More Singles Than Marrieds in 2015

Judge dismisses neighbors suit, new development plan moves forward in face of more legal threats

Plans appear to be moving forward for the former Children’s Memorial Hosp. site in Lincoln Park.

Last week Cook County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Pultle dismissed a lawsuit brought forward by Lincoln Park area residents that has until now blocked the redevelopment of the former Children’s Memorial Hosp. [CMH] site at Lincoln and Fullerton.

The Dec. 31, 2014, ruling most likely clears the way for the project to move forward. The case was brought forward by nearby residents and members of the Mid-North and Park West Community associations who sought to block the $350 million project that should transform the now-vacant six-acre site.

Pultle dismissed the suit on technical grounds, ruling that the attorney representing the neighborhood groups failed to properly notify property owners surrounding the development site.

Neighbors had argued that the city improperly approved a plan from developer McCaffery Interests for the site. After the long, drawn out - and many time contentious - approval process that saw the community bicker openly in dozens of public meetings, Ald. hospitalMichele Smith [43rd] finally supported McCaffery’s plan for the property in April 2014 in a sweeping announcement that also saw plans for an expansion of the nearby Lincoln School finalized.

Castle closing; third nightclub in building’s 122-year history fails

In the latest nightclub to occupy the Romanesque, historic, and possibly haunted building at Dearborn & Ontario, which was one exasperating situation. The second was when she learned that he really was not married. He could have made her his wife at any time but he always protested that his wife would never give him a divorce.

WHO ARE THE DISAPPOINTED GIRLFRIENDS of a well known wealthy man-about-town who always gifted his “girls” with diamond tennis bracelets, diamond ear studs or Hermes handbags?

Jerome H. Stone.

Noted North Side businessman, philanthropist dies

North Sider Jerome H. Stone, noted businessman, philanthropist and founding president and honorary chair of the Alzheimer’s Assn., died on last Thursday, he was 101-years old.

Stone lived an active and full life, splitting his time between Chicago’s Gold Coast and Palm Desert, CA.

Stone’s legacy is one of industry, family and philanthropy – especially in Chicago. Throughout the years, he helped build Stone Container Corp. into a multi-billion dollar firm, was chairman of Roosevelt University’s Board of Trustees for 15 years, helped select the site for Chicago’s main library, was a co-founder of the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Group and was responsible for raising most of the $72 million the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago received to construct a building seven times larger than its previous facility.

He rose to international prominence through his groundbreaking work to conquer Alzheimer’s.

At the intersection of Michigan Ave. and Randolph St., not far from the location of the former Stone Container building in downtown Chicago, the architect, Henry Ives Cobb, also designed the Newberry Library seven blocks north of Castle Chicago.

After the Chicago Historical Society moved in 1931, the building housed the Chicago office of the Works Progress Administration. It has been a Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, The Institute of Design, a recording studio, and home of the men’s magazine, Gallery.
Mr. Stone, a fixture in red-carpet events, gave birth to adoring sisters: Princess Grace, Princess Albert II, Princess-Caroline, Princess Caroline and Prince Ernst August. They are all heirs to the Grimaldi dynasty which rules Monaco. His passion... was inspiring.... and galvanized caregivers, people with hundreds attending. Our condolences to his wife, his son, his family, his friends, his fans. His performance is an angel for home-less pets. Here is encouraging. Helping him had an operation and his prognosis is upbeat. Phuket is the location and a vivid portrait of a young woman beaches of Thailand and paints a stunning picture of a love story and passion. Jessica joins him. (And there is a happily ever after.)

**SHE AIN’T PRINCESS GRACE**

If a cure was found thanks to gifts made in Jerry Stone’s name? This is an urgent plea. As a result of his efforts, a new cure was found. Many People to People interactions that will immerse you in the culture and history. From the mural to the saddle leather and equestrian art. There are hundreds of artists. From the flagship store at Fifth Ave. to the Big Apple. From the Chicago International Film Festival to the Chicago Hayworth galas in Chicago and New York City raise millions for research. “He is my hero,” Yasmin said. Stone was the primary research. “SHE AIN’T PRINCESS GRACE”

**WE HAVEN’T LOST A GREAT MAN, JEROME STONE, 101, who spent most of his life battling the monstrous results of Alzheimer’s disease which is destroying millions of lives of victims and care-givers. When his vibrant wife Evelyn was diagnosed with the “mysterious” illness in 1970, Stone found little knowledge in textbooks, no support system for families, scant research and treatment options. Almost single-handedly Jerry built the Alzhei-mer’s Assn. with friends like Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, whose mother, actress Rita Hayworth died of Alzheimer’s’. The Hayworth galas in Chicago and New York City raise millions for research. “He is my hero,” Yasmin said. Stone was the primary founder of what would become the Alzheimer’s Assn., and today there are 80 chapters in the U.S. **ANN GERBER** from p. 1 expensive pieces to “Star Wars” creator George Lucas, insiders tell us, after the “hot” painter and sculptor hosted Lucas at his local studio. Other fans of Hebru include Revonne and Jay Z... SHELLEY SWAN

**ANN GERBER**

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**WINNERS**

Heather Headley and DeAnna Dunagan will also be on the program. **THE CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA** conducted by Rich Daniels, was so magnificent in its Christmas with the Cardinal program at Holy Name Church it should be-come a tradition.

