BY SARAH SILVER

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To advertise the shaving cream, Burma Shave erected thousands of sets of five consecutive signs along highways all over America and neighboring countries. Each sign had a segment of a rhyming jingle. The punch line always was followed by the words, “Burma Shave” on the fifth sign.

The company had six executives, five secretaries, one woman in the basement and one part-time jingle judge. One of the executives - an inventor - hooked up a “Rube Goldberg” contraption of vats and pipes on the main floor where the shaving cream was mixed. The liquid ran down through the pipes into the basement. There, an assembly line loaded with aerosols stopped while the cans were filled under each pipe. The unknown woman in the basement placed the cans in cartons which the innovative assembly table shoved into railroad boxcars waiting by the door.

The five old-timers in the office included Fidelia, Venera, Gwen-Rose, Margaret and Hispatia, each having worked for the company at least two decades.

Once every three years the company advertised in a contest magazine for jingle contestants. It was my job to read the entries that were mailed in and type the best 600 on a master sheet. The six executives would then check

Save &/or Rave Burma-Shave

Disaster Comes to a Contest

BY SARAH SILVER

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“This Changes Everything” Climate change documentary by Naomi Klein

Naomi Klein at Chichely Hall in the United Kingdom. Still from “This Changes Everything.” FREE SHOWING! Ed Kashi

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church invites the public to a free screening on Friday, February 12, 2016, 7-9 pm.

2315 Chicago Ave. So. Mpls. 55404

Naomi Klein didn’t think climate change was her issue but when she realized the close link between environmental destruction and inequality, everything changed. In Naomi’s home country, the Canadian government granted virtual free rein to companies seeking oil in Alberta’s tar sands, creating a boom town in Fort McMurray. Like large numbers of activists across the world, the indigenous population in Alberta protested the environmental damage. How can we connect the dots among movements around the world to tackle climate change and inequality at the same time? Filmed over 211 shoot days in nine countries and five continents over four years, “This Changes Everything” is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change. Inspired by Naomi Klein’s international non-fiction bestseller “This Changes Everything,” the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana’s Powder River Basin to the Pine Ridge Reservation to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond.

Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein’s narrative, connecting the carbon in the air with our economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis our failed economic system into the controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis our failed economic system into the controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis our failed economic system into the controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis our failed economic system into the controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis our failed economic system into

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, Hennepin County Staff regarding the Public Comment Period for the I-35W Access Project Environmental Study & 3rd Precinct Police. This meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Delivery Pizza & Beverages will be provided. You would like more information or would like to get involved with the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at KnowlesDougherty@bryant.mail.com.

Free Delivery Pizza & Beverages provided. Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English or preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials.

Keep your eyes on

Volunteer treasures at SuperBargain's!!

INGEBRETSEN’S
Scandinavian Gifts and Food
1601 E. Lake St., Minneapolis 612-729-9335
Mon-Fri 9:30-6, Sat 9-5
检察院
D.A.’s office
(207) 419-9149
www.darienpolice.org

February Issue Submission Deadline
January 15

“Let me make the newspaper and I care who makes the laws and the religion and the laws.” – Wendell Phillips

Programs at the Franklin Library

1314 E. Franklin Avenue
Complete program list or info
612-543-6925
www.blclib.org
Mon, Fri; 9-9; Sat; 9-5; Sun; 1-5

Volunteers who helped in making this issue:
Robert Albee, Alianna Health, BackYard Initiative

Volunteers who had a part in making this issue:
Robert Albee, Allina Health, BackYard Initiative

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Buster Keaton’s “The Cameraman” with live soundtrack by “Dreamland Faces” share Memorial Day Highlights while fundraising and plans begin to replace over 60 Civil and Spanish-American War marble markers

**Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery**

*Sue Hunter Weir*

132" in a Series

While our friends on the East Coast are digging out after their second worst blizzard in recorded history, we’re thinking spring. That’s right. Even though it’s February in Minnesota, we are getting ready for the Cemetery’s reopening in April. In addition to our usual winter-time activities, such as planning a Memorial Day observance, organizing some tours, and giving some talks to people who want to know more about Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery and its residents, we have a few other projects that we’re working on.

The first and easiest (because we’re now doing this for the third time) is planning another Cinema in the Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. It was so easy, that we’re already done. On Saturday, May 28th, at sundown, we’ll be showing “The Cameraman.” Local musicians, Dreamland Faces, will be back by very popular demand to perform a live soundtrack. If you haven’t been to either of the two earlier Keaton movies, it’s time for you to join in. If you’ve been to one, or both, of the other two movies, you already know how much fun these movies are.

