “Chicago Magazine’s #1 Sirloin Burger,” served at lunch and dinner, is made from Tallgrass Beef, topped with mild Amish Blue Cheese and served with a roasted beefsteak tomato slice and homemade potato wedges. Good call, *Chicago Magazine*. We loved it—it’s rich and satisfying and the cheese topping has the most wonderful texture.

The flavorful “Tallgrass Beef” Penne Pasta, with basil and a crispy bread crumb topping, was a perfectly prepared lunchtime dish. It’s hearty and zesty without being over-spiced. We also enjoyed the dinnertime Sautéed Lake Superior Whitefish, served with delicious roasted Portobello

The DNA Trail opens at Silk Road

Would knowing your heritage change you? Or are art and science one and the same, albeit a different dynamic language seeking to explain who we are in the here and now?

Seven playwrights—Elizabeth Wong, Velina Hasu Houston, Lina Patel, Jamil Khoury, Shishir Kurup, David Henry Hwang, and Phillip Kan Gotanda—created *The DNA Trail: A Genealogy of Short Plays About Ancestry, Identity, and Utter Confusion* by agreeing to DNA testing and subsequent discussions with scientists. But since art imitates life, how does this knowledge of ancestry affect their writing? Seven short plays query, touch, and surprise, reflecting life's facets as each playwright seeks to answer “Who am I?” and connects inadvertently to the others.

Join the Silk Road Theatre Project in association with the Goodman Theatre as they present the culmination of individual and collaborative ruminations from the past three years. The project was conceived by Silk Road artistic director Jamil Khoury and directed by Steve Scott. *The DNA Trail* runs Wed-Sun through Sun 4/4 (previews through Sat 3/6) at Pierce Hall in the historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W. Washington St. Preview tickets are \$24, regular tickets \$34. For more info, call 312-857-1234, ext. 201, or visit srtp.org. —Susan Fong



The Handmaid's Tale at Northwestern

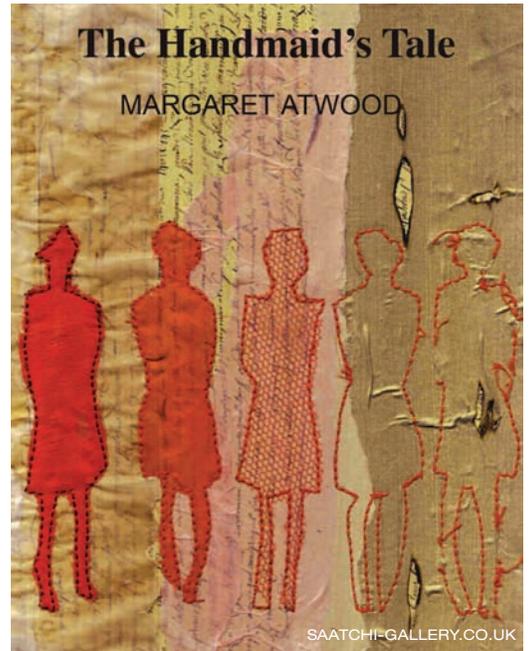
Northwestern University's Theatre and Interpretation Center presents *The Handmaid's Tale*, Fri 3/5-Sun 3/14, as part of its Masters-in-the-Making Series. Based on the novel by Margaret Atwood and adapted by third-year MFA directing student Catherine Miller Hardy, it's the story of one woman's life in the Republic of Gilead, an authoritarian regime located in what was, until recently, the United States of America.

Offred is a handmaid, one of the few remaining fertile women, who's given to a wealthy and powerful couple so she can bear “their” children. As weeks stretch into months and this strange new world becomes the norm, Offred must turn to the audience—to preserve the life she once knew, to hold fast to her dreams of escape, and to face her own complicity.

Interviewed in February by CNN.com about her new book, *The Year of the Flood*, Atwood said that environmental disasters, corporate detachment, and religious extremism are already a reality—just not at the levels she envisions in her work. “That's what that kind of book is for,” she said. “It's for looking at things and pushing them a little bit further along the path, to see what it would be like if we went there.”

Performances are Thu-Sat 8 p.m. and Sun 2 p.m. at the Ethel M. Barber Theater of Northwestern's Theatre and Interpretation Center, 30 Arts Circle Drive, in Evanston. Postshow discussions will be offered Sun 3/7 and Thu 3/11. Tickets are \$10-\$15 and can be purchased by calling 847-491-7282.

—Suzanne Hanney



mushrooms and creamy mashed Yukon Gold potatoes. Another wonderful dish is the Tallgrass Beef Slow Braised BBQ Brisket, served as a sandwich at lunch (served on Ciabatta with French fries) and as an entrée at dinner (served with a Yukon Gold potato purée and *mirepoix* (butter-sautéed vegetables)). The brisket is nicely seasoned and subtle enough to avoid the heavy smoky flavor that often characterizes barbecued brisket. It's a homemade, wholesome experience.

Here are some other choices that may interest you: Mint Creek Farms Handcrafted Lamb Sausage with giant Greek-style beans—Chef George is a sausage master and his lamb sausage, which we've had at Prairie Grass Café, is a work of art. The Moussaka, with braised lamb, potato, eggplant and Bechamel sauce, is a treasure of texture and flavor. The Boneless Half Chicken, with rosemary, thyme and garlic, pan seared until crispy, with roasted honey-glazed sweet potatoes, is a showcase for their mastery of rustic fare.

At Prairie Fire, the excellent desserts are a perfect end to a comforting meal. The homemade pies change often, according to the season. The Double Chocolate Cake is done right: moist, rich with a well-balanced chocolate flavor. The Thin Apple Tart with Crème Anglaise is light, fruity and refreshing. We predict that the Warm Sticky Toffee Date Cake—moist and rich but not cloyingly sweet—will become one of their most popular signature desserts. It's



different in a very good way.

