

# Entertainment

## Teesee's

There's a Familiar Hook

## Town



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**Congratulations** - to Julieanna Richardson, the brains behind and the heart and soul of *The HistoryMakers*, an oral history archive, on being the first person named the Vernon D. Jarrett Great Cities Fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Richardson was honored Thursday at a reception co-hosted by Robin Hambleton, dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at UIC, and David C. Perry, director of the Great Cities Institute. The Vernon D. Jarrett Senior Fellow Program seeks to extend Jarrett's work and his legacy as both an activist and a public intellectual through the annual appointment of a similarly inclined academician or public leader to the post Jarrett held at the Great Cities Institute before his death. For more on the Vernon D. Jarrett Great Cities Senior Fellow Program, visit [www.vernon.jarrettfoundation.org](http://www.vernon.jarrettfoundation.org).



Tillman

**Baby Bonus!** - It's a double dose of family joy as Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3<sup>rd</sup>) prepares for two more "grandchilluns" - numbers six and seven! Her youngest son, Bemaji, is expecting a boy, and her baby girl, Jimalita, is waiting to be surprised. Of

course Jimalita's shower, co-hosted this weekend by Tillman and Black Ensemble Theatre's Jackie Taylor, is expected to draw an "A" list of Black Chicago. Under the direction of one of our town's premier caterers, Faye Watson (of FanFares by Faye fame), this is sure to be one magnificent celebration. Among just some of the names spotted on the exclusive invite list - Melody Spann-Cooper, Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Jackson, Linda Johnson-Rice, R. Kelly.

**Newsy Names** - Rev. James T. Meeks (also a state senator), and Arne Duncan, CEO of the Chicago Public Schools, are expected at Parkside Elementary School, 251 W. 51<sup>st</sup> St., today at 2 p.m. to unveil the district's newest attendance incentives that will target the lowest-attendance schools. The incentives have been provided by the good folks from WGCI, Clear Channel Radio and Nike... We welcome Art "Chat Daddy" Sims, the bon vivant relationship guru, to the staff of the *Chicago Defender*. His "In the Mix" column

will run twice weekly on our pages... D. Earl Jones, regional vice president of Clear Channel Radio Chicago, hosts a Luncheon Salute honoring Illinois Senate President Emil Jones on March 17 in the Signature Room of The 95<sup>th</sup> - culminating Clear

Channel's month-long tribute to our state's "Mr. President"... Dr. Guillermo Ameer, biomedical engineering prof at Northwestern U., keynotes the monthly Man-Boy Breakfast on March 18 hosted by Concerned Christian Men, Inc. (CCM) at Simeon Career Academy... Happy b'day to Juanita Passmore and Dr. Sandra Givens, a couple of sistah-members of the Chicago Carousels; Avis LaVelle, indeed one of our town's most astute and political-



Leak

ly-connected consultants; Henrietta Leak, the blonde-tressed "first lady" and veep of the Leak Funeral Home dynasty; and Stedman Graham, businessman, author and - oh, need I say more!... Danielle Carr and Anthony Jones co-host First Fridays Chicago! at JP's (remember Circus Nightclub?), 901 W. Weed, featuring the best of old school, R&B, house and hip-hop music. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a complimentary "south of the border" buffet. Free admission til 9 p.m.

**In Memoriam** - Condolences to the family of Dr. Clementine McConico Skinner, 90, retired educator, librarian and administrator in the Chicago Public Schools, whose funeral is Saturday, 10 a.m., at Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church, 35<sup>th</sup> and Cottage Grove, preceded by a one-hour visitation. Her body will lie in state all day Friday at Griffin Funeral Home, 3232 S. King Dr.

**Expo Insight** - Roland S. Martin, the *Defender's* executive editor, moderates a Town Hall Meeting at Expo for Today's Black Woman, Saturday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at McCormick Place. Among the blue-ribbon panelists discussing how African Americans suffer disproportionately from cardiovascular diseases, including heart failure are Mercy Hospital's Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson, Detroit's Pastor Marvin Winans and Duke University's Dr. Augustus Grant.



D.E. Jones

## Black Tax, celebrity, and Dave Chappelle

by Ken Parish Perkins  
Contributing Writer

Watching Dave Chappelle emerge from his self-weaved cocoon recently has been one-part fascinating and one-part baffling, if only because of who Chappelle is (a comedic eccentric), what he did (walk away from a boatload of money and series television), and how he did it. (Without so much as a word.)

You wonder if Chappelle's new movie wasn't arriving in theaters Friday, if he weren't snuffed out of hiding to deal with its publicity upkeep, whether he'd still be rummaging underground, not seen or heard.

Instead he's squirmy yet charming on *Oprah*, squirmy yet hilariously insightful on *Inside The Actor's Studio* with host James Lipton, squirmy yet loose when hanging out in Steve Harvey's radio studio. Instead he's reaching folks who didn't know he existed, didn't know he was considered The Funniest Man Alive, didn't know that Chappelle's Show attracted more viewers than Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*. So if this was Chappelle's

grand plan - ditching the cable channel, blowing \$50 million, leaving his wife and kids for South Africa and peace of mind - at least give the brother props for ingenuity.

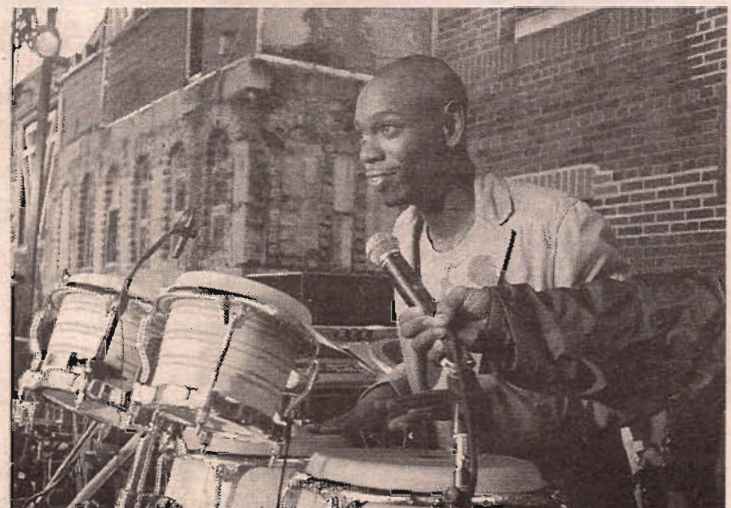
Dave Chappelle's *Block Party* is receiving far more attention now that the comic is known as the Runaway Comic, having bolted from the set of his self-titled show on Comedy Central and disappearing with no trace.

The ink on his \$50 million contract was barely dry before Chappelle decided to hightail it out of the states, leaving the set without even an "I'm-gone, \$\$\$\$@\$\$%", disappearing like a thief in the night. Or, better yet, a man in need of an understanding psychiatrist.

He ended up in South Africa, just chilling, just clearing his head, he says now with that sly, creepy grin of his. While doing so, rumors had him in drug rehab, in mental institutions, hanging from the Brooklyn Bridge.

(Little of it made sense. As Chappelle quipped to *Oprah*: "Who would leave America and go to Africa for medical atten-

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In this photo provided by Brazan PR., Dave Chappelle stars in all-new freestyle standup material in "Dave Chappelle's Block Party."

AP/ Rogue Pictures/Brazan PR.