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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, we extend special recognition to our mothers, our aunts, grandmothers, sisters and all of the women who have nurtured and cared for us throughout our lives. They have been there through all of our ups and downs, successes and failures — providing just the right words of encouragement and uncanny insight.

As a young person growing up in Mississippi and later in Paterson and Harlem, I remember my mother, like other mothers always being there for us, urging us to do our best, to be the

best, seeing our potential and sitting back and enjoying watching us grow.

So on Mother's Day, and every day, we say thank you. Thank you for all the love and care that you bestowed on your children and the children of the community. We wish you health, joy and prosperity in the years ahead.



Best,
P.A. Jackson
Co-Founder & Publisher

The HEROES Model Blueprints for Reconnecting Youth

By Austin Arrington

On April 14th—16th the HEROES Model Conference was held at the City College of New York's Grove School of Engineering. HEROES is an acronym representing six fundamental components to youth development and "reconnection" with society: Heritage; Education; Relationships; Opportunities; Entrepreneurship; and Service.

Chike Ukaegbu originated the HEROES Model. Chike studied Biomedical Engineering at The City College of New York, and is now a Math and Entrepreneurship instructor at the school. He is an alumni Fellow at the Colin Powell Center for Leadership and Policy, where he started his research on youth policy, engagement, and empowerment.

"I developed the HEROES Model framework to address four social problems close to my heart—youth disconnection, youth poverty, educational disadvantage, and opportunity divide—in order to help improve child and youth development. My sincere hope is that by improving the quality of services rendered to youths, we can increase engagement in order to improve learning," Chike said.

At the Conference Chike told the story of how he first started becoming aware of youth disconnection; walking through the streets of NYC and seeing so much untapped potential in young people.

"Disconnection" is used to describe youth who are out of work and out of school. There are now over 6 million disconnected youths in the U.S., between the ages of 16 and 25.

The three NYC neighborhoods with the greatest poverty are Upper Manhattan, South Bronx, and Central Brooklyn—not surprisingly, these areas also have the largest concentrations of disconnected youths in the city. When addressing the many causes of disconnection Chike lists lack of education, immigration, unem-



ployment, juvenile delinquency, and early parenthood among other factors.

Each step of the HEROES Model is put in place to reconnect young people. For example, let's take a look at Heritage. The idea here is that learning your heritage can be an empowering experience. For at-risk youth who might seek to identify with gangs, a sense of heritage might offer an alternative by encouraging positive self-awareness.

One of the speakers for the Heritage section was Kenneth Braswell, Director of Fathers Incorporated. Fathers Incorporated is a non-profit that promotes responsible fatherhood and mentoring in communities. Braswell spoke about the incredible psychosocial stressors that Black males often experience—the constant accumulation of microaggressions from society; a quickly locked car door or sideways glance. "Our community is in pain. Our men are in pain. And they don't know how to express it, unless in the way that will help them," Braswell said. "We need to help men create an acceptable language to express anger and pain, and in a way that they don't feel vulnerable doing so."

The importance of education was also heavily stressed. Speakers talked about

the need for "innovation literacy," or teaching young people how to be creative and inventive through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education; teaching youth to understand the language of innovation.

"I believe that the basis of success is learning and that the basis of learning is engagement. Engagement happens when there is interest. What arouses interest includes: benefit/reward, consequence, repetition, and/or connection. This is the next phase of my research, in a nutshell. I call it 'EduEngageology' (for the lack of a more succinct name), a term coined from 'Education Engineering' and the Psychology of Engagement. These will form the pillars on which the HEROES model framework will stand," Chike said.

Chike's long-term goal is to revamp how educate the youth. He wants to understand the psychology of what engages young people. "By knowing their strengths, motivations, interests, their hopes and their dreams, we are better equipped to engineer how we educate and create opportunities for them," Chike said.

At first it may seem a little strange that Chike, who has a background in engineering, is getting so involved in youth

engagement. Shouldn't social workers be doing this? Actually, Chike's story is not uncommon; it's part of a growing movement in which the skill-sets from engineering and other sciences are applied to solving social problems. Engineering requires the following: identify and clearly define the problem(s); if possible, break the main problem into more manageable smaller parts and tackle them bit-by-bit; determine the metrics of success; research, investigate, and evaluate solutions; and test solutions and determine if problems were solved—if not, repeat the process. In short, this kind of rigorous problem solving can be usefully applied to social questions.

"Engineering is about artfully applying practical knowledge to solve problem(s). This is the essence of education—enlightenment and problem solving," Chike said. "My training as an engineer has garnered me tools that allow me to unearth some significant problems of our educational system through an objective approach. Solving the problem with education will involve understanding the complexity of the problem(s) we face. We tend to try to implement various versions of the same 'one-size fits all' solutions to problems that are more stratified and more layered than previously understood, which eventually leads to more damage."

Another major theme drawn out in the Conference was Entrepreneurship. "Teaching and coaching youth on how to monetize ideas that interest them will help empower them, while encouraging them to diligently pursue other goals like education," Chike said.

Surely there is not a single answer as how to best reconnect youth. However, the HEROES Model is off to a good start. In general, HEROES is about empowerment, engagement, and possibility. It also expresses the deep interconnectivity of communities—the fact that for young people to reconnect, society must do the same.



Big Sister Shanell Duck, right, and Little Sister Stecy, left, were delighted to present Ray McGuire of Citibank with the Community Service Award.



Baseball fans Big Brother Ari Harkov, right, and Little Brother Anderson, center, honored five-time World Series Champion Mariano Rivera with the Sports Award.



Big Sister Kerry Trimmer, right, and Little Sister Janeya, left, proudly presented the Corporate Award to Cyma Zarghami on behalf of Nickelodeon for its leadership and dedication to youths.

On The Town

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City Celebrating 109 Years of Mentoring NYC Youths

By Deondra Carter

This year's annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City (BBBS of NYC) Sidewalks of New York Awards Dinner brought together more than 1,000 mentors, mentees, and supporters to celebrate 109 years of serving young people across the five boroughs.

New York Yankees legend Mariano Rivera, Ray McGuire, Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking at Citibank and Viacom's Nickelodeon Network were the honorees for the gala.



PHILANTHROPY

Emmy Award winning journalist Soledad O'Brien and Fred Terrell, Vice Chairman of Investment Banking at Credit Suisse presided over the evening's ceremonies at the luxurious Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The celebrity-studded 35th annual event raised more than \$2 million to support the organization's mission to provide role models for at-risk youth in New York City.

"Each year the Sidewalks of New York Dinner introduces us to people who have made a powerful impact on the lives of our city's youth and reminds us why it is important that we each do our part as well," expressed Fred Terrell. "This year's honorees are outstanding role models who embody our mission of improving the lives of others."

Mentors and mentees worked together for several weeks writing and rehearsing their inspiring speeches in preparation for the award ceremony. Big Brother Ari

Harkov and Little Brother Anderson presented five-time World Series Champion Mariano Rivera with the Sports Award. Big Sister Shanell Duck and Little Sister Stecy presented Ray McGuire with the Community Service Award. Big Sister Kerry Trimmer and Little Sister Janeya presented the Corporate Award to Cyma Zarghami on behalf of Nickelodeon. "Tonight we had the special opportunity to witness the power of mentoring right here in this room," said Jonathan Bram, President of the Board of Trustees of BBBS of NYC.

During his empowering speech, Hector Batista, Executive Director of BBBS of NYC stated, "Sidewalks of New York is a reminder of what can happen when we dream big. Mentors have helped to inspire hundreds of thousands of young people to not only have dreams, but also live them, and I challenge every adult in New York City to dream big and change a young person's life for the better." Big

Brothers Big Sisters of NYC currently serves more than 3,600 young people throughout the five boroughs each year. The organization has many opportunities to get involved, including workplace mentoring, juvenile justice, new American mentoring, young mother's mentoring, and the Children of Promise Program (which serves youth who have an incarcerated parent, sibling or family member).

BBBS of NYC will also host several fundraising events this year including the Accountants and Bankers Reception in May, the Invitational Golf Outing in June, the Casino Jazz Real Estate Dinner also in June, the Race for the Kids Run/Walk in September, and the Gridiron Games in November.

For more information on Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City or to volunteer, please visit www.bigsny.org.

High Tech Gloss at the Auto Shows



2015 MustangSAM VAMHAGEN/FORD MOTOR CO.

By Tom Sherman

The American auto show season kicked off in January with the North American International Automobile Show in the Mecca of US car manufacturing, Detroit. The city stands as a tribute to the automotive revolution of America, and in turn the industry continues to lavish the NAIAS

with innovations. Here are some of the highlights from Detroit and around the country.

DETROIT

Ford F-150

The Ford F-150 is synonymous with both American-made and American-driven pickup trucks; it has been the best-selling truck in America for the past 37 years. This year at NAIAS, Ford aimed to cement the F-150 at the top of the best-selling list for at least a few more years to come.



Ford F-150 FORD

The F-150 got its body work overhauled; a high-strength steel frame now complements a new 95 percent aluminum alloy body. The composition adjustments trim up to 700 pounds off of the vehicle body weight while retaining uncompromised strength.

"The all-new F-150 redefines the future of trucks, and it is yet another example of our One Ford plan, producing vehicles that serve customers with a commitment to the very best quality, fuel efficiency, safety, smart design and value," said Mark Fields, Ford Motor Company chief operating officer.

Customers have four engines to choose from; a new 2.7-liter EcoBoost with standard Auto Start-Stop and a 3.5-liter V6 engine with twin independent variable camshaft timing join the proven 3.5-liter EcoBoost and 5.0-liter Ti-VCT V8. The 2.7-liter EcoBoost engine features a lightweight, compact design to deliver the same power as some mid-range V8s, and was also battle tested in the grueling desert race, the Baja 1000.

BMW M series

BMW made a splash at NAIAS by splitting the M series into the M3 Sedan and the M4 Coupe, although both are practically the same aside from the 2-door vs 4-door complexion. Both carry a turbocharged 3.0-liter I6 engine and the same six-speed manual or optional seven-speed dual-clutch. The necessary modifications to make the M4 coupe a more practical M3 Sedan only add 62 pounds to the overall curb weight, which helps the M3

keep up in the time trials; the 0-60 MPH times only differ by .2 seconds (3.9 for the M4, and 4.1 for the M3).

Chevrolet Corvette Z06

The biggest hit of NAIAS was by far Chevrolet's introduction of its new supercar, which industry analysts have dubbed a "Ferrari-killer": the 2015 Corvette Z06.

The new, supercharged 6.2L engine is expected to deliver at least 625 horsepower (466 kW) and 635 lb-ft of torque (861 Nm). The Corvette Z06 can be matched with either a seven-speed manual or an all-new, high-performance eight-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters for manual control.

"The new Z06 delivers levels of performance, technology and design that rival the most exotic supercars in the world," said Mark Reuss, president, General Motors North America. "And the Z06 leverages the engineering expertise of GM, offering the choice of two world-class transmissions, supercar performance without supercar fuel consumption and technologies that make it easier to fully enjoy the incredible experience of driving it."

The only thing Chevrolet could have done to make analysts' jaws drop further was offer the Z06 as a convertible, which it did at the New York International Auto Show.

"Until recently it was not possible to create a lightweight, open-roof structure strong enough to cope with the braking, cornering, and acceleration of Corvette's



Chevrolet Corvert Z06 CHEVROLET

top performance models,” said Corvette chief engineer Tadje Juechter said. “The frame for the Z06 convertible leverages advancements in computer-aided engineering, metallurgy, and manufacturing techniques – many of which were not available just five years ago.”

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Washington Auto Show is not necessarily known for its reveals; only the 2015 Lincoln Navigator was slated for its premier at the event in February. However, D.C.’s tradition of unheralded reveals continued as the scheduled premier of the 2015 Lincoln Navigator was eschewed for a publicity stunt.

On the day of the reveal, the SUV sat shrouded in a canvas tarp in front of a large board bearing the words: **Introducing the new 2015 Lincoln Navigator.**

And yet, as the time for the reveal drew closer, the car mysteriously disappeared into the ethos. Stranger still, the billboard suddenly only read, “Introducing the new,” the second line redacted with a layer of white tape. Soon enough the entire exhibit had disappeared — the CIA could not have done a better job itself with a cover-up operation.

Lincoln did release specs and images of the 2015 Navigator that day, though they did such a good job of covering up their release hardly anyone took notice.

NEW YORK

In 1900, the New York International Automobile Show became North America’s first automotive exhibition. For over one hundred years, through depression, war, boom-time, oil crises, recession and growth, it has continued its pioneering tradition of bringing new and innovative ideas to a national and world stage.

Combined with the energy of the city and its massive market for new car sales, the NYIAS is now one of the most important automotive events in the world.

The NYIAS offers virtually every make and model car sold in the U.S. under one roof, giving consumers the unique opportunity to see everything the auto industry has to offer. From fuel-sipping economy cars to million dollar supercars, NYIAS has something for everyone; below are a few of the standouts from this year’s show:

2015 Toyota Camry

Toyota’s new 2015 Camry is revamped and revved up. Sleek styling inside and out has brought this classic vehicle into the 21st century. Although the Camry has been the best selling car in America for 12 years running (selling almost a million of the industry’s benchmark sedan since the current generation launched in 2011), Toyota decided a major overhaul was necessary to keep consumers interested in its bread and butter.

Toyota stripped the Camry down to its chassis and rebuilt it from the ground up, raising the bar yet again in the ultra-competitive mid-size sedan segment.

“Customers today love the durability, quality and value that the Camry represents, but they are looking for a little more style, comfort and performance, and this 2015 Camry has all of the above,” said Bob Carter, senior vice president of automotive operations of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. “This is the new Camry, and it’s coming from the new Toyota.”

Toyota designers and engineers re-imagined nearly every exterior surface of the car. Only the roof remains unchanged. The new, upscale interior features premium, soft-touch materials throughout the spacious cabin. Advanced instrumentation with intuitive

controls helps keep the driver’s eyes safely on the road ahead. Underneath the striking new exterior, the chassis and body structure are bolstered with additional spot welds, enhancing rigidity for better ride quality. A retuned suspension takes the Camry’s handling to a whole new level of responsiveness.

All new Camry models will be powered by either the carryover 2.5-liter four cylinder or 3.5-liter V6, both of which are mated to a six-speed automatic. The exception is the hybrid, which gets a 2.5-liter Atkinson cycle Hybrid Synergy drive mated to an E-CVT transmission.

Ford Mustang turns 50

Visitors to the World’s Fair on April 17, 1964 were among the first in the world to see the Mustang on display at the Ford Rotunda pavilion. That same day, Americans stampeded into Ford dealerships to buy a Mustang. By the end of the day, more than 22,000 Mustangs had

been purchased or ordered, a breathtaking start to one of the greatest product launches in history.

50 years later, Ford Mustang fans and company executives gathered at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, N.Y. to celebrate the iconic sports car that debuted on the grounds of the 1964 World’s Fair.

“It’s a great feeling to be here at Flushing Meadows 50 years to the day after Ford unveiled the original Mustang at the 1964 World’s Fair,” said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, global product development. “Seeing the devotion that owners put into caring for these amazing classic Mustangs reinforces why we put so much passion and effort into making the all-new 2015 Mustang great.”

The 50th Anniversary Mustang will be powered by the upgraded 5.0-liter V8 making 420-hp and 390 lb-ft of torque, and as part of the Mustang GT performance pack, it will feature large six-piston Brembo front brakes and 19-inch alloy wheels wrapped in Y-speed-rated Pirelli P-Zero summer tires. Ford plans to produce only 1,964 units of the 2015 Mustang.

Mazda MX-5 Miata turns 25

Mazda North American Operations debuted the MX-5 Miata 25th Anniversary Edition at a press conference at the NYIAS. This limited-edition automobile will be sold as a 2015 model with only 100 vehicles being slated for sale in the United States. The anniversary edition was built not only as a tribute to the unassuming diminutive roadster that sparked a large automotive impact but also to celebrate every owner and car enthusiast it’s won over throughout its 25-year history.

“The original concept behind the MX-5



Alfa Romeo 4C CLÉMENT BUCCO-LECHAT



2014 Land Rover LANDROVER

was so simple: to offer the pure joy of a lightweight sports car that moves precisely as the driver intends," said Takashi Yamanouchi, chairman of the board, Mazda Motor Corporation. "While responding to increasing safety and environmental requirements, in the 25 years since its launch we have had to continually reinvent the MX-5 — far beyond a simple evolution — in order to stay true to that original ideal. The history of the MX-5 is one of changing everything in order to stay the same, a history of innovating in order to preserve."

Just 100 examples of the 25th Anniversary Edition Miata will arrive in America, Mazda claims that no two pieces will look the same. Every car will be painted a deep, metallic soul red. Almond leather seats and door trim dress the interior, along with "25th Anniversary" badges. The glossy instrument panel is hand painted with a piano black gloss overlaying a red base coat.

Alfa Romero 4C

After a 19 year wait, the revered Italian car maker Alfa Romero promises to return to America with the 4C. Although the car maker promised to return in 2013, enthusiasts have been yearning for the return of the slick sports car since it was first exported to the US in 1995. Over the past 19 years rumors of return have been floated incessantly, yet every time a deadline has come and gone Alfa Romeo has pulled a Lucy from "Peanuts", and yanked back the production from eager buyers.

Lightness and affordability were in the back of the engineers' minds during 4C design, with the resulting road car built around a carbon-fiber central chassis tub that weighs just 143 pounds.

The dry weight of the entire 4C is under 2,000 pounds; 2,300 pounds for the American version (due to different style and safety regulations). Final curb weight sans passengers is likely to come in under 2,500.