**WE WISH GOOD HEALTH** and more pampered and saved pets for Elizabeth Curran who founded the Lake Shore Animal Rescue Shelter as an angel for home-less pets. Here in the gorgeous Elizabeth poses with Chloe to welcome 2015. The “UNIMAGINABLE” is the HOT NEW READ...commended by local author Dina Silver. She’s the writer of “One Pink Line” that was a wild ride. This amazing adventure starts on the sun-soaked beaches of Thailand and paints a vivid portrait of a young woman and her harrowing fight for sur-vival. Phuket is the location and a captivating, elusive man (always the best kind) is sailing around the world. Jessica joins him. (And you can too.)

**ACTOR MICHAEL KEATON** holds his Hugo after being honored by the Chicago International Film Festival for his lifetime achieve-ments. Mike Kutza, founder and director, organized the tribute. Keaton’s new film, “Birdman” may relate to his faded career. JAN. 9 WILL BE THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW Ralph Lauren Polo Bar in New York City next door to the flagship store at Fifth Ave. The Polo Bar will offer a casual yet refined setting in the heart of the Big Apple. From the Henry Koehler polo match-inspired mural to the saddle leather and equestrian art inside, the restaurant pays homage to the distinguished sporting lifestyle long synonymous with the Ralph Lauren brand. Snacking will include garlic potato chips and oysters. An elegant wooden staircase leads downstairs where banquettes create intimate din-ing alcoves. Carefully curated paintings and photographs welcome the guests. The Polo Bar’s cuisine will be classical American with crispy kale salad and crab cakes, a corned beef sandwich, steaks and the signature Polo Bar Burger with beef from Lauren’s Double RL ranch in Colorado. Star of the dessert list is Ralph’s coffee ice cream, homemade with Ralph’s custom coffee blend. The chic waitstaff will wear Lauren grey flannel trousers and leather wingtips plus silk ties. Chicago RL’s manager, Rich Varnes, has been in New York supervising operations for the launch. Congrats to Gibsons Restaurant Group honchos; Steve Lombardo, Hugo Ralli, John Colletti, Larry Shane, Jeff Harris, Gregg Horan, Patrick Houlihan, Chef Randy Waidner and Chef John Coletta. GETTING RADIATION to fight his cancer is “Bucky”, plucky little dog who lives with public rela-tions guru Louise Edwards. He had an operation and his progno-sis is encouraging. Helping him save pets...
By Felicia Dechter

Heart of the ‘Hood

There’s gnome place like Gnome Hall

Sophia Rodriguez-Day, left, Tom Hall, and Olivia Zindel built the Free Little Library they call Gnome Hall. (Photo by Diane Graham-Henry)

It was community spirit at its best on a recent Saturday morning, as neighbors braved the chilly temps and headed to the outdoor unveiling of a magical Little Free Library (LFL), Gnome Hall. The latest addition to the Bourgeois Pig Café, 738 W. Fullerton Ave.

You may have seen Little Free Libraries around, they’re tiny houses where you take a book, leave a book, and hopefully visit often. The enchanting Gnome Hall, which looks something straight out of fairyland, was a gift to the neighborhood thanks to teamwork between the Lincoln Elementary School-based Girl Scout Troop 20469, the age 50-plus or older organization Lincoln Park Village (LPV), and the Bourgeois Pig.

“It’s an alliance across the generations,” said Ald. Michele Smith (43rd), who chose the first book to borrow, “The Girls of Atomic City.”

“It’s just the kind of community building we strive to have in Lincoln Park, and I really applaud the Village and the Girl Scouts.”

Last spring, Girl Scouts and avid readers Sophia Rodriguez-Day and Olivia Zindel – both sixth graders at Lincoln Elementary – decided to work together to earn their Bronze Award, the highest Girl Scout honor. Their idea: Build a LFL, where people could share books freely. Their moms, Colleen Day and Jennifer Stuart, with neighbor Jane Curry, created a plan to partner with the LPV, making the project truly intergenerational. Construction progressed through the summer and into the fall, and the two scouts served apprenticeships with LPV members Tom Hall and Diane Graham-Henry, designing and building the LFL in the couple’s basement carpentry shop. The girls finished the project in mid-October, and Gnome Hall officially opened for business late last month.

“We’re giving it to the community so everyone is allowed to use it, as long as they treat it with respect,” said Sophia, who loves the Harry Potter series and the book “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.”

“He was an experience and fun,” said Olivia, whose favorite books are “Divergent” and “Because of Winn Dixie.”

LFL started between two neighbors in Wisconsin, said Colleen Day, the scout troop leader and mother of Sophia. Today, there are more than 15,000 of them around the world. Day said, “There are others on the 1700 block of W. Henderson St. in Lakeview and on the 300 block of W. Glenlake Ave., 1246 and 1348 W. Thorndale, 5828 N. Wayne, 1472 W. Berwyn, 1454 W. Hollywood, 5256 and 5917 N. Broadway, 1134 W. Bryn Mawr and 1343 W. Devon all in Edgewater. There’s also a small one in Lincoln School.”

“They provide free literacy and a sense of community,” said Day. “It’s a win-win. We’re hoping to make this bigger between the Girl Scouts and the LPV.”

The girls passed out cookies for the celebration and Mike Blackburn, a teacher at the Old Town School of Folk Music, strummed his ukulele. The entire project was “a great collaboration,” said collaborator Tom Hall.

