

The NEW 411
YOUR ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
By Raymond Ward

South Shore resident Michael O. Ewing publishes first book

'One That Got Away: Unchained by Destiny'

At the age of 72, longtime South Shore resident Michael O. Ewing has published his first book, *"One That Got Away: Unchained by Destiny."* The autobiography tells the story of Ewing's upbringing on the near West Side of Chicago from early childhood to adulthood, including his family's travels during the Great Migration and hardships faced during the Jim Crow era. Eventually he succeeded in becoming the "one that got away," going from the projects to becoming a first-generation university graduate and avoiding the incarceration and drug use of others around him.

Ewing graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison with a bachelor's degree in Education. He has been married to his wife Valerie J. Ewing for 50 years; they are both retired with five children and 11 grandchildren. They have lived in the South Shore neighborhood for more than 45 years.

Ewing and his wife have always written a birthday letter—and he realized there were important family histories shared in those letters that were little known to relatives, including stories of hardship.

Ewing shares, "With over one million books published every year, why would a 72-year-old throw his hat into the ring? The answer is COVID-19. It caught us off guard and attacked with a vengeance. The only choices were to fight or give in, and I decided to fight!"

I hope this book will be an inspiration to everyone who feels stuck in a situation. This book will certainly invoke determination, perseverance and hard work."

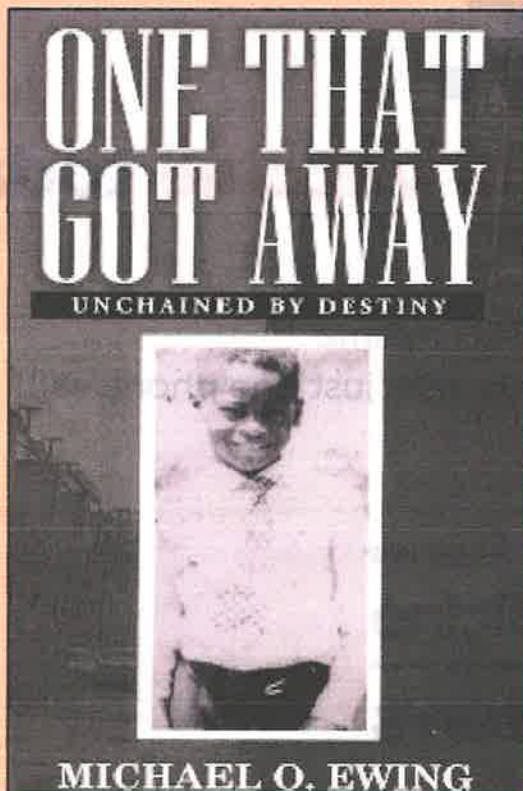
"One That Got Away" speaks to Ewing's realization that he had options throughout his life. Opportunities to take actions that would either propel him toward a destiny of repeating mistakes or of creating a new direction. In some cases, the steps he took were not the result of thought or preconception; instead, they were involuntary. Results from those actions prevented him from going down the road traveled by family members that led to crime, drug use, and incarceration, to create a new path of hope for his descendants. The book covers his life from early childhood through early adulthood and shares his victories. It demonstrates his realization that, indeed, he is one who got away!

Michael O. Ewing was born in a family who on both sides migrated North during the Great Migration. Each side of the family experiences the trauma and hardship of navigating Jim Crow. Those traumas played out in the areas of health, physical, mental, and social, leading to IV drug use, incarceration, and death.

Search for *"One That Got Away: Unchained by Destiny"* online. It is \$9.99 (paperback) and \$15.99 (hardcover).



Michael O. Ewing



ENTERTAINMENT

By Elaine Hegwood Bowen, M.S.J.