Alfa added an all-aluminum 1.75-liter turbocharged I4 that makes 240 hp at 6,000 rpm; more importantly, 258 lb-ft of torque comes in at a low 2,200 rpm. The end result is a specific output of 137 hp per liter and 8.3 lbs/hp.

Chevrolet Corvette

Chevrolet introduced one of the most capable drop-tops on the market: the 2015 Corvette Z06 Convertible. With at least 625 horsepower, and 635 pound-feet of torque, the Z06 is also the most powerful convertible ever produced by Chevrolet.

This is the first Z06 Convertible offered from the factory since 1963 when the Z06 option package was introduced for endurance racing. Records show only 199 Corvette orders with a Z06 package that year, including one convertible.

Recent technological advancements enable the building of a modern Z06 Convertible, said Corvette chief engineer Tadge Juechter.

Land Rover Discovery Concept

Another vehicle to return to the sand of America is the Land Rover Discovery. And this concept vehicle announced on the USS Intrepid, is a futuristic romp into a high tech wonderland.

The Discovery Concept is a vision into the future of Land Rover's new family of leisure vehicles. It is a vision of a premium and thoroughly modern lifestyle vehicle — with a strong focus on relevant versatility and compelling

design. This will truly resonate with customers while respecting the established values of Discovery's unique heritage.

While the slick design and spacious interior features are enticing as stand-alone attributes, the true mouth watering begins after a review of the advanced "smart technologies" throughout the Discovery.

Laser headlamps that utilize laser-activated phosphor projection to emit a bright and even beam of pure white light are merely the tip of the iceberg.

Smart glass will be included in the composition of all of the windows of the vehicle. Augmented reality involves overlaying real-time information onto the view of the surroundings as seen by the driver or passengers. For instance, a passing landmark is observed by one of the vehicle's passengers — in turn the Discovery will display relevant information, such as navigation or tourist data, to that passenger.

A number of other functions in the Discovery Vision Concept are also controlled by intuitive gestures. Engineers have developed carefully calibrated motion sensors that precisely recognize designated hand or finger movements, thus eliminating the chance of unintentional triggering of functions. In addition to the passenger infotainment systems, gestures open and close the vehicle's doors and tailgate, operate the lights and turn signals, activate the rotary gearshift control, and dim and brighten the cabin lighting.

Another futuristic enhancement to the driver's capability is Laser Terrain Scanning. The Discovery Concept's fog lamps are capable of emitting infrared lasers, and these are used to scan the ground ahead, map the terrain and

display the mapped imagery on the hi-definition cluster screen, providing the driver a vital visual reference and helping him understand the lay of the land while driving in challenging off-road conditions.

NYCLASS Horseless eCarriage

Perhaps the most controversial vehicle to be revealed at the NYIAS was the NYCLASS Horseless eCarriage. As part of Mayor Bill DeBlasio's vision for a horse-drawn carriage free Central Park, his plan includes the introduction of electric powered horseless carriages to take place of the longstanding animalistic means of transportation.

NYCLASS, a nonprofit animal rights organization, commissioned the prototypic automobile. The result was an eight-passenger, fully electric, rear-wheel drive, 84-horsepowered vehicle (with 184 ft.-lbs of torque). The Horseless eCarriage is powered by a lithium ion battery and has a top speed of 30 mph and a range of 100 miles.

Final Thoughts

The general theme throughout the auto show(s) has been generating an influx of finesse while maintaining or increasing power ratios. In a testament to lessons learned throughout the recession, manufacturers are neither afraid to drastically update design and specifications of long standing quality models, nor experiment pushing vehicles past their normal constraints. As style and engineering continue to blend into one entity, the future production of cars will undoubtedly breach the limits of art, science, and technology.



The eCarriage THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP

AT&T contributes \$150,000 to NACME in continued support of STEM opportunities for minorities

By Austin Arrington

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.— AT&T gifted the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) \$150,000 on May 1, 2014. This contribution is part of a 40-year relationship between the parties, involving mutual interest in growing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) opportunities for underserved and diverse populations.

One-third of the gift will go to supporting ten Academies of Engineering (AOE), a career-themed high school level academic network. NACME partner Project Lead The Way (PLTW) will help provide hands-on curricula to teachers from as far away as Waco, TX and Baton Rouge, LA, to the High Schools for Construction Trades Engineering and Architecture in Ozone Park, Queens.

Speakers and attendees at the event included Dr. Irving McPhail, NACME President and CEO; Ed Bergstraesser, External Affairs, AT&T; Hon. Tom Roach, Mayor of White Plains; and Emanuel Azcona. Azcona is currently attending the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering as a NACME Scholar, and is a graduate of the Construction Trades Engineering and

Architecture H.S. in Ozone Park.

NACME primarily focuses on granting scholarships, which have totaled more than \$4 million each year to Latinos, African Americans, and American Indians who are the most underrepresented minorities in the field of engineering. The funds provided by AT&T will give financial assistance to students interested in pursuing undergraduate engineering coursework. Last year five AOE students were aided by the contribution, and are now freshman pursuing degrees in fields such as chemical engineering, computer science, petroleum engineering, and civil engineering.

The Vision of NACME is to foster “An engineering workforce that looks like America.” It is driven by the realization that diversity in all forms comes with interesting ways to solve new problems (which is what engineers do).

NACME was started in 1974. Its origins are somewhat different than much of the nonprofit sector. It was originally started when a group of very large companies realized that there was a labor pool and education resource crisis going on in our own country. We had begun offshoring for our skilled labor, leaving millions of underserved Americans without the opportunity to achieve an education and join the workforce.

While NACME is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization, it's Board Companies include ExxonMobile, AT&T, BP, Chevron, DOW, GE, HP, Lockheed Martin, MERCK, Northrop Grumman, and other heavy hitters. AT&T is one of NACME's founding Board Companies.

NACME has awarded 160 different colleges and universities Scholarship grants. It supported over 1,200 students in 2013. To date the value of NACME Scholarships and program support awarded is over \$124 million. NACME's “pre-engineering” initiative is aimed at getting kids K-12 on the STEM path.



Hon. Tom Roach, left, Emanuel Azcona, Kecia Palmer-Cousins, Ed Bergstraesser, Dr. Irving McPhail PHOTOS BY KENNETH KENCAID

“At NACME pre-engineering is a major part of our strategy. We're very concerned about building that pathway of young people, young underrepresented minority students, to get them motivated and excited about engineering as a realistic and attainable career option, and you [AT&T] have helped us immensely,” McPhail said.

NACME is not only reaching out through pre-engineering programs and scholarships, but also through U.S. policymaking and the impact those efforts have on opportunities for minorities pursuing careers in engineering and science. The idea is to have some sort of pipeline between corporate interests and the type of public policy that leads to change.

From the corporate perspective, these major corporations are investing in their future by building the talent pool that will staff their companies going forward. What's more, , encouraging STEM at the K-12 level while providing financial assistance and work opportunities to young students is a boon to communities and will help stabilize America's economy. Either way, it's easy to see why many people view STEM-related public-private partnerships as “win-win” situations.

“A word you hear about all the time is ‘STEM,’ and sometimes it gets said too much. It becomes a buzzword and people lose focus about what we're trying to do. We're trying to take people that normally would not be exposed to what you can do as an engineer, what you can do with a mathematics degree, and show them what is on the other side,” said Mayor Roach. “If we're going to remain competitive in a very competitive international environment, we're going to need skilled and trained workers to develop new programs and new projects—and this is the type of activity that needs to happen.”

Let's take a look again at NACME Scholar Emanuel Azcona. Emanuel is doing well academically and has an upcoming internship with John Deere and an internship following his senior year with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He is grateful for the support he's been given, and even has his own entrepreneurial ideas around sound engineering and wireless communication.

Nonprofits such as NACME are helping build bridges between entrepreneurship, education, and opportunity; connecting the companies that are literally the engines that move our nation forward and the people who steer it.



HDr. Irving McPhail, CEO and President of NACME

HNO Green Fuels

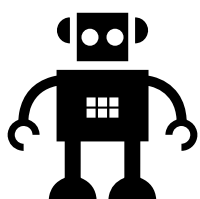
Making Particulate Matter Emissions a Thing of the Past

By Austin Arrington

Diesel engines support much of the nation's infrastructure—from trucks, buses, and trains, to ships, off-road equipment, and generators. However, these efficient work machines also have a severe environmental impact. There are currently almost 400 million diesel engines in the world and nearly 20 million new ones produced worldwide with each engine capable of producing tons of air pollutants in its lifetime. Diesel-powered vehicles and equipment account for almost half of nitrogen oxides and over two-thirds of particulate matter emissions from US transportation sources. HNO Green Fuels, Inc. (<http://hnogreen-fuels.com>), a manufacturing, distribution, and R&D company out of California currently has a pilot-level product, which could potentially make diesel engines cleaner and even more efficient.

Particulate matter (PM) is essentially soot that's created during an incomplete combustion of fuel. This is inherent in all diesel engines. The composition of PM includes sulfates, ammonium, nitrates, elemental carbon, carcinogenic compounds, and heavy metals. Ultrafine particulates make up 80 to 90 percent of diesel soot pollution. This is very bad because these particulates are small enough to penetrate lung cells. Diesel emissions contribute to ground ozone, which can severely irritate the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified diesel exhaust as a potential human carcinogen.

HNO's proprietary technology is focused on reducing particulate matter emis-



TECHNOLOGY



Donald Owens in the lab.

sions from combustion engines (mainly diesel and jet). Currently "Clean Diesel" engine technology typically uses a Diesel Oxidation Catalyst and a Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) to reduce particulates from reaching the atmosphere. However, because the method of combustion has not changed with the "Clean Diesel" systems, a large amount of particulates are still created during combustion cycle and ultimately clog up the DPF. HNO's Leefh2 (Leveraging Energy Efficient Fuel with Hydrogen) Diesel System takes an entirely different approach.

With Leefh2, the addition of hydrogen enhances the combustion flame in the combustion chamber of the engine, making the amount of unburned fuel exiting the combustion chamber significantly lower than with normal diesel combustion. As an additional environmental benefit, the Leefh2 process also produces breathable oxygen that is released into the atmosphere. Leefh2 system

includes an engine on-board diagnostic (OBD) interface and wireless transmitter module, so that engine data can be sent seamlessly to a Fleet Management system. This is important because the addition of hydrogen increases fuel efficiency depending on RPMs of the engine. For example, normal diesel engines are very inefficient when idle. Using Leefh2 when idling can reduce fuel usage by at least 12 percent or more.

If you're wondering where the hydrogen comes from in the Leefh2 system that enhances the combustion flame, the answer is simple—water. Water (H₂O) contains hydrogen and oxygen. In the Leefh2 system the hydrogen splits off from the water and is the catalyst used by the Leefh2 to increase the combustion efficiency of the diesel fuel (or any other hydro-carbon based fuel).

HNO stands for "Hydrogen and Oxygen." HNO founder Donald Owens tells

a pretty down-to-earth story about the history of Leefh2. Owens earned a degree in Mechanical/Electrical engineering years before, but stepped away from engineering to earn his law degree and practice patent law. The way he tells it is very nonchalant, given the potential impact of Leefh2.

"Years ago I read this little article...they were selling this book for \$69 about how you could use hydrogen to give your car more fuel economy," Owens said. He bought the book and eventually he built his own device, which utilized the electrolysis of water, which seemed to work well but was rife with issues. "It was a mess and was going to be impossible to commercialize. One night I was on the internet, trying to solve one of the many problems I had related to this thing, and I ran across something called an electrolyzer, which takes distilled water and breaks it up into hydrogen and oxygen with no mess," Owens said.

Normal electrolysis uses terminals to pass electricity through a water based electrolytic solution thereby splitting the solution into the atoms from which it is made. With an electrolyzer, the hydrogen and oxygen gases are split from water without using an electrolytic solution. Electrolyzers are typically used in large-scale hydrogen production. However, with the Leefh2 system, only a very small amount of hydrogen is necessary to make a big difference in a diesel engine.

The first tests on the effectiveness of Leefh2 have shown some pretty amazing results. Tests in EPA approved laboratories have shown a nearly 50% reduction in PM emissions in diesel engines (HNO believes a 90 – 95% reduction is possible). As mentioned above, 12% reduction in fuel usage was realized during the idling of diesel engines. Furthermore, even though HNO isn't going after the gasoline consumer market at the moment, 24% in fuel saving was achieved with certain classes of gasoline engines when conducting an EPA standard Highway Fuel Economy Driving Schedule test.

Owens mentioned having talks soon



"The Leefh2 system."

with a certain high-level government body about joint testing, but declined to give specific details.

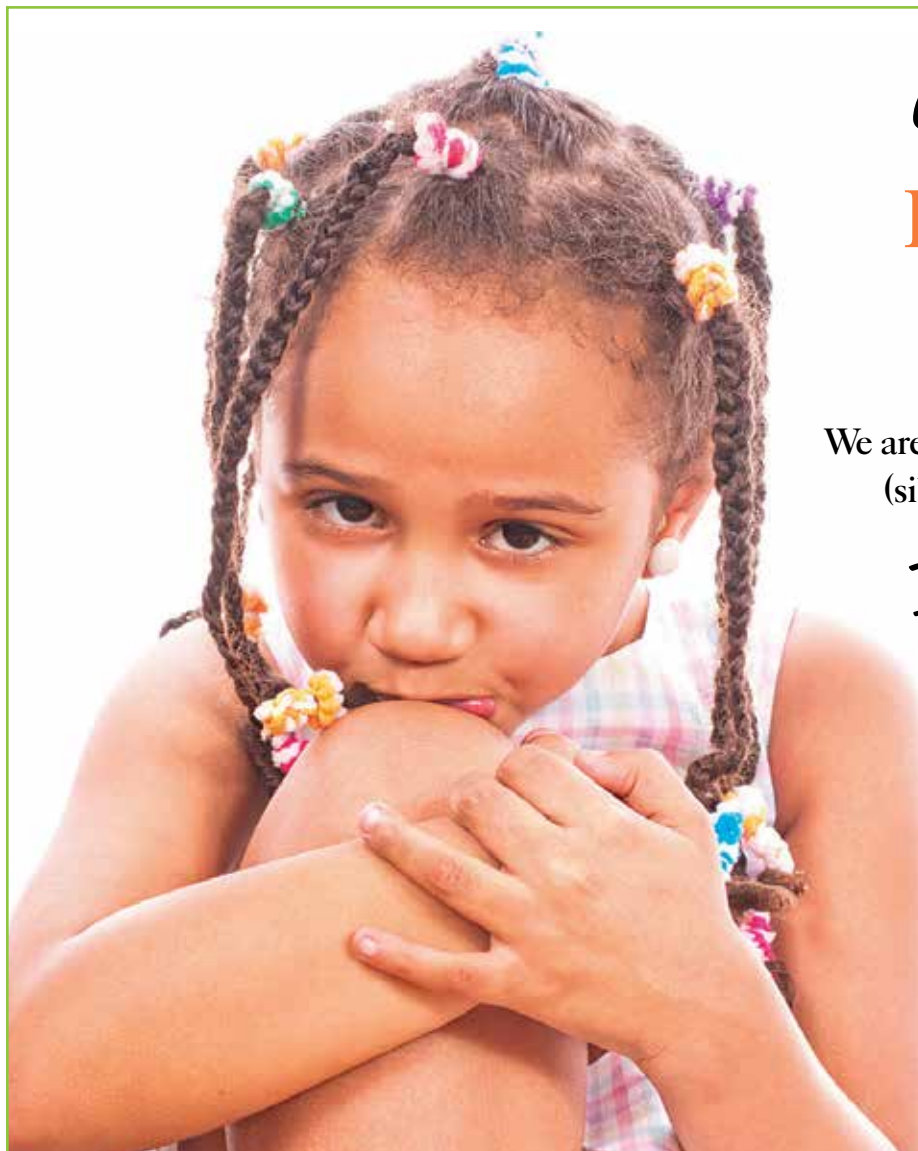
Currently, HNO has eight patents (with more pending) for the Hydrogen Supplemental System. They have also submitted a patent application for

Increasing Combustion Efficiency and Reducing Particulate Matter Emissions in Jet Engines. The commercialization of Leefh2 may well be close at hand, but it is also highly contingent on various factors. For example, the commercialization and product line will depend heavily on the pilot tests that are required for

specific engine types. It should also be noted that the production capacity for supporting the implementation of the Leefh2 system on a large scale is not yet present. One has to ask, where will all the electrolyzers come from?

Despite potential obstacles, HNO may very well be on the brink of something revolutionary. It also is no small matter that the by-product of Leefh2 happens to be oxygen! HNO's website reads: "So as we seek to improve the combustion efficiency of every single combustion engine on earth, thereby reducing fuel consumption and particulate matter emissions, we will by default add millions of tons of life-sustaining oxygen to the atmosphere.....which MAY...just MAY help Mother Nature in the repair of our fragile planet from the effects of global warming."

Whether or not Leefh2 becomes a success, HNO's work and research has shed further light on a critical environmental and public health issues in the U.S. Particulate Matter emissions are dangerous and must eventually be dealt with in order to create a safer and cleaner way of life.



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Wearable Technology:

The Close Up Behind the Collision of Fashion & Technology

By Shea Zephir

The style sphere of fashion is evolving and has begun to utilize technology in some truly fascinating ways. It is no secret that wearable technology is becoming a popular trend craze of sleeker, more powerful, more intelligent, yet practical gadget obsession. This year's technology trend is all about the technology you can wear. In the growing world of wearable technology where smart watches act like smart phones, tiny devices calculate our every calories, step, and heartbeat, alongside high tech eyewear that allows nonstop access to the digital world, the latest production of electronics are way more chic than geek. The US was first introduced to wearable technology in fast fashion in 2011 with Japanese retailer Uniqlo and their HEATTECH and AIRism collections. Both collections generate heat or cool air through special

fibers and air pockets that maintain and produce warm air or trap cool air as your body needs. Uniqlo has sold 100 million HEATTECH items globally since sales began in 2003. The company started with basic tops and tights, but this has expanded to leggings, mufflers, hats and, yes, even skinny jeans. Soon after Uniqlo's tech fashion debut Brookstone offered its own line of "Cold Weather Gear," which included jackets and fleeces with "built-in heating" a thin, battery-powered heat bundle that can reach up to 113 degrees and last up to five hours, according to the company website.