“It actually came out better than the three of us doing it rather than if I did it myself,” said a very proud Hall.

I agree with neighbor and LPV member Diane Campbell, who said: “They’re giving us something we’re going to treasure and use for years to come.”

One of the LPV’s aims is to bring generations within neighborhoods together, said member Jane Curry.

“The LFL is a terrific example of exactly this,” said Curry. “I would love to think that neighbors pick up on the idea, begin placing their own LFL’s up and down the streets, and we become known as the LFL community.”

Bourgeois Pig owner Mason Green and manager Kristin Hunt hope people will come on by and check the LFL out.

“It’s really a work of art,” said Hunt. “Everyone is invited to stop in for a warm cup of coffee and a bite to eat.”

Speaking of LPV... the organization is presenting a book signing and discussion of, “Unretirement: How Baby Boomers Are Changing The Way We Think About Work, Community and the Good Life,” with award-winning writer Chris Farrell on Jan. 13 at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. Tix are required. For more info call 773-248-8700.

Whatever happened to West Rogers Park? … is the question 49th Ward residents are asking of their once fairly well-heel neighborhood, to the west, the 50th Ward. With four storefront mini-malls in as many blocks on Touhy Ave., (no offense to anyone who frequents them) and at least 10 empty storefronts on that same strip, those who live in the area are thinking long and hard about where their vote goes in the upcoming aldermanic election.

“Do things here and now, not after you’re gone.
If you have some money, share it.
And if you have some time, do something worthwhile.”

– JEROME STONE
Founder, Alzheimer’s Association
(1913-2015)

alzheimer’s association
THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.

Thirty-five years ago, Jerome Stone showed the world his unwavering commitment to the fight against Alzheimer’s disease when he started the Alzheimer’s Association. He led the way as a true visionary and has given hope to millions of families. We honor him and all those facing Alzheimer’s by continuing the fight for a world without Alzheimer’s disease. A worthwhile venture, indeed.
Crystal-Ball gazing into the future of Chicago housing market

It’s time to gaze into the crystal ball and see the future of Chicago’s housing market in 2015. Experts are focused on several bright spots on the horizon for home hunters in Chicago. And, economists are forecasting national housing growth based on a better job market and near record low interest rates. Experts say the following factors will influence the housing market in 2015:

- Economic Optimism. After years of spurring, the U.S. economy appears to be on its way to a boom. In the third quarter of 2014, the U.S. economy grew at a five percent rate—the fastest in 11 years—up from an earlier 3.9% estimate, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. With oil prices falling to under $60 a barrel, the Dow Jones Industrial stock average surged passed 18,000 for the first time.
- Job gains. In 2014, as the unemployment rate dropped to 5.8%, the U.S. economy was on track to create the most jobs since 1999. In November, 321,000 new jobs were created, 100,000 more than Wall Street had expected. In Chicago, the lion’s share of the new jobs were tech positions in the downtown area, where increasing numbers of Millennials, college-educated residents ages 18 to 33 years old—are contributing to a robust job market.
- Mortgage interest rates. Home-loan rates remained near their 2014 lows in late December. Freddie Mac reported that benchmark averaged 3.87%. A year ago at this time, the 30-year fixed loan averaged 4.83%.
- At its December meeting, the Federal Reserve Board voted to leave the Fed Funds Rate unchanged at zero percent for at least the first quarter of 2015.

Economists forecasts that interest rates will rise in 2015 “should drive both potential buyers and existing homeowners to take advantage now and seize the opportunity,” said Hugh Rider, president of the Chicago Assn. of Realtors.

- Lower down payment. First-time home buyers have new options in 2015 for obtaining a mortgage with a low down payment. A new initiative by Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae will allow down payments as low as three percent from first-time buyers. The new policy is designed to entice Millennials as well as low- and moderate-income consumers to take the plunge into homeownership.
- Home prices on the rise. The Illinois Assn. of Realtors (IAR) reported that median existing home price in Chicago rose 15% to $230,000 in November, compared with $200,000 in Nov., 2013. Meanwhile, the median existing home price in the nine-county Chicago metropolitan area was $182,000, up 7.1% from $169,900 in Nov., 2013. Rising prices will nudge more and more first-time buyers off the fence, experts predict.
- Building permits surge. The estimated value of all building permits issued by the city of Chicago for new construction and renovation has skyrocketed 46% in the past two years. In the first 11 months of 2014, the value of building permits jumped to $5.4 billion from $3.7 billion in all of 2012.

In 2014, the Near North Side and Chicago's River North building boom nearly set a record for the number of building permits. Most of that value can be seen in high-rise apartments, hotels and new condominium towers. Appraisal Research Counselors Ltd. reports that another 6,000 new luxury residential units are in the pipeline for downtown over the next two years.

- Higher rents. A new rental survey by Zumper, an apartment-search website, revealed that median rents rose about three percent on Chicago’s North Side in 2014. However, rent hikes in several hot, high-demand neighborhoods moved much higher. Rents skyrocketed a whopping 14% on the Near North Side, and jumped nine percent in Uptown. Zumper reported. Rents rose 6.5% in Lincoln Park, six percent in West Town and five percent in Logan Square and Lincoln Square.

With apartment rents on the rise, experts say more people will realize the benefits of home and condo ownership in 2015.

