



COMMISSION JOINS IMMIGRATION DEBATE



Richard Steele
Public Radio Host

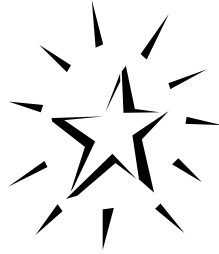
Several Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations representatives participated in a live WBEZ 91.5 FM broadcast on immigration reform sponsored by Chicago Public Radio on October 2, 2007. Public Radio Host Richard Steele moderated the spirited discussion. The live broadcast was held at the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.

WALT WHITMAN AND THE SOUL CHILDREN OF CHICAGO TO LEAD CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S 79TH BIRTHDAY

Music served a vital role in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a tribute to the music that Dr. King loved, the Commission will feature world famed composer and director **Walt Whitman and his Soul Children of Chicago at the Seventh Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Dinner and Celebration on Thursday, January 10, 2008.**

This annual event attracts hundreds of people to the Woodfield Hyatt Hotel in Schaumburg.





COMMISSION COMPLETES POLICE TRAINING IN AURORA

Nearly 400 civilian and sworn members of the Aurora Police Department completed an eight hour course, conducted by the Commission, to enrich their cultural competencies.

The training was preceded by an in-depth Employee Attitude Survey and the findings incorporated in the training. Under the leadership of Chief William Powell, the department has become one of the leading law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Aurora's minority population is now 40%. The department is to be applauded for its' continued commitment to interface in concert with this diverse community.

COMMISSION PARTICIPATE IN 30TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES OF THE HANOVER MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



Reverend Brooks, ICDHR President and Chief Executive Officer attended the celebration of the Hanover Mental Health Board and noted the out-pouring of salutes for the outstanding work of the organization. The board provides funding to organizations concerned with addressing mental health challenges of area residents.

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COMMISSION ISSUES “STATE OF HUMAN RELATIONS’ REPORT”



A review of human relations building needs in the north, northwest and western suburbs of Chicago has been completed. This 20 page assessment includes human relations achievements and challenges for the future. Among the achievements noted were the diverse leadership within Aurora and Elgin Illinois. A number of serious needs were also identified. These included:

- *The disconnect between religious leaders and crucial human relations issues.*
- *Fear of human relations leaders under municipalities to engage in anything viewed to be controversial.*
- *A serious disconnect between formal human relations groups and the issues of immigration, profiling, race and multi-cultural educational needs.*
- *The low visibility and effectiveness of human relations groups.*
- *The near absence of multiculturalism in many suburban police and fire departments; and village/city boards.*
- *The need for outside the box and sensitivity training for members and leadership of human relations groups.*
- *The apparent unwillingness of human relations groups to address the absence and/or underutilization of African Americans and/or other minority group members in police and fire departments and in municipal government.*
- *The lack of adequate staffing and funding for human relations groups.*
- *Concentration on parades, cultural festivals and literature as meaningful human relations building initiatives.*

The intent of the report is to encourage dialogue and debate regarding the subject.

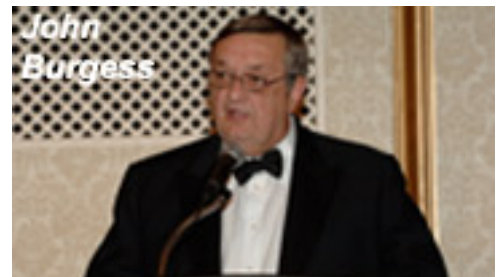
CORPORATE EXECUTIVES LEAD SALUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Terry AnCel, President of Hayes Mechanical Company and Gregg Steinberg, President of International Profit Associates are heading the 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner and Celebration. This event, scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel, will be attended by more than one thousand representatives of the business, government, education, religious and community sectors.