Since 2010 wearable technology has expanded in to fashionable accessories and electronic accoutrements to compliment your personal style and enhance your lifestyle, especially for the fashionista who's part gadget geek. Designers dove into the digital age fearlessly last season with chic tech accessory collaborations. At this season's New York Fashion Week, designer Alexander Wang introduced heat-sensitive fabric that changed colors during his runway show. The wearable-electronics market reached \$8 billion in sales last year, and is expected to hit \$20 billion by 2017, according to research firm Futuresource Consulting. Nearly



Nike Fuel Band SE Volt

600,000 applications for design and utility patents were filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office last year, a 24% increase over 2009. Smart and fashionable wearables were the rave at the 2014 Week in Tech Consumer Electronics Show. The newest tech accessory designs have evolved from masculine black rubber band bracelets into head turning high tech haute-couture. Later this year, Barneys New York will begin selling a smart bracelet made by tech company Intel and trendy fashion house Opening Ceremony. Yes, the newest gadget

technology to replace your Candy Crush obsession is now smart and trendy. There is a newfound love between fashion and tech goes far beyond mere social networking. Check out these stylish tech trends that can make trendy and functional additions to your wardrobe.

Tory Burch & Fitbit

Tory Burch exclusively partnered with Fitbit to turn fitness into high fashion. Fitbit Flex is a wearable wristband designed to track your health habits and



FASHION



Samsung Galaxy Gear Smart Watch XL



WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY
WHAT WILL YOU BE WEARING IN 2014?

Nike Fuel Band

help you reach your goals. Log miles ran or calories burned, observe the quality of your sleep and progress toward your fitness goals with an LED-lit scoreboard. Fitbit's new design touched with Tory Burch style transforms the health tracker into a super chic accessory for hitting the gym or dining downtown. The Fitbit collection arrives this spring and will include signature Tory Burch colors and prints. Available for purchase at www.fitbit.com/.

Cuff

Cuff is debuting a line of nine pieces known as CuffLinc, including necklaces, bracelets, and a key chain, all embedded with a device that uses Bluetooth technology to link directly to the wearer's iPhone and corresponding App, Cuff Community. When activated, the gold and black-detailed pieces send out a status and location update to all the followers in the wearer's Community. Cuff accessories are also waterproof, with batteries that keep going for a full year, and you can even swap out the digital sensor to a new wearable when your style changes. The line is scheduled to launch in late 2014. Available for purchase at <http://shop.cuff.io/>.

Android Wear Smartwatch

Android and Google also teamed up this year to create another kind of sleek, wearable accessory called the Android Wear smartwatch. Though designed to blend as a classic wristwatch, the Wear technology displays message notifications and serves as an extension to the Android smartphone by accessing the Android Apps that are already on the



Google Glass

wearer's phone. Android Wear allows notifications from smartphones to appear on new watches from Motorola (Moto 360) and LG Electronics (LG G Watch), allowing users to interact with those notifications using voice or swipe gestures. Not available until summer 2014.

NailSnaps

NailSnaps which started as a Kickstarter campaign, is the brainchild of LA-based designers Angel Anderson and Sarah Heering. It is an app that will let you import your own Instagram photos to create unique, one-of-a-kind nail stickers. On the app, users can either take a picture from their personal library or design something new; then, NailSnaps prints the nail art on high-quality polish stickers and ships right to customers'



Apple iWatch

door. The stickers are rumored to be priced at \$20 and will hit the App Store this fall. Find out more here: www.kickstarter.com/projects/angelanderson/nailsnaps-turn-your-photos-into-nail-polish-sticke.

Google Glass

Google Glass is an operating system is based on a version of Android, and it can run apps called Glassware that are optimized for the device. The glasses have

built-in WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity and a camera for taking photographs and videos. Last season, the fashion industry was introduced to Google Glass at Diane von Furstenberg's runway show, where the designer, Google co-founders Sergey Brin and numerous models sported the techy specs on and around the catwalk. Available for purchase here: <http://www.google.com/glass/start/>

Shea Zephir can be reached at www.sheazephir.com or [@sheazephir](https://twitter.com/sheazephir).



Tory Burch & Fitbit



Jawbone Up Band

The Future Started Yesterday & You're Already Running Late

By Diane Parsons

There is a revolution in Energy, galloping across the globe and creating careers in its wake. The Harlem Times was warmly welcomed to the 37th Annual Conference of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE). Their theme was, "Global Energy: Resources, Solutions, & Sustainability."

Drawing a staggering 500 to 600 industry practitioners to its annual conference, this year's national AABE convention featured 50 speakers representing every major energy company from around the country. They spoke with poignant words, as if to reach right through the crowd, grab you by the collar, and lift you up onto your feet. Those standing within hearing distance were most certainly compelled to pay homage to these phenomenal leading minds.

AABE is a national, nonprofit membership based association of energy professionals, devoted to ensuring that African Americans and minorities have a voice in the discourse and developments of energy policies regulations, technologies, and environmental issues.

Energy, at its core, sets the stage and acts as a catalyst for most of whatever goes on in life. The AABE conference provided the trajectory on how some of the nation's brilliant leading minds can responsibly utilize energy/power to govern many aspects of our lives. Among others, the Honorable Ladoris Harris, Director of Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy was a Keynote speaker. Discussions were focused on the impact of globalization. With so many different nationalities and cultures increasingly interfacing with each other, what energy challenges and solutions lay ahead?

As the energy and technology renaissance continues to explode, minorities are projected to fill an unprecedented number of jobs in the oil, natural gas, and petrochemical industries—increasing from one-quarter of total jobs in 2010 to one-third by 2030—according to a new IHS report that was sponsored by

API, an energy entity. "The oil and natural gas industry pays wages significantly higher than the national average and can provide tremendous career opportunities for women and minorities," said Jack Gerard, API President and CEO.

AABE President and CEO Paula Jackson reflected, "As the study highlights job opportunities, it signals the tremendous need to prepare African Americans, Hispanics, and women to be ready to fill the workforce gap. These jobs in the oil and natural gas industry don't just put people to work, they help to transform communities." Given the fact that such a short time ago people of color were so absent from the field of energy, it is remarkable to see the booming proportional rate this population will weigh in on...

"Of up to 1.3 million new job opportunities in the oil, natural gas and petrochemical industries predicted by 2030, almost 408,000 positions—32 percent of the total—are projected to be held by African American and Hispanic workers, according to the report. Women are estimated to fill 185,000 of those jobs, and 63 percent of new job opportunities will be in blue-collar professions.

"We have the natural resources and the technology to be a global energy superpower with all the economic and national security benefits that entails," Gerard said. "Smart energy policy will create tremendous opportunity for hundreds of thousands of workers."

Indeed, true to form, illustrating its own signature holistic approach, AABE best equips its members and energy professionals with the necessary tools to lead the industry into new dimensions. AABE is mounting an "Address of CEO's," engaging esteemed forces in the field such as John Watson, Chairman & CEO of Chevron Corporation; Warner Williams, VP of Chevron North; and Bob Powers, Executive VP & COO of American Electric Power to lead in the four day summit.

A defining and equally moving moment came during the AABE award ceremony. The James E. Stewart Award is the as-



John S. Watson, Chairman and CEO of Chevron Corp giving the CEO address.

sociation's highest level of recognition. Presenting this year's award was Mr. Ralph Cleveland, former AABE Board Chair and global head of customer operations and business transformation at AIG Property and Casualty Insurance. The delivery of sentiments he expressed to recipient, Frank Stewart, were to the full measure of the awardee's superb character. Earlier that evening Mr. Cleveland passed his post as Board Chair onto his new successor George A. Williams, CEO, PMI Energy Solutions.

Absolutely intoxicated with the great talks, interviews, and sessions that the attendees had the benefit of joining; AABE sweetened the deal with lavish, semi-formal dinners with exquisitely prepared delicious food and impeccable service. Furthermore, as if that didn't take the cake, guests were invited nightly to a VIP after-party on the rooftop of the charming Hilton Hotel housing the affair. Another game-changer leading the path was one of the nation's best public speakers, Patricia Russell-McCloud, J.D. Ms. McCloud speaks as a motivator to over 200,000 people per year, among which are Xerox, General Motors, AT&T, McDonald's, Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the United States Postal Service. She is known as one of the country's top five motivational speakers, and was a driving inspiration when she brought the house to its feet in a standing ovation, where she was noted saying: "You're the one we've been waiting for," "Even when you've come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and just hang on," and "The future

started yesterday and you're already late—so never, never, never, never give up!"

It is rare to see such a collection of folks utterly committed to their professional community, so well accomplished, and yet eager to share and accept an outsider into the fold. Among many professionals was Bill Suggs, VP, Con Edison. Suggs helped connect all of the dots seemingly effortlessly. There is also Alice Gordon, owner, CEO & Executive Problem Solver of Skye Connect, Inc. Ms. Gordon puts you in the mindset of an action hero—not unlike "Pepper" in Ironman. There was never a task that Ms. Gordon couldn't spin under her control. It was atmospheric. Paula Jackson and Tracey Woods (from the AABE National Headquarters in D.C.) together generated a collective force that embodied many of the nation's forward-thinking and innovative minds. Together with the AABE family, this year's AABE conference hummed the sweet tune of a well-oiled machine.

Conference Sponsors were: the Presenting Sponsor, Chevron Energy Company; National Conference Sponsors included American Electric Power, Con Edison, Duke Energy, Exelon, NiSource and TVA; and the Regional Conference sponsors, AGI, bp Fuel, Entergy, Hilton, Nationalgrid, Southern California Edison, and Southern Company. The list of State, City and "Friend" Sponsorship continues...shining the light onto new gateways just ahead.



Members from the New York chapter were well represented at the AABE National Scholarship Luncheon from (left to right) are Hugh Grant, Akil Friday, Phyllis White-Thorne, Antonia Yuill, Frances Resheske, Senior VP of Public Affairs, Consolidated Edison, William Suggs, Senior Specialist Environmental Health and Safety Consolidated Edison, Blondell Lighty, Renee Jakairan, Johari Jenkins, and Phillip Halliburton, all from the New York chapter.



Third from the left are Tawanna Hardy, Shell Corporation, Telisa Toliver, Chevron Corporation Executive and Conference Chair along with Warner Williams (center), VP Gulf of Mexico Business and member of the Board of Director and other dedicated AABE members.



Conference attendee and Ralph Cleveland (center) former AABE National Board President and Larry Glover (right), Glover and Associates, share laugh while networking during the conference.



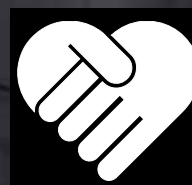
Paula Jackson, President and CEO of AABE, Dan Packer, member of Board of Directors, Jamilah Gladney, David Moody, Premier AABE Scholarship Winner along with Dr. Evelyn Gladney.



The PPL Service Corporation sponsored reception at the AABE Conference provided a great way to end the day with host Shelton Goode, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, (with microphone).



Melvin D. Williams, Senior VP, AGL Resources, Joe Laymon, VP, Chevron Corporation, Janice Howroyd, Founder and CEO Act-1 Group speaking with Stephanie Hickman, President and CEO of Trice Construction



PHILANTHROPY

Wynton Marsalis addressing founder of the Blue Note recording label, Bruce Lundvall PHOTOS BY KENNETH KENCAID

The Jazz Foundation of America Loft Party

By Isabelle Locklair

The Gods have finally spoken! As if coming down from their perch, they came in limos, they came in Rolls, some had a cane, and others even rolled up in a wheelchair—but they ALL rolled up at Hudson Studios for the 23rd Annual Jazz Loft Party held by the Jazz Foundation of America (JFA). The Foundation rolled back the tables and chairs indeed; this was one party, on one stellar night that, yes—did bring the house down!

The JFA's "Cirque Du Jazz," sponsored by Parmigiani in partnership with the Montreux Jazz Festival, hosted a fundraiser event that represented this

art form on the last Saturday of April. What many of our iconic jazz figures today have come to call home, The Jazz Foundation is noted for being the only national organization dedicated to saving the homes and lives of the elders in the jazz community and jazz & blues musicians in crisis.

Performing feats no less than walking on water, Executive Director & CEO Wendy Oxenhorn safeguards and helps preserve this community; creating work for 100s of musicians in need, while bringing jazz & blues to thousands of people across the country. Wendy and her team outline brilliant ways to provide structures for their sponsors to donate funds at different levels of sponsorship. One level,

a corporate donor for instance would sponsor to help make emergency rent payments for musicians—keeping them safe from eviction and homelessness if they're too ill to work.

The evening began with a presentation of the Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, given to recording giant Bruce Lundvall. The legendary record label titan is noted as having helped launched the lustrous careers of Dianne Reeves, Willie Nelson, Anita Baker, Paquito Rivera, and Norah Jones to name a few. Most would agree that music touches something deep inside (which some refer to as soul). It's one of the oldest carriers of culture and an integral part of our socialization. Whatever the

case may be, it is quite evident that Jazz (a music that encompasses Gospel, Blues, Rock, R&B and of course Classical genres) transcends language barriers and serves as an intangible bridge that celebrates and embraces all of life and the living. "...And celebrate we did," said the Chairman of Jazz Foundation, Dick Parsons. "Dianne Reeves sang, she knocked it out!" Mr. Parsons said.

The clearly larger than life, almost otherworldly thunderous sounds of Dianne Reeves rang throughout the studios, as if she were descending upon her audience from Angels on high. The utterly organic, sweet sultry tunes of one Norah Jones slid ever so softly over the crowd; intoxicating us under her soulful powers.

In fact, the Jazz Master himself, Wynton Marsalis gave us a kiss to build a dream on as he played a tribute to “The Dr.” Bruce during the awards presentation. When the sun comes out everyone can feel its rays. Such is the case when great music pulsates throughout your surroundings, as does the creative genius of internationally acclaimed Marsalis.

The evening’s other highlights included: performances by the very young and amazing pianist Matthew Whitaker, innovator and visionary Randy Weston (who played with the fervor and agility of a man half his 80 years). Mr. Weston was accompanied by the highly spirited saxophonist Billy Harper. The Heath Brothers, Hamiet Blumette, flamenco artist Sonia Olla, and Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks also were present. At one point I do believe we looked up and saw “The roof, the roof, the roof is on F-I-R-E!”

The evening ended with a crescendo of rug-cutting, foot-stomping performances from Eric Lewis a.k.a. ELEW and Sweet Georgia Brown. The New musical genius “Boy Wonder” sky-rocketed across the stage, leaving nothing in his path but the entire house jumping from their seats screaming for more; sweeping across the jazz circuit crossing over into the far reaches of yet another musical stratosphere where every note becomes an adventure — where the creative juices run off to the land of the free and take you right along with them. ELEW explores the magical world of Jazz-Rock and what it might be like to personify Jimmy Hendrix meets James Brown meets Prince....Hummm.

Finally the sassy blues chops of “Sweet Georgia Brown” entices those of us who haven’t already passed out from the riveting sounds of ELEW, to collect what remaining ounce of strength we have back out there again! It was a sight to behold ... white-collar financiers alongside the coolest jazz partygoers, mixing it all up. Jennifer Beale from “Flashdance” even brought in her own snappy spin on some new steps.

These phenomenal minds grandfathered, shepherded, nurtured, and facilitated some of America’s folklore into many art forms that would change the world forever. The JFA has been very instrumental in instituting school music programs and for providing aid to musicians in New Orleans, throughout Hurricane Sandy and throughout the U.S. “The JFA Loft Party makes saving the music, one musician at a time — fun,” so says the chair, Dick Parsons.



Bruce Lundvall and Dianne Reeves



Major donors



John Meo with Wendy Oxenhorn, CEO and Executive Director



Wynton Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, and Dick Parsons



Norah Jones performing



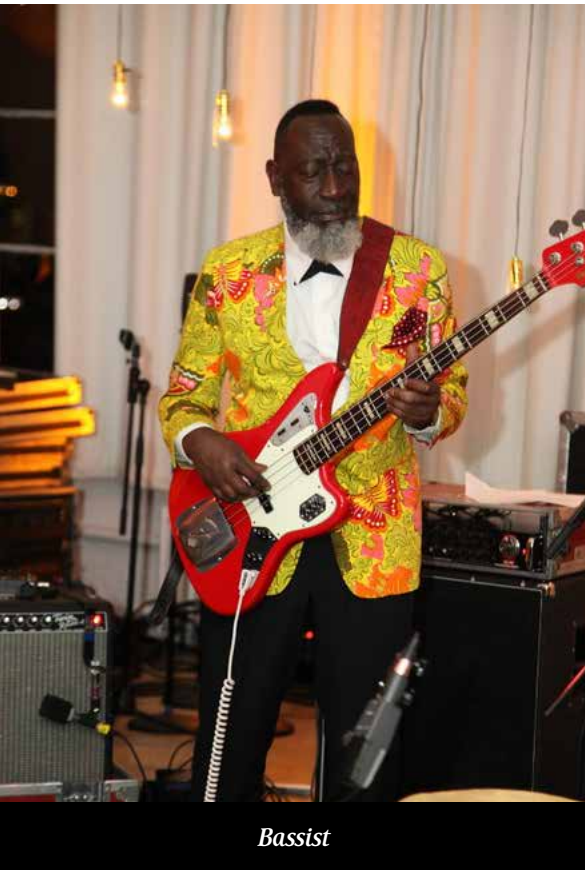
Diane Parsons, The Harlem Times Development Manager, left; The Harlem Times Publisher, Paul Jackson, third from right; John Meo, Co-Publisher, second from right; and friends



Jazz performers. left



Contortionist



Bassist



Wendy Oxenhorn with performers



Flamenco dancer



Vocalist



Bruce Lundvall with Norah Jones



Guests



Women on stilts



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www.anestasiavodka.com

Play Date Profiling Creative Artists of Broadway

By Isis

Tonya Smith, Broadway Stage Hand/Theatrical Technician

For The Shubert, The Cort, The Longacre, and The Wintergarden Theaters. Tonya also works with M.S.G., FUSE, "The View," "All My Children," and ABC and CBS Studios.

