



Mary and Marissa Roberts

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“God has blessed me to do this. I have prayed for a home to work with teenage girls. God has a big plan for this house and for my work with girls.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

It's time for Toledo residents to start an earnest conversation about education.

As odd as it may seem in a town in which topics such as the school board and its level of dysfunction, who's who in the school district administration, the result of Ohio State achievement and proficiency tests and the progress of the school building program are all the rage in our daily conversations and local media accounts, we never, ever hold discussions about education.

Particularly disturbing is the fact that our so-called watchdog groups – the critics of the school district and of those at the helm of the district – fail to make even the slightest effort to address the critical educational issues facing today's students, especially those students at the lower end of the economic scale.

These discussions over who is in control and who should be in control – the politics – spill over into who should be in classrooms, how much they should be paid and how we can raise the funds to continue to pay them. But we don't talk about how those in control or how those in the classroom should be teaching our kids.

We obsess over school buildings and community input and control as if getting the ideal classroom, the right color teacher or the proper method of making administrative decisions are the answers to all that is wrong with our educational efforts. The problem with these useless discussions is the fact that so few of those caught up in the conversations have not the slightest interest in actually improving education.

Not that answers are necessarily found on the state or federal level, by the way. The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the centerpiece of President George Bush's domestic program, is a well-meant bit of legislation that demonstrates, more than anything else, the powerlessness of the federal government when it comes to crafting real progress on such issues.

Yes, it is an unfunded mandate, as critics contend. The real snafu, however, is that NCLB tends to mask the situation that exists of a lack of educational attainment among those in the lower class to poor end of the economic spectrum.

What's the real problem with our educational system? It's too little, too late for the majority of poor to lower class students in this country. By the time a poor child enters kindergarten, or even Head Start if she is that lucky, events have passed her by. Her economic status has marked her as very likely doomed for failure and it will take a brooding naganian educational effort for the typical poor or lower class youngster to catch up with her wealthier classmates. And she is not likely to find herself in surroundings that are conducive to catching up with her rich or middle-class counterparts in most classrooms in this country.

In 1995, Betty Hart, Ph.D., and Todd R. Risley, Ph.D., released their findings of a study they conducted in Kansas – *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children*. The conclusion, in a nutshell, is that parental conversation is the most important facet in the intellectual development of a child and if that conversation has not started at an early age, by the time a child is three years old her intellectual growth is already well high stunted.

Hart and Risley found that by the age of three, children whose parents were professionals had, on average, a vocabulary of 1,100 words and those whose parents were on welfare had, on average, a vocabulary of 525 words. The children's I.Q.'s showed similar disparities. The correlation, Hart and Risley found, was based on simple factors – the number of words the parents spoke to the child and the manner in which these words were delivered, i.e., with or without encouragement.

The results, according to the researchers and many others have followed up on the work of Hart and Risley, have been evident over the years in terms of the educational gap between black and white, between wealthy and poor, between middle-class and lower class. A poor or lower class child, on average, will not have the chance to catch up in an average educational setting, much less in one that is far below average.

But, change is possible. At the moment, there are a few schools around the nation which have performed admirably in terms of raising the level of attainment among poor students. Here in Toledo, we have a few experimental public schools that have demonstrated their potential for success. The recipe invariably calls for extra work, parental involvement and an added dose of discipline in the educational environment.

However, say the critics (the critics who are concerned about education not with just carving out their little fiefdom within the system), and rightfully so, these schools are just a drop in the bucket and the kids who attend are prompted to do so by their parents and would probably succeed anyway.

Nevertheless, the models for success exist. It behooves us as a society to enter a straightforward conversation about how we can go about correcting the deficiencies wrought by a system of economic disparities. To do so, we have to make the break from the trivia we have focused on in the past – who makes what decisions, what color our administrators and teachers will be, how the buildings are constructed.