The Hayes Mechanical Company has been affiliated with the Commission and its former parent body, the Minority Economic Resources Corporation, for more than thirty years. Under the leadership of Rick Mooney, owner of Hayes Mechanical and Terry AnCel, President, the company has demonstrated over and over again its strong commitment to the ideals held by Dr. King.

Under the leadership of **John Burgess, Managing Director, International Profit Associates** headquartered in Buffalo Grove, Illinois and **Gregg Steinberg, President**, the company has been affiliated with the Commission and its former parent body for many years.



Gregg Steinberg has chaired the Dr. King Celebration for four consecutive years. Under his leadership, the celebration has grown and has honored outstanding leaders for their dedication in continuing the work of Dr. King. The company has donated staffing services and other resources to assure the events' success. Highlights of their support include helping hundreds of college bound high school students to attend the celebration, donation of cruises for the raffle and assignment of their public relations firm to help promote the celebration.

On October 9, 2007, Terry AnCel and Gregg Steinberg hosted a gathering of corporate executives at the Green Dolphin Restaurant in Chicago to outline plans for the King Celebration. Attendees included executives from a number of leading Chicago area corporations.

COMMISSION HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Surrounded by television cameras and newspaper reporters, Commission President and Chief Executive, Reverend Brooks outlined the goals and objectives of the Commission for 2008 and presented and discussed findings resulting from the Commission's review of human relations needs in the suburbs of Chicago.

COMMISSION RECRUITS TALENT FOR HAYES MECHANICAL COMPANY

The Commission was called upon by the Hayes Mechanical Company to assist with filling key positions within the company. Those employed will have the opportunity to enter the union and receive training in boiler repair and other needed skill positions.

SUPREME COURT LIMITS GOAL OF DIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS

The United States Supreme Court moved to limit race in diversifying schools. The court's majority ruled that "the constitution is color blind" and therefore, the race of a student should not be a factor in admissions.

The Commission agrees that the color of an individual should not be a factor. However, history shows that this has not been the case. "Jim Crow Laws", racism and segregation has historically negated educational opportunities for Black Americans. It is believed that the court directed its findings to the wrong group.

**ICDHR Acknowledges Two New
Minority Owned Companies!**

Given human relations and employee development needs of organizations, businesses and municipalities, the Commission is always seeking resources that can assist such entities. Why Outside the Box? There is a tendency to think traditionally about addressing challenges, and many of the answers require “outside of the box” thinking and solutions!

Outside the Box Knowledge Brokers goes LIVE!

Outside the Box Knowledge Brokers
www.otbbrokers.com

Imagine The Possibilities!



Outside the Box Knowledge Brokers is a Social Entrepreneurship Company.

Social entrepreneurship is a company, organization or individual who recognizes a social problem and uses **entrepreneurial principles** to organize, create, and manage a venture to create and/or affect **social change**. Social entrepreneurs work through nonprofits, citizen groups, many work in the private and governmental sectors.

Outside the Box upcoming projects:

1st Year: Youth Entrepreneurship

1st Year: Homeless/Non-traditional Education

2nd Year: Entrepreneurship Programs for Ex-Offenders

Outside the Box Offers the Following Services:

career coaching, entrepreneur development skills, curriculum development, data and evaluation, diversity training, computer training, technology integrated classroom designs, professional speakers, fund raising, catering, marketing and promotions, event planning and web site development

For additional information, please e-mail us at:

otb.brokers@gmail.com OR otb.brokers@yahoo.com

Company's You Should Know!



Transformation will be called upon to design the new multicultural center that ICDHR is developing a capital campaign for 2011:

*T*ransformation Interior Design

Feel like you have a new home....without the move!

*S*ervices:

**Customized Interior Design for your home or office
Staging your home to sell!**



Example of a "transformation"

**Transformation Interior Design
prides itself in personalizing each client's space;**

*T*ransformation Interior Design is able to meet all of your personal interior design needs.