Q: Tonya, are you originally from New York?

A: I was born and raised primarily by my mom in Harlem, New York. My dad lived in New Rochelle. After graduating high school I became a mother to my son Johan Bailey.

Q: How did you juggle this business as a mom?

A: Being a single mom I had to find a career, so I attended a couple of schools. During this time I spent a lot of time away from my son. This was hard for me but I knew I had to do it, for him and for me. I worked at least 60 hours a week. Fortunately, we had friends and a supportive family and he spent time with them. As a young mother it was really hard to break into this field but I knew it was possible. All of my hard work and dedication paid off. When I got a steady job at ABC, I didn't have to work so many hours. The pay was good.

Q: Did your education specifically correlate to this industry?

A: I attended the Institute of Audio Research where I studied audio engineering. Audio engineering was something I became interested in while attending recording sessions with friends who were singing artists.

Q: How did you transition into theater?

A: While still attending IAR, I received a call from my uncle Lonnie Gaddy who also is a stage hand, asking me to work. The theater needed a female stagehand to handle wireless microphones for a dance company called The Urban Bush Women. I said yes to this work, because I had the experience in school of dealing with wireless microphones. This led me to more theater jobs and other opportunities. I then obtained an audio job at The New Victory Theater. This employment also required some carpentry and lighting skills. I worked there for four years.

Q: Then what path did you decide on pursuing?

A: I decided lighting was the way to go for me. I then moved throughout the Broadway community working in different theaters, studios, and various indoor and outdoor venues as a lighting board programmer and electrician. I enjoy working in a Broadway theater.

Q: What are the duties of a Broadway Theater Stagehand/ Theatrical Technician?

A: There are many duties of a stagehand and many different areas of expertise within the theater. We are broken up into departments: carpentry, electricians, props, and the sound department.

Q: As a SH/TT what is your area of specificity?

A: I am a Property Stage Hand. We usually work behind the scenes. As a prop person we make sure the "props" of the show, (meaning such things as tables, chairs, glasses, weaponry, clothing, beds, and shelving) anything the actors use onstage, is in place and/or comes out on stage at the appropriate time. We also maintain the seats in the "house," which is the area in the theater that the audience utilizes.

Q: Please elaborate on the various SH/TT positions.

A: The carpenters are involved in "hanging the show." This means all of the drapes and scenery as well as, building all the scenery. This could vary from a very simplistic set with a few characters to a very elaborate set, like a large musical. The electricians hang, focus and program into the computers all the lighting commands for the show. The audio personnel hang all of the monitors (speakers) and place microphones on stage and if necessary on the actors. They also engineer the sound for the play, as well as, programming all the audio information into the computers.

Q: How long have you been a Broadway SH/TT?

A: I have been a Local One I.A.T.S.E. SH/TT for 17 years.

Q: Was this typically a non-minority, male dominated field? Is this still the case?

A: This business has changed a little because women are more accepted. As an African American woman, I appreciate that I have not directly encountered any racial incidents. But sometimes you have to just laugh things off. We try to have a good time and laugh at painful things. This is how we get along. Working long hours can wear on us, so not taking things seriously helps a lot. I feel like I am accepted more now than I



would have been 30 years ago.

Q: Tell us some of the benefits and challenges in your career.

A: My first three years were dedicated to getting a union card. Without this, people can easily deny you employment. I told myself three years and I would be able to spend more time with my son.

There are some benefits to be stagehand. At times we work with very talented people, we get to see great shows, and the pay is great, especially if you put in a lot of hours. I have worked weeks where I have put in over 80 hours but I have also worked weeks where I have only put in eight hours. The amount of work fluctuates for people. Some people get steady gigs which will allow them to work every week and some people would be stuck without work for weeks at a time.

Q: How do you compensate for periods of non-employment?

A: Being that work fluctuates the way it does, I try to work in TV studios as well as theatre. This is very common in our field. We have a union hall that would send people out for work which is a great perk.

Q: Is advancement among SH/TT a rarity?

A: Some stagehands I have known in the past have gone on to be stage managers, theater managers, and heads of studio operations. Some stagehands have opened their own businesses: such as lighting, audio and video companies.

As we finish our meals we open our Chinese fortune cookies. Tonya's fortune said: "Go for the gold today. You'll be the champion of whatever." That fortune is correct. Tonya is being and living a life that is Golden!

"Rocky The Musical" is currently playing at The Wintergarden Theater

Silver, Sterling, and the NBA

By Jason Leach

On Tuesday April 29th NBA Commissioner Adam Silver made the only decision he could make, and that was to give Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling a lifetime ban for his racist comments. Along with the ban was a \$2.5 million fine. Silver also stated he would begin the process of having the other 29 NBA owners force Sterling to sell the team.

Hopefully the process of selling the Clippers will come swiftly, because how can any fan of the Clippers, especially minorities, truly back the team 100 percent as long as Sterling is owner? Celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and Magic Johnson have expressed interest in buying the Clippers.

While the fine will do little to hurt Sterling's finances, at least the ban will prevent us from seeing this despicable man again. Once the sale of the Clippers becomes official, the NBA and media outlets should refrain from ever mentioning his name again.

The best way to really hurt someone who has been in the spotlight because of his money is to make him irrelevant by acting as if he didn't exist.

The real shame in all of this is that it took a conversation recorded by Sterling's mistress/girlfriend, V. Stiviano, to expose Sterling in the media. Hearing him say, "I do not want you to bring any blacks to the games," should not have come as any surprise. It has been known for decades how Sterling feels about minorities. All someone had to do was google his name and they would see the type of person he is.

In 1983 it was reported that a Clippers coaching candidate Rollie Massimino heard Sterling use the N-word in an impromptu interview at LAX airport.

It's alleged that Sterling said the following. "Here's this guy, and he has this blonde bimbo with him, they have a bottle of champagne, they're tanked. I wanna know why you think you can



Donald Sterling, second from left, and his girlfriend/personal assistant, V. Stiviano, third from left.

coach these n****s?"

In 2006 the Department of Justice brought housing discrimination charges against Sterling for refusing to rent to African Americans at his Los Angeles residential complex. In a sworn testimony by one of Sterling's top property supervisors, Sumner Davenport claimed Sterling made racist comments about minorities living in one of the buildings he just acquired. Allegedly Sterling said the following.

"That's because of all the blacks in this building; they smell, they're not clean. And it's because of all of the Mexicans that just sit around and smoke and drink all day"

The suit would be settled three years later for \$2.75 million, with Sterling avoiding any admission of liability. It was said afterwards that Sterling bragged about how the \$2.75 million did not come out of his pockets, and that it was the insurance company that paid.

Another incident occurred in 2009 when a wrongful-termination suit was filed by former Clippers general manager and NBA legend Elgin Baylor. Baylor who was the Clippers general manager for 22 years claimed that Sterling had a plantation mentality.

From the lawsuit by Baylor it was alleged that Sterling said the following to Baylor: "I would like to have a white Southern coach coaching poor black players." Then he allegedly looked at Baylor and said do you think that is a racist comment? Baylor said "Absolutely. That's a plantation mentality"

In the suit Baylor also claimed that three Los Angeles Clippers players (Sam Cassell, Elton Brand, and Corey Maggette) complained to him that Sterling would bring women into the locker room to look at the players and once said to one of the women, "Look at those beautiful black bodies."

Despite all of these allegations and the fact that Baylor was one of the least paid general managers during his tenure, the lawsuit was rejected.

These are all incidences where Sterling's racism had an impact on the lives of minorities financially. So there should be outrage amongst minorities, especially blacks, on why the NBA didn't try to force Sterling to sell the team much sooner. As it was echoed by many NBA stars such as LeBron James, there is no room in the NBA for a man like this to own an NBA franchise.

Someone should question former NBA

commissioner David Stern (from 1984 to this past January) on how the NBA turned a blind eye to this.

Furthermore, you have to question why NBA stars such as Chris Paul, Blake Griffin, and coach Doc Rivers would commit long term to a team owned by Sterling. All they had to do was their research or simply Google Sterling's name to see his ugly and racist acts.

Another sad fact was it was not only the NBA that turned a blind eye to Sterling, but also the Los Angeles NAACP by awarding Sterling a lifetime achievement award. They were about to give Sterling a second lifetime achievement award later this month until the taped racist comments were revealed.

The Los Angeles NAACP Leon Jenkins president may have resigned, but that is a mute gesture. They should be ashamed of themselves for letting the African American community down.

Sterling is 80 years old; so who knows how much longer he'll be on this earth and have to deal with this public shame. But at least the NBA has rid itself of a bigot.

To Pay or Not to Pay College Athletes

By Jason Leach

For decades the topic on whether college athletes should get paid has been debated. If you look at it from a player's perspective, it doesn't seem fair that they generate millions upon millions of dollars for their university, and yet may not have enough money to eat.

Now, in a potentially game-changing moment for college athletics, the Chicago district of the National Labor Relations Board ruled in March that Northwestern football players qualify as employees of the university and can unionize.

NLRB regional director Peter Sung Ohr cited the players' time commitment to their sport and the fact that their scholarships were tied directly to their performance on the field as reasons for granting them union rights.

Former quarterback Kain Colter led the drive to have Northwestern players vote on whether to unionize. One of Colter's driving points for unionization is that the NCAA does not guarantee that players' medical bills will be paid if they're injured.

The unionization has brought about mix in opinions from students, members of the media, and members of collegiate sports.

In fact, SEC commissioner Michael Slive is against unionization. "The SEC does not believe that full time students participating in intercollegiate athletics are employees of the universities they attend," Slive said.

In a recent poll done by ESPN with more than 200,000 votes, 57 percent of the voters were against the Northwestern football team attempt to unionize.

The question on whether college athletes should be paid was brought up again after a statement made by UCONN Men's Basketball player Shabazz Napier. Napier stated some nights he goes to bed starving because he can't afford



Shabazz Napier

food. The statement got the attention of state lawmakers in Connecticut, who are now exploring legislative ways to allow athletes at UConn, a state institution, to unionize—much like athletes are attempting at Northwestern.

With all that is going on in Northwestern and Connecticut it seems inevitable that one day college athletes will get paid. But the question remains, should they be paid? Let's look at the pros and cons of paying collegiate athletes.

Pros:

For one, it seems almost a hypocrisy that college athletes are not paid considering how much money they generate for the schools they play for. In fact, the exposure colleges have due to athletes is indirectly one of the reasons why both student athletes and non-student athletes want to attend the school. Due to more students attending schools, the schools and the cities or towns they reside in are able to build bigger and better buildings. Due to this, the towns and Universities prosper for years to come (while many student athletes leave school without the guarantee of becoming a professional athlete).

Universities that sell jerseys and other memorabilia are exploiting college

athletes. You'll see in stores such as Foot Locker a jersey from a school along with a players' jersey number for all to see. While the sales pour in, players do not see a dime of that money. This was evident in the early 1990s, with the Michigan Wolverines Basketball Team better known as "The Fab Five." Growing up as a teenager in the early 1990s, I saw how the "Fab Five" popularity transcended the game and the basketball community. It was seldom that you went to a basketball court and did not see someone with Michigan apparel. The sole reason kids wore this was not because of the school, but because of the players who performed on the court.

Another factor to consider is watching collegiate games you'll see several different sponsors for major corporations such as Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, and KIA. It is clear that someone is getting paid big dollars for this and it's not the players.

By paying athletes it would insure that they reap some of the benefits that the schools get for their performance on the field. Keep in mind, the athletes are not guaranteed to go pro in their sports, and as stated in the Northwestern unionization, if these players sustain injuries that could affect them years later, the NCAA will more than likely not pay for their medical bills.

Now let's look at the Cons on paying student athletes.

Cons:

For one, most college students are not athletes; there is fear of possible inequality between general students and student athletes. There are also concerns about inequalities for different sports. As an example Duke University is primarily known as a basketball school. It seems to get the top high school players and always sells out Cameron Indoor Stadium. In addition, Duke has the all-time NCAA wins leader coach Mike Krzyzewski. So you can see why people would feel that Duke's basketball team may get significantly paid more and with better benefits than some of the other sports at Duke. In a recent poll 53 percent of students were concerned that they would not be treated equally.

Another reason for opposing athletes getting paid is the financial impact on non-scholarship students. There is concern that if universities paid athletes it could hurt financial aid for non-athletes and could increase tuition. In some cases tuition cost is more than what some households make in a year. The financial strain parents incur to send their kids to college is already great, and if the cost of tuition rises parents will have to send their kids to less desirable schools.

The final reason to oppose paying athletes is that in some aspects they're already getting paid — since they're on a scholarship with free room and board. If an athlete stays in school for four years, they would be saving several hundred thousand dollars in tuition. Many see anything in addition to a scholarship as greed.

So you've heard both sides of this argument, now tell us what you think. Should college athletes be paid, yes or no?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Email pjackson@theharlemtimes.com



HEALTH

By Cynika Drake

According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, “More than 1 in 4 children in Head Start programs and public elementary schools are obese, and more than 4 in 10 are overweight or obese. The prevalence of obesity among preschool children

in Head Start, and public elementary school children, is similar in East Harlem, Central Harlem, and Manhattan overall.”

While a child’s eating habits can’t necessarily be changed overnight, and local convenience store menus continue to reflect affordable “fried” food options, one thing that can be done at this very moment is getting kids excited about fitness and exercise. And Julian Ford (AAU National Karate Jr. Olympic Gold Medal Champion) creator/co-founder of Master Karate Todd DVD series (produced in both English and Spanish) is looking to do just that. Julian along with his team comprised of his brother and co-founder/executive producer Harold Ford, Frank Drucker (Sesame Street, Dora the Explorer), and Dave Bourla (SpongeBob Square Pants, Skunk Fu) are bringing kids fun, attention-grabbing, quality programming.

So, who is Master Karate Todd (MKT)? He is a likeable animated lion that teaches kids (ages 3–11) karate moves set against upbeat catchy tunes (adults may even find themselves imitating the moves), while incorporating the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and taking care of planet Earth. He even has a sidekick, DJ Flow, who produces her music through solar panel energy sources — talk about eco-friendly!

When asked about the inspiration behind MKT, co-founder Julian Ford said, “Not only did I get to compete on a national level, and win a gold medal, I also got to teach children. And I got so much gratitude out of teaching children, that’s when I started to think about this idea of having an animated character teach karate moves to children. I felt like there were so many positive attributes that come along with karate: discipline, focus, balance. And to give children that experience on a television platform; I felt would help a lot with the issue of childhood obesity that is facing our nation.”



Julian Ford, inset left, and with kids above.

book series, and a feature animated film are also in the horizon for this creative duo.

Now through September 2014, MKT is broadcasting on WNYC TV channel 25. It is also important to note, this is a cost efficient introduction to martial arts, as the average cost of karate school runs approximately \$100 a month. To learn more about MKT and to purchase a DVD, you may visit their website at www.masterkaratetodd.com.

The Ford Brothers are not stopping with a DVD series; this is just the beginning of their multi-channel branding platform. “It is our goal to be able to provide MKT for kids; disrupting passive TV viewing, and giving them 24/7 access via TV or a mobile device,” according to Harold Ford. A television cartoon series, children’s





TECHNOLOGY

Funk Master Flex, left, Tiffany Hardin, Rodney Williams, and Bruce Lincoln

Silicon Harlem

By Dominique Dowd

Have you ever wondered if your already smart phone could be even smarter? Consider a new, personalized experience where your refrigerator orders your food and your car automatically schedules an appointment with the mechanic—all through your mobile device. These amenities will be available in the near future, as was discussed at the “Silicon Valley Meets Silicon Harlem – Mobile Life” forum, held at MIST Harlem on April 17.

Hosted by Clayton Banks and Bruce Lincoln of Silicon Harlem, the event was the headline of the 2014 Mobile Week Conference. The forum featured panelists Rodney Williams, CEO of Lisnr; Tiffany Hardin, Founder of Gild Creative Group; and DJ Funk Master Flex of Hot97. Each panelist contributed his or her knowledge of the evolving status of mobile technology.

“From our perspective, the future is

here,” Banks said. “Mobile life represents untethered, seamless control. We are moving in a world where you can control everything. We all went through the phase where Siri was talking to us; that was the beginning of digital assistance. Your smart device makes everything else around it smarter, including you.”

Banks says that placing the user at the focal point of creating new mobile technology is the platform for the future. Mobile life is a cohesive interaction between people, places, and objects. It is the personalized convergence point of data-driven decisions that influence social media, mobility, and the internet.

“Your mobile device is going to be a central nervous system,” Banks said. “If we work in unison with the policy makers and manufactures to do this right, your mobile device will be able to make your other devices and appliances smart.”

Understanding the relationship between the user and technology is a growing asset in mobile technology, especially with

advertisers, who have a vested interest in the patterns of a mobile user, according to Williams. His company developed an interactive music app that gathers data about the artist that the user is listening to, sending content directly to the user’s phone.