Prairie Fire is a superb addition to the burgeoning Fulton River District. It will be welcomed by the growing residential community, but it's also a great destination restaurant that's surprisingly close to the Loop and River North. Spring for the taxi fare and have a great time among very appreciative hosts.

While you're in the neighborhood, walk south two blocks and stop in at the fabulous new Chicago French Market. There you can purchase the Tallgrass Beef to prepare at home.

Prairie Fire
215 N. Clinton, Chicago
(312) 382-8300;
www.prairiefirechicago.com

Hours:
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.
5-11 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
Entrée prices:
\$9-\$23 (lunch); \$13-\$27 (dinner); \$39 for the Tallgrass Beef Filet Mignon

Events for March 3-9



Wednesday

Jonathan R. Cole's new book, *The Great American University*, looks at the evolution of American universities and the threats that face them. Learn about Cole's push to nurture this powerful national resource so that the American tradition of academic excellence can be sustained and enhanced. 4 p.m., University of Chicago, 1126 E. 59th St., room SS 122. semcoop.indiebound.com.

The play *I Still Love H.E.R. (atributetohiphop)*, which takes its title from a 1994 song by Common, centers on a Chicago radio personality and examines social issues such as feminism, racism, capitalist media domination, and violence in the hip-hop community. 7:30 p.m., Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, 777 N. Green St. \$20-\$25. thetheori.com.

Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. Free. chicago-culturalcenter.org.

Chicago Choral Artists celebrate Women's History Month with a concert by and about women from the past nine centuries: Hildegard von Bingen, Stacy Garrop, Janika Vandervelde, and the African-American women's ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock. Concert directors include Kirsten Hedegaard, Victoria Hellyer, and Rosetta Sellers-Varela. 4 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 2335 N. Orchard St. \$10-\$20. chicagochoralartists.org.

Thursday

Enjoy a free slice of cake at the City of Chicago 173rd-birthday celebration. If you share a birthday with Chicago, you're entitled to a special certificate signed by Mayor Richard M. Daley. Chicago had a population of 4,000 when it was incorporated as a city March 4, 1837; four years earlier, it had been incorporated as a town of 350 people. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600 or chicago.org.

The Harold Washington Library **presents the story of Artemisia Gentileschi**, a 17th-century Italian painter, in a music/multimedia performance. The event features musicians Linda M. Smith, Eugenia Elliott, Katherine Hughes, and Robert Arendt telling the intriguing life story of the best-known female artist in Western art history prior to the modern era. 6 p.m., Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State St. 312-747-4300.

Saturday

The **Third Coast Filmless Festival** celebrates storytelling, sound, and the art of listening, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Join other radio fans "in the dark" for unforgettable audio documentaries and the chance to hear some of the most innovative producers working in radio today. At 7:30 p.m. Re:sound's Gwen Maccsai will host "Words on Sound: Celebrating the Launch of Reality Radio," with special guests Ira Glass (This American Life), Joe Richman (Radio Diaries), and the Kitchen Sisters (Hidden Kitchens). Part of the 2010 season of Chicago Public Radio, the Filmless Festival is presented in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave. Admission is \$24-\$250; for more info, visit chicagopublicradio.org.

Sunday

The Chicago Polar Plunge benefits Special Olympics Chicago programs. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$100 after signing up at chicagopolarplunge.org. 10 a.m., North Avenue Beach, 1600 N. Lake Shore Dr.; a Melt Down Party, in a heated tent with music, food, refreshments, and a cash bar, follows from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Silent Film Society of Chicago presents "Kings of Comedy Part III," featuring the West End Jazz Band and theater organist Dennis Scott. 2:30 p.m., Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. \$9 students and seniors, \$10 adults when bought in advance, and \$12 for all tickets purchased at the door. For more info, visit portagetheater.org.

Sunday Salon: Protégé Philharmonic features **2010 Concerto Competition winner Marina Stingley** as well as Rimsky Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture, Op. 36*; Berlioz's *Racoczy March*; and Ravel's arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. 3 p.m., Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago

Monday

As part of LunchBreak's Classical Mondays series, which offers classical, chamber music, and opera concerts to the public for free, members of the Chicago Opera Theater Young Artists Program will perform. 12:15 p.m., Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. chicago-culturalcenter.org.

Ongoing

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink will be closing for the season on Sunday, March 14, so grab your skates and get out there! The rink, now in its ninth season, draws more than 100,000 skaters annually and is free (skate rentals are \$10) and open to the public. Millennium Park, Michigan & Washington. For rink hours and more info, visit millenniumpark.org. —Amanda Anderson & Suzanne Hanney

Raising money for StreetWise just got a little easier.

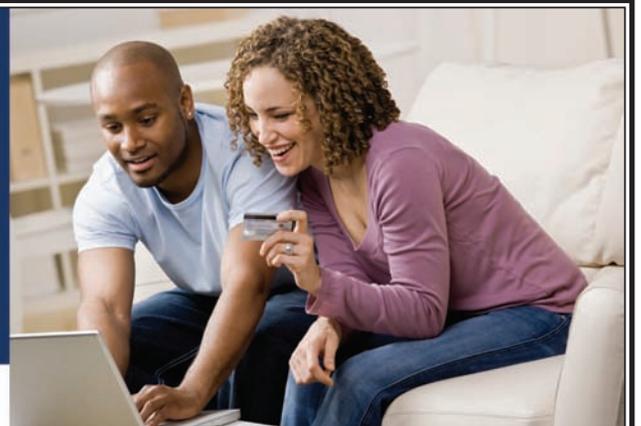
Shop through iGive.com at your favorite online retailers and a percentage of your proceeds will be sent directly to StreetWise.

Choose from over 700 retailers like Amazon, Ebay, Borders, Expedia, Nordstroms, Sports Authority, Staples, Kodak Gallery and much more!

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Log on to www.streetwise.org and click on the iGive.com tile ad, then shop and give!