City announces 3rd phase of Large Lots program, expansion to Austin

Some 250 City-owned lots available for $1

The City this announced the second expansion of the Large Lots program in Austin. The program will enable homeowners, block-clubs and non-profit groups to apply to purchase vacant, City-owned land for $1 per parcel through January 29. This year, approximately 250 City-owned lots are available within Austin’s community area boundaries. Most were acquired by the City through property taxes, eminent domain or by donation.

To qualify as a buyer, an applicant must own property on the same block, be current on property taxes, and have an outstanding debt to the City, such as parking tickets or water bills, among other requirements. Lots proposed for purchase must be owned by the City, be vacant for 12 months and be zoned for residential use. Properties will be sold “as-is” via a quit claim deed.

Up to two parcels are available per application. Typical lot sizes are about 3,125 square feet.

More than 410 applications were submitted for about 4,000 available Lots in Greatwood. In East Garfield, nearly 320 applications were submitted for approximately 410 available Lots. Most are being planned as side yards, community gardens or public art installations.

For more information visit LargeLots.org or call 312-744-0363. Applications are also available during business hours at City Hall, 121 S. LaSalle, Room 905.

CASTLE from p. 1

ghosts, is convinced the 1871 fire left the River North building haunted. And, she says, the fire was caused by the spreading fire left behind a residue of emotional energy that we still feel and interact with today,” she says. “It is entirely possible that some deaths occurred there if refugees from the fire sought shelter in the former structure.”

She points out the Chicago Historical Society kept the bones of some of the city’s earliest settlers. And, she says, drug warfare in the 1980s was responsible for more deaths at the location.
Test delay gaining support

STORY AND PHOTO
BY PATRICK BUTLER

Raise Your Hand (RYH), an education advocacy group that has been trying to get at least a one-year delay in implementation of a controversial achievement test scheduled to be given in Chicago Public Schools (CPS) this coming year, says it has lined up support from at least 11 state lawmakers, as well as U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (9th).

According to RYH board members Amy Smolensk and Cassandria Creswell, State Sen. William Delgado (2nd) and newly-elected State Rep. Will Guzzardi (39th) have agreed to introduce legislation asking the U.S. Dept. of Education to postpone the two-part, eight-hour test, which Creswell said is scheduled to be given in March and May.

RYH also wants state “opt out” legislation allowing parents to refuse to have their children take the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) test without fear of repercussions. Under current policy, a student may refuse to take the test. But since grade school and high school students are minors, such refusals may not be legally binding, Creswell said.

Nonetheless, an estimated 2,000 students in 90 CPS declined to take the test last year, according to RYH.

“Although most opt-outs students and families were treated with respect, there have been numerous incidents where school administrators threatened and coerced students into ‘opting back in,’” Creswell said.

“They told parents it’s illegal to have their child opt out and that their children wouldn’t be able to graduate and get into high school if they didn’t take the test. That’s not true. It was just threatening and bullying,” she said.

“Because these are high-stakes tests, there’s a lot of pressure from above on teachers to make the parents have their children take these tests,” Creswell added.

The law acknowledges that children can refuse to take the test, but because they’re minors, parents would have to act on their behalf, but can’t in this case, explained Raise Your Hand board member Cassandra Creswell, shown here at a November news conference at the State of Illinois building.

The federally funded PARCC test is intended to replace the ISAT (Illinois Standard Achievement Test) and the PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Examination) in Chicago public schools, but not private or parochial schools, RYH leaders explained during a Nov. 21 news conference at the State of Illinois building. Illinois was required to make the switch or risk losing $42 million in federal funds, they said.

An amendment allowing parents to opt out on their children’s behalf was introduced during the last legislative session, but the measure got sent back to the House Rules Committee, where it currently languishes, Creswell said.

RYH plans a citywide meeting for parents sometime in January, with regional meetings to be held in February, said Creswell, adding that no dates or locations have been set yet.

“Opt out legislation encoding parent/guardian rights is on the books in at least six other states,” Creswell said. “Illinois needs to get on board with this type of policy to ensure that students who opt out are treated fairly and their families’ wishes are respected.”

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FLIRTY AND FORTY and fabulous! That’s Chicago Style.

THE COSTUME BALL at the Chicago History Museum celebrated “Chicago Styled: Fashioning the Magnificent Mile.” It is the latest exhibition and marks the 40th anniversary of The Costume Council.

JANET DAVIES OF ABC 7 and Gary Johnson, Chicago History Museum president, welcomed 200 guests and Nena Ivon, president of the Costume Council congratulated Costume Curator Petra Slinkard on Chicago Styled.

SEVEN PAST PRESIDENTS of the Costume Council were present and introduced: Bonnie Deutsch, Alison de Frise, Laura Barnett Sawchyn, April Schink, Noren Ungaretti, Lawrie Weed and Abra Wilkin. Slinkard hailed the Costume Council’s support of the Chicago History Museum’s curatorial staff for four decades to develop the costume collection into a rich resource for understanding the history of Chicago and its citizens.

CHICAGO STYLED explores one of our city’s many exceptional stories through the presentation of stunning and noteworthy garments collected during this period, Slinkard concluded. (Photos by Dan Rest)
Although they have more than 100 years of combined volunteer service to Lurie Children’s between them, Clare neighbors Jean Bensdorf (left) and Peggy Carr (right) only recently met.