Mobile technology will eventually be fully integrated into our daily lives, a trend that companies are becoming aware of.

“Brands have to recognize that you aren’t relevant unless you have a mobile site,” Williams said. For Lisnr, 90 percent of their revenue is generated by mobile usage. According to Google Analytics, which quantifies mobile users verses desktop users patterns, an increasing number of people rely on mobile sites.

“I noticed that with inflexwetrust.com, 70 percent of the users are mobile and 30 percent are desktop users,” Flex said, who launched the DJ Funkmaster Flex app in April 2013. “I launched the app because we learned the mobile space was

growing. The radio is a great platform and it’s my first love, but the number of people who still have a radio in their kitchen or bedroom is slim. I wanted to build a platform to reach newer fans.”

Flex believes that to be successful in any arena, but particularly in mobile technology, you need to “know the mindset of your audience and grow with them. Take notice of the versatility of their interests. I realized that with my audience it goes beyond just music. They also want the latest news,” he said.

In addition to apps, social media is another aspect of mobile technology that is user-centered and vital to any business.

“Social media is a great tool for connecting with my audience,” Flex said. “But it’s only relevant if that platform is still hot.” He joked that “no one is following me on MySpace anymore,” which has faded into obscurity since the arrival of Facebook.

While social media and apps are essential to today’s business marketing,



Clayton Banks, right, and friend set up for the event.



The DJ provided great music throughout the night.

mobile technology overall is where the money is.

“We launched an app last March and it’s not really how we make our money,” Williams said. “Actually, 90 percent of the revenue we generate is from the mobile platform. We created a number of products. One of them is an ultrasonic frequency that can merge into media, such as your TV. It can track amounts of data based on user consumption and then we can optimize the content. That’s how we make a profit.”

Mobile technology allows for innovative opportunities that are profitable. For instance, when Flex realized that he couldn’t control the relationship he wished to establish with his audience, he created an app to serve as a foundation—providing the exact connection and control that he was seeking. Similarly, Williams and Hardin expressed the value of establishing your own platform, specifically as being a distribution point.

“We’re putting content on YouTube and other platforms that we don’t own, and if you don’t own it you can’t monetize it,” Williams said. “The evolution is how we can own the data and the content.”

Ownership of content equates to control of data that leads to profit.

“We’ve seen this model before with independent artists, so anytime that you’re in the position to do that I think that’s a very smart move,” Hardin said. Her talent management organization develops careers, including artists in the music industry. She believes that “discovery is another sweet spot in mobile, which is exactly what Silicon Harlem is about, especially if we could nail it down in a more fluid way. Discovery not just in mu-

sic, but in all parts of our lives,” she said.

Discovering how to better personalize the user experience for the audience is integral to successful mobile technology. Music, for instance is a prime example of how to cater related content to user, which is exactly what Flex and Williams have done with their apps.

“Our new app will begin to track user activity,” Williams said. “Imagine that you listen to music on Spotify, or our car radio for instance, it will start to retrieve content that is tailored to you. A lot of folks are calling this the evolution of the entertainment channel. The channel that I would watch differs from the channel that you would watch; it would be tailored to what you listen to in real time. You open can see the last ten things that you listened to and the hottest content of the day. That’s an example of real life application.”

MIST aims to be a location at the forefront of this technological shift. The renovated space is carbon neutral, with an integrated fiber optic system running throughout the building. Founded last year, MIST, incorporated with Silicon Harlem, seeks to transform Harlem into an innovation hub, while preserving what is still authentically Harlem.

However, the transition has not been smooth. Manhattan Borough President, Gayle Brewer stopped by to briefly address concerns regarding technological development in Harlem. The city is currently in negotiation with Verizon to address the use of inactive pay phones and how they can be converted into hot spots. Such an innovation would resolve the inconsistency of WiFi access among Harlem residents.

“Every city agency has open data sources,”



Harlem's Living Room

Brewer said. “We have plans to work within the community to improve the needs of the people.”

Banks sees Silicon Harlem as a center for socio-entrepreneurial growth that represents the natural evolution of Harlem’s progression.

“Harlem will not be left behind as New York becomes a smart city,” Lincoln said. “When we think about buildings, cars, clothes, and devices coming together, these are the components of a smart city. It’s a smart world that we are moving into and I am determined to see Harlem become a smart community.”

Yumnah Najah

Fusing Design with Technical Artistry

By Cindy Morris

Since her design debut in the Fall of 2010, at an impressive 17 years old, Yumnah Najah has been engineering elements of design into striking statement pieces. Having grown up in Harlem, Yumnah was inspired by the Harlem Renaissance era (particularly by the works of artist Jacob Lawrence and painter Faith Ringgold). She also acknowledges the Islamic upbringing that exposed her to the elegant silhouettes of women in traditional garb. All were influences that proved tantamount to evolving her stylish brand of geometric shapes inflected with graphic colors and patterns.

Utilizing leather, brass, and a variety of woods as a canvas (along with a palette of acrylics or watercolors) the designer hand paints sharply delineated geometrics, patterns, abstracts, and stained glass-like motifs on earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings.

Glistening glass beads and natural gemstones add a sense of movement to her work. Whenever possible, she makes use of recycled wood and eco-friendly materials and finishes. The designer's creative process is strongly influenced by the artists, colors, and the mood that has captured her at the time she begins work. Yumnah is often inspired by the colors of nature and its textural impressions and imprints as well as the bursts of creative energy that they instill in her.

A fantastic voyage into color, you can count on Yumnah's accessories to be eye-catchers. The designer has a straightforward concept; she designs for women who identify with bold colors and who aren't afraid of standing out or

turning a head or two. And hand painted, the intimacy of her work is reflected in each piece.

Sold exclusively online until now, with the introduction of her Spring '14 collection, Yumnah Najah Designs will expand into JWhite Original Boutique in Brooklyn.

When it comes to dressing up for a last-minute engagement or meeting, a Yumnah Najah accessory adds that special punch on demand. Her designs have also made a splash on the fashion pages of Lucky, Clutch, Jet, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Australia's Peppermint magazine.

The designer is currently evolving her stylish brand into a playfully sophisticated home décor collection, and is collaborating on a handsome new men's line of hand carved band rings. Now just 20 years old, she is the definition of young, gifted, and Black. Najah is also directing her attention to filmmaking, with a documentary she has long envisioned that will chronicle the considerable influence she believes African Americans such as Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali have had on Islamic life and traditions.

Yumnah Najah recently participated in the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institutes' 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Expo—Transforming the Temple: The Bliss of Now! which was held on April 26th at the Taino Towers of El Barrio/East Harlem where the keynote speaker was former Essence Editor-in-Chief and industry legend Susan L. Taylor.

Find Yumnah's eponymous collection at YumnahNajah.com



FASHION

Urban Fare New York



Jolo's Kitchen

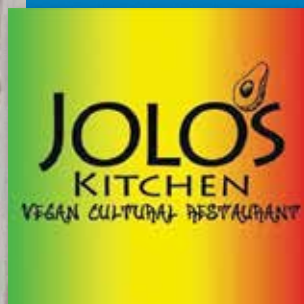


FOOD

JOLO'S KITCHEN

412 North Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 355-2527

Monday – Friday • 11:30 am – 8 pm
Saturday & Sunday • 1 pm – 8 pm



Jolo's Kitchen Vegan Cultural Food For The People

By William C. Jackson

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Jolo's Kitchen on North Avenue in New Rochelle, Westchester County. In business since 2008, Jolo's is all vegan, all the time. "This means we only serve plant-based foods," says the restaurant's website at www.joloskitchen.com. "We aim to serve healthy meals made with fresh ingredients, and surprisingly realistic 'veggie-meats' filled with delicious flavors and textures."

"We appeal to the humane, conscious eaters. We ensure that our ingredients meet a high standard of quality that you can trust."

When you first walk inside Jolo's, you might believe that it's your typical "run of the mill" restaurant. However, that is not the case. Chef Jolo has built a great reputation off of his vegan menu. People come from near and far (Brooklyn) to enjoy a delicious humane meal. Jolo has a loyal and familiar customer base. In the ninety minutes I spent at his establishment I got the sense that Chef Jolo and his staff really care, not just about the food they serve, but about the community as well.

One would also believe that Chef Jolo's restaurant only serves a certain clientele. That is nonsense as well. I saw all people of all colors coming into the restaurant, sitting down, ordering food, and talking to Jolo. It was a wondrous feeling of unity in a world that seems divided on the outside.



I was given the opportunity to sample some of the vegan food that Chef Jolo serves up on a daily basis. I must say, the Chef knows what he's doing. The food was full of flavor; I don't think I would have known it was vegan if I wasn't told.

I also sampled a couple of fruit smoothies and vegan carrot cake. Trust me when I say that Jolo and his staff know their stuff.

Chef Jolo is one of the nicest people you will meet. Born in Jamaica, he moved to the United States at the age of 14. He attended schools in New Rochelle. Following a brief stint at a Maryland college, he learned how to cook, eventually becoming a cook for the hip-hop group Dead Prez. It was while he was touring the nation with them, he says, that he saw the beauty of America.



In 2008, Chef Jolo signed a lease for what would become his vegan restaurant. I was told that other restaurants had failed at that location. Because of this the landlord was not willing to give him a long-term lease, even though he says that it takes at least two to three years for a restaurant to become successful. Six years later, Jolo's Kitchen is still going strong.

Chef Jolo says he would like to open two more restaurants in the future. Why not? As far as I am concerned, he has proven himself not just as a great chef, but a great human being.

If you ever are in Westchester County, be sure to visit Jolo's Kitchen in New Rochelle. Good food. Good people. Good vibes. You will be very glad you did.

William C. Jackson can be reached at jackson.william.c@hotmail.com

Urban Fare New York



FOOD

SETTEPANI

196 Lenox Ave.
Harlem, NY 10026
917-492-4806
info@settepani.com

Daily
10 am – 11 pm

Settepani

Leah Abraham's Pure Passion

By Nayaba Arinde

It is more than the exquisite food, the classy decor and the international ethos which is Ristorante Settepani—Leah Abraham and her husband Nino Settepani strive to make this sharp Harlem eatery the go to place for locals, old and new residents, and visitors.

“It was a case of passion over business savvy when we decided to move from downtown Manhattan to Harlem,” Leah revealed to the Harlem Times. “I think of myself as a community builder. We have gotten so much from Harlem, we have given a lot, we have gotten so much more I feel. The trade-off was while there was a great financial benefit of being downtown, my husband and I, just fell in love with Harlem.”

Leah is like other transplants who have come from far away lands and found a beautiful niche in one of New York City's fine boroughs. An immigrant from The expansive and all inclusive Continent, this Ethiopian example of brilliance and beauty calls Harlem her muse.

A native of Ethiopia, Leah came to the

US in her teens in 1976. She was new to the culture, but armed with the ability to speak Amharic, Tigrigna, French, Italian and English—and the words of her father that education is everything and she must achieve. “Mediocrity was not an option.”

Right in West Harlem's center since 2000 Settepani has proved itself to be a stalwart among the local businesses. With gentrification going full throttle fitting in easily with the new Harlem, the restaurant prides itself with blending in with the locals, be that the residents or the businesses.

Situated at 196 Malcolm X (Lennox Ave. between 124th and 125th streets), this beautiful space has invested in the forever changing Harlem landscape and has become an established favorite in a neighborhood which boasts Sylvia's, Red Rooster, Chez Lucien's, Jacob's, Cafe Social.

The musical, visual, oratorical artistry which is woven into the very fabric which is the aged Uptown streets is the cultural thread with which Abrahams wraps around her own concept.

For the best part of 20 years Abrahams

has discovered, developed, evolved and furthered her culinary expertise. An international traveller who has lived in such diverse parts as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Lebanon, Leah is able to fold her Africa-to-the-West perspectives to underwrite her flavors in this Italian venture.

Being a restaurateur was nothing she had thought about until she met her husband Antonino. This uber accomplished mother of 16 and 18-year-old young men, learnt the culinary business from scratch.

“I married into the business,” she declares. She was on her way as soon as she got on board the epicurean quest, what with her husband's skills gleaned from running his bakery, studies at the famed French Culinary Institute, and the co-ownership of Caffè Bondi, a restaurant in Chelsea.

It was in 1999, when Leah started contemplating the thoughts of opening a restaurant in Harlem.

Leah promotes what she herself has lived in terms of a vast multi-cultural experience. Settepani embodies just that. Asked about her business acumen, Leah

is openly breathless.

“We do what we know how to do – and we do it with strong family, home, and community at the core.”

Leah is obviously ecstatic over her business. “It is most definitely an Italian restaurant, but we pay homage to the culture of Harlem. We are not just into giving the best service and product, but we like to bring in the things that have people celebrating art in many forms in any way we can. So we have local artists, and we pay homage to the musical heritage of Harlem.

Part of the success of Settepani is based in my desire to create.”

So to the victuals.

It is Italian food with a Sicilian spin which means says Leah with “the many invaders” the cuisine is influenced from traditional and new dishes from different parts of Africa and Europe.

“The cuisine is southern Italian, Sicilian specifically. My husband is from Sicily. So we use ingredients perhaps not typical to Italian cuisine; spices like curry and saffron—due to the proxim-



Blood orange panna cotta



Chocolate mousse

ity of Scilly to the Spice Route [back in history].”

You can taste it in the tempting concoctions with the spices and the unique combinations of ingredients.

What is your pleasure? Spiced vegetables and green? Or free range chicken? Seafood pasta or fish specials? A reasonably priced sample includes; Petti Di Pollo Con Provolone E Carciofini — chicken breast stuffed with provolone cheese and baby artichokes served on a bed of asparagus, Insalata Di Stagione — a

blend of spring greens, or perhaps Zuppa Di Finocchi E Zenzero — fennel and ginger soup.

If the food impresses you to no end, then the entertainment will blow you away! How about the jazz nights with performers such as Red Sahara, David Lee Jones, and Solomon Hicks? Or perhaps your tastebuds will be further tantalized by book signings, conversation and slide shows like “Crossing Ethiopia” by John Snyder — accompanied by a scrumptious Ethiopian Inspired prix fixe menu.

If you are an equestrian lover perhaps you were able to attend the Trunk Show featuring hats in preparation for the 2nd Annual Kentucky Derby party.

Paying respects to the Black jockeys of a not too distant past, Leah hosts Kentucky Derby events (May 2, 3).

“Where better to celebrate the African American jockeys than in the mecca of Black culture? We did it last year, and now it is spreading like wild fire.”

That is a smorgasbord of the artistic and

social appetizers on offer.

“For me it is not about being number one, it really is about giving the best product and the best service,” Leah stresses. “I came to America when I was seventeen. I was completely uprooted. My father told me to go to America to get an education — average and mediocracy was not an option. My father gave me and my siblings rules to live by. He told us to ‘walk like you have a destination.’ So I always look forward. I am very grateful.”

“WHEN I HAVE AN
ASTHMA ATTACK
I FEEL LIKE A FISH
WITH NO WATER.”

– JACOB, AGE 5



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The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) Residential Upper Manhattan Committee Second Annual Harlem Open House Expo

*By Atelston Fitzgerald
Holder 1st*

The Real Estate Board of New York's (REBNY) second annual Harlem Open House Expo was held on April 5th and 6th, where hundreds of brokers, agents, promising homeowners, and members of the public gathered in Harlem for the exhibition. The Expo provided exclusive listings of co-ops, townhouses, and condos in the East, West, Central Harlem, and Hamilton Heights area. The exuberance of Harlem's home market was a key factor in providing prospective buyers with an exquisite showcase of the Upper Manhattan's real estate.

REBNY's Residential Upper Manhattan Committee hosted its first Open House Expo in Harlem, 2013, jump-starting sessions with vital information, including one-on-one assistance for home-buyers to select from a myriad of exclusive open house offerings. Over 42 co-ops, condos, and townhouses were featured. Participants were provided tours, guide-development, and a list of participating brokers to assist each house-hunter. The Expo's overwhelming success prompted the committee into making the session an annual event.

REBNY's Residential Upper Manhattan Committee is a forum for agents who work and live in Upper Manhattan to meet, discuss, and share ideas and information pertaining to issues in the Upper Manhattan area. It has proven to be a viable and worthwhile committee that serves the community.

REBNY is the city's leading real estate trade association. Founded in 1896, it promotes public policies to enhance and improve the city's real estate industry. The Board's membership consists of over 15,000 brokers, managers, property-owners, attorneys, developers, insurance companies, and other professionals in the industry.

The Real Estate Board of New York

offers industry professionals innumerable educational programs, with over 90 onsite courses, both credit and non-credit, including continuing education that qualifies and benefits members of the association. The New York Residential Specialist (NYRS) is a real estate professional advanced designation offered by the Real Estate Board of New York. NYRS promotes excellence by providing the designation to graduating members who've met qualifying criteria and successfully completed the NYRS advanced curriculum.

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Atelston Fitzgerald Holder 1st, Journalist, Writer & Comedian, Mr Pregnant Production, Lecturer on Linguistics & Humor, can be reached at <http://www.mrpregnant.com>



A Real Estate Board makes moves in Harlem PHOTOS BY KENNETH KENCAID

Halstead Property: Expertise and Community

By Carl Woollen

Halstead Property, LLC is a leading real estate brokerage firm based in New York City with a presence in Harlem, Riverdale, and the Hudson valley, and also serving surrounding Metro New Jersey and Fairfield County in Connecticut. They got their start in 1984 by founders Clark P. Halstead and Diane M. Ramirez. As a large firm with over a thousand brokers across all of its offices, Halstead Property can bring powerful experience to serve sales clients, buyer customers, and renters. Halstead Property has a sister company in Brown Harris Stevens. The two firms share the same parent of Terra Holdings. As displayed on its webpage, Halstead Property has won many awards from industry groups including Leading Real Estate Companies of the World. (Notice that there are two versions of the LRECW site.)