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St. Patrick's Day Chicago-Style



By Noleen Power
StreetWise Contributor

March is upon us, and much marching there will be on the streets of Chicago this month. Saint Patrick's Day has rolled around again, and throngs of green-clad revelers will "get their Irish on" in honor of the patron saint of Ireland.

For those unacquainted with the country, here are some fast facts to get you up to speed on my homeland:

Saint Patrick's Day often falls during Lent. This is a time when a vice is eschewed for the 40 days prior to Easter. For the young it means no sweets for an eternity, and for adults, drink is often the sacrifice. Therefore, a wide berth is given on the feast of Saint Pat. What self-respecting individual wouldn't toast such an important occasion?

The Irish are known to be big talkers, with a rich oral tradition. With a population of 4.2 million and mobile-phone ownership at more than 5 million, you can see that the gift of gab is alive and kicking.

Education has always been at the core of Ireland. This, combined with generous tax breaks, has drawn 9 of the world's top 10 pharmaceutical companies to its shores. Chances are those "happy pills" Aunt Betty pops were manufactured in Ireland.

For a pick-me-up in the Emerald Isle, it's neither whiskey nor Guinness that tops the bill, but tea. Tea drinking is both a ritual and an art, and this tiny island ranks number one in tea consumption, per capita, worldwide. The average Irish person drinks four steamy cups a day.

As far as consumption goes, the Irish keep it pretty low when it comes to gas (or petrol, as it's locally referred to). A gallon of car juice will set you back about \$6.30. And if you forget to bring a reusable bag to the supermarket, you'll pay a "PlasTax" of 20 cents for every plastic bag you take from the store.

Ireland can boast of having more than 17 hours of daylight in the summer months, much to the delight of children. Conversely, December averages one hour of

sunlight per day, much to the delight of owls, bats, and possibly bartenders.

Saint Patrick's goal in Ireland was to teach Christianity to the people. He was born "Maewyn Succat," but once it was determined that he didn't suck at much of anything, his name was changed to something more pronounceable. Pagans responded much better to a man named Paddy.

Last but not least, corned beef, as Americans know it, is alien to the Irish palate. Beef was a luxury to most Irishmen until recent generations; boiled ham more likely fit the celebratory Saint Patrick's Day bill. Corned beef in a Galway deli resembles Polish head cheese in appearance and bologna in texture; coupled with cabbage, it's a recipe for gastroenteritis. The tea is delightful and the soda bread is delicious, but a word to the wise when it comes to corned beef!

Now that we've had a refresher course, here's an overview of the always fantastic Saint Patrick's Day celebrations in Chicago . . .

This year's lineup will bring back many fond favorites, along with one major change: the South Side parade will be notably absent.

"We suspended the parade simply because it became too large an event for our community," said parade committee member Colleen Kozubowski. "But the festival being planned for this coming March will be an excellent way to celebrate Irish heritage—lots of good food, entertainment, and family-friendly activities."

The South Side Irish Parade Family Fest on Saturday, March 13, at the Beverly Arts Center will feature arts and crafts for children, an Irish soda-bread contest, a best-dressed "Irish" dog contest, and a kiddie parade. There will also be dancers and live music, culminating with a performance by the Hothouse Flowers, an Irish group with gospel, soul, and rock roots.

Despite the lack of an actual parade, a large number of people are planning to show up for business as usual on Western Avenue this year. A sole South Sider, dismayed at the loss of an annual event rivaling Christmas, expressed his concerns on Facebook; his suggestion that family and friends show up, regardless, spiraled into a pledge by over 15,000 to continue the tradition.

So, the Sunday before Saint Paddy's Day should be a lively one, with music and merriment, albeit on a smaller scale. Attendance will be a drop in the ocean compared to the 300,000 who normally partied on parade day, but the 2010 gathering may earn a place in the record books anyway as the world's largest impromptu pub crawl. And though no official starting point has been designated, the bars lining the parade's former epicenter are sure to be hopping.

The 15th annual Forest Park Parade takes place Saturday, March 6; for those looking to start the party early, here's your chance. Madison Street will come to life at 1 p.m. with the talented Proviso East High School marching band, local business floats, clowns, and an appearance by the Medinah Shriners minichoppers and Roaring '57s (think grown men with Shrinky Dink vehicles). Paired with a pint, the laughs are endless.

O'Sullivan's (7244 Madison St.) will have a special beer-garden tent on Elgin Ave., a side street, to accommodate the crowd. "The whole month of March is a great time here," said manager Abby Seipre. "Everyone is in good spirits. We have live Irish music and tons of specials." All visitors are invited to sample the lovely, independently owned shops, restaurants, and pubs that dot Forest Park.

For the area-code-312 folks, the main Chicago Saint Patrick's Day shenanigans will take place on Saturday, March 13. The downtown parade will live on eternally, according to Kevin Sherlock, parade coordinator. "We're just like the mail," he assured me. "We'll be here rain, hail, or shine." When asked if he expected any changes due to the cancellation of the South Side parade, he said he didn't anticipate anything major. "Same old, same old," he replied. "But all newcomers are welcome." The river will be dyed green at 10:45 a.m., and the parade will shimmy up from Balbo and Columbus at noon.

No less than 15 out-of-state bands will showcase their talents, along with a dizzying array of local units. The Shannon Rovers bagpipers are not to be missed, and will be making their rounds in the city's bars after their parade performance. The Abbey Pub (3420 W. Grace) is a great spot to grab some fish and chips and check out Blackstairs Rebel and Kevin Flynn & the Avondale Ramblers, and if you're looking for a perfectly poured black and tan, stop into Fado (100 W. Grand Ave.), where the Guinness is legendary.

Another solid bet for Paddy's Day revelry is the Northwest Side Irish Parade. It takes place on Sunday, March 14, running from Raven and Neola to NW Highway and Harlem. Moretti's, located at 6727 Olmstead in Edison Park, is home to the official afterparty, with food, drinks, and live entertainment on tap.

