Proposal for 08-09 IPRH Reading Group

Law, Space and Race

Primary Organizers

Ken Salo Lecturer and Community Projects Coordinator in Department Urban and Regional Planning (DURP)/ kensalo@uiuc.edu

Merle Bowen Director of Center for African Studies (CAS) and Associate Professor of Political Science/mbowen@uiuc.edu

Sharon Irish / Research Scholar in School of Architecture and Project Coordinator, Community Informatics Initiative, GSLIS/ slirish@uiuc.edu

We propose to read critical theories of law, space and race in order to achieve a deeper understanding of how legal and spatial practices work as terrains of power that both fortify and frustrate racial inequalities. Socio-legal scholars Richard T. Ford, Nicholas Blomley and David Delaney use the terms "legal geographies of race" to describe this relatively recent intersection of critical spatial, legal and racial studies. Our group's focus will accordingly shift between discussing key contemporary texts in this emergent interdisciplinary field and its disciplinary antecedents.

Key socio-legal texts include Blomley, Delaney and Ford's 2001 *The Legal Geographies Reader;* David Theo Goldberg, Michael Musheno and Lisa Bower's 2001 *Between Law and Culture: Relocating Legal Studies* and Sherene H. Razack's 2002 *Race, Space and the Law: Unmapping a White Settler Society.* Foundational texts on socio-spatial dynamics of struggles for social justice include Don Mitchell's 2003 *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*; Setha Low's 1999 *Theorizing the City;* Setha Low and Neil Smith's 2006 *The Politics of Public Space* and Doreen Massey's 2005 *For Space.* Central texts on the spatialities, historical geographies and environments of racism that could inform our work include Donald Moore, Jake Kosek and Anand Pandian's 2003 *Race, Nature and The Politics of Differences;* Robert Bullard's 1993 *Confronting Environmental Racism: Voices From the Grassroots;* Howard Winant's *The World is a Ghetto: Race and Democracy Since WW2.* The edited volume published by the UIUC Center on Democracy, *Towards a Bibliography of Critical Whiteness Studies* provides further relevant readings.

The recent convergence of legal and spatial perspectives of racial relations and social inequalities has at least three significant consequences. First, by reading the legal in terms of the spatial and the spatial in terms of the legal, conventionalized understandings of both "space" and "law" have been destabilized and new, relativistic questions have emerged. For example, positivistic arguments about legal rights and rules obscure more than they reveal about legal questions of social phenomena than culturally specific and contested framings of those questions within a normalized spatial imagery.

Second, viewing legal practices as culturally specific ways of representing reality has opened up questions about how legal rights and ownership help produce, maintain and transform dominant constructions of social space. Third and most significant, reading the racial and social in terms of a convergence of the spatial and legal (spatio-legal) has

illuminated new insights into the intertwined material and cultural conditions and consequences of social change. More specifically, territories ranging from the microspaces of segregated seating on city buses to states within the world system of states are bounded spatial entities whose boundaries are constructed through the authoritative projection of legal categories, images and stories onto material things. From this critical socio-spatial viewpoint, subjectivities such as the trespasser and owner, undocumented alien and citizen are figures defined by both legal and spatial practices of boundary-making. The rubric of legal geography, then, is about how symbolic and material practices interact to produce terrains of power that span multiple scales from the local, through national, international and global spaces.

We envisage this reading group as a first step towards a collaborative research network for critical spatial, critical legal and critical race theorists on campus. This network will promote debate by hosting a conference focusing on the legal geographies of race at places across the multiple scales ranging from the UIUC campus through cities in North America to international states in Africa. We would like to bring in one or two keynote speakers who could address this aspects of the legal geographies of race at multiple scales such as geographer Nicholas Blomley from Simon Fraser University or socio-legal scholars David Delaney from Amherst, MA and Richard T Ford of Stanford.