Halstead Property has many offices including a Harlem office at the new location at 2169 Frederick Douglass Boulevard by 117th Street, which they recently moved to from the older location on Lenox Avenue. This office is headed by Executive Director of Sales Gus Perry and Director of Sales Sandy Wilson.

At the local level, the Harlem office seeks to further establish and develop an engaged community presence. Broker Jeff Goodman from the Upper West Side office travels often to the Harlem office. He provided valuable information and insights for this story. He has been with Halstead Property for several years. He has a prior background in LGBTQ advertising before he entered the real estate field in 2007, so he can bring that perspective to potential seller clients and buyer customers. He also sees Harlem as quite diverse in other ways.

What he enjoys most in his job is seeing the thrill felt by buyers purchasing the first home. He offered a tip that even though buyers know a process is involved, it is important to be emotionally prepared for the stress of the murky twists and turns along the way.

Jeff moved to Harlem in January of 2013. He followed the same advice he gives to buyer customers—that Harlem is still one of the best values in the city, both in price and subway availability. Certain types of up-and-coming communities such as Harlem are hit first and hardest by events such as the recent economic crash, and take longer to demonstrate recovery. But that recovery is quietly making steady progress now in Harlem, and people from all walks of life are noticing. Diversity can certainly produce tension, but when it is guided properly, the resulting vibrancy is worth the effort.

Phone number for the Harlem office:
(212) 381-2570

Main Halstead Property webpage: www.halstead.com. List of Halstead Property offices: Click the Locations link at the bottom of the main web page.

Jeff Goodman's agent page: www.halstead.com/real-estate-agent/jeffrey-goodman



Some of Jeff's listings currently on the market

Real Estate

Harlem Real Estate Market Update

By Deondra Carter

The Manhattan real estate market is off to an even better start than 2013. Bolstered by a strong ending in 2013, the first quarter of 2014 experienced a high number of sales and record-breaking prices. There were 3,307 sales in Manhattan in the first quarter, up 34.6 percent the same time last year and the highest first quarter total in seven years according to the Douglas Elliman 1Q-2014 Manhattan Sales Report. The price per square foot reached \$1,363, 23.6 percent above the prior year and set a 25-year record.

In Harlem, prices were up by 9.7 percent and an astounding 145 percent in East Harlem compared to last year according to Trulia.com. The huge jump in

East Harlem was based on 18 sales within the past year and can be attributed to the increase in townhouses and new condo units that were on the market. As seen throughout Manhattan, low inventory and strong demand continue to push prices north.

Sales in the Harlem market included a diverse mix of condos, co-ops, and townhouses. Within Harlem (including East Harlem and Hamilton Heights) there were 82 condo sales with a median price per square foot of \$693 and an average sale price of \$540,000. Standout sales numbers were reached at new condo developments such as Saint Anne's Court at 48 West 138th street and 234 West 148th Street with 20 and 13 sales in the first quarter respectively. There were 16 recorded townhouse (1-4 family) sales with an average sales price of \$1,314,433. Recorded sales for townhouses

under \$50,000 were excluded from the results. There were 44 co-op sales with an average sales price of \$227,500. All data was collected from records from the NYC Department of Finance, Property Shark, and Street Easy.

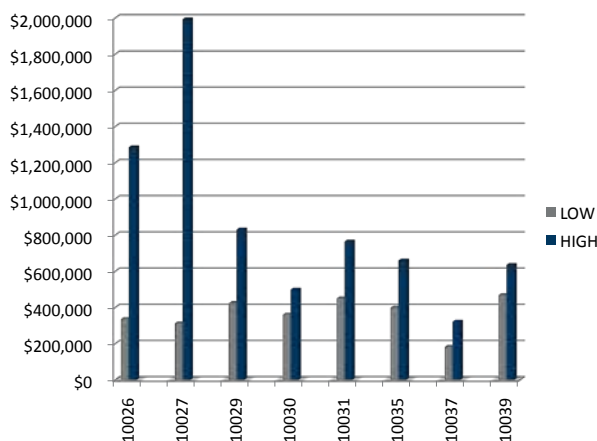
Expect to see a continued trend of strong sales, an increase in prices as well as new condo developments in the second quarter.

Congratulation to all the happy homebuyers and sellers!

For questions or information about market, feel free to contact me, Deondra Carter, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson at Douglas Elliman Real Estate by email at Deondra.carter@elliman.com

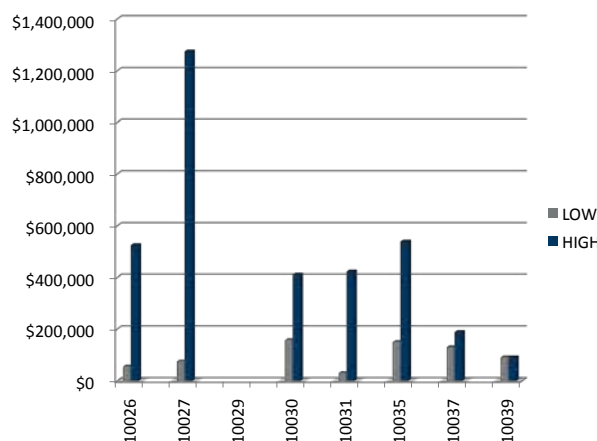
Harlem Condos

1Q 2014



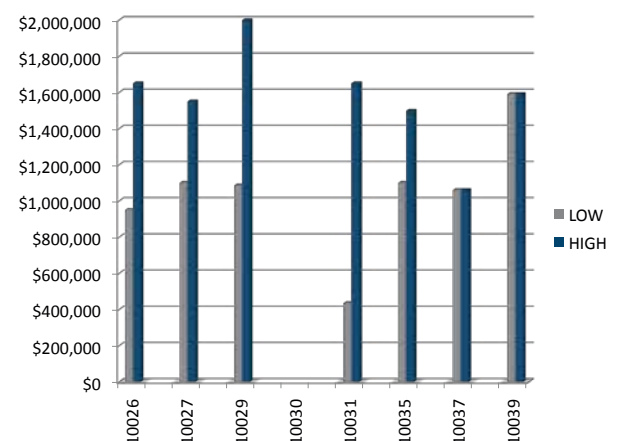
Harlem Co-ops

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Harlem Townhouses

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Wendy Wood brings to her clients not only a friendly smile, but a genuine enthusiasm for what she does. She is eager to help clients find their new homes, and feels honored being chosen to be part of such an important and exciting process. Originally from Oregon, Wendy moved to New York 7 years ago and

picked Harlem as home. Wendy proudly claims to know everyone in her building, stating that she loves the urban environment mixed with the exciting and friendly people. As a property investor herself she is uniquely qualified to help Buyer, Seller and Rental clients.

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New Tech Hub Offering Shared Workspace for Entrepreneurs and Startups: The Innovation Center @3401

By Marilou Regan

PHILADELPHIA, PA—If you're a fledgling entrepreneur who needs affordable office space, or a tech startup that would benefit from a collaborative atmosphere, you now have a solution to your business dilemmas at a new tech hub being launched in West Philadelphia.

Thanks to strategic partnership between Drexel University and the Science Center that supports a business incubator for emerging technologies, the Innovation Center @3401 (ic@3401) is being lauded as an exciting innovation and entrepreneurship hub with share workspace and a collaborative spirit.

"What it means for innovators and entrepreneurs at Drexel and in the region is that their startup companies will have both a place and the support they need to put down roots and grow right here in Philadelphia," said Keith Orris, Drexel's senior vice president for corporate relations and economic development.



The center will create a unique community with the brilliant minds of academia and industry; it's where entrepreneurs can hone their ideas, sharpen their skills and grow their companies in a community of support. At the Innovation Center, individuals and startups can find inspiration from their peers and get advice from seasoned professionals.

Applications <http://drexel.edu/excite/initiatives/ic3401/> are being accepted for the new workspace to be opened later in the spring. The 17,500-square-foot Innovation Center will offer 24/7 access for entrepreneurs through an open membership, starting at \$300 a month, that offers flexible workstations and dedicated office space. Fees include rent, utilities, WiFi, and amenities, such as a business concierge, mail services, shared office equipment, conference rooms and kitchen facilities.

ic@3401 residents will also have access to networking and educational programming and Science Center and Drexel resources, including the Expressive and Creative Interaction Technologies (ExCITE) Center, which is focused on the

interactive communication technologies and the arts.

"This is another major step in our efforts to create an innovation nexus at Drexel and expand the ecosystem in University City," Orris said.

"The partnership with the University City Science Center extends the nexus across campus, reaching from the Science Center to our Innovation Neighborhood adjacent to 30th Street Station. It illustrates how committed Drexel is to supporting entrepreneurs in the Philadelphia region."

The Innovation Center @3401 will also include the new worldwide headquarters for DreamIt Ventures, a tech startup accelerator program that launched in Philadelphia in 2008 at the Science Center (and expanded to New York, Baltimore, Austin, and Israel).

"Philadelphia is America's first startup," Mayor Michael Nutter has frequently noted, referring to fact that our founding fathers gathered here in 1787 to draft the Constitution, which is a business plan

for the first democracy and a model that is still in existence today.

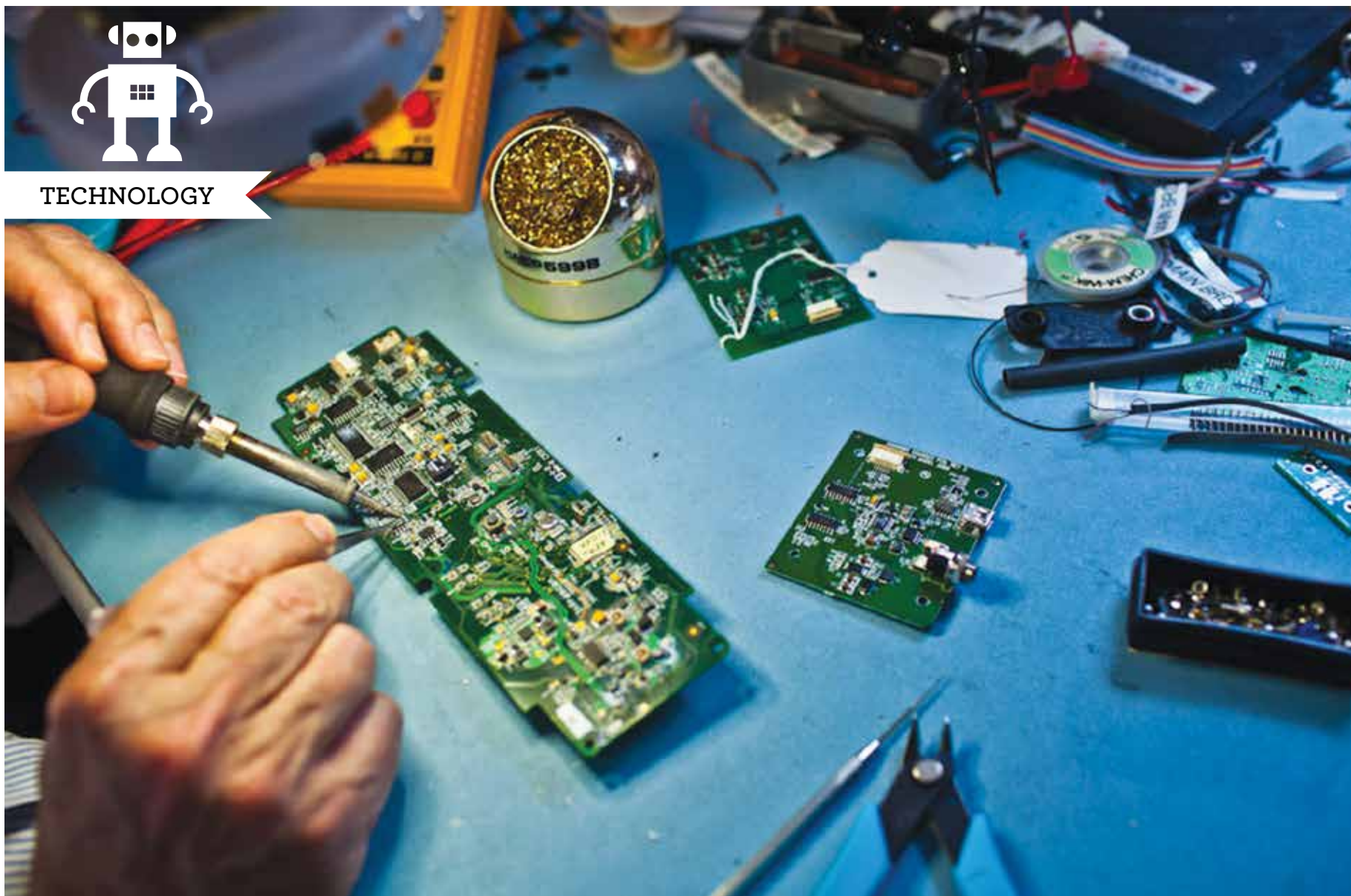
The Innovation Center continues the legacy of our forefathers with the University City tech tank located within the heart of Philadelphia's Innovation Neighborhood, where Drexel University has their own legacy of supporting the community residents.

Most recently, Drexel's work in civic engagement was recognized as part of a major initiative for the City of Philadelphia, the Promise Zone. Philadelphia was one of five sites and just three cities in the country selected for the Promise Zone designation, a federal initiative to accelerate revitalization efforts.

"(Drexel) has developed a comprehensive strategy to enrich its urban environment," said Lucy Kerman, vice provost for university and community partnerships. "And this is built around the key dimensions of a healthy neighborhood, with a simultaneous focus on a clean and safe public environment, housing, strong public schools, retail and cultural amenities, services for health and wellness, and good jobs."



TECHNOLOGY



In frascaan-Optofluidics Campus. UNIVERSITY CITY SCIENCE CENTER

University **City** Science Center — Philly's Growing **Research Park**

By Austin Arrington

As America searches for innovative ways to stimulate local economies and stay competitive in a global market, business and science incubators are popping up all over the country. Philadelphia's University City Science Center (UCSC) is one of the pioneers of the incubator model, providing lab and office space for startup, growing, and established companies since 1963.

More than 350 organizations have successfully graduated from the Science

Center, leading to 15,000 people now employed by the 93 graduate companies in the Greater Philadelphia Area alone. The Science Center's Port business incubator gives startups and entrepreneurs access to topnotch resources — including collaboration and sharing with Philly's major academic institutions (namely the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel), collaboration with other start-ups, grant-writing support, marketing and PR assistance, exposure to policy makers, connectivity with capital, office space, and wet and dry labs.

The Science Center has a somewhat

unusual structure; it is a nonprofit with 31 shareholders from colleges, universities, hospitals, and research institutions across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Historically, its roots in the nonprofit sector have to do with the role that the Science Center has played in Philly's economic development. "We started as an urban renewal project. This area in West Philadelphia was essentially condemned by the city, and they allocated four units — two of the units went to Penn, one went to Drexel, and the last one became the Science Center," said Science Center President and CEO Stephen Tang.

Here are some figures to get some idea of the degree to which the Science Center currently stimulates Philly's economy. Annually, graduate companies and Port residents generate \$9.2 billion in the region. Port residents have raised over \$116 million in investment and \$14 million in federal funding since 2006. \$64.5 million in tax revenue from graduate and resident organizations goes to Philly and Pennsylvania annually. Resident and graduate organizations from the Science Center generate over 40,000 regional jobs. The average employee salary of the graduate companies is \$89,000.

Currently there are 58 Port business incubator companies operating at the Science Center, covering a wide range of potential market opportunities — from healthcare to green tech. We'll go over just a handful. Adaptimmune LLC is a startup out of the United Kingdom, developing treatments to enhance the ability of immune systems to respond to diseases such as HIV, melanoma, ovarian cancer, and hepatic cancer. FLUX Photon Corporation is a research and development company focused on developing materials for renewable energy applications. Hospitalis is a Canadian company that provides mobile, web-based assistance to physicians, allowing multidisciplinary care teams to track patient progress throughout treatment plans.

29 new development projects in University City were recently advanced or completed — representing 4,922,050 million sq. ft. of new office, research, residential, academic, and medical facilities, along with 4.19 acres of public space. This real estate development will mean new connections and opportunities for Science Center residents. Here are some highlights: Drexel's LeBow College of Business was completed in September 2013; UPenn's Neural-Behavioral Sciences Building is slated for completion by Spring 2015; UPenn's South Bank Redevelopment project is ongoing; Penn Medicine's Advanced Care Hospital Pavilion will be completed by January 2015; The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Buerger Center for Advanced Pediatric Care will also be done in 2015; and the American Campus Communities is working on the Lancaster Avenue Development for mixed-use retail and student housing (with estimated completion by Fall 2015).

At some point one has to ask what is the impact of this sort of development on communities, and what is the connection between research and medicine-based development to gentrification?

"We've always been at this interface between academia and industry. And back in the '60s what that really meant was growing the economy, the higher education and medicine based economy... the main mission was not innovation, the main mission was to stabilize this neighborhood," Tang said.

The West Philly of the early '60s, where the Science Center first broke ground, was much different than it is today. According to Tang, photographs of the old neighborhood portrayed a "ramshackle collection of saloons and taverns."

"In fact some of our contributions have to do with working with local community," Tang said. "We had the highest concentration of indigent African Americans, some of whom were afraid they were going to be displaced, so we had to work with the neighborhood in that respect. So our community mission was really set before this vision of innovation and entrepreneurship."

The Science Center's historical relationship to the community in West Philadelphia can be told in different ways, depending on whose perspective it is. In 1966 "civil rights advocates" warned that the condemning of Unit 3 by the United States Department of Housing might cause riots. The situation was deescalated when the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) agreed to return 7.6 acres in public housing across Unit 3.