CHICAGO STYLE



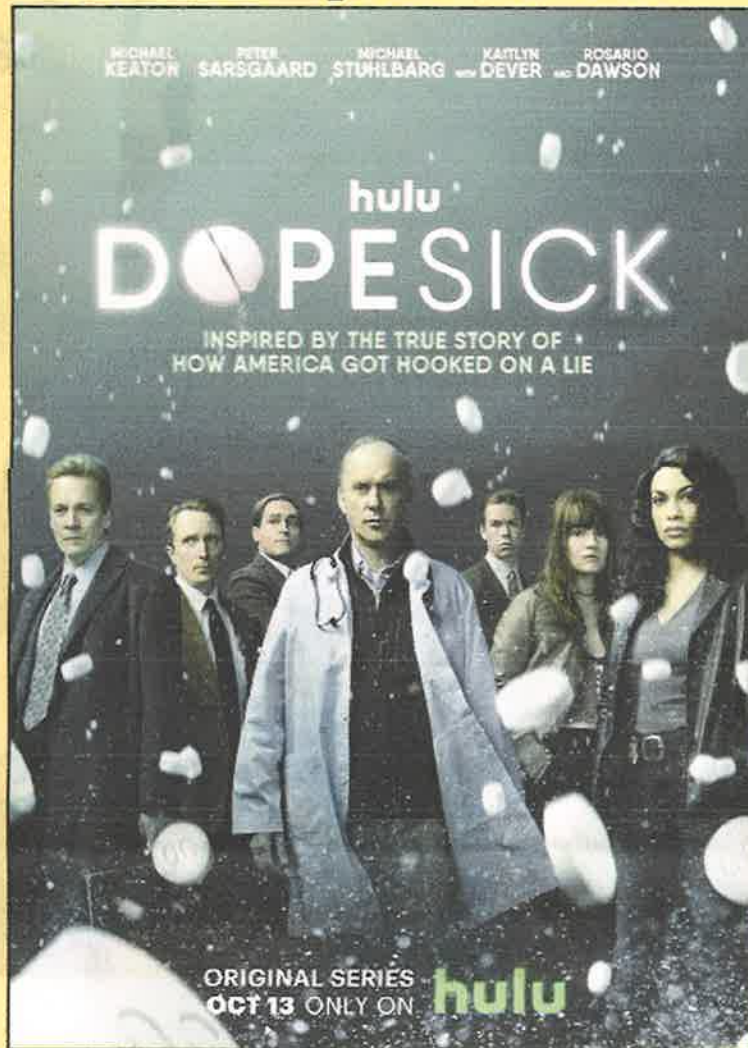
'Dopesick' provides the "dope" on OxyContin and the opioid crisis

"That's the other thing, how it shines a light on white collar—white and white-collar—America and its guilt, really, . . ." Michael Keaton as Dr. Samuel Finnix.

Recently, I sat in on a Zoom panel, which was part of the summer CTAM Television Critics Association event, and among many shows this season, one that was incredibly educational and eye popping was "Dopesick," which is playing on the streaming service Hulu.

A few years back on a Metra train into the city from Northbrook, I was curious about a *Financial Times* article that a fellow passenger was reading. Afterward, I was able to get his paper and read all about the Sackler family that runs Purdue Pharma, which was recently ordered to pay \$4.3 billion and forfeit ownership of their company. This settlement was levied because of the company's part in pushing OxyContin pills to patients and creating what we now know as the opioid crisis. The money will go toward drug treatment and abatement programs throughout the country.

"Dopesick," from executive producer Danny Strong and starring Michael Keaton, Rosario Dawson, Peter Sarsgaard, Michael Stuhlbarg, Will Poulter, John Hoogenakker and Kaitlyn Dever, who plays Betsy Mallum, brings this health crisis to bear in full detail.



ROSARIO DAWSON, as Bridget Meyer, top left, clockwise; Ray McKinnon as Jerry Mallum and Mare Winningham as Diane Mallum track down Diane's jewelry at the local pawn shop; Michael Keaton and Nurse Leah, played by Arischa Conner; Dr. Finnix begins his decline into opioid addiction; Will Poulter, as pharma representative Billy Cutler, tries to sell Dr. Finnix on increasing his patients' OxyContin dosages. (Photos courtesy Hulu)

The eight-part series examines how one company triggered the worst drug epidemic in American history. The series takes viewers to the epicenter of America's struggle with opioid addiction, from the boardrooms of Big Pharma to a distressed Virginia mining community to the hallways of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Defying all the odds, heroes will emerge in an intense and thrilling ride to take down the craven corporate forces behind this national crisis and their allies. The limited series is inspired by the *New York Times*' bestselling book by Beth Macy.

Halfway into the series, which premiered last month, I have seen a dramatization of the devastation of a drug that Purdue promoted as not being addictive, while at the same time recommending to doctors to increase dosages from 10mg all the way up to 160mg (the larger dose caused the company to change the shape of the pill to oval so the 160 would fit). Even Dr. Samuel Finnix, played by Keaton, gets strung out and must go

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