Budget
Reading Materials (\$200)
Conference Publicity and Support \$100 +\$1000
Matching Funds from CAS & DURP \$500
Total Request from IPRH \$1300

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Web of Ideas for Race, Space and Law Reading Group & Community Informatics Initiative
August 26, 2008

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY—PLEASE DO NOT CIRCULATE AS SOME OF THE GROUPS NAMED DO NOT KNOW THEY MAY BE INVOLVED! ALSO PLEASE CORRECT NAMES AND NUMBERS.

I USED QUESTIONS FROM THE SMALL GRANT APPLICATION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL MEDIA RESEARCH HUB TO TRY AND FOCUS OUR EFFORTS AND THINK ABOUT FUNDING

CITIZENS' EXPERIENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: LIVING IN A COMPROMISED WORLD

• What is the political/social change this project aims to achieve and how will it accomplish that aim?

We want to collect stories with residents in north Champaign about their health-related problems that may or may not relate to a now-abandoned, coal gasification site in that area. Documenting people's perceptions and experiences of an environmentally-damaged site and its underground remnants adds another dimension to a complicated, ongoing debate about environmental justice. We want to expand the ways in which knowledge is created by adding more voices and other institutions to contemplate how we live in a compromised world.

• What is the collaborative process and who are the people involved: at what stages, in what ways will they participate?

Collaborations and alliances among the Fifth and Hill Coalition, the C-U Citizens for Peace with Justice, the Champaign County Health Care Consumers, SisterNet, the Douglass Branch of the Champaign Public Library, the Booker T. Washington Elementary School, the Latino Media Initiative, the Salem Baptist Church, the county Environmental Protection Agency, the Ameren Corporation, and faculty and staff of the University of Illinois have been ongoing for three years. The Citizens for Peace with Justice will be the lead group in recruiting people to provide their stories and documents. We plan to have a mobile media lab to gather video and/or audio stories that would be archived at the public

library for easy accessibility. We also intend to have some walking tours using GPS units to create maps by different residents.

 How is this project needed/innovative in relation to the existing/previous research and advocacy on the issue?

This project will broaden the dialogues that have to date been limited to scientific experts, lawyers, and adversarial entities with little regard for linkages between technical facts and social values. Further, it is obvious that "citizen science" is not a single concept, and this project will address public understandings about environmental issues in various age groups, education levels, and interest areas. Advocacy to date has been to "finalize" clean up without addressing the full ramifications of health and safety concerns in the community.

What is the timeline for project activities?

We envision the mobile media-lab and story collection to begin in mid-November 2008 and end in March of 2009. In April 2009 we will have a public event at the library to showcase the interview archives and the community maps, as well as a neighborhood walk. This project is one of several overlapping efforts. Other efforts for which we have funding include a reading group, an after-school tutoring program, and a health care fair for African American women.

• What is the final project you will share upon completion of the study?

Those of us at the University would publish an article about this effort as a case study in the context of citizens, experts and environmentalism. Also we will create a publicly accessible website with podcasts and maps.

- How will you assess and evaluate the process and success of this project?
 - Each participant will be asked to evaluate their process. We will track the use of the archive and website.
- How do you see other organizations potentially using the findings and products of the research project?

Through web dissemination, we envision collaborating internationally on how complicated environmental problems can be addressed by including those who are directly affected, as well as other concerned citizens. Colleagues at the University of Illinois are working on brownfield redevelopment in East St. Louis, Illinois, and we expect that the finding from these two projects can benefit each other.

SSRC/Small Grant/Sept 8 NSF/STS/Feb 1

LARGER GOALS: a permanent information center on environmental concerns, an ongoing mobile media lab

OTHER MODELS:

- -Will Patterson and Kim Kranich CD "Our Journey" on Brown v Board of Education and its local effects
- -StoryCorps
- -Sisternet/Afya
- -South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission that provided public documentation, but didn't necessarily inhibit reparations

OTHER PARTNERS:

Park Districts? Empower BlackYouth Center on Democracy ESLARP

NOTE: Ken Salo and Ruby Mendenhall have an IRB already in place that could be tweaked for this work.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: iLAND, Inc. Jennifer Monson Artistic Director

Phone: 917-860-8239

E-mail: jennifer@ilandart.org

Web: www.ilandart.org

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE INFORMS AND ENGAGES COMMUNITIES IN EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS DEPENDENT ON THE MAHOMET AQUIFER

iLAND (interdisciplinary Laboratory for Art, Nature and Dance) announces Jennifer Monson's **Mahomet Aquifer Project**, a series of public dance performances, panel discussion, and workshops.