Finally, the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox Ave.) hosts a monthlong tribute to all things Irish. On Saint Patrick's Day proper, the festivities kick off at noon and include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music, and an abundance of hearty food. Confirmed performers include the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, the Chancey Brothers, Shindig, and Barry Fagan's Band. Popular with the "off the boat" crowd, this is as authentic as it gets.

Wherever you find yourself this merry month of March, there's sure to be something that tickles your Irish fancy. I may be more than 3,000 miles away from my original home on the Emerald Isle, but this city is the place to be on Saint Patrick's Day. Sweet home Chicago!

Google Gigabit: Gigantic Gaggle 0' Data

By Rafiki Cai
StreetWise Contributor

As a technologist, I've been furious with my country for some time now. One reason is the outright absence of widespread municipal WiFi, not to mention the lack of public policy, which informs the importance of this resource as critical infrastructure.

The second reason is the impunity with which outright "strawband" connectivity is marketed as "broadband" to the unknowing public. (Keep reading...)

As a society, it appears that we are caught in a vise between two conflicting forces. On one hand is the Highest Good of the People, and on the other is the Highest Gain of the Profiteers; the former isn't faring too well in the face-off, it appears. An apropos example of this dual that readily comes to mind is health-care reform. Don't worry, I won't digress into that debacle of a debate.

Let's unpack the matter of municipal WiFi, in short form. The Internet has become a vital thread weaving through nearly every aspect of modern life: education, commerce, entertainment, media, civic participation, health, and more. Some would argue that it actually approaches the threshold of being a utility. (If you don't agree, how about taking a pledge to not engage the Internet in any way for the next 90 days? Let's see how that works out for you.)

So, if the Internet is so vital to the transportation of information and the flow of modernity, why is there not a formidable mindset to facilitate optimum public access to it, as is the case with roads and highways?

Don't doubt for a second that it's not possible.

Case in point: in desolate, remote Morrow County, Oregon, an Iranian-immigrant businessman has transformed life for the county's 11,000 residents. Fred Ziari's company constructed—and maintains—a 700-square-mile, WiMAX WiFi cloud.

The network propels state-of-the-art efficiency for city and county law enforcement, telemedicine, distant learning, agriculture, emergency preparedness, and on and on. How long has this been going on?

Seven years.

That's right—seven. In the hinterlands of Oregon. For a relatively minuscule market. If it can work there, why not in more densely populated and resourced areas?

Let me move on to the principal point of this article. Google, the "take over the world" leader in online search engines, mapping, mobile operating systems, e-books, e-mail, and online office suites, recently issued a disruptive announcement: it intends to speed up the process of catching up to Morrow County.

The Internet giant plans to deploy an unprecedented gigabit-speed broadband service via a 50,000- to 500,000-person trial run. In case you're wondering, "gigabit" means 1,000 megabits per second. That means roughly 100 times faster than what you're paying premium price for now. And get this—Google plans to deliver such a service at current market price.

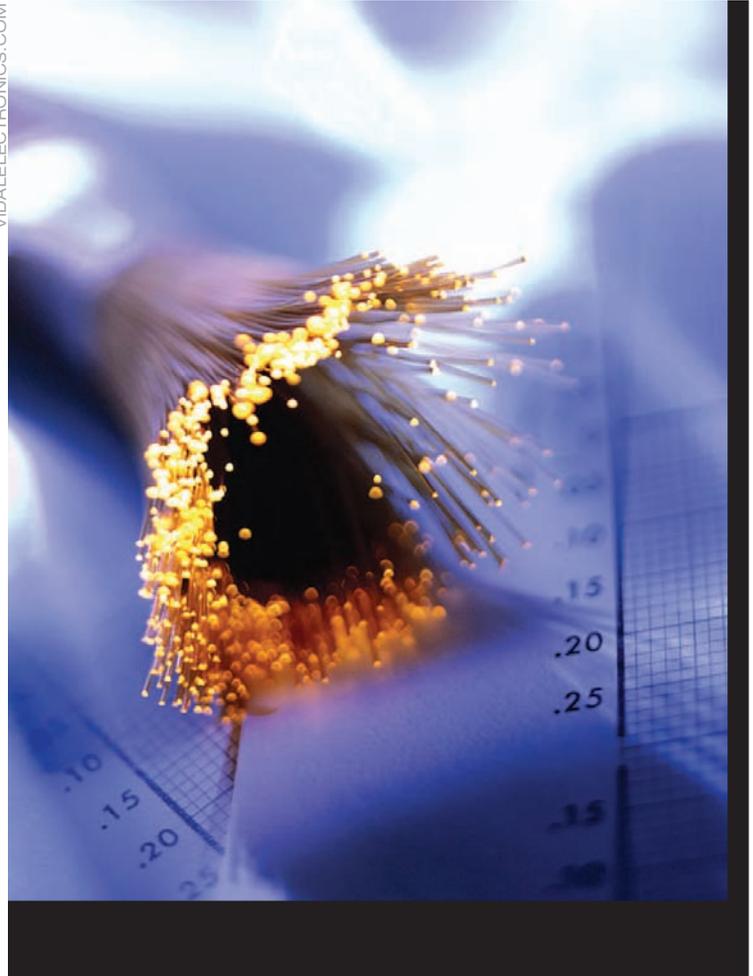
Why and how? It just sounds too good to be true.

I believe it has to do with altruism and self-interest. Perhaps Google, like many frustrated U.S. observers of international technology developments, sees other nations already rolling out gigabit-speed broadband deployments. Not just one or two countries, but several. While our cash-neutered politicians keep their heads in the sand, and quarterly-results-crazed corporations literally bully our municipalities over WiFi, around the world real 21st-century infrastructure is taking shape.

Conversely, a more robust Internet certainly helps Google's business model by providing it canvas on which to stretch out with its forward vision of more dynamic applications and more powerful user experiences (and yes, more placement of its ad inventory). At least in Google's vision the game moves forward, as opposed to being fossilized by the machinations of those who want to resist change in order to insure their market dominance.