It's time we started to get serious about changing our approach to education and stop using our kids as political punching bags.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

November 30

• Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce: Networking opportunity to meet Debrah Harleston and George Robinson; 5:30 to 7:30 pm: 419-243-8191

December 1

• "Tribute to Rosa:" Warren AME Church; Celebration of the spirit and legacy of Rosa Parks; 7 to 8:30 pm
• World AIDS Day: Fredrick Douglass Center; 9 am to 9 pm: 419-255-1115 ex 334

December 2

• Start After-Prom 8th Annual Holiday Craft Show: Start HS; 10 am to 4 pm: 419-344-0466
• The Gunkel Reunion – Civic Center Promenade; 8 pm to 1 am; BYOB and refreshments: 419-277-3475
• World AIDS Day 2006: Rosary Cathedral; Prayer breakfast; 10 am to Noon: 419-244-6711 ext 515
• A Journey Through Healing: Third Annual Memorial Service; A Journey Through Tears, Healing for the Holidays; Greater St. John's COGIC; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-531-1336

December 3

• David Carter Symphonic Choir: "The Light Still Shines;" Spirituals and Songs of Faith; Monroe St. United Methodist Church; 4:30 pm
• Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae Chapter Peppermint Social: Sanger Branch Library; 3 to 5 pm: 419-537-1774

December 8

• Toledo Bar Association: Honoring Yolanda Gwinn, law clerk for Magistrate Judge Vernelis Armstrong, with the Robert Kelb Award for outstanding service; Noon; Radisson Hotel: 419-531-1749
• Women in Red 2006: Family Baptist Church; Speaker Minister Sandra Harden; 7 pm
• Holiday Banquet "An Elegant Evening of Stars:" Wyndham Hotel; Speaker First Lady Shirley Jordan: 419-537-9736

December 9

• Top Ladies of Distinction: McKissick Senior Center community event; 1 pm

December 9-10

• Grace Temple COGIC: Annual Craft Show/Bake Sale and Fish Fry; Saturday at 11 am to 3 pm; Sunday at 1 to 4 pm; Booth rentals available; Door prizes: 419-205-0086 or 419-779-0963

December 10

• Clarence Smith Community Chorus: Christmas Concert; Friendship Baptist Church; 6 pm; Free concert: 419-534-3370

December 11

• Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce: Introduction to FastTrac Seminar; 5:30 to 6:30 pm: 419-243-8191

December 16

• Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit: Featuring Toledo's Ramona Collins; 9:30 pm; With Bobby Jones, Glen Oliver, Bobby Welch and Donald Byrd and the Blackbirds
• Greater Harvest MBC: Choir Director and Musicians' Musical; "Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord;" 6 pm: 419-474-3811

December 20

• Xmas Gifts for Children aged 2 to 12; Good News Bible Chapel: 419-241-2728

The Sojourner's Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth, 616^{1/2} Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700

thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

A new administration in Columbus brings with it a whole new cast of leaders for the various departments which make up the divisions within state government.

It has been over a decade and a half since Democrats were able to show off their leadership skills in Ohio state government. Many of the Dick Celeste people reached retirement or simply moved on. So it is a sure thing that some new stars will emerge and that will obviously be good for Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Corrections and the Department of Youth Services always require steady hands. Given his background, Governor-elect Ted Strickland should pick some nationally-trained people to staff these two departments. The Youth Service Department always poses problems that can blow up in a moment.

I do not recall any female directors of this department in recent times. Maybe now is the time for something new for this critical department.

I am going to call again for the formation of a separate department for foster care administration in Ohio. There are 18,000 kids in foster care

in Ohio spread out over many public and non-profit agencies amid scores of county governments. No wonder kids get lost in the shuffle so frequently.

We are told that Lt. Governor-elect Lee Fisher will lead economic development. He will be great in that role but he could provide leadership on the social service side just as well. That is what Fisher has done for years in Cleveland in leadership roles with various organizations. Down the road, a good bet on Fisher is his running for the U.S. Senate in 2010 against George Voinovich, if the senator runs again. We shall see if the memory of Tom Noe lingers on into 2008 and 2009.

Fisher will get extra valuable political face time over the next few years as he goes around opening businesses and talking to business groups, much as Mike Dewine did a few years ago when he was lieutenant governor of Ohio.

We can expect Barbara Sykes to receive a high office appointment given her performance as candidate for State Auditor. The Strickland administration will need a little diversity for balance in light

of the shut-out at the polls when both Sykes and Ben Espy lost their races. Espy will make a fine addition to the court of appeals when a slot opens up.

The outgoing (term-limited) Senate minority leader, C.J. Prentiss, should land a position in education or human services. She has both the experience and the passion to do an outstanding job in either position.