East Central Illinois, October 10-18, 2009 - The Mahomet Aquifer Project informs and engages the communities in East Central Illinois dependent on the aquifer through dance performances, panel discussions, video and new media and workshops. Through conversations between performers and scientists Monson develops the choreography with an interdisciplinary approach creating a multi-layered performance experience that draws the audience into their own understanding of their relationship to water. The movements evoke the forces and flows on the aquifer – ranging from geography and hydrology, to economics and history. Performances will be presented at outdoor sites in Urbana/Champaign, Mahomet and Havana. A mobile gallery will exhibit new media images of the geology of the aquifer as well as the molecular behavior of water to enhance multiple ways of understanding our dependence on water and its local sources. All events are free and open to the general public (a complete schedule is found below).

An internationally acclaimed artist with a passionate commitment to our environment, Monson regularly creates contexts for unexpected collaboration. Monson became interested in the Mahomet Aquifer as a site to "draw connections between our scientific and political relationships to natural resources and the cultural frameworks that shape our perception and relationship to these resources." The Mahomet Aquifer Project is informed by conversations with researchers at the Illinois Water Survey, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, and the Advanced Visualization Laboratory at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. Monson is collaborating with Austin-based composer Chris Cogburn and Chicago-based designer Katrin Schnabl. Performers include Kyli Kleven, Stephen May, Amy Swanson and Stephen West.



In addition to FREE public performances, the project also includes a series of movement and science workshops for students at Wiley Elementary School in Urbana with George Roadcap of the Illinois Water Survey and Jennifer Monson.

For interested adults, a panel discussion called "Moving Perspectives – approaches to understanding water through geology, environment, art and society" will take place at 7:00 p.m. on October 13 at the Urbana Free Library. Panelists for the discussion include George Roadcap of the Illinois Water Survey; Cecily Smith from Prairie Rivers Network; Brett Bloom an artist and activist; Brigit Kelly a poet; and Jennifer Monson. Environmental philosopher Michael Scoville will moderate the panel.

The Mahomet Aquifer Project is supported in part from funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Urbana Arts Grants Program. Additional support is provided by Market in the Square, The Mahomet Farmer's Market, The Nature Conservancy at Emiquon Reserve, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana Free Library, Illinois Water Survey, AVL team at National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Art + Design, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mahomet Aquifer Project Events Schedule

October 10th – 9 am - 12 pm: Market in the Square, corner of Vine Street and Illinois Street, Urbana, IL

October 11th – Performance at Prairie Fruits Farm Dinner(not open to the public)

October 13th – 7pm - 9pm: Panel Discussion *Moving Perspectives* – *Approaches to understanding water through geology, environment, art and society*, Urbana Free Library. 210 W Green St 210 W Green Street, Urbana, IL

Panelists: George Roadcap, of the Illinois Water Survey; Cecily Smith, of Prairie Rivers Network; Brett Bloom, artist and activist; Brigit Kelly, poet; Jennifer Monson. Moderator: Michael Scoville, environmental philosopher.

October 14th - 2 pm - 5 pm: Mahomet Farmers' Market, Main Street near Town Hall and the Fire Station, Mahomet, IL

October 16th – 5 pm: North East Terrace of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

October 17th – 11 am – 1 pm: Emiquon Nature Preserve and the Dickson Mounds Museum, TBC

October 18th – 2 pm – 5 pm: University of Illinois Employee Credit Union Parking Lot on the corner of North West corner of Vine Street and University Avenue, TBC



ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For further information updates and details visit http://mahometaquifer.wordpress.com/ or contact Jennifer Monson at jennifer@ilandart.org / 917 860-8239