The digital genie is out of the bottle, and the torrential pace at which it proliferates means that economic dynasties and fortunes will continually shift. The perpetual rule of a few

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monopolies is becoming more and more of an unsustainable fantasy. Corporate alliances that think otherwise are doing so at users' collective expense, and significantly so.

As technology matures, there should be significant and widespread social benefits, i.e. more than just flat-rate texting plans or ringtones. This holds especially true when one recalls that the airwaves are regarded as public holdings, licensed out to private enterprise. Perhaps it's high time that a more energized and engaged electorate examines the principles and philosophies driving the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other such stewardship agencies.

Google, to its credit, is showing itself to be a fierce advocate of such forward thinking and action. They've promised to a) develop their gigabit network in an open approach that will make it avail-

able to other operators, and b) share the lessons they learn about innovative ways of effectively deploying such infrastructure.

Municipalities and communities are being invited to apply for inclusion in the Google gigabit trial. The Request for Information (RFI) deadline is Friday, March 26, with selections being announced later this year. More information can be found at googleblog.blogspot.com/2010/02/think-big-with-gig-our-experimental.html.

Let's hope that Google's bold move is a catalyst to a new technology horizon that brings us out of digital caves and into the light.

Rafiki Cai is The Digital Doctor, a veteran Internet technologist of 15 years. His column appears courtesy of sponsorship by local Clearwire distributors. He can be reached by email: rafiki-cai@gmail.com or SMS: 801-618-0824.



undocumented

Story & pictures by Brenna Daldorph
StreetWise Contributor

November 2000

All around the brightly lit classroom, fourth graders scribble on worksheets, coloring in turkeys and pilgrims. Hunched over two wooden desks in the back of the room are two children. They sit separately from the other kids, silently working as the others giggle and discuss the three things they're most thankful for.

As she sets down her colored pencils, nine-year-old Reyna finally whispers to her friend, "What did you write?" The words are in Spanish. Reyna's English isn't very good yet.

Rogelio pushes his worksheet over to her. Reyna skims over numbers one and two, but number three stands out like it's etched in bold letters: "I'm thankful for crossing the border, for having my family here safely."

Reyna's stomach drops. Her mother told her never to talk about her status. Hadn't Rogelio's family warned him as well?

Her mother had drilled that warning into her as soon as she decided to take Reyna and her younger brother north for a better life. The repeated warning haunted Reyna. Already the awkward new kid, she was afraid that if the other kids found out they'd turn her in.

"My family told me don't tell anyone," Reyna says to Rogelio in a quiet, choked voice. "Maybe a teacher will read that and they'll take you back."

His eyes widen.

"I didn't know people could do that to us."

"Yeah. They can."

Rogelio slowly erases his words. From then on, it will be their secret. No one else will know.

Reyna went back to coloring and thought about her mother, who looked for jobs as she sat in the tiny attic the entire family shared and called home; her baby brother, who was in day care; and her stepfather, an engineer who did factory work to support the family. Reyna prayed that nothing would happen to them before she returned home from school.

As the years went by, she never talked about her status. Instead she hid it carefully, bearing the weight of her secret in an effort to appear normal. She tried, but she knew she was different.

January 2010

Reyna stands behind a lectern at Pilsen's Casa Michoacan and tells her story to the assembled crowd. She's 19 now, and many things have changed.

Over the past 10 years, hard work has brought her academic success and quiet confidence. In Chuck Taylors and a plaid shirt, she now seems more American than Mexican. But one thing hasn't changed: Reyna still knows that she and her family could be deported at any time. Though she's called Chicago her home since her parents brought her here in 2000 and she speaks English without an accent and she scored a 30 on her ACT, she's undocumented—and therefore could be removed at any time.

As she speaks, cameras belonging to Telemundo and Univision roll in the background and reporters from *Hoy* and the *Chicago Tribune* take notes, covering the first press con-

ference of the Immigrant Youth Justice League, or IYJL. It's a grassroots organization Reyna helped found that's devoted to bringing a voice to undocumented youth, promoting education and understanding about their situation, and pushing for national immigration reform.

Since its birth only a few months ago, IYJL has become a vocal and important part of the growing immigration reform struggle in Chicago. With its large Latino population, the city has become a hot spot for a growing number of voters who are frustrated by the Obama administration's lack of attention to immigration reform.

Members of IYJL perch on the edge of the stage behind Reyna. They look like any other college-age students in the United States: skinny jeans, boots, floppy hair. But each of them shares a story similar to Reyna's. Each has had dreams deferred by their legal status. Together they're speaking out, hoping to mobilize the community toward immigration reform.

"We're not doing it because we're scared," said IYJL member Tania Unzueta. "We're doing it because we think it's necessary."

Reynas story

These young people are not alone. In fact an estimated 65,000 undocumented immigrant teenagers graduate from U.S. high schools every year, according to the Web site for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act. The DREAM Act is a bill that would provide undocumented youth a path to citizenship.

Many undocumented immigrants who are brought to the U.S. as children grow up like any other American, until adolescence forces them to confront their marginalized status. Applications for driver's licenses, jobs, and college loans require something they don't have: a nine-digit social security number.