It would not be surprising, nor a bad call, if Joyce Chapple gets back in the harness. Chapple is a former state director of Aging and has a vast resume in human resources. If I were Strickland, I would pluck Doni Miller and place her in charge of a state agency. Toledo's loss would be the state's gain. Rick Mitchell, Keith Mitchell, Emerson Ross, Jr., Sam Hancock, Neema Bell, Jackie Martin ... there are scads of Toledoans who can lead at the state level.

Senator Teresa Fedor is rolling the dice in seeking to become Senate minority leader. I wish her well. She is tough and focused and she took few prisoners while raising money for her caucus. People on the outside do not

appreciate how rough and nasty politics can get in running for caucus leader. You have to always check your neck to see if your throat has been cut. It is pretty rough and tumble but the rewards are great if you prevail. But, if you lose, you can lose everything you have worked for on the way up. So, good luck, Teresa.

On the national scene, much is written about the anticipated ascendancy of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). The CBC has many

members positioned for key committee chairmanships. Such is the reward for staying in Congress even during "wilderness" years, such as the past 12 have been. Seniority can be tricky in that it does not pay to jump from one committee to another as you can run the risk of losing top seniority and the opportunity down the road to become chairman of a prized committee, particularly a money committee.

Finally, we ought to salute the career of Alice Robie



Jack Ford

Resnick. On the whole, she was a great jurist and a powerful voice for women in Ohio politics.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

The Grand Old Party: Out of the Ashes

By Jan Scotland

The party that teaches self-determination and pulling oneself up by the boot straps needs to stop acting like a victim and do its job. The Lucas County Republican Party has to rise from the ashes and become the loyal opposition that we desperately need. The Tom Noe trial is over! The mass hysteria it caused the GOP should never have started.

The role as the loyal opposition in Lucas County requires: 1. loyalty to the party; 2. loyalty to their constituents; 3. loyalty to what they stand for and 4. the ability to present reasonable opposition to Democratic candidates, office holders and policies.

For too long the GOP in Toledo has been scared of its own shadow. They have been victimized by The Blade, the Noe trial, the Democrat leanings of Toledo voters, the unions and on and on and on. They have been passive, squeamish and apologetic. Just trying to get along.

Meanwhile, the Democrats have been running amuck with city politics. They have created a donut of economic development where Toledo is the hole and the communities around us have the dough. They have created the "A" and "B" teams of political bickering that have made a mockery of our system and they have elected some candidates whose qualifications are suspect. Yet the GOP still looks on playing the role of submissive spectators rather than that of aggressive opposition.

It was 20 years ago when I was a part of a Republican majority on Toledo City Council in a government that included a Republican mayor, Donna Owens. We accomplished this the old fashion way with a chairman as the spokesperson and fundraiser, an executive director who understood grass roots politics, a team of political strategists who did nothing but eat, drink and breathe politics and office



Jan Scotland

holders who contributed to the health and well being of the party. This formula created the atmosphere for a successful Republican Party. We were more focused, creative and attracted good candidates.

Recently there has been an everyman for himself attitude among many (not all) GOP office holders. This not only ignores the party leadership but it ignores the constituents as well. There are no longer the political junkies offering their services (free of charge) to the party. There are many volunteers who don't understand that campaigns don't start and end on Election

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It's time for a Quiet Conversation.™

Letter to the Editor:

All the hoopla around O.J. Simpson's new book and whether or not he killed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman are wonderful fodder for the media. We do not know the contents of the book and have not taken a position with regard to his guilt or innocence related to the case. But in the excitement of debating whether or not O.J. should profit from a book or TV show that glamorizes his involvement in the murders, we are missing the point that domestic violence, physical and emotional abuse, can and should be stopped.

Unfortunately, Nicole Brown Simpson did not find safety. But safety can be found by victims of violence at the hands of spouses, parents, and other abusers. This is where we MUST focus our attention. And I applaud those TV stations which announced they would be airing specials about domestic violence, rather than broadcasting O.J. Simpson for profit and ratings. Isn't it far more important to find ways to stop domestic violence, save women and children from abuse, and communicate to victims how to find help? Let us start there.