Questioning the role of development projects like UCSC on the existing Black community is not unreasonable. According to the 1960 federal census, non-whites occupied 333 of 429 units (almost 78 percent) in the redevelopment area. Ten years later, once Unit 3 was cleared, only 15 residences remained in the neighborhood. A local population was displaced, with the majority of residents being Black. Eminent domain is the legal process behind condemnation, requiring that the government fairly compensates people whose property is taken. In the case of Unit 3 residents, compensation consisted of moving costs and consulting services.

While it's undeniable that UCSC led to a population shift in West Philadelphia, it is also true that the redevelopment project has led to economic opportunities and job growth in Philadelphia and the surrounding regions (especially in the pharma and biotech sectors).

Tang's parents were immigrants from China who came to the States to work in academia. Tang's upbringing motivated him to earn his doctorate in Chemical



University City Science Center UNIVERSITY CITY SCIENCE CENTER

Engineering from Lehigh University and an M.B.A from the Wharton School of Business at UPenn. The entrepreneurial environment fostered by UCSC also supports a diverse background of scientists and engineers from all over the world.

"There's a very strong correlation between immigrants and entrepreneurship," Tang said.

While it is true that the development of UCSC over the last 40 plus years has contributed to an overall trend of gentrification in West Philly, it also true that the Science Center has grown Philadelphia's economy and currently supports new cutting-edge R&D and business

opportunities in the region.

Looking ahead, promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) may have the potential to mobilize Philly's Black communities to be active in the ongoing development of UCSC (as many already are).

True innovation is spurred by diversity — diversity of ideas and of experience. People of all ethnicities and backgrounds have the opportunity to contribute to the growing enterprise and research facilitated by the Science Center, helping maintain Philly's spot on the map as a science and research superpower.

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Pod



By Heather Greenleaf

Highly themed and ultra-modern, Pod, with its shiny white curves, portal openings, pathways of light, and illumination that slowly cycles through the color spectrum, is reminiscent of Hollywood spaceship interiors. Stephen Starr's capsule shaped restaurant is long and sleek, with attentive waitstaff and white molded plastic chairs. It is from these surprisingly comfortable seats that we embarked on our meal, a pageanted journey through Pan-Asian cuisine.

Speed Racer ran silently on a flat screen television, sushi plates circled on the bar's conveyer belt, and colors on the ceiling ebbed and flowed as the waiter



cooked our Kobe Beef appetizer (\$18) tableside on a "Japanese river rock" that was round, flat, and 500 degrees Fahrenheit. His running commentary explained that the meat was not actually Kobe but Wagyu beef, a name used for certain Japanese breeds of cow. We nodded appreciatively, watching the thin strips of highly marbled meat hiss on the heat. After all the speech, sizzle, and steam, the beef itself, though, was lamentably bland and unremarkable.



There was more tableside flourish to come, and this time, it didn't disappoint. The Frosty Kobe Fried Rice (\$16) arrived in a large bowl, each ingredient isolated unto itself within before being muddled tableside by the waitstaff until homogeneous. Rice intermingled with fluffed egg, tiny morsels of beef, smoky corn, and foie gras. Although very few of these ingredients could be individually tasted, as a mixture they were irresistible. So light it nearly floated, this fried rice was perfectly greaseless, salty, and satisfying.

Other successes at Pod included an overflowing bowl of brilliantly green steaming hot edamame (soy beans) flecked with salt crystals (\$7), and the octopus appetizer special (\$17). Chewy corpora and charred tentacle tips were bedded on melting leeks and scallions. Bordered by a spicy red sauce that added tang and fire, a soothing muting was found in the addition of soft hunks of potato.

Soft, luscious crabmeat and white rice filled the Dynamite Roll (\$9), bound in a delicate chili soy wrap speckled with peppery heat. The Uni Roll (sea urchin, \$10), with its signature lumpy orange brine, was clean and classic, allowed to stand alone without embellishment.



A sweet tomato-tamarind sauce doused the Spicy Malaysian Style Lobster (\$25), and beneath a haystack of crunchy bean sprouts swam a lobster tail, halved down the middle and still encased in its shell. Freed lobster claws, long carrots, bright snap peas, peanuts, and billowy egg floated within the red sea. Sharp yet sugary, the sauce was cloying, and though the bean sprouts added crunch, they could not balance the overly sugary dish.

While the lobster wasn't a favorite, it certainly was interesting and unusual. The futuristic experience at Pod itself is unique, and in line with the space-age décor, the octopus, Dynamite Roll, and fried rice were stellar.

Pod earns 3 out of 5 Keys for beautifully presented distinctive and elevated Pan-Asian cuisine.

A Note about the Keys Rating System:

Dining out can be an experience of great discovery! Just as Benjamin Franklin, in the fine city of Philadelphia, tied a key to a kite string to learn more about electricity, let these reviews be your "key" to finding great restaurants in the City of Brotherly Love!



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Flip Burger Boutique

By Carmena Jarrett

Flip Burger Boutique (Poncey) is an eye-catching restaurant that sits on North Highland Avenue in the former HD1 building.

With an interior that features a mixture of pine wood tables, white lacquer chairs, not to mention a black counter bar offering an assortment of unique and interesting libations, the restaurant caters to a new and innovative take on the hamburger.

Creative director and chef Richard Blais has been a favorite of mine since his appearance on Top Chef during Season 4. He has redefined the concept of "your favorite burger joint;" think



sophistication, organic, high quality, and homegrown. This is the newest of three locations he has opened in the Atlanta area to the sheer delight of loyal patrons and the utter dismay of competitors who have had to step up their game in the region's "burger war."

The Bite: The Caesar Salad

Romaine lettuce, Grana parmesan cheese, crushed pita chips with a smoke Caesar dressing. It is a different take on a classic. My first bite was into a creamy, smoky but not spicy taste of deliciousness. There was just the correct amount of dressing on the lettuce.

The Taste: The Double

If you're going to eat a burger....EAT A BURGER! This burger was meaty, juicy, and AWESOME! I am sometimes leery of burger places because I prefer mid-rare to medium cooked burgers and I often times don't get it; but this one was perfect! It was a perfectly cooked medium rare double stacked, double bacon, double cheeseburger, topped with diced



onions, pickles, and yellow mustard.

The juiciness of the meat with the creaminess of the melted cheese and the saltiness from the bacon made this burger lip-smacking great. The fried sampler included beef fat fries, sweet potato tots and was served with coffee BBQ sauce and a blue cheese foam... very Top Chef. The vodka battered onion rings and fries were both hot and crispy. The beer mustard was good but I liked the smoky ketchup for dipping! This burger was worth every penny.

The Love: Milkshake

I simply had to taste the milkshakes! I tried the Vanilla Malted Foam Whopper Dust shake and it was very much the reason why everyone LOVES DESSERT! It was so good, the whopper dust was not overpowering, and you could taste every component in the shake.

It was my very first time at FLIP, but it



won't be my last. The food was awesome, my server was delightful, and this is definitely a great place to grab a cocktail with friends or relax on the magnificent rooftop deck with a date! The decor will draw you in with its colorful, muralled walls, but it's the food that will keep you coming back.

Contact: Carmena Jarrett via twitter @menajarrett



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Advertorial

WALMART OPENS FIRST STORES IN WASHINGTON D.C.

What Walmart Means to Washington, D.C.

Study Confirms That Walmart Supercenters Have Positive Economic Impact

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — Walmart Supercenters in California benefit communities by supporting additional job creation, small business growth and more robust sales tax revenues, according to a new economic impact report. The study was conducted by economist Lon Hatamiya of the Hatamiya Group and announced today by Walmart.



increase in the average number of retail business permits. What's more, similar-sized communities in both northern and southern California without Walmart Supercenters either experienced a decline in average taxable retail sales or fell short when compared to a similar-sized community with a Walmart Supercenter. And in some cases, both occurred.

"Walmart is focused on the facts when it comes to talking about our presence in a community and evidence shows that California communities win with Walmart, particularly in regions of the state that have fewer economic opportunities," said Kim Sentovich, senior vice president of the Pacific Division for Walmart.

"I first launched this study in 2008 and found similar results," said Lon Hatamiya. "I added an element to the current version by looking at communities without Walmart Supercenters and comparing the results. It's clear that communities with a Walmart Supercenter experience overall positive economic benefits to a local economy when compared to a community without a Walmart Supercenter."

The research revealed that on average California communities with Walmart Supercenters experience positive gains in taxable retail sales and an

SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE NEW WALMART STORES:

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- We are hiring approximately 300 associates for each store.
- We received more than 23,000 applications for Walmart jobs.

**Walmart opened H Street
and Georgia Avenue stores on
December 4th at 8:00 am.**



Chevron's Stem Zone had a host of fun and educational activities for kids.

The 2014 USA Science and Engineering Festival — STEM and the Joy of Learning

By Austin Arrington

As I inched my way through the throng of people at the 2014 USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C., I had a repeating thought. Watching ten-year-olds learn about genomics on an iPad, talking matter-of-factly about cyber security, or instructing surgical robots to cut open teddy bears, this kept repeating in my head: here are our future leaders.

I am not usually so enthusiastic about talented young people. Your kid plays Beethoven? So what? Still, seeing so many young people excited about STEM

(Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics), thinking and engaging creatively with new possibilities in medicine, new ways to live sustainably on this planet, creating deeper insights into Universal truths — the curiosity and excitement was tangible at the Festival; it gave me renewed hope in the power of eager minds to change the world for the better.

Kids already possess the most important element of the scientific mind — curiosity. Adults often get frustrated with the number of questions kids ask. However, in science asking questions is how we create and test hypotheses. As I passed by the hundreds of expo exhibits I saw

kids asking questions constantly, all while entertaining complex ideas and having fun in the process!

Lockheed Martin is the founding and host sponsor for the Festival. Lockheed Martin's exhibits had scientists, engineers, and technologists giving hands-on lessons to Festival-goers in areas such as aerospace, robotics, green energy, weather tracking, and cyber security. Here's just a sample of the exhibits. In the Orion Human Space Flight Simulator participants used actual flight controls to pilot the Orion Capsule. The Large-scale 3D Printing Robot built a structure in real-time, while kids learned about Additive Manufacturing systems. Mission Capabilities Powered by Cloud

Computing was a lesson on how cloud computing can be used for emergency response, energy savings, and space exploration.

"I've been so excited to see children's reaction to our various booths. And I hope they see how scientists and engineers have such an incredible impact on our nation's security and our daily lives," said Stephanie C. Hill, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin's Information Systems & Global Solutions — Civil business. Hill has been noted for her achievements in STEM community outreach, and was named the 2014 Black Engineer of the Year by Career Communications Group.

"I know the F-35 cockpit simulator was very popular, and it allowed students to fly the world's most advanced plane as easily as playing a video game! Lockheed Martin also showcased a large-scale 3D printer. We leverage 3-D printing to accelerate product development cycles, mitigate risk, prototype our designs and, more recently, manufacture components used in our product," said Hill.

"We also had a booth where students could browse a human genome on an iPad, which helped them grasp how a better understanding of our genetic makeup can improve our health and medical care. Through genomics, Lockheed Martin is supporting efforts to prevent, detect and treat disease for our nation's veterans."

The event was all ages and there was plenty for adults. Celebrity stage presenters and performers included Bill Nye the Science Guy, Dr. Michio Kaku, Mike Rowe, and Grammy-Award Winners "They Might Be Giants." Honestly, the adults seemed to be having as much fun as the kids. Dr. Kaku gave a talk on the emerging technologies and science that will soon restructure life as we know it. Ever thought about uploading your memories onto a computer à la The Matrix? Well, we may be closer to this possibility than you imagined. Bill Nye talked about how he accidentally fell in love with astronomy (he was attending college for engineering, and happened to take an elective taught by the legendary Carl Sagan). Mike Rowe from the TV show Dirty Jobs gave a presentation on the importance of skilled labor and its connection to STEM (recently Mike teamed up with Caterpillar to launch profoundlydisconnected.com, which promotes affordable and practical trade schooling).

As can be expected, there were strong industry interests present at the Festival. Along with Lockheed Martin other sponsors included the Northrop Grumman Foundation, Chevron, Caterpillar, Walmart, Scientific American, the U.S. Air Force, and MedImmune. These stakeholders are looking towards the next generation of industry innovators. The STEM Career Pavilion featured over 50 colleges and universities in the College Fair, and over 20 companies showcasing STEM internships, mentorships, and afterschool programs. The X-STEM Extreme STEM Symposium was held at the Convention Center on April 24th. Leading scientists and engineers gave talks and workshops aimed to empower

kids to learn about future STEM careers.

I spoke with the executive Director of Iowa's STEM Advisory Council, Dr. Jeff Weld, who stressed the importance of diversity in STEM education. "This STEM thing is a national imperative. The STEM fields are economic drivers, they're the sources of innovation, creativity, new inventions to change the world. So it's an economic imperative that we get this STEM thing right, but it's also a moral imperative. Because all of these kids are going to be consumers, voters, parents," Weld said.

"We've got a real challenge to diversify this STEM pipeline for sustainability. If we don't, this fizzles out as something that was the rage in the early 21st century (some historian one day will recount), unless we succeed in igniting the imaginations of all these kids, the various colors, ethnicities, genders (which I think events like today are going to do)."

Weld makes an interesting point. It's not enough simply to get any kid interested in STEM, the goal is to get all kids interested in STEM. Diversity, whether ethnic, racial, or gender-based means different experiences, and thus, new insights into future innovations. Of course, not all kids around the country have the same opportunities to participate in strong STEM programs. What do we do about the inner-city kid whose school can't afford new math books? If STEM is going to work in the long run, we've got to figure out how to make it accessible to all people, regardless of socio-economic background.



Lockheed Martin

Another major theme at the Festival was the connection between STEM and sustainability. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) co-sponsored this year's National Sustainable Design Expo with the USA Science and Engineering Festival. The EPA People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) Award Competition is an annual event for teams of graduate and undergraduate students to design solutions to global environmental and sustainability challenges. Here are some examples of the research projects. A team from Drexel University has developed a process to extract grease from wastewater and convert it into biodiesel. Cornell University's Textile Recycling team is designing a zero-waste process for upcycling secondhand clothing. Texas A&M University's team has designed a lighting system that uses a horizontal solar light pipe to bring full-spectrum lighting from windows into multistory inner spaces 90% of the year.

The USA Science and Engineering Festival deals with really big ideas. How are we going to transition into renewable energy sources? How can we use technology to make the world a safer place? What lies beyond the stars and how can we learn more about our Universe? These questions are so big that we can't expect them to be completely solved in a year, ten years, or even a lifetime. Knowledge is a legacy that is passed between the generations. This is why it's so important to get kids excited about STEM; they are our future torchbearers.

Despite the importance of STEM in shaping the world we live in, the Festival makes one thing abundantly clear: science is fun! Let's teach our youth not to be intimidated, but excited by STEM. Kids are good at asking questions and good at learning, and they can have a blast in the process. Let us empower kids to explore and have fun with STEM; our future depends on it.



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The Big Board: Big Surprises, Bigger Tastes

By Tom Sherman

When you walk into The Big Board, the minimalist industrial decor seems at odds with the reputation of being one of the best burger joints in D.C. Then again, a burger joint with a bar modeled in the fashion of a stock exchange is another juxtaposition that is tough to reconcile.

However, The Big Board restaurant turned out to be full of surprises; it continually under-promised and over-delivered.

The basic premise of the bar service is to maintain an inverse relationship between the number of people you bring into the bar and the bar tab. So, in theory, if you bring enough people into the bar, all of whom purchase a single draft, the price plummets and creates a run on a draft.

I attempted to go to Big Board during off-peak hours to check out the bar in action. However, my plans were foiled; they feature a Happy Hour every night, including weekends, during which all drafts and wine are \$1.50 off. While dis-

appointed, I was not going to reveal my lack of expertise in the alcohol derivatives markets; I managed to pick up a Cornerstone Copper Ale from Chocolate City Beer for \$5.50.

The start of the meal — an order of the Catfish Bites (\$7) — was by far the most mouth watering. The scrumptious golden brown nuggets were served on a bed of fresh greens along with slices of tomato and cucumber on the side. The scintillating, spice-filled aroma of the fried catfish overwhelmed the senses. The catfish was perfectly cooked; the crunch of the breading blended seamlessly into the juicy morsels. When combined with the sweet and spicy chili sauce, the dish had succulence unrivaled since the last time I attended a fish fry in North Carolina. “The next morning I woke up salivating and planning my trip back to The Big Board (after dreaming I ordered three extra plates of Catfish Bites just for myself).”