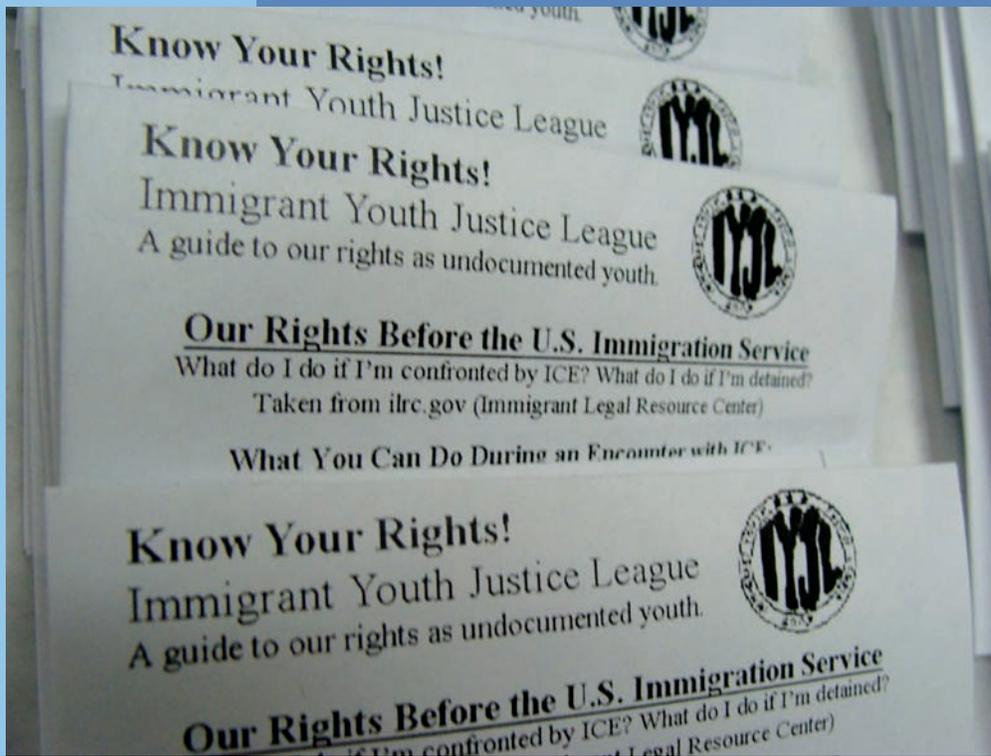
Reyna first encountered the issue in high school, when her friends began doing things she couldn't. As she encountered barrier after barrier, the visceral fear of her childhood slowly turned to frustration.

"Everything came down; it just fell apart," Reyna said. "I wasn't 'feeling' school anymore. You know, I'm undocumented—why does it matter?"

Luckily, support came just when she needed it. Reyna was in high school when she finally connected with other students like her—students who later became the core group of IYJL. She signed up for Radio Arte, a local program sponsored by the National Museum of Mexican Art that trains young Latinos to work in broadcast media. Reyna "came out," as she likes to say to her Radio Arte peers, many of whom were also undocumented. It was the first time she accepted her identity as an undocumented person.

Around that time she also got the guidance she needed to apply to college. Though she couldn't receive any federal loans, she was eligible for in-state tuition; Illinois is one of only 11 states to offer that option to undocumented students who've gone to high school in the state. She enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago to pursue a degree in gender and women's studies.

But that dream was only a small hiatus from the reality of Reyna's status. Even with in-state



tuition, she had to drop out after her first semester.

"I can't get loans," she said. "Money at home is tight. I'm nine numbers away from getting an education."

But lack of higher education isn't the only challenge Reyna and her friends have to face. There's also the constant fear of deportation.

"I just want to leave my house knowing that I'll come home at night," she said.

That threat became even clearer to her when she met Rigo Padilla, who was in the process of being deported.

Rigos story

At the time a 21-year-old UIC student and member of Radio Arte, Rigo was driving home from watching a football game and drinking beer with some friends when he ran a stop sign. Next thing he knew, he had a deportation order.

As soon as his Radio Arte teacher, Tania Unzueta, heard about his troubles, she offered Rigo support and advice, even attending his immigration court meetings. By the time summer arrived, however, they both realized there were no legal options left to cancel his deportation. The only hope they held onto was mobilizing the community on his behalf.



As soon as Reyna and her friends heard about the deportation order, they knew they couldn't stay in the shadows any longer. They had to speak up. However, the fact that Rigo was arrested for a DUI made people unwilling to support his case.

"There was this idea that if you were going to fight against a deportation, you had to have a perfect immigrant to hold up," Tania said. "Rigo wasn't perfect. But not everyone who gets a DUI gets sent to a country where they don't know anyone and barely speak the language."

One organization the students contacted was the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, or ICIRR.

Morale at ICIRR was low. They had marched in 2006. They had mobilized to elect Barack Obama for president on the promise of immigration reform. Yet they were continuing to see families separated. And with no legislation on the horizon, they were seeing reform slip as a national priority.

When they first heard about Rigo's case, the ICIRR staff, like many others, thought the DUI on his record rendered his case hopeless. But they were impressed by the young people who were committed to helping him.

"With youth there is a boldness, a fresh vision and push. The youth say, 'No, we have to fight, even for a kid who was caught drinking and driving,'" said Ashley Moy-Wooten, an organizer at ICIRR. "We were all thinking about strategy and images and wondering how we were going to win this. This was a picture of the 'typical drunk Mexican.' But we were compelled by the youths' energy and their willingness to do whatever it takes."

And as soon as the staff got to know the youths, they decided it was a battle they had to fight.

"It all comes down to some individ-

ual relationships," Moy-Wooten said. "There are many cases all the time, but Rigo was someone close to us."

ICIRR decided to be up front about the DUI arrest in their press campaign. And much to their surprise, media coverage was immediate and positive.

"Media reacts when they see youth at the forefront," said Moy-Wooten. "We were not expecting this. But seeing youth—seeing how bright Rigo is and how he has been a great contributor to the community—worked."

The students held street rallies and made phone calls on Rigo's behalf. They sent more than 18,000 faxes to Congress and garnered a lot of attention from the press. They tapped into the national movement to stop the deportation of students.

They also started meeting as an independent youth group. "There was this idea that we wanted to do more than just fight for Rigo—we wanted our work to be more long-term," Tania said.

In the end Rigo won the support of five members of Congress from Illinois. One of them, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-9th District), offered a private bill to cancel his deportation. The Chicago City Council also passed a resolution calling for the cancellation of his removal.

On December 10 Rigo received a yearlong stay of his deportation order. He was one of only five students nationwide to receive a stay last year.

IYJL today

On a Sunday afternoon in February, the students meet in a ground-floor room at Radio Arte, the program that brought them all together. They sit around tables, wearing coats to keep warm in the cement-floored room.