Jennifer Monson (Artistic director, choreographer and performer, iLANDinterdisciplinary Laboratory for Art, Nature and Dance) uses choreographic practice as a means to discover connections between environmental, philosophical and aesthetic approaches to knowledge and understandings of our surroundings. As Artistic Director of iLAND she creates large-scale dance projects informed and inspired by phenomena of the natural and the built environment. Her project BIRD BRAIN (2000-2011) includes the theatrical work *Flight of Mind* (2005) and four migratory tours: *Gray* Whales (Spring 2001); Ospreys (Fall 2002); Ducks and Geese (Spring 2004); and Northern Wheatears (Fall 2011). Each tour followed the migrations of animals offering performances, workshops and panel discussions on navigation, migration and conservation. In 2007 she created iMAP/Ridgewood Reservoir, a yearlong research and performance practice in an abandoned reservoir in NYC. She is currently working on the Mahomet Aquifer Project in Illinois. As a means to engage the public in a kinetic understanding of NYC's urban environment, Monson supports and mentors collaborative opportunities for movement based artists, scientists, environmentalists and others interested in our physical relationships to space and systems through the iLAB residency project of iLAND. Monson is currently on the faculty in the Dance Department at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. She was hired through an initiative of the Environmental Council to foster sustainability across the campus and nationally.

"Her passion for scientific process was transformed into a refined showcase that revealed an artist's gutsy imagination."

Gia Kourlas, Timeout NY

"The push/pull permeability of organism and environment was revealed in the dancing. They lunged, swinging buckets of reeds, creating a momentum across the stage, art and science are felicitous partners, and can work together to affect first awareness and then change. In this way Monson's piece is part of a new consciousness."

Lori Ortiz, Gay City News

"Monson has developed an intricate intellectual apparatus for understanding movement, which can be applied to dancing and nearly everything else..."

- Apollinaire Scher, The New York Times

"Monson joins the emotional and visceral experience of intimacy with a choreographic language of pure physicality."

- Rosalee Goldberg, Artforum

Date: Sun 19 Jul 23:13:07 CDT 2009

From: Bonnie Fortune <lefortune@gmail.com> Add To Contacts

Subject: Every Bodyl September-October 2009

To: Sharon Insh <slirish@illinois.edu>

{with Suzanne Lacy added}

Dear Friends-

Every Bodyl: Visual Resistance in Feminist Health Movements, 1969-2009 opens September 10, 2009 at I space Gallery in Chicago. There is a companion exhibit at the Wom University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana, IL of posters, performance, workshop You are receiving this because you are either an artist, contributor, or advisor. I want to the exciting show. I have included a list of folks so you all can get to know and familiarize you Check it out and if you have any questions let me know.

The show includes work from multiple generations of feminist health activism from politics video documents, to self-published zines, and blogs. It includes direct action projects and well as poetic works imagining other bodies and relationships. It brings together a cross s have influenced and been influenced by each other, and who all use creativity to shape as

You all will be receiving emails in the coming weeks with more details about the packed s vulva-tastic performance by subRosa at the opening, a rotating program of videos and fil by Christa Donner, a book release event of a new Temporary Conversations*, and much

Stay tuned, spread the word, and get excited!

hugs, Bonnie Fortune

iLAND is a not for profit organization conceived and formed by choreographer Jennifer Monson in 2004. The organization's mission is to investigate the power of dance, in collaboration with other fields and to illuminate our kinetic understanding of the world. **iLAND**, a dance research organization with a fundamental commitment to environmental sustainability as it relates to art and the urban context, cultivates cross-disciplinary research among artists, environmentalists, scientists, urban designers and other fields.

Apollinaire Scher, The New York Times

COET QUUEZNO

"Monson has many ways of short-circuiting convention. The animal studies elaborate on Mr.[Merce] Cunningham's own nature studies and those of the 60's innovator Simone Forti. The peculiarities of her settings reorient the dancers' habitual responses. And then there is the complex system she has invented for navigating the body. But expanding the range of beauty in dance isn't her only goal. The methods she has developed also illuminate the dancers' surroundings."