**Whether you are interested in updating one room,
your entire home or commercial space.
or need help preparing your house to sell...**

Call 847.924.6998 or by e-mail at:

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**WALT WHITMAN AND THE SOUL CHILDREN
OF CHICAGO TO HELP**

LEAD KING CELEBRATION FOR THE COMMISSION IN CHICAGO



Having just returned from tour in Israel, Walt Whitman, one of the leading music composers in the United States and his 50 member choir, known as the Soul Children of Chicago will perform at the 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. Dinner and Celebration scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers in Chicago. This will be the third year that Dr. Whitman and his group have performed.

Dr. Whitman has recorded and/or performed with some of the world's great artists including Rev. James Cleveland, Tremaine Hawkins, Neil Diamond, Diana Ross, Mavis Staples, Kirk Franklin, Sand i Patti, Stevie Wonder, Darryl Hall, Gladys Knight and many others. He spends the majority of his time as the President and Musical Director of the Soul Children, a choral group he founded in 1981. He has received numerous awards and honors including proclamations for his work from former Governor Thompson, the Illinois State Senate, The Illinois House of Representative, Mayor Richard M. Daley, former Mayor Harold Washington, and Rev. Clyde Brooks, President and CEO of the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations. Dr. Whitman and the Soul Children have performed before 1.7 billion people at opening ceremonies for the

world-wide televised “World Cup Soccer Tournaments at Soldier’s Field along with Diana Ross and many others.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

This is a period of remembrance, reflection and rededication to the premise that America is a great nation due to the contributions of many. Unfortunately, reminders are needed to encourage citizens to recognize the contributions of African Americans. We celebrate the contributions of African Americans because it is these contributions that has helped to make America the greatest nation on earth. In our celebration, we also applaud other groups across racial and cultural lines for their determination to surface their contributions. Together with these groups, we as Americans prove that we are indeed a “melting pot” of greatness.

The following is a test to help assess your knowledge of Black History and the people and events that help form the greatest nation on earth. While we celebrate this month, the study of Black American history is on-going. As such, we encourage parents to find the time to sit down with their children and talk about the subject. We urge parents to take their children to the library and insure that our schools are addressing the subject adequately. A few years ago, the Illinois General Assembly recognized that there were shortcomings in the teaching of Black History and passed the Amistad Act which requires schools to do a better job in teaching about slavery. Parents should investigate the implementation of this Act within their schools.



TEST

- 1) Who was the civil rights leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize and was assassinated in 1968?
- 2) Who was the African American athlete who won many medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympic games and offended Adolph Hitler in doing so?
- 3) From the list of contributions listed below, match the name of the contributor to each:

-----Madame C.J. Walker

-----Carter G. Woodson

-----Rebecca Cole

-----Lewis Howard Latimer

-----George Washington Carver

-----Lloyd Augustus Hall

-----Ira Aldridge

- a) designed the heating System for Radio City Music Hall in New York
- b) Research scientist who used the peanut to find treatments for arthritis
- c) Received more than 40 patents relating to air conditioning systems
- d) developed automatic stop sign to aid the movement of traffic
- e) invented the telegraph that allowed trains to communicate with each other
- f) discovered curing salt for preserving and processing meat
- g) father of black history
- h) invented an electric lamp and a carbon filament for bulbs
- i) developed a hair care system
- j) second black woman to graduate from medical school in the U.S.
- k) a renowned Shakespearean actor

- 4) Who founded Provident Hospital in Chicago and performed the first successful open heart surgery. -----

- 5) Who established the first blood bank? -----
- 6) Who was the Boston radio host who was greatly criticized and suspended for comparing Blacks to gorillas on national radio? -----
- 7) Who was Vernon Jarrett, a Chicago native? -----
- 8) The book "Before the Mayflower" was written by a great Chicago Historian. Who was he? -----
- 9) Who was James Meridith? -----
- 10) Who were Floyd Patterson and Joe Lewis ? -----

E-mail the Commission at info@icdhr.com to request the answers.