The burgers were exquisite — cooked to perfection, juicy, each with their own special kick and zing. The 6 oz., Great Chicago Fire burger (\$9) came with a small side of shoestring French fries (\$2.50). The name of the burger refer-



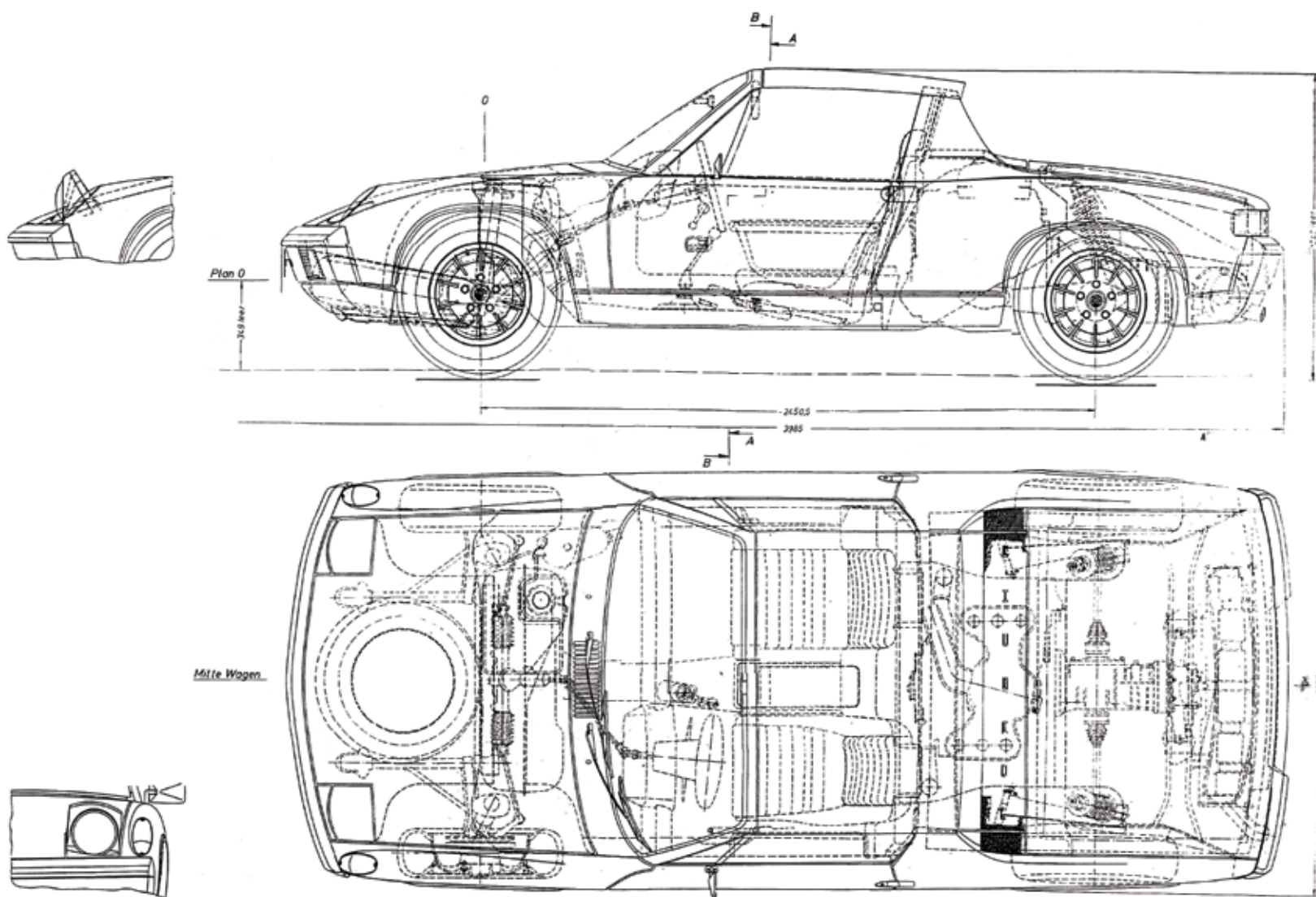
ences the 1871 fire that ravaged the city of Chicago; true to its name, the fiery burger scorches the taste buds. However, the fire roasted chili and mango salsa covering the patty and spicy chipotle aioli sauce are more reminiscent of a tropical burger than that of Chicago. But the burger was too delicious to argue semantics. The shoestring French fries were crisp and seasoned with a coating of salt and pepper, but had the option of coming tossed in Old Bay Seasoning, too.

The second deliciously greasy burger to grace the table was the 6 oz. Memphis Blues burger (\$8.50) piled high with crispy ‘tobacco onions’ and small side

order of sweet potato fries (\$3.50). Sweet barbecue flavorings added a soulful touch to the burger; not merely a swath of BBQ sauce dumped atop the bun, but rather a precise amount of sauce that had been worked into meat to leave a lasting impression. The sweet potato fries were thick cut and tossed with parsley and mozzarella. Although not normally one to enjoy sweet potato fries, these had a creamy consistency and the mozzarella offered a salty balance to the sweetness.

Service was impeccable; there was no rush to make decisions, and explanations regarding the “stock market concept” of the bar were provided clearly and thoroughly. Our server was attentive and responsive, yet not overbearing. As the meal was wrapping up, a family communicating in American Sign Language was seated next to our table — our server signed with them.

4.5 out of 5 stars for the outstanding catfish and sweet and spicy chili sauce; the delicious, perfectly cooked burgers; a novel and unique concept well-executed; and an impeccable wait staff. Well done!



Engineering Reinvention

By Allison Nim

In the drawn out wake of Detroit's economic decline, a certain atmosphere has manifested out of a collective drive to remain resilient; a sterling, relentless hope that this city will triumph. It is in this air of encouragement, embracing ideas, and novel creativity that an open frontier has actualized for all types of creative outlets. Yet, our nation seems blissfully unaware of this incredible heartbeat pulsing within our city every second, however rooted it may be. These roots share space in the history of both Detroit and Michigan, within the shadow of the automotive industry that has permeated local and state economies

for nearly the last century. What many people might not know is that Michigan's engineering vocation is virtually unparalleled.

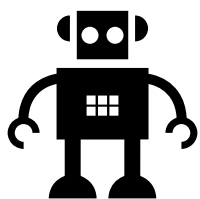
The gradual decline of the automotive industry presence in Detroit and surrounding suburbs nearly four decades ago generated a profound economic impact which rippled throughout the state, producing effects still evident today. However, it is the very existence of this deeply reinforced history that has contributed to an overwhelming demand for engineers in Michigan. For better or for worse, Detroit, Michigan and the automotive industry have an association that will always linger, if not completely overlap. A recent economic study found a shelf life of a mere three days for a job seeker specializing in engineering and searching in Michigan, with salary expectations at or around six figures. Demands have become so great that companies have reached across state borders to source prospects and woo them to relocate to Michigan, with demand increases showing no imminent signs of shifting down.

Michigan ranks number one in the country for engineers per capita, an ironic twist considering the occupation currently held as one of the most reliable is the occupational foundation for the automotive industry (which has proved in remarkable example the consequences of what can happen when a region depends almost exclusively on a singular industry). Yet in spite of the turbulent history, it remains self-evident that because of the supply and demand for engineers, Michigan became one of the fastest improving economies immediately following the recession by way of an insatiable demand and growing supply of engineers. And then there are the subsequent domino effects, those that always accompany economic fluctuations.

In Michigan's automotive industry, an estimated 475 new job opportunities will arise in other industries for every 100 new engineering jobs. Educational institutions centered on engineering have responded as well: there have been statewide increases in technical university sites along with highly regarded pre-college programs designed

to optimally prepare students looking towards an engineering future (Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program or DAPCEP, for instance). Philanthropic efforts have reaped the benefits of successes in the engineering world as well. In 2012, Ford Motor Company donated \$10 million to a sprawling cultural block within Detroit known as Mexicantown in an effort to strengthen Detroit's neighborhoods through a community center, offering cultural events, education job training, and employment prospects for youth.

Contrary to what might be the general perception, opportunity has not stagnated in Detroit city or the State of Michigan. Here, there is a broad population of sincerely proud citizens who deeply appreciate the vibrant culture and rich opportunities woven into their home. Perhaps the most critical objective for Detroit and Michigan is to publicize the awareness of substantial opportunity existing here in both engineering jobs and a genuine culture lifestyle, which is by all means quite a worthy objective.



TECHNOLOGY

Tips for Finding a Reliable and Affordable Mechanic

By *E. Imani Williams*

Automobile owners need to have a good mechanic on speed-dial. One never knows just when a car emergency will arise, and being caught without a go-to mechanic can add stress. A mechanic must also be reliable and treat you and your vehicle with respect. So what's the best way to make sure you are not getting ripped off? The first thing is to do the homework.

For first-time car owners who purchase brand new vehicles, owning a car has its benefits. You're covered for standard repairs for at least one year. This coverage can be upgraded by purchasing an extended warranty. During this period, maintenance checks are free and, with a new vehicle, things are less likely to go wrong. At this stage, the dealership works in favor of the consumer.

For used cars, things are a bit trickier. A thoughtful seller provides the buyer with accurate records and shares information that may need to be addressed in the future. With a seller who is upfront, the buyer will have a feel for anything that may go wrong down the road and can prepare ahead of time. Buyers must beware that they may not get the whole story when inquiring about a car. Either way, you will need to secure a mechanic who can do a full inspection before making a purchase.

CAR REPAIR OPTIONS

Dealerships

Dealerships can take the biggest chunk out of your wallet. Unless a specific repair is covered under warranty, this option can be the most costly. However, dealerships guarantee repairs with a warranty. If problems persist after a dealership attempted to fix your car, you have the right by law to return your car to be properly repaired at no additional charge. Sometimes dealerships provide coupons for a few bucks off repairs, but if your car's needs are considerable, you could end up paying a hefty sum.

Auto Repair Chains

Auto repair chains abound. They're usually great for an oil change and, in most cases, you can be in and out in under half an hour. For major jobs, like transmission work, expect to pay premium rates. It would be helpful to know whether a shop has a specialty. If the chain specializes in brake work then you may not want extensive work on your car to be done there (such as fixing the transmission). A shop that specializes in transmissions is better suited to drop a new engine in your vehicle.

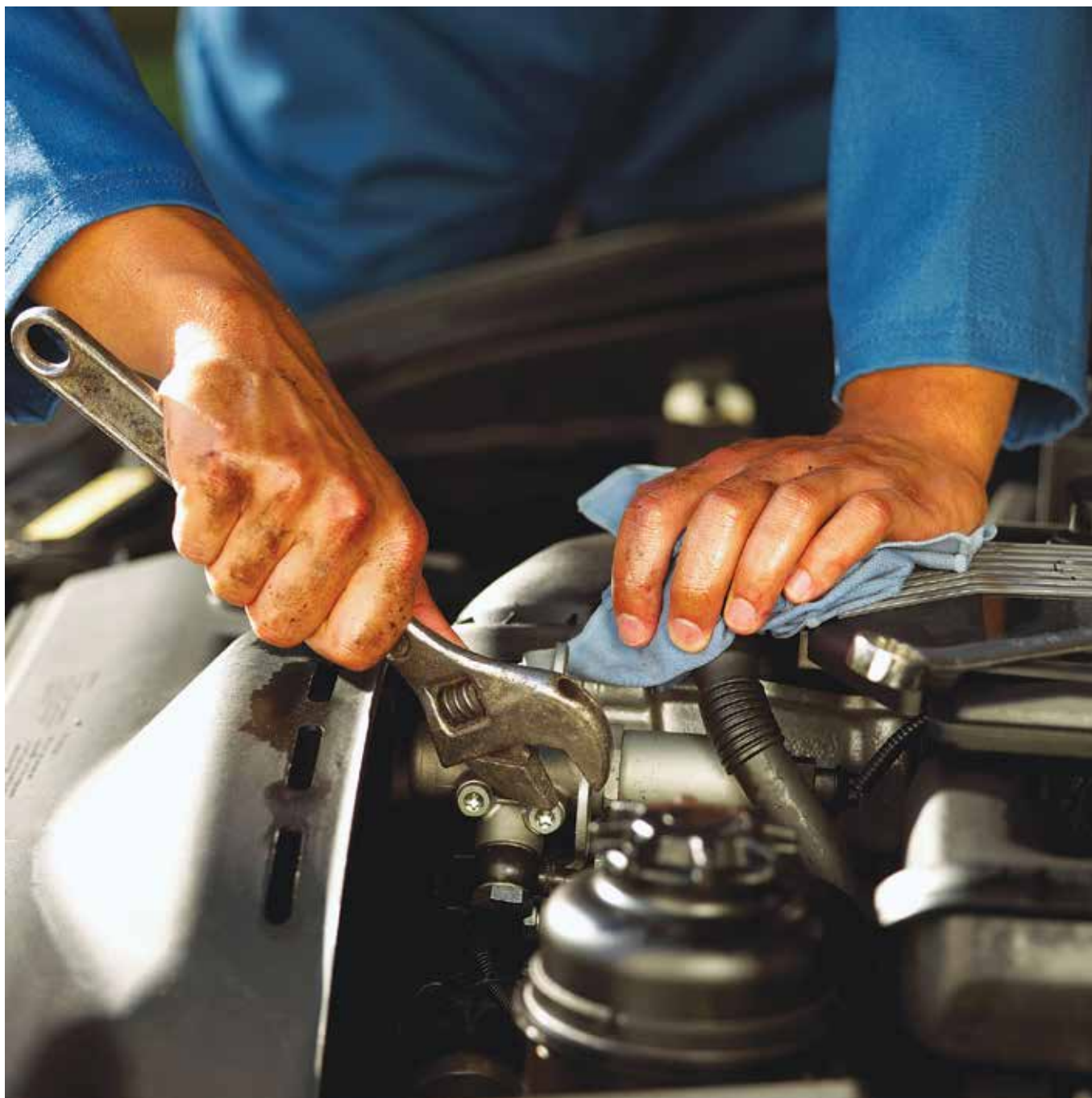
Indie Shops

This is the shop on the corner that has been in the neighborhood for years. It is family-owned and if you have heard good things about it, give it a shot. Keep in mind that businesses change owners all the time. The family business that your parents trusted to do quality work may still bear the name of the original owner on the signage, but it may be under new management or ownership. The new owners may have kept the original name in order to bank on the reputation of their predecessors. Independently-

owned shops may offer a bit of a break on the damages once a relationship is developed, or if you're a really good negotiator. Be clear about the warranty on any work that is to be done.

Shade Tree Mechanics

Shade tree mechanics work out of their homes. They set up shop in their backyard after working in a garage all day. Retired mechanics are masters of the trade and will often take on jobs. If you can find one, consider yourself lucky. If someone refers you to such a mechanic,



have this reference make a call on your behalf and make an introduction. It doesn't hurt to take someone that knows something about cars along when meeting the potential new mechanic for the first time.

Specialty and Foreign Cars

Mercedes, BMWs and other specialty cars are top of the line. They can also be expensive to maintain. Parts may not be easy to find and you could pay a high cost. With high-end vehicles, premium gasoline and grade-A treatment are the norm. If you purchase a used specialty car, make sure that you understand any nuances that might keep it from running in top shape.

BEST RESOURCES FOR SECURING A RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE MECHANIC

Word of Mouth

The number one resource for a reliable mechanic is word of mouth. Talk to your friends and colleagues. If they tell you about a mechanic they love, go for it! Find out if their preferred mechanic keeps regular hours, works with customers on price, or allows payment arrangements.

Social Media

Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter can be valuable resources. Post your query, be specific about what needs

to be repaired, and actively seek referrals from those who can steer you in the direction of a reliable mechanic who will offer a fair price for the needed work.

Travel Clubs

Travel clubs offer repair shop names by geographical area. They also include tips and calendars for suggested scheduled maintenance, and can provide reminders for oil changes and seasonal upkeep.

Online Car Forums

Online car forums can be a mixed bag. Car enthusiasts, novices, and anyone needing real answers to maintenance queries can meet online to find and give advice. You can post a question and get several responses. However, some answers are very helpful, while others are just bad advice. The threads on these sites can become quite lengthy and full of comments from people who believe they are experts. If two or more people agree on a problem, then that is a good sign. Take what you need and leave the rest.

Professional Auto Repair Talk Shows

Talk radio shows offering advice from auto professionals can help you determine what is wrong with your car and offer suggestions on fair trade rates. They can be beneficial if you can get through and explain your issue. Some people end the call satisfied with their

free consultation and they can move forward with confidence. Sometimes callers are disappointed at finding out their damages will be substantial, but it helps them gain understanding of what to expect when scouting mechanics and a better idea of what the repairs will cost.

Check-In on Progress

Having a day and time scheduled to retrieve your car, only to find out that it is not ready can be a major stressor. Check in with your mechanic for an update before your scheduled pick-up time. Sometimes car part orders are delayed and it is not the fault of the mechanic. In this case, a courtesy call would be appreciated, but that may not happen. Be proactive by checking in and inquiring about the progress.

Quotes

Any changes to the original quote require your authorization. No additional work should be performed without your approval.

Warranty

A warranty should be granted for the work performed. If you notice that your car is having the same problems it was serviced for, call and return the vehicle to the mechanic. Don't wait until the warranty days are coming to a close. Most businesses will honor warranties without hassle, but there are shysters who deliberately fail to correct the prob-

lem and will work harder at manipulating the contract instead of honoring it.

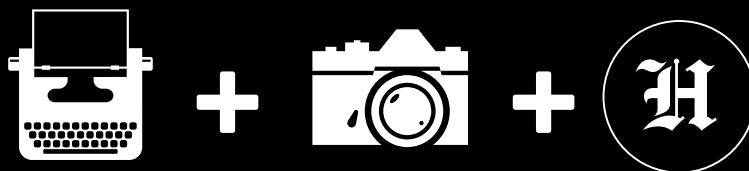
Payment Arrangements

Payment arrangements can help reduce the impact of emergency repairs on your budget by giving you more time to come up with the full payment for service. Auto repair chains are more likely to offer arrangements through third-party services. With shade tree mechanics, the option for arrangements may vary. Sometimes the arrangement depends on the developed relationship between the customer and the service provider. For example, if "Gus" worked on your parents' cars, he may be more willing to cut you a break than someone who has no connection to you or someone you know. Find out if they take credit cards and checks before signing off for work. Sometimes a post-dated check is allowed. It can't hurt to ask.

Perks

A reliable, affordable mechanic who offers perks will surely attract a wider base. Perks can include a complimentary car wash and light detail work, or free oil changes and wiper blade replacement. With good service, a perk is like topping an ice cream sundae with extra whipped cream.

When you finally secure a great mechanic, return an in-kind favor by spreading the word. The business referrals will be appreciated.



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