Today, the debate is electric: everyone is excited for IYJL's biggest project yet, a student-led rally to be held on March 10. The students, with the help of ICIRR, want to bring together thousands of community members and allies to march in favor of immigration reform. The students are doing all the organizing for the event, and it's not without tension—some students are still worried about the dangers of such a public display.

Though this is their biggest project, the students are involved in many others as well, from phone banking for ICIRR to presenting at schools such as DePaul University, Harold Washington College, Northwestern University, and Oberlin College in Ohio. All of the activities center on a primary goal: to use their stories to promote immigration reform and changes in the public perception of those who are undocumented.

"It is important to mention that fighting for legislation is not the only thing that needs to happen around immigration," Tania said. "That is why we are so focused on education and outreach."

The outreach has gone extraordinarily well. At the end of last year, IYJL's core group was made up of eight members; at their last meeting, they had 30 attendees. The attendees are both undocumented students and allies. Almost all of them, like Reyna, are eager to join a community, and they're tired of living in fear. It is this exhaustion that makes many of them willing to speak.

"There is a fear," said Tania. "We know that it is

a little bit dangerous. But many of us choosing to come out are tired of people around us not knowing the real impact that immigration has on every day of our lives.”

That theme is reiterated on the IYJL blog, a space where students upload anonymous audio clips or post their stories. They tell about being denied spots at arts camps, boarding schools, and their dream colleges. They talk about the fear and isolation of growing up undocumented. In one audio clip, entitled “Coming Out,” an undocumented student records a conversation where he “comes out” to a close friend. For the first time the friend understands why the undocumented student never had a license and had to cancel their roommate status at UIC.

The idea of stepping out of the shadows—presenting their faces and stories to the world—is key to IYJL’s movement. As its members posted on the blog, in a section called “Coming Out of the Shadows,” “The political importance and personal empowerment of coming out of the shadows is crucial. Hosting events (dances, panels, etc.) that create safe and welcoming space for undocumented workers and youth is crucial. This will help put the face of the very people that are oppressed at the forefront of the movement.”

One such space was created at “Reform: Grassroots Movement and Leadership Training,” hosted by IYJL members and ICIRR on Friday, January 29. More than 170 participants shared their stories and discussed how to use their experiences to mobilize other youth for the cause. For IYJL members, seeing so many come together was an incredible success.

“I feel like that’s how history happens—it’s just [being at] the right place at the right time under the right conditions, and that’s where we’re at,” Tania said. “We were facing the deportation of someone who was close to us and started organizing around that. At the same time, it was the national movement to stop the deportation of students.”

IYJL hopes to bring people together on a larger scale: combining the struggles of Chicagoans with those nationwide. They hope many people will participate in their youth-led march on Wednesday, March 10, in the city. The event is a precursor to an even larger protest for immigration reform in Washington, D.C., on March 21.

In the national context

The thousands expected to assemble in the nation’s capital are frustrated by the lack of White House action on the issue of immigration reform.



There is a fear... we know that it is a little bit dangerous. But many of us choosing to come out are tired of people around us not knowing the real impact that immigration has on every day of our lives.



To read more stories and testimonies of undocumented students and to find out more about the Immigrant Youth Justice League, visit <http://iyjl.wordpress.com>

In 2008 Latino voters showed overwhelming support for Barack Obama and were critical in several swing-state victories. A key issue for the 11-million-strong voting bloc was immigration reform.

But since then there has been no concrete progress toward comprehensive reform. Many Latinos were outraged when discussion of immigration reform was reduced to a vague remark more than an hour into the president’s State of the Union address on January 27.

As part of this push, many students like those in IYJL have begun to speak out across the nation. They support the DREAM Act offered in the U.S. Senate by senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Richard Lugar (R-IN). This legislation would give permanent-resident status to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before the age of 15 if they’ve lived here for at least five years and have graduated from high school, provided they attend college or serve in the military for two years.

IYJL members also support Comprehensive Immigration Reform ASAP, a bill introduced in Congress on December 15 by Rep. Luis Guterrez (D-4th District, Illinois). As he described it, the bill is “legislation that secures our nation’s economy, keeps families together,

and secures our borders while fixing our broken immigration system.”

At the press conference, the students encouraged others to support this legislation even if they disagree with certain aspects of it.

“The bill isn’t perfect,” Reyna said. “But it is something to work with.”

The students know this bill has its faults, but they also know it contains the hope that Rigo can stay in the U.S. and finish law school, that Reyna can go to college, and that millions of other young people like them can also accomplish their goals.

“How do I feel?” wrote one such student, David Ramirez, after participating in IYJL’s January activities. “Hopeful! Happier.”

12 million others

When Reyna speaks out, she does it for herself, but also for her family.

She thinks about her mother, a trained teacher, who’s worked at McDonald’s for four years. She thinks of her stepfather, a trained engineer, who works at a factory. But mostly she thinks of her 13-year-old brother, Jorge, who’s spent almost all his life here and hopes to one day be a doctor. “I am dedicating my time to this so that he doesn’t spend nights frustrated and crying because he’s denied an education,” Reyna said.

And as she said at the press conference, she speaks “para mi, para mi familia y para los 12 millones de inmigrantes que viven en las sombras”—she speaks for herself, for her family, and for the 12 million other immigrants who live in the shadows.

**National Coming Out of the Shadows Day
and March for Legalization
March 10, 2010
Where: From Union Park (Ashland & Lake) to Federal
Plaza (Dearborn & Jackson)
Time: TBA (For more information: Visit
<http://iyjl.wordpress.com>)**

How was your day...? Positive?
pmaeveryday.com



Ask Eugene

“all the brilliance that will fit”

Dear Eugene,

I find myself to be a cynical person, and I largely distrust the mainstream media. In you I've found a fellow cynic. Given your proximity to the media, I thought I might get all the world's knowledge worth knowing straight from you. Thanks.