Earlier this year, Jean Bensdorf was having breakfast in The Clare dining room when she noticed another resident wearing a medal commemorating her years of service to the Founders’ Board of Ann & Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

“I walked up to her and asked who she was,” says Jean, a 49-year hospital volunteer who serves once a week in the hospital’s ParentWISE® (Parent Wisdom in Shared Experience®) program.

But in 2012 the developers had originally hoped to build three towers, one at 27-stories, a second at 14-stories and third at 19-stories, and more than 160,000 square feet of commercial space on the pie-shaped parcels. Plans also call for 760 residential units and more than 57,000 square feet of open space spread over a central skydeck.

The program closed to Peggy’s heart is Garden Play, a horticultural therapy program she created at the hospital’s Garden Court in conjunction with the Chicago Botanic Garden. Over the years, thousands of children have benefitted from the exposure to a little bit of nature at the hospital.

“A remember one little boy who was autistic, and hadn’t spoken a word in the two weeks he was at the hospital,” says Peggy. "They brought him in, and when a volunteer asked him what color paper cup he wanted to plant his flowers in, he answered, ‘Red!’ He planted one cup of flowers after another, and when it was time for him to leave he smiled and waved goodbye. The medical staff couldn’t believe it!”

The Rewards of Working with Families

As a ParentWISE® volunteer in the hospital’s outpatient oncology unit, Jean helps families navigate the hospital experience from the perspective of a parent who has worked with patient families in such programs as social services, recreational therapy, and hospital services.

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ANN GERBER from p. 2

Children’s Museum is the 7th most visited tourist attraction in the country. The 1,200 pieces are a testimonial to John’s unflagging interest. Recently the Indianapolis Society of Chicago held a meeting for 900 at the Fairmont and Lanzendorf was saluted for his contributions to the scientific committee. A puppet diorama led him into the event.

A BEYOND OF BEAUTIES

who are also top cheerleaders achieve the holidays at RVM, devouring steaks and gossp. Seated are:

REMEMBER WHISKEY-A-GO-GO? It was one of the business ventures of man-about-town Lenny Feldman, “ageless,” who was a “fixture” on the Near North Side. Popular and innovative, Lenny was married for more than 50 years to his beloved Barbara. He was a WWII veteran and a U. of I. Champaign grad. Services have been held.

SANTIAGO, CHILE impressed vacationing Kathy Brown, who stayed in a beautiful winery sur-rounded by the Andes Mountains. Calling FROM HOME in LAS VEGAS, retired photographer Tony Romany says “hello and best wishes” to all his old friends. AMERICANS WHO NOW BELIEVE terminally ill patients have a right to die with dignity, has risen to 74%, a Harris poll finds. And to die with dignity, has risen to 74%, a Harris poll finds. Pointing fingers at several high-profile socialites with anonymous text has amased and our amateur detectives, eager to reveal the hateful source. Stay tuned.

SHOULD ILLINOIS PARENTS going through a divorce be able to explain the possible outcome to their children to calm their fears? A mother of three hopes to overturn a forbidding order on this and other factors in a case filed by Skyliner lawyer Benton Page of the Davis Friedman law firm before the Illinois Supreme Court. It cuts to a heart break of the rights of parents and their kids, asserts Page.

WHAT OMAPA IS AN ANNOYING

It is about time Dennis Rodman realized he is uncool! After meeting with Kim Jong Un, Dennis seems to forget that beneath the band aid, beneath the fin dirt beneath the fin, Rodman is reveling in the fun and games he was able to enjoy, Dennis sees the dirt beneath the fin gills and the bone beneath the banad. Rodman’s lawyer has demanded Money horse Games remove Dennis from the “Glorious Leader” video rump with Kim Jong Un on a white horse and Rodman as an on-looker.

WE HAVE LEARNED anything from “The Interview” embarrasment? Surely it would have been an important lesson if we had been fighting to see and save an important, or a truly witty, clever movie instead of this shallow, silly dud. Laughs? Two snickers was a stretch.

WE HEAR THAT MILLIONAIRE BACHELOR Mike Wilkie is now engaged to the lovely lady he has been dating for the past three years. OUR CONDOENCES to Jay and Natilya Zuhar on the death of his mother. Helen, 86.

EXERCISE GURU JRIM KARAS has a new book, “The Ultimate Diet Revolution,” which should launch a thousand weight-shed-ding programs. WHO IS THE TOXIC CHICAGOAN who has been mailing poison pen letters to the husbands of former girlfriends? Pointing fingers at several high-profile socialites with anonymous text has amased and our amateur detectives, eager to reveal the hateful source. Stay tuned.

IT IS ABOUT TIME DENNIS RODMAN REALIZED he is uncool! After meeting with Kim Jong Un, Dennis seems to forget that beneath the band aid, beneath the fin dirt beneath the fin, Rodman is reveling in the fun and games he was able to enjoy, Dennis sees the dirt beneath the fin gills and the bone beneath the benad. Rodman’s lawyer has demanded Money horse Games remove Dennis from the “Glorious Leader” video rump with Kim Jong Un on a white horse and Rodman as an on-looker.

WE HAVE LEARNED anything from “The Interview” embarrasment? Surely it would have been an important lesson if we had been fighting to see and save an important, or a truly witty, clever movie instead of this shallow, silly dud. Laughs? Two snickers was a stretch.