As the CEO of the YWCA, I see the results of domestic violence and abuse every day in our Battered Women's Shelter. You see it every day on the pages of the newspaper and in TV reports. It is your duty and mine to let the victims know there are solutions available, there is hope for safety and security. Let us spend our time and energy there!!! Safety planning is available, with complete anonymity, 24 hours a day (888-341-7386). **That** is the story the media should be reporting!

Lisa McDuffie
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of Greater Toledo

Toledo Ice Owner Chris Dotson Reaffirms Commitment to Team

By Tamir A. Shaw
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In light of the controversies that have erupted at the start of the sophomore season of the Toledo Ice basketball team, its owner, Chris Dotson, felt compelled to clarify the issues for The Truth's readers.

In addition to owning the Ice, Dotson is CEO of Chris Dotson Inc., a conglomerate of 13 businesses including SoulRiver Records Corporation, a music/record company and Push Studios, a music video and film production company. Chris Dotson Inc. has offices located in Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan and California.

When the American Basketball Association (ABA) announced on October 4, 2006 that the team's ownership had been transferred to Dotson, it was to the dismay of one of the previous owners, Nate Hopkins, who maintains that he and his other two partners, Fatima Perrin and Mike Perdue, have never relinquished their ownership of the team to Dotson. They had, said Hopkins, had discussed allowing him to become a fourth partner in July 2005 after being introduced to him by then-team coach Melvin Newbern who has since left the Ice.

According to Hopkins, the trio laid the groundwork for the team, secured sponsorship, held tryouts and paid money to the ABA long before Dotson came into the picture and that he eventually paid only one fifth of the money that he was required to invest in order to join the partnership.

"We started having issues before money even changed hands," Hopkins said. "He was holding press conferences without our knowledge and representing himself as a partner."

Hopkins also said that the team did survive its inaugural season but that it could not secure enough corporate sponsorship and still has outstanding debts.

Hopkins cited the difficulty mounting community support and the financial hardships as leading to the partners' deci-

sion not to have an ABA team this year. They were instead looking at another Pro-Am league.

Needless to say, Hopkins was extremely surprised to learn that team tryouts were being advertised on WJUC-107.3 FM and immediately contacted his lawyer.

The Truth has confirmed through the ABA's Commissioner Joe Newman that Chris Dotson is the owner of the Toledo Ice and that the transfer of ownership occurred as a result of the former owners' failure to meet league requirements with respect to building a suitable team and following the league's game schedule.

"I stepped in to fulfill the team's obligations and responsibilities and I secured those things that were necessary," Dotson said. "The league has faith in my abilities based on what I have done from a business standpoint."

Dotson also stressed that he has no ill will toward the previous owners and that his only intentions are to do what is best for the team.

Despite this commitment, Dotson has continued to encounter obstacles with regard to building a successful team.

Dennis Hopson, a former Chicago Bull and The Ohio State University's all-time leading scorer, was hired as the team's new coach and general manager amid much fanfare in October only to have him resign a few weeks later citing a lack of professionalism and lack of input in selecting the team's players.

Ben Williams, the team's Advisory Board chairman, confirms that a high-quality group of athletes with good attitudes had been assembled with the assistance of Jim Robinson, whom he regards as one of the best coaches in Ohio. Williams said that the team had been practicing in preparation for the first two games which sadly never occurred due to a scheduling snafu.

Dotson is disappointed by the sudden change but con-

firmed that Robinson has been named the interim coach and has agreed to help out this season.

"I have spoken with the team and the guys who were there and they are all committed to me and Jim Robinson and his teachings. He has demonstrated what he knows and they have embraced it," Dotson said. "The focus of the team is to get through the season and be as strong and to build a nucleus of people to be united we have to be one accord."

Unlike during the inaugural season, Dotson said that the team is in a solid position financially and that the major issue facing the team is building a strong local support system, something that he thought would be easy considering that he was born and raised in Toledo.

But instead of a warm reception, Dotson said, he has only found detractors and non-believers who want to see him fail and as of two weeks ago that list became much longer when his alleged involvement with Jim Welling, a successful basketball coach and local icon, was listed as one of the reasons for the man's firing from Owens Community College.

According to The Blade, the team gave a secret \$800 cash payment to Welling in return for use of the college's gym for team tryouts. Dotson disputes this account saying that although he did rent the facility, no money changed hands between him and Welling.