STATE

Neighborhood Connections Center opens



Rashaya Brown, 11, of Urbana works on math with her tutor, Michael Turnley, as Urbana officials tour the Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center on Monday, the center's first day of operation.

GUEST COMMENTARY

We must welcome migrant workers

By MARTHA GONZALEZ

Shelley Smithson's article "Empty harvest: Migrant family faces hardships in Rantoul" (The News Gazette, Dec. 13) describes one unique situation of a migrant family in our community.

As the executive director of an organization dedicated to improving the lives of people from a multicultural background, I know that most families are grateful to come to work in our community year after year because they have a secure job for the season that offers free access to basic services, such as housing

and transportation.

Agricultural seed companies, such as Monsanto, and others, provide seasonal jobs for these families, inspected/licensed housing and transportation at no charge. While the former hospital housing may not be viewed as "ideal" based on what so many are fortunately accustomed to here in our community, the facility has been renovated, is continually inspected by crew leaders and the building's manager and local officials.

It is important to remember this particular housing is utilized on a temporary basis and provides secure environment to workers that may not otherwise find housing in our community. In fact, the facility offers additional employment opportunities for seasonal laborers as companies hire migrant family members for full time housekeeping jobs at the facility. Each floor of the building has one person responsible for maintaining and keeping it

There are several organizations in the area

that protect and support migrant families such as Illinois Migrant Council, Community Health Partnership of Illinois, Illinois Migrant and Legal Assistance Project, and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.

The entire family has the opportunity to receive education, social services, health services and food. All these organizations are prepared to receive the workers and provide assistance.

These families need the jobs and companies need the labor that unfortunately, is difficult to find locally. Our communities benefit from their hard work. We all have to understand that migrant farm workers provide a very important contribution to the economy. Workers are willing to come every year and the community gets direct and indirect benefits from their being here.

Eliminating the presence of migrant workers will have a negative impact and will reduce the number of jobs available to permanent, local residents. In spite of all benefits received from migrants, it's difficult for local citizens to accept this reality and some farm workers report experiencing prejudice and hostility in the community in which they live and work.

Our communities need to welcome every year the workers, show them respect and be proud for the contribution that they make to our society through their labor. Communities need to realize their work feeds the world.

Martha Gonzalez is executive director of the Multi-**Cultural Community Center, Champaign.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

Please visit www.news-gazeπe.com for continuous

URBANA YOUTHS

'A POSITIVE PLACE TO GO'

School district worker leads effort to develop a community center on East Main Street

By STEVE BAUER

sbauer@news-gazette.com

URBANA — Elysia Monroe works 10 hours a day in Champaign, but she lives in east Urbana and wants her three children to do their homework and socialize safely after school.

Monroe is hoping a soon-to-open community center will be the answer for her three teenagers.

The Neighborhood Community Center, expected to open in November at the former Andrae's Har-ley-Davidson at 1401 E. Main St., U, will give students a place to do their homework and have fun, according to Janice Mitchell, the center's orga-

"It gives the kids a positive place to go," Monroe said. "In Urbana, in our neighborhood, we don't have any

Mitchell, the parent-community outreach coordinator for the Urbana school district, said the center has been her vision for years. The building - on Main Street, east of VFW Post 630 — is owned by the Housing Authority of Champaign County and has been used as a warehouse.

A member of the housing authority board, Mitchell convinced Director Ed Bland that the building would be ideal as a community center. Bland said the housing authority purchased the building a few years ago with the idea of using it for storage, but the agency would not need all of the building.

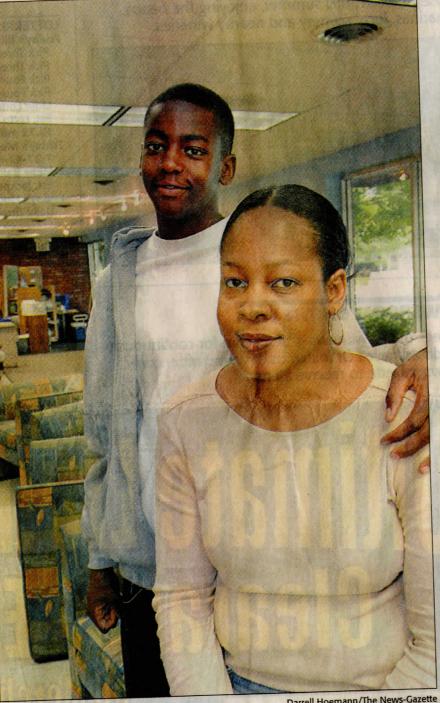
when Mrs. Mitchell approached, we thought this would be something that will benefit the whole community," Bland said.