WE HEAR THAT MILLIONAIRE BACHELOR Mike Wilkie is now engaged to the lovely lady he has been dating for the past three years. OUR CONDOENCES to Jay and Natilya Zuhar on the death of his mother. Helen, 86.

EXERCISE GURU JRIM KARAS has a new book, “The Ultimate Diet Revolution,” which should launch a thousand weight-shed-ding programs. WHO IS THE TOXIC CHICAGOAN who has been mailing poison pen letters to the husbands of former girlfriends? Pointing fingers at several high-profile socialites with anonymous text has amased and our amateur detectives, eager to reveal the hateful source. Stay tuned.
City trims but approves W. Huron hi-rise condo project

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

It will be smaller than what developers wanted but the Chicago Plan Commission approved a condominium proposed for 400 W. Huron St.

FoodSmith Huron Assoc. will build a 15-story 46-unit residence with retail space on the ground floor.

The site at the corner of W. Huron and N. Sedgwick streets contains three buildings, one of which was formerly Scoozzi, a Lettuce Entertain You restaurant that closed in April after 27 years. That and another building will be demolished but a building that once housed a printing company will be rebabed and converted into a condominium sometime in the future, pending a separate approval by the plan commission.

According to Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd], FoodSmith Huron Assoc. originally wanted to build 80 rental units with 80 parking spaces, retail space with 10-foot ceilings, and limited landscaping. They eventually agreed to condo units but nearly half as many, 61 parking spaces, 18-foot-tall retail space, and more landscaping. Ald. Reilly also talked them into adding a 1,200 square foot enclosed and heated dog run.

He says increasing the height of the ground floor retail space to 18 feet will “open up the corner and create a more pedestrian friendly experience with greater transparency at the base of the building.”

In March, Lettuce Entertain You CEO Kevin Brown hinted at a new project at the same location. Said Ald. Reilly about the new building, “It is also likely that this will be the future home of River North’s next new exciting restaurant.”

Rendering, dated December 18, of a 196-foot high-rise condominium planned for Huron & Sedgwick in River North that will contain 46 units.

WHERE THE NEW CONDO WILL FIT IN

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Rendering, dated December 18, of a 196-foot high-rise condominium planned for Huron & Sedgwick in River North that will contain 46 units.
Stone actively lobbied for Alzheimer’s research funding and changes in public policy. His meetings with former President Ronald Reagan in 1983 led to the creation of a task force to oversee and coordinate scientific research for Alzheimer’s.

He joined those groups, comprised of researchers, physicians, caregivers and other humanitarians from around the country, to discuss possible solutions to the growing need for information, care and, ultimately, a cure for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. The group met again on December 4, 1979, in what would become the first official meeting of the Alzheimer’s Assn.; Stone was elected the founding president.

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That same year, he was instrumental in working with the president and Congress to have November designated as National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month, which is still observed today. In 1986, President Reagan presented Stone with the President’s Volunteer Award in recognition of his work in the fight against Alzheimer’s.

“Jerry’s passion for the cause was evident from our first conversation. He called and said, ‘You don’t know me, but I know who you are and I know of your mother (Rita Hayworth), and we have something in common,’” said Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, honorary vice chair of the Alzheimer’s Assn. National Board of Directors, who founded the Rita Hayworth Galas in honor of her mother who died of Alzheimer’s. “He told me that his wife had Alzheimer’s disease and asked me to have lunch. Jerry was an inspiration, an amazing man, a true leader and friend. He was my hero.”

Stone’s dedication to the cause has led to the evolution of Alzheimer’s Association into the largest and most influential global organization working to advance care, support and research across the world. From face-to-face support to online education programs and promising worldwide research initiatives, the Alzheimer’s Assn. is the only organization with the reach, magnitude and drive to achieve a vision of a world without Alzheimer’s disease.

Stone is survived by his wife Marion, and their children Jim, Marion, and his three children Jim, Marion, and his three children Jim, Marion, and his three children Jim, Marion, and his three children, Annabel, Alexa, Joey and Oliver.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday at North Shore Congregation Israel, 1185 Sheridan Rd., Glencoe. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to the Alzheimer’s Assn.
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used in the conduct of the debt collection activity.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and the plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

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NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practice Act, as amended by the Telemarketing Sales Rule, if the property is a condominium unit, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will represent the owner's undivided percentage interest in the condominium unit which is part of a common estate: UNIT NO 3909 IN THE PARKVIEW CONDOMINIUM, A CONDOMINIUM PROJECT, located at 1660 N. LASALLE APARTMENT 3909 Chicago, IL 60614, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: PARKVIEW CONDOMINIUM, UNIT NO 3909, CHICAGO, IL 60614.

The property will be sold in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Declaration of Condominium Reserves Document(s) recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois, as Document No. 13-03872.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale free and clear of all liens, charges, and encumbrances except those recorded in the public records of the county in which the real estate is located.

The property is subject to being sold under the provisions of the Condemnation for Public Use Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser acquires the residential real estate whose rights in and to the limited common elements attached to said unit

Non-record claimants

For information, contact Plaintiff’s attorney:

1 IN WOOD AND OTHER'S SUBDIVISION OF PART THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; WHICH SURVEY OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE IS DETAILED AS SURVEY NUMBER 14 CH 09878.