Our next project is a big one. We’re working on a five-year plan to replace the marble markers for veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. It’s not clear yet how many need to be replaced but it will be no fewer than sixty. This year we will be starting with the markers in Blocks A and B (the southeast quadrant of the cemetery). Only four of the markers in these two sections, the two oldest sections in the cemetery, are in reasonably good shape. Fourteen markers are broken or illegible, and four confirmed veterans, for reasons that are unknown, never had markers. Cemetery records indicate that another three men were military veterans but their cards are marked “military unit unknown.” We know that one of them is not eligible for a military marker since he fought in the state militia during the Dakota Conflict and Veterans Affairs only provides markers for those who served in the federal army. We have not been able to confirm the service records of the other two.

The majority of markers in Blocks A and B were placed in 1888. One hundred and twenty-eight years later, they are in rough shape. Marble is a beautiful but relatively soft stone and Minnesota winters are hard on marble markers. Those that are broken or illegible will be removed and placed flat on the veterans’ graves.

The new markers are 44” long and will be set at the midpoint—22” above ground and 22” below—which means that they do not have to be set in concrete bases. In fact, markers in other sections of the cemetery that were placed in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and were set in concrete bases, have not fared well. The concrete set harder than the marble and many of the markers have snapped off at ground level. Those markers need to be replaced as well.

If all goes as planned, we will be ordering and placing 19 new markers this year. Each marker weighs approximately 200 pounds so there will be 3,800 pounds—slightly less than two tons—of marble being delivered from a quarry in Missouri.

While the markers are free to any and all eligible veterans, the cost of setting them is up to the person or organization who applied for them. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War made a very generous donation to help with the cost of setting the markers but we will be working on raising more money in the upcoming months.

There is much to look forward to in the coming season so keep your eye on this space. If you have access and aren’t already following the cemetery on Facebook, you can follow us by “liking” our page at www.facebook.com/PioneersAndSoldiersCemetery. Thank you to all of you for your support and we’ll see you in the spring.

**Pangea World Theater leads Lake Street Arts!**

*BY ALEJANDRA TOBAR ALATRIZ*

Lake Street Arts! is an interdisciplinary leadership and community development, multi-year collaborative initiative focusing on place-making and place-keeping through the arts, led by Pangea World Theater. Working with artists from East Africa, Indigenous artists as community organizers that will contextualize Pangea’s projects that we’re working on.

Pangea World Theater leads Lake Street Arts! as an ensemble piece with Latinx, East African, and Dakota/Lakota/Ojibwe actors.

• “LUCA” – Latin@s Unidos por la Cultura y el Arte—and other creative coalitions centering the arts and culture in their work across industry through dusk dance parties and open mic gatherings.

• “Lake Street Arts Cabaret” - the five-hour street event down East Lake Street with Patrick’s Cabaret, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Elsa’s House of Sleep, Himalayan Restaurant, and Ghandi Mahal Restaurant AND other community learning gatherings and allied collaborations.

• LSA! Local Directing and Theater Institute, building performance capacity with community members for a street festival.

• LSA! Celebrate Minneapolis Indigenous People’s Day (formerly Columbus Day) October 12th.

Through the transformative power of the arts, we will:

• Support cross-industry & cross-cultural dialogue, creating, learning, strategizing, & organizing AND

• Contribute to highlighting Lake Street as a place where people love to live, seek to work, and come to learn and play.

www.artplaceamerica.org/grantee/lake-street-arts

Keep a healthy family at the top of your list.

The Hennepin County Child and Teen Checkups program can help with the details.

Services are free for children, teens and young adults who are on Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare, including young parents.

Call to learn more 612-348-5131

www.hennepin.us/checkups
Thriving Lake Street Businesses & Quality Neighborhoods require Strong Public Safety.

Lake Street business owners recently discussed how improved Public Safety might grow their business. The EPIC organization's short version mission statement suggests that we need to do something about this.

EPIC shall work to create from our global roots, a safe community that fosters open communication, mutual support among neighbors and a positive and uplifting future for all.

Cameras can help Public Safety

After hearing of the successful prosecution of shooters caught on the newly installed cameras at Peavey Park and after reviewing the drastic reduction in crime following the installation of the Bloomington Ave. Crime Cameras, East Phillips Neighbors came together and voted to take positive action to protect our people.