The teen center - which will not pay rent but will share in the cost of utilities — will occupy about 3,400 square feet, he said. The housing authority has equipment and supplies stored in other areas of the building.

Over the summer, more than a dozen youths and other volunteers from the neighborhood helped clean out the front part of the building, she

"The kids came in and couldn't see how to get it clean," Mitchell said. "It was a lot of work from the kids."

Mitchell got the idea for a teen center 10 years ago as a volunteer working with families in east Urba-



Darrell Hoemann/The News-Gazette

Parent Elysia Monroe and her son Darrion Brown visit the Neighborhood Community Center at 1401 E. Main St., U. Monroe is happy that her children will soon have a place to do their homework and socialize in a safe environment.

na. A onetime community organizer in Chicago, Mitchell said her whole background is "personal investment in community."

Mitchell, who is not being paid for her work at the center, said she is in the process of assembling a board of directors and applying for taxexempt, nonprofit status.

She said the center will become a place where students can get tutoring and recreation, and where parents can meet and families can get information and referral to other resources in the community, like public health and housing.

Please see CENTER, A-10

CENTER

Continued from A-1

"The goal is for academic enrichment and recreation for the youth and family support," Mitchell said. "There will be a special focus on east Urbana."

Participation at the center will be by membership, Mitchell said. "It won't be a drop-in center. It will be structured."

The center will be open from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3 to 9 p.m. Friday and 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday. There are currently seven volunteers who will staff the programs. Eventually, she would like to recruit some retired teachers and additional college students.

Her goal is to attract 50 kids this school year and add 25 next summer.

Programs will be aimed at students in middle school and high school, she said.

'Middle school is a great time for readjusting," Mitchell said. "We are just hoping to extend a helping hand in that development.

Urbana Middle School Prin-

at center

- 10 or so 8-foot tables Books for readers grades
- Encyclopedias and dictionaries
- Young reader series books for leisure, book club reading
- Two free-standing basketball goals
- Window blinds Contact Janice or Danny Mitchell, 384-5710.

cipal Nancy Clinton said the school district has afterschool programs called Students Learning and Playing After School Hours. But that program is only available six weeks and there are gaps - two to three weeks each session, plus holidays and vacations - when there is nothing going on.

There's a need to have positive alternatives, she said.

"Anything we can do to help students in their development is a good thing," Clinton said. "This will take the kids foridea is a model he would like to see in several areas of the city. He said the former Tri-Star building at 1301 E. Washington St., which was donated to the city, could house a community center for the East Washington/South Lierman neighbor-

"This is a very at-risk area of the city," Roberts said. "I have learned by sponsoring two neighborhood meetings with residents of this neighborhood and the Scottswood Manor Apartments complex that they have many needs.'

A community center could be a safe place for youth activities, mentoring and "a place to meet friends instead of walking the streets each evening," he said.

Mitchell said all Urbana neighborhoods need similar programs and she sees the Main Street program as the "first phase of neighborhood development." King Park and the Carroll Addition in east Urbana would likewise benefit,

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adio programis handled by the and I am not a part, arrangement.

Rich Warren, who lives in Champaign area, can be reac. e-mail at hifiguy@mchsi.com.



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00 BEFORE

AFRICAN-AMERICAN EVENT

'Come Alive' celebration Saturday in Urbana

By The News-Gazette
URBANA — The city of Urbana, in partnership with the University of Illinois, will host on Saturday the second annual "Come Alive!" cele-bration of African-American history, art and culture.