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13 CH 26519
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois,Case Number: 13 CH 26519
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC,
Attorney Code: 40342
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125
Chicago, IL 60606-4650
(312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation on www.judicialsalescorp.com
or call the sales department at (312) 541-9710
E-Mail: foreclosurenotice@fal-illinois.com

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney:
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC,
Attorney File No. 13-7680
60606, (312) 541-9710
Please refer to file number 13-7680

230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 541-9710

NOTICE OF SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE ACT, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4), is hereby issued to the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the purchase price of the property in full, which shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor who has the right to purchase the property, in accordance with Section 15-1701(C) of the Mortgage Act.

The property is not to be sold to a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used to verify all information. The judgment amount was $140,371.47.

The property is not to be sold to a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used to verify all information. The judgment amount was $245,523.03.

The property is not to be sold to a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used to verify all information. The judgment amount was $137,423.10.

The property is not to be sold to a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used to verify all information. The judgment amount was $121,799.00.

The property is not to be sold to a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used to verify all information. The judgment amount was $241,781.36.
NOTICE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (‘FDCPA’), and to avoid a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (‘FDCPA’), you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, DIVISION FEDERAL, NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, -v- THE WIRBICKI LAW GROUP, THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, INC., USA MORTGAGE LLC, USA MORTGAGE, LLC, USA MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, USA MORTGAGE, LLC, THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, INC., USA MORTGAGE LLC, USA MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, USA MORTGAGE, LLC, THE WIRBICKI LAW GROUP, and ANY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants

Plaintiff: National Mortgage Association

1227 186 7TH PL  Chicago Heights, IL  60411

Property Index No. 13-2230011

JUDICIAL SALE

ATTENTION: MORTGAGEE, JUDICIAL SALE CORPORATION

Auction Date: January 12, 2015

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: The Condominium Property Act, 735 ILCS 5/13-500 et seq.

The property is located at:

230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL 60606

TJSC#: 13-20218

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale by the Sheriff of the County of Cook, Illinois, pursuant to judicial order entered in the above cause on November 10, 2014, and approved by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Case Number: 13 CH 20218.

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (‘FDCPA’), you are advised that the Sheriff’s attorney is an agent of the former owner of the property and any information obtained will be used for the Sheriff’s purposes.

The Sheriff reserves the right to accept a deed in lieu of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to contact the Sheriff to verify if the Sheriff has received any deeds in lieu of possession.

The Sheriff reserves the right to accept a deed in lieu of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to contact the Sheriff to verify if the Sheriff has received any deeds in lieu of recordation.

AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUDICIAL SALE CORPORATION CONDUCTS FORECLOSURE SALES.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and no third party checks will be accepted. The balance in certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day stay on title and without any representation as to quality or quantity thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, shall pay the Sheriff the amount due on the court order of possession of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to contact the Sheriff to verify if the Sheriff has received any deeds in lieu of recordation.

AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUDICIAL SALE CORPORATION CONDUCTS FORECLOSURE SALES.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGEHOLDER (HOME-OWNERS/MORTGAGEE), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUDICIAL SALE CORPORATION CONDUCTS FORECLOSURE SALES.

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In the Circuit Court of Cook County, illinois Department of Financial and Housing Security, Plaintiff-Officer of the United States of America, vs. MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate Commonly Known as 2407 East Oakton Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

Notices to MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate

**LEGAL NOTICE CONT’D.**

**NOTICE TO MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE:**

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) OF THE REAL ESTATE described herein and have never been served with a process and have not appeared in the above cause on October 20, 2014, you are hereby notified that on such date an Amended Complaint was filed in the above cause. If you are the homeowner, you must appear in this cause on or before the date set for entry of judgment, otherwise a default may be entered. If you are not the homeowner, you must appear in this cause within 20 days from the date set for entry of judgment in order to prevent entry of judgment. The homeowner is entitled to receive a deed to the property in the absence of a default.

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY:**

Plaintiff’s Attorney: ELLINORE B. JUNNUN, ESQ., 220 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 541-9710

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following date and time shall be set for entry of judgment in the above cause: October 20, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in the above cause, in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for that purpose.

**Notice of Sale**

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Department of Financial and Housing Security, Plaintiff-Officer of the United States of America vs. MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate Commonly Known as 14730 KETELAAR DRIVE, Northlake, Illinois 60164

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**Notice of Sale**

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Department of Financial and Housing Security, Plaintiff-Officer of the United States of America vs. MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate Commonly Known as 5155 WestIDGE Way, Chicago, Illinois 60628

**NOTICE TO MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE:**

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**Notice of Sale**

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Department of Financial and Housing Security, Plaintiff-Officer of the United States of America vs. MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate Commonly Known as 7651 South Maywood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60652

**NOTICE TO MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE:**

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**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY:**

Plaintiff’s Attorney: ELLINORE B. JUNNUN, ESQ., 220 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 541-9710

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following date and time shall be set for entry of judgment in the above cause: October 20, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for that purpose.

**Notice of Sale**

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Department of Financial and Housing Security, Plaintiff-Officer of the United States of America vs. MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate Commonly Known as 5201 South Maywood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60638

**NOTICE TO MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE:**

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**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY:**

Plaintiff’s Attorney: ELLINORE B. JUNNUN, ESQ., 220 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 541-9710

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following date and time shall be set for entry of judgment in the above cause: October 20, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for that purpose.