Money saved by having an all-volunteer neighborhood organization will be used to place a camera in a strategic location on Lake Street and, we hope, a second one elsewhere in a hot spot in the neighborhood. The Camera data will be accessible only by the Police and will be used only for crime control. The mere presence of Cameras has proven to be a strong deterrent. It is hoped that this will make all of us safer and will be used only for crime control. The mere presence of Cameras has proven to be a strong deterrent.

You can help by being vigilant, watching for crime, and reporting suspicious activity to 911. To protect yourself, always insist that you remain anonymous. Be safe!

For Your 2016 Calendar: *

The EPIC Board of Directors usually meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 2/6/2016 and 3/5/2016 at 10:00 AM.

The EPIC Community Meetings are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings;

Thursday, 2/11/16 and 3/10/2016 at 6:30 PM

Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.


Meeting Location: All the above meetings and events are held at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S. The Center is wheelchair accessible and all are welcome.

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, normally from April through September. Next meetings are Saturday, 4/9/2016 & 5/14/2016 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17th Ave. S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

* East Phillips Residents wanting a 2016 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478
* Watch this space for additional or changed meeting information

Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition
Sadik Warfa elected as 2016 Chairperson of Ventura Village

Chairman Warfa recently called a special Community Engagement Committee meeting to gather ideas and input for the upcoming 2016 project year. His big challenge for this year is to gain greater involvement by Latino and American Indian community people into our neighborhood activities. It is his hope that more East Africans will participate in pow wows and in cultural activities hosted by Latinos, especially with Waite House being in the same building as Ventura Village’s office. Waite House already has programs directed toward job training and food security that are rarely accessed by East Africans despite the fact that young people already speak English. Mutual efforts at outreach are needed. The sites that cultural groups often maintain to remain culturally comfortable need to be set aside if there will be additional social progress in our neighborhood. Perhaps one of the best ways to “break the ice” would be to schedule soccer and volleyball challenge matches; fun games and activities that encourage friendly competition. Of course, there’s also the bocce ball games each Saturday in the Phillips Community Center dining room. And summer biking and kayaking! Special meeting attendees readily acknowledged that they themselves rarely step outside their own cultural group to involve others or actively seek out ways to do a greater level of mingling. For several years, the idea of teaching languages is another good start to engage people outside a cultural community to come visit and learn a bit more and to share some of one’s own cultural at the same time. When the idea of Neighborhood Navigators was first proposed, it was to enable those trying to learn where the resources in this community lie and who are the connecting folks who are pivotal in bringing people together. That idea can be revived with a series of cultural meet-ups designed to trade knowledge, skills and access with our neighbors. I know how to cook some cool things; I can show you how to take good pictures and how to do healthy water exercises. Now can you take me to a mosque or church and show me how your faith works? I can then show you mine!

On top of these ideas on how to personalize our engagement to build new friendships and try out new activities, the Community Engagement Committee also outlines several activities for 2016 considered as “unfinished business.”

- Sponsor a women-only Domestic Violence workshop;
- Sponsor a Crime & Safety Workshop targeted to East Africans, especially elders in high-rises;
- Co-sponsor soccer tournaments for boys and girls of varying ages;
- Continue work on the Phillips Community Back Yard project and a new community venue;
- Conduct a door-to-door outreach to neighbors in Ventura Village; recruit for participation of activities and neighborhood membership;
- Organize a community advisory committee for the newly-constructed swimming pool;
- Sponsor and conduct casual learning classes for learning basic Somali and Spanish languages;
- Support more fitness and wellness programs to serve adults, elders and families;
- Sponsor monthly picnics in Peavy Park to bring together families of different cultures. Include a few easy to learn games.

Many of these were part of the Neighborhood Priority Plan that was just finalized by the City’s NCR program. It’s time now to implement them!

——Robert Albee

Addressing Islamophobia draws a small group for deep discussion

A mixed group of East African, American Indian and white people gathered on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to listen to one another share thoughts and concerns related to recent political posturing related to banning Muslims from entering the United States or restricting their interactions with others. Abdi Elmi presented her photos of children and youth entitled, “If my voice was heard…” compiled in Somalia and Minnesota, which remain on display at the Phillips Community Center Dining Room until February 10th.