The program of music, dance, visual art and historic narrative will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. on the third floor of the Levis Faculty floor of the Levis Faculty Center, 919 W. Illinois St., U. The event is free and open to

the public.
Soul foods dishes created
by the Levis Faculty Center staff will be available to sam-

celebration also displays of Restfield's feature Ernest Negro League collection and the Early American Museum of Mahomet's "Right of Pasdisplay.

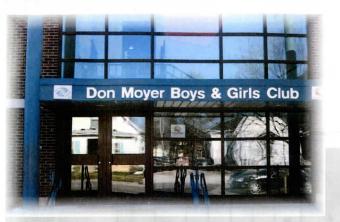
Visual artists Jason Patter son, Michael Sherfield, Carol Elliott and Jesse Knox will be showcased. Performing will showcased. Performing will be musicians Ron Bridge-water and the Pick Up Jazz Quartet, the C-U Super Stars and Candy Foster & Shades of Blue Blue.

In a spoken word presentation, Ted Adkisson will talk about "America's 14th Colony." And dance will be presented by Shawn Hayes & the Mount Olive Praise Danc-

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Urbana to offer recycling info, drop-off time

By The News-Gazette
URBANA — The Park District and th Cycle program w America Recv 10 a.m. to 3 the Ani*



201 E. Park Street, Champaign, IL 61820 Phone: 217-355-KIDS (5437)



Annual Membership Fee \$5.00

After School Program

2:00-5:00 PM

Mon-Fri

Teen Night

6:00-9:00 PM

Tues-Fri

Teen Night Dance

6:00-11:00 PM

Alt. Fridays

HOPES...DREAMS...LEGACY

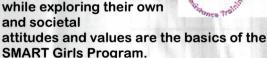


Homework assistance and tutoring.



A wellness program that demonstrates how eating right, keeping fit, and forming positive red soul lationships add up to a healthy lifestyle.

Developing healthy attitudes and lifestyles while exploring their own and societal





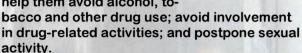
Benjamin Banneker Club An introduction to scientific concepts via hands-on activities, games, reading, and writing exercises.



Aimed at high school students.

provides career exploration and mentoring, while providing a paid work experience.

Provides young people with knowledge, skills, selfesteem and peer support to help them avoid alcohol, to-



For high school seniors only. De-

JOB READY!

velops essential academic and professional workplace skills, while providing a paid work experience to help them prepare for life after high school.

Keystoning is the Boys & Girls Club Movement's most dynamic teen program. Keystone Clubs are chartered small-group



leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 14-18.

Designed for teens to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower and encourage youth to achieve positive growth, improve expectations, and avoid risktaking behavior.

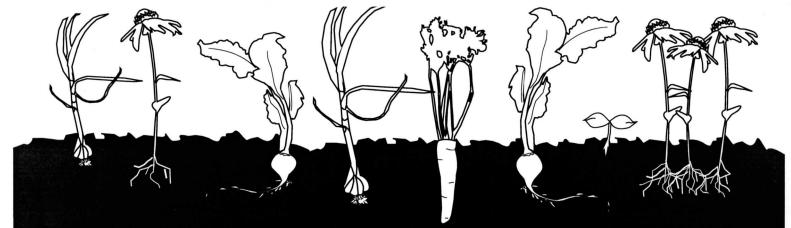


Responsibility, Education, Achievement. Caring & Hope



Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 11-13 focusing on character development

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UP 478 Student
Presentations on
Gardening for
Environmental
Health Justice

1st Annual Randolph St. Organic Community Food Garden Potluck Party

Saturday April 25, 2009

1-4pm Presentations at Church of the Brethren on 1210 N Neil Street at Garwood 5-8pm Potluck Party at Randolph Street Community Organic Food Garden

Honored Guests

Ms. Erma Bridgewater, Mr. Nat Banks, Mr. Terri Townsend, Mr. Ron Bridgewater, Dr. Laurine Cowan, Ms. Melissa Pognon, Mr. Chuck Allen, Mr. Sam Smith, Ms. Lila Moore, Ms. Lillie Butler Lawrence, DWNO members, and Ms. Bolden of ESL Bolden Community Food Garden in Olivette Park.