—Dave

Dear Dave,

You were right in coming to me. I know a lot and it's a terrible burden keeping it all to myself. Here's the word on the street: warm brownies (They sound good, right? Go make some!) In other news: people are tired of stepping in slush puddles only to realize they're 14-inch-deep potholes. This week in fashion: the '60s are back, as are the '80s, but only ironically. Look for *Little Home on the Prairie*-style bonnets to make a big comeback this summer in colors that will shock you. This just in: skinny jeans make your neck look fat. In weather: look for impenetrable gray-ness with snow falling, melting, and turning to ice all in a matter of an hour. Acc-Eugene Box Office Forecast: Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*. Runner up: The one for people who don't read. In sports: only two more months until Major League Lacrosse season! (see *Chicago Machine*-tickets are cheap, internships available). In music: People yell a-tonally into computers, wear small clothes, are famous. In politics: The other guy is wrong. World News: Still a mess, thanks, but really touched that you even asked.

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

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

Crossword

Across

- 1 Samoan capital
- 5 Show the way
- 9 Not in use
- 13 Coffee dispensers
- 14 Greeting
- 15 Require
- 16 Annoyed
- 18 Warbled
- 19 Chill
- 20 Similar
- 21 Delicate
- 23 Tropical freshwater fishes
- 25 Congers
- 26 Quantities (Abbr.)
- 28 Small caves
- 32 Beauty pageant wear
- 35 Brusque
- 37 Scratch (out)
- 38 Went by car
- 39 Caviar
- 40 Poet Teasdale
- 41 ___ loss for words
- 42 Barely enough
- 44 Wall painting
- 45 Planetary neighbor, possibly?
- 47 Loafer, e.g.
- 49 Ranch worker
- 50 Clothing
- 54 Deli offering
- 57 Biz division (Abbr.)
- 59 Furrow

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16					17					18				
19					20				21	22				
23			24					25						
			26			27		28			29	30	31	
32	33	34				35	36				37			
38						39					40			
41					42	43				44				
45			46					47	48					
			49							50		51	52	53
54	55	56					57	58				59		
60						61	62				63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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- 60 Balanced
- 61 Salon supply
- 64 Smell bad
- 65 Foe
- 66 To be (Lat.)
- 67 Screws up
- 68 Poses
- 69 Norse thunder god
- 9 Stand firm
- 10 Campus
- 11 Rel. solemn
- 12 Irritable
- 14 Bank job
- 17 Andean animal
- 22 ___ vera
- 24 Hard to find
- 25 Marsh birds
- 27 Maroon
- 29 Eye drop
- 30 Creole
- 31 Close, as an
- 32 Streetcar
- 33 Greek letter
- 34 Jewish month
- 36 Geologic
- 40 Cooking fat
- 42 Thailand, once
- 43 Dogs, wolves, etc.
- 44 Slogan
- 46 Word of appreciation
- 48 Cheerful
- 51 From Dublin
- 52 *Lethal Weapon* actress, Rene
- 53 Old
- 54 Arid
- 55 Affirm
- 56 Lascivious
- 57 Fast
- 58 Shade trees
- 62 Black cuckoo
- 63 Lease

Last Week's Answers

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

A	S	A	P	F	A	D	E	S	P	E	E						
G	U	R	U	A	S	E	A	B	E	E	R	S					
E	M	I	R	S	H	A	R	P	E	N	E	R	S				
D	O	L	L	T	E	N	R	A	S	P	S						
				O	P	E	N	C	I	T	E						
				F	R	I	A	R	G	U	M	D	A	R	E		
				M	E	A	N	S	S	A	R	A	H	D	I	D	
				E	L	I	T	E	Q	U	I	L	A	L	O	G	
				S	I	S	E	T	U	D	E	S	U	N	I	T	E
				A	X	E	S	H	A	Y	S	N	U	B	S		
					P	E	N	D	W	A	T	T					
				M	A	O	R	I	V	A	T	C	O	D	E		
				M	E	D	I	O	C	R	I	T	Y	A	W	E	S
				O	R	A	L	S	A	V	E	R	S	E	E	P	
				D	E	M	S	M	A	R	S	E	D	D	Y		

Building self-esteem in Lviv, Ukraine

Reprinted from *Prosto Neba*, (Lviv, Ukraine)

I've been a vendor of the street magazine *Prosto Neba* since September. I've been homeless for seven years, ever since I got divorced from my wife and we sold our flat. I couldn't buy a new one.

I used to live in many cities. Sumy. Kyiv. For six months I lived in the Kiev Pechersk Lavra monastery.

My best memory of living in Kyiv is protesting against the outcome of the Ukrainian presidential election in 2004. During this time I worked as a photographer for a few informational agencies.

Three years ago I moved back to Lviv, but I couldn't find a good job here. Now I live in the night shelter and sell *Prosto Neba* every day downtown.

I like selling the magazine. It's a very good job for those who like to communicate with other people. At the same time I'm not just a seller—I promote the idea of the magazine, spreading solidarity within my community. *Prosto Neba* is published by an NGO that provides different kinds of services for homeless people. So, when I'm on the street I not only communicate with customers, I also talk to homeless people and give them information about where they can get help.

Some people on the street ask

me what I'm selling. Others just pass by. But some have already heard about *Prosto Neba*, so they'll stop and buy a copy. I never ask people to buy it. I don't want them to feel sorry for me and buy it out of pity—I want them to buy it because they really want to know about the problem of homelessness.

I'm very happy that people have heard about *Prosto Neba* and come directly to me to buy the latest issue. I don't even need to explain to them what I do. They just say, "Yes, we know what it is. Good job, man!"

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Meet: Volodymyr



I like selling the magazine. It's a very good job for those who like to communicate with other people. At the same time I'm not just a seller—I promote the idea of the magazine, spreading solidarity within my community

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For questions or comments regarding our vendor force, please contact Greg Pritchett at (312) 829-2526 or at gpritchett14@yahoo.com.



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