"All we did was rent a gym, nothing more, nothing less. I never talked to anyone from the media about this so that information did not come from me," he said.

Dotson said that he has been receiving calls from family and friends questioning his own integrity and involvement in the matter, but he contends that he has done nothing wrong and, to his knowledge, neither has Welling.

Dotson had to rent the facility because the team does not have a home arena, something that Dotson hopes will

change once the new downtown arena is built, but he's not holding his breath.

"I actually spoke with those who are doing the feasibility study and it affects us from the standpoint of being able to gain more support locally. I would not like to go to Perrysburg or Rossford to play. As a product of Toledo I thought that it would be easier to gain support from the commissioners. Initially the county commissioners said that we could not play at the Seagate Center. I feel that if it was somebody, maybe white, who would have made the request then they would have rolled out the red carpet," Dotson said.

Dotson is not saying that the lack of support is totally a racial issue because he has found more resistance within the black community than anywhere else and he is fully prepared for the controversies to continue, but he says that he will not give in.

Dotson, who has lived in Minnesota since 1996, said that he has invested in The Toledo Ice for several reasons including a desire to show his loyalty



and dedication to the city and its youth. Dotson said that he loves sports so much he has started coaching youth sports to inner city children in Minnesota.

Dotson said that he was offered the ABA team in Minnesota twice, but that his heart is in Toledo, so his followed his heart's despite knowing that it is not the best market right now.

"I had to get back to my roots and this offered me a way to give back and create opportunities," he said. "I didn't have the connection to Minnesota that I have with Toledo."

Dotson said that he thought he would have more support in returning home and that what hurts him most are the lies and controversy that are swirling around about him and the team.

"People think that I'm supposed to shrivel up and crawl

into a corner somewhere, but that's not going to happen. I won't let it fail. I am committed to success 100 percent," said Dotson emphatically.

Dotson added that humble beginnings have not only helped to develop his resiliency but has also helped him to stay grounded despite his success in business.

The Rogers High School graduate was raised by his mother Sherry for whom he holds the highest regard. Dotson said that although he knew who his father was and spent a great deal of time with his father's other children, it was as if his father didn't exist.

"I never missed having a father because my mother was great at taking care of things. My mother never degraded my father or put him down,"

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Toledo Ice Owner Chris Dotson Reaffirms Commitment to Team

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Dotson said. Growing up in Toledo with the constant presence of a father, Dotson was vulnerable to many negative aspects of city life. However, the women in his life occupied his time encouraging him to go down the right path. Dotson said that he was molded into the man that he is today largely by two forces—music and spirituality. “I was always designated as the one who had to go to church with my grandmother and my aunt and my mother,” Dotson said. “I was always learning spiritual and godly things. I went to Catholic school, an Episcopal church with my grandmother, a Holiness church with my aunt, and a Baptist church with my mother,” Dotson laughed. Sherry Dotson was the oldest of 14 children and often the Dotson household was not only comprised of Dotson’s siblings, but also his cousins. “I’m not going to say we were poor, but we for sure weren’t rich. We didn’t have

all we wanted but, we had all we needed,” Dotson said. “I may have had only one coat, but I had a coat. We were taught to love above all other things,” he said. Dotson said that he is still a normal, down to earth guy and keeps a photo as a reminder of a time when he and seven others slept on a pull-out couch together. Dotson is not saddened by his prior circumstances but is instead reminded that where material possessions were lacking there was an abundance of musical talent. Dotson was a sports fanatic growing up and admired many athletes including the local ones. “One of my dreams was to play professional basketball or football but, at some point, reality set in and said that you’re not going to the NFL or the NBA and that’s when I began to focus on the music. I would put my ear to speaker and sing all the songs and hit all the notes because that is what I liked to do. Dotson had no idea that he was training himself for

a career in music. From within Sherry Dotson’s household emerged what Chris Dotson calls the greatest [singing] group that never came out. There were three other family members of the group all of whom Dotson refers to as his brothers – Tim, Jay and Chester. “The Dotsons were different because you had four guys with four different styles and perspectives on music. “It was like having Price, Howard Hewitt, Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson all in one group. Dotson was the oldest member of the group and Chester was the youngest. Chester, who is actually Dotson’s first cousin, has also found substantial fame in the music business performing under the moniker of Lyfe Jennings