**Notice of Sale**

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Department of Financial and Housing Security, Plaintiff-Officer of the United States of America vs. MORTGAGOR (homeowner) Unknown Owners and Non-owners of the real Estate Commonly Known as 3755 South Maywood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60649

**NOTICE TO MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE:**

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**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY:**

Plaintiff’s Attorney: ELLINORE B. JUNNUN, ESQ., 220 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 541-9710

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following date and time shall be set for entry of judgment in the above cause: October 20, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for that purpose.
**Police warn of home repair scams on the North Side**

Chicago police are warning residents about home repair scams which have occurred where men posing as electrical workers or repairmen have victimized elderly citizens. Incident times and locations include the 3400 block of N. Paulina on 2 p.m. Dec. 18, and on the 1600 block of W. Barry 3:30 p.m. Dec. 23.

In one of the incidents, three victims described as white males, 30-40 years old, who gained entry into the 91-year-old female victim’s residence by posing as electrical workers who were there to repair the water service. Subsequently, one of the offenders distracted the victim while another removed cash from her purse.

On the Barry incident, offenders stole a wallet from the 68-year-old female victim’s vehicle after approaching her and stating that they could fill her house in minutes.

Police say residents should not allow unlicensed repairmen to enter your home or property and to call 911 if they attempt to gain entry without permission. Also, request identification and confirm service calls from anyone claiming to be from the water service or power companies.

Officers in these types of incidents often drive pickup trucks with workable magnetic business placards on the sides. Police ask for victims to obtain descriptions and license plate numbers of possible vehicles.

Anyone interested in learning more about these two crimes are asked to call the Bureau of Detectives – Area North at 312-744-8263 and refer to Alert # P14-N229CA.
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This charming three bedroom vintage condominium has an enormous living room, adjacent to a kitchen. The apartment has a dining room, renovated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors and an air conditioning system. There is a large private deck and designated parking. Very convenient neighborhood, close to shopping and restaurants and a short walk to the University of Chicago campus.

4940 SOUTH EAST END - NOW $144,500

This floor beauty, at The Barclay, has spectacular views south, west and east to the lake. The totally remodeled kitchen has granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances. Both baths have been beautifully restored. There are new windows in the living room, front bedroom and kitchen. The floors have been sand- ed and refinished. All three bedrooms are generously proportioned. Steps to the lake and public transportation. Parquet condition and deeded parking too!

5421 SOUTH CORNELL - $370,000

This beautiful four bedroom, three bath condominium is just steps from either floor of a classic East Hyde Park elevator building. Gracefully proportioned rooms - in an unusual, high-floor desirable layout. Six finished feet from enormous win-
dows and have panoramic views of the lake and the city. The kitchen opens onto a small private balcony with fabulous lake views. Updates include new bath, newer windows, stainless steel kitchen appliances and in-unit laundry. Gleaming hardwood floors were refinished several weeks ago. A hardware fixture, covered for over 30 years, is now the focal point of the living room. One parking space.

506 EAST 32ND - REDUCED TO $499,000

One block from the lake, this three-bedroom townhouse is only minutes to downtown Chicago and Hyde Park. This pristine house has been wired for sound and has updated bathrooms, hardwood floors and a wood-burning fireplace. There is stainless steel appliances in the new design kitchen, as well as granite counters and an island. One can enter the house on the first and second floors. Balcony door leads to a deck and beautiful gardens. The first floor office can be a fourth bedroom. There is a two garage plus two additional parking spaces.

4518 SOUTH DREXEL - REDUCED TO $1,269,000

This magnificent 1895 balloon frame mansion, designed by Horatio Wilson, has been meticulously restored for a 21st century lifestyle. In over 10,000 square feet of living space there are six bedrooms, a two-story family room, an elegant formal dining room and a spacious chef's kitchen. The four full baths and one powder room have been beautifully updated. The living room is very large and has a wood-burning fireplace. The woodwork has been restored and there are three full baths and one powder room. The five bedrooms are all large and share a recently updated kitchen, updated bathrooms and a fully modern kitchen including a Viking stove and a wine cooler; in-unit laundry. Gleaming hardwood floors, pocket doors, fireplaces (that can be wood-burning or gas) and bay windows. The house has 32 new windows, surround sound and a fabulous media room. Four-car garage with a three bedroom coach house. SELLER WANTS OFFER.

1138 EAST HYDE PARK BLVD - NOW $398,000

This recently updated 2,900 square foot condominium has central ac condition- ing, a private garage and one block from President Obama's house in historic South Kenwood. The previous owner had a spectacular studio with identical finishes. A balcony, adjacent living room and dining room open onto a south-facing sun room. There are four bedrooms, three baths and two sun rooms. Update appli- ances in the fully modern kitchen include a Viking stove and a wine cooler; counter tops are granite and the floor is ceramic tile.

5343 SOUTH DREXEL - REDUCED TO $339,000

This charming Englewood townhouse has three bedrooms, two baths and a powder room. There are hardwood floors on the main level and the updated kitchen has new stainless steel appliances. Living space in the finished basement includes a family room, an office and an additional room with a laundry center. There is a patio in the inviting backyard, as well as a lawn. A parking pad for one car can be rented to accommodate two cars. Great location, just steps to the University of Chicago schools and hospitals.