NEXT VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:

FEBRUARY 25TH: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM
FEBRUARY 25TH: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM
MARCH 1ST: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM
MARCH 2ND: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 10TH: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 10TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM

Ventura Village is located upstairs in the Phillips Community Center at 2323 - 11th Avenue South - Minneapolis - 612-874-9070
"Chi Raq": Fails! Should have succeeded

BY HOWARD MCQUITTER II
HowardMcQuitterII@yahoo.com

On the one hand, Spike Lee puts a spotlight on the serious problem in Black America: staggering murders among African Americans, particularly the young, mainly with young black males being both perpetrators and victims of the bulk of the time. On the other hand, “Chi Raq,” the title of his most recent film, too often swings wildly into farce. Lee’s film is too schizophrenic to be a good movie which obscures what could have been good maybe if he had stuck to keeping “Chi Raq”’s drama.

Samuel L. Jackson’s role as Dolmedes, the “comic” relief, is wasted in a force appearing periodically in the movie at times when the movie should have taken its seriousness in those areas that desperately require it. Jackson, impeccably dressed in various colored three-piece suits, near the beginning of the movie, in rather sardonic tone, tells the audience: “Welcome to ‘Chi Raq’, land of pain, misery, and strife!”

Lee’s principle actress Tryonan Paris (“Dear White People”) plays Lysistrata, the name is from an ancient Greek writer Aristophanes in 411 B.C. who performed his comedy when he convinced the women of Greece to withhold sex from the men until they ended the Peloponnesian War. Fast forward to Chicago, circa 2015, Lysistrata, the girlfriend to Spartan gang leader Chi Raq (Nick Cannon), tired of all the killings, especially when Irene’s (Jennifer Hudson) young daughter is killed in an exchange of gunfire between the Spartan gang and the Trojan gang decides to take matters in her own hands. She gathers as many women on the Southside of Chicago as possible forming an informal alliance to withhold sex on lawmen, boyfriends and male associates. The story in itself at this point (and unfortunately through the whole movie) mordant, unrealistic, and patently unfair to the majority of black men who are not involved in the violence (and many of them have tried to curtail the nonsense around them).

Another strong performance goes to Angela Bassett’s character Miss Helen, an old school woman full of wisdom and experience. (Bassett’s character is similar to the male counterpart Laurence Fishburne’s character Tomboy in the 1991 movie “Boys n’ the Hood”, Bassett is in that movie, too.)

Spke Lee’s “Chi Raq” I looked forward to if for no other reason because it’s been years since he has had a good movie. For the record, this movie fails when it should have succeeded. He creates a hackneyed piece of work again. Running time:118 minutes.

Cyclops, leader of the Trojans’ gang, Snipes’ character as a gang leader is frankly unconvincing, if not buffoonery, not unlike Jackson’s character.

One of the best performances (there were not many) goes to John Cusack, plays a white Catholic priest, Father Mike Corridan, inspired by the real priest, Father Michael Pfleger, a long-time activist priest in the Southside and Westside of Chicago. His fiery sermon at St. Sabina at the funeral of Irene’s daughter is quite stirring. I felt my eyes beginning to well-up during his convincing homily. Another strong performance goes to Angela Bassett’s character Miss Helen, an old school woman full of wisdom and experience. (Bassett’s character is similar to the male counterpart Laurence Fishburne’s character Tomboy in the 1991 movie “Boys n’ the Hood”, Bassett is in that movie, too.)

Spke Lee’s “Chi Raq” I looked forward to if for no other reason because it’s been years since he has had a good movie. For the record, this movie fails when it should have succeeded. He creates a hackneyed piece of work again. Running time:118 minutes.
A simpler operation could never be imagined, especially today in our world of conglomeraters. Even the silk-screening for the signs was processed in the basement. Needless to say, the owners in their Lincoln Continentals and Cadillacs, left work daily at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays not only included the usual Thanksgiving, Christmas, and 4th of July, but the offices also closed for obscure celebrations such as the Boxer Rebellion, James J. Hill Day and the Bicycle Discontentment. My job was easy at first. Two or three times a week I’d bring home the contest mail from the office and would read the letters in the evening when I had nothing else to do. Maybe two hundred would arrive each week. Fidelia warned me that most of the jingles were delivered just after the postmarked deadline of April 1. About 75% of the verses seemed to be about Elvis Presley and Rock and Roll. After a time these were automatically rejected to the rejection box. Clever jingles stood out like golden nuggets. I loved the visual effects of this verse: “Ten thousand penguins - Jumped off a cliff - Scared them stiff.” Burma Shave. Not one executive checked it. Occasionally, a postcard would inadvertently appear in the contest mail. Often some farmer would write, who had contracted with the company to maintain the signs on his property for $1 a year. “Your jingles blow down in the North 40 - you better come and get ‘em,” the card would read. Signed, Joshua Black, from Big Blow, Alabama. As the weeks passed, more and more entries arrived. Husband Gerry and I could easily read 1000 entries per evening. Our kids loved to play with the paper clips that were used with the Burma Shave qualifier labels. Soon our house was festooned with clips from the fireplace to the bathroom.