Performances at Garden Potluck Party (program to follow)

- >>Motherlands Culture Club and Multicultural Storytellers
- >>Urban Reality Hip Hop Movement
- >>BLT Movement
- >>Ms Amira Davis
- >>West African Dancers and Drummers

Garden Clean Up Volunteer Days

Wednesday April 22 & Thursday April 23 (3:30-6pm) Tuesday April 21 and by arrangement with Dawn Blackman (217-398-5127)

Co-sponsors: CUCPJ, Food Connections group of Central Illinois Social Forum DURP & ESLARP & BNAACC at UIUC

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

www.news-gazette.com

Year 157, No. 224

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AMERENIP

Plant site cleanup to begin soon

Neighbors don't think plan is sufficient to deal with pollution

By MIKE MONSON

mmonson@news-gazette.com

CHAMPAIGN — The cleanup of a former coal-gasification plant site at Fifth and Hill streets should begin early next month and is expected to take about a year to complete.

But a neighborhood group that represents residents who live near the north Champaign site said it doesn't think the cleanup plan goes far enough to deal with contaminated groundwater and vapors leaving the site.

The cleanup is expected to cost site owner AmerenIP between \$6 million and \$7 million. It will involve excavating 50,000 tons of soil and chemically treating deeper soils on the 2.4-acre site.

Most of the excavation will

be performed under a large tent with air-treatment equipment to keep dust from leaving the site, according to Brian Martin, an Ameren consulting environmental scientist.

An open house to explain the plan will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Champaign City Building, 102 N. Neil St.

AmerenIP's cleanup plan was approved by the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency in January.

"We're doing this to have a site that is fully remediated, that fully meets Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards, that will get a 'no further remediation' letter" from the IEPA, said Leigh Morris, an AmerenIP spokesman.

Martin said the northern two-thirds of the site will have 10 feet of topsoil removed. In fact, even more soil will be removed beyond the top 10 feet if it can be done without hitting the water table, he said.

On the southern portion of the site, a small area in the middle also will have 10 feet of soil removed. Two other areas in the south section will have the top 3 feet of soil removed. A larger area in the southern portion won't have any topsoil removed.

"That's all based on prior

investigation we did, looking at the impacts of the gas plant," Martin said. "The northern half was where the former manufactured gas plant was. That's why (the cleanup plan) worked out that way."

The site is where a former plant that made gas out of coal operated from 1869 until the early 1930s. The plant contaminated soil and groundwater with benezene, toluene, ethyl-

Please see CLEANUP, A-10

EANUP

Continued from A-1

benzene and xylene and other hazardous compounds.

Besides soil removal, the action plan calls for using chemical oxidation treatment on soil levels below the top 10 feet when water infiltration makes soil removal impractical. Chemical oxidation will take place mostly on the northern part of the site, Martin said.

"We'll treat it in place," he said. "We'll chemically destroy the contaminants or enhance the activity of naturally occurring bacteria to break down these compounds. When you add oxygen to water, it enhances the activity of bacteria to break down the contaminants."

The soil that is removed will be taken to a landfill. AmerenIP is seeking bids from landfills. A contractor for the cleanup also hasn't yet been picked, Martin said. Water pumped from the excavation will be stored in on-site storage tanks for later treatment and disposal.

Claudia Lennhoff, a leader with The 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign, which represents residents who live near the coal-gas site, said she thinks the plan is insufficient in that it doesn't remove contaminated groundwater.

Data in the report also show higher groundwater contamination than previously disclosed, Lennhoff said. Results from one test well outside the southern border of the site show benzene concentrations above 1,000 parts per billion, exceeding IEPA standards of 5 parts per billion.

"The groundwater is far more contaminated than we had been led to believe," Lennhoff said.

The cleanup plan only applies to the AmerenIP site, not privately owned homes nearby. AmerenIP will contact homeowners whose property might need cleanup in coming months to come up with an individual plan, Martin said.

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