One day I had a great idea. “Why don’t we write some jingles with Kenny Morgan’s name and address, I can put them on the master list,” was my suggestion. Our friends, Ken and Jan were also journalists. We would spend Sundays thinking up verses. All in all, I sneaked nine of our jingles into the master sheet. This was my favorite: “A matador’s beard - Such a terrible sight - The bull lay down - and died of fright.” Ultimately, cheating never pays. Of the nine verses submitted, only the matador was checked - and just once. We didn’t even rate a $2 prize. Finally, it was April First, and a deluge of 28,000 envelopes arrived. We were overwhelmed. One lady enclosed 76 verses in her envelops with the same mysterious theme for each entry, “All that glitters is not gold.” All were rejected on the grounds of incoherence. Her attempts were in some kind of free verse. Maybe it was a harbinger of things to come. A three-foot-tall master sheet. This was my favorite: “A matador’s beard - Such a terrible sight - The bull lay down - and died of fright.” Ultimately, cheating never pays. Of the nine verses submitted, only the matador was checked - and just once. We didn’t even rate a $2 prize.

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Anyway, I would rate the verses on a number scale. Five or six times with good jingles escapes me at the moment - something can be imagined, especially today in our world of conglomeraters. Even the silk-screening for the signs was processed in the basement. Needless to say, the owners in their Lincoln Continentals and Cadillacs, left work daily at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays not only included the usual Thanksgiving, Christmas, and 4th of July, but the offices also closed for obscure celebrations such as the Boxer Rebellion, James J. Hill Day and the Bicycle Discontentment. My job was easy at first. Two or three times a week I’d bring home the contest mail from the office and would read the letters in the evening when I had nothing else to do. Maybe two hundred would arrive each week. Fidelia warned me that most of the jingles were delivered just after the postmarked deadline of April 1. About 75% of the verses seemed to be about Elvis Presley and Rock and Roll. After a time these were automatically rejected to the rejection box. Clever jingles stood out like golden nuggets. I loved the visual effects of this verse: “Ten thousand penguins - Jumped off a cliff - Scared them stiff.” Burma Shave. Not one executive checked it. Occasionally, a postcard would inadvertently appear in the contest mail. Often some farmer would write, who had contracted with the company to maintain the signs on his property for $1 a year. “Your jingles blow down in the North 40 - you better come and get ‘em,” the card would read. Signed, Joshua Black, from Big Blow, Alabama. As the weeks passed, more and more entries arrived. Husband Gerry and I could easily read 1000 entries per evening. Our kids loved to play with the paper clips that were used with the Burma Shave qualifier labels. Soon our house was festooned with clips from the fireplace to the bathroom.

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What is the Backyard Initiative?

Our work grows out of the BYI Definition of Health

Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. It is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.

Health is the state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and between many systems – the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. It cannot be seen only in an individual context.

Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. It cannot be achieved by being passive.

This powerful definition provides the frame around the vision for the BYI work.

The 3 original themes from 2009 evolved into four (4) objectives (see below) which guide the implementation of the vision. Designing and performing activities that align with these objectives is the work of Community Health Action Teams or CHATS, BYI Commission on Health and the Backyard Initiative as a whole. Strengthening this alignment will be the essential work of the BYI in 2016.

The 2009 BYI Themes from the Assessment Process evolved into these objectives:

SOCIAL COHESION: The sense of community and belonging that people have. People feel they live in a place where people trust and respect each other and have a sense of responsibility to take care of each other.

SOCIAL SUPPORT: The support that a person receives from and gives to the people around them, including emotional and spiritual support, help with daily needs and crises, and the sharing of advice, information, and feedback.

HEALTH EDUCATION: The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic information and services needed to make appropriate decisions regarding their health. This includes information about what is essential to health (the importance of the family, community, spirituality, the environment, culture, food, sleep, and movement as well as the medical information needed to address a specific health condition.

HEALTH EMPowerMENT: People take responsibility for their health; they are active participants in their self-care, and have the knowledge, skill and confidence to manage their health and health care and collaborate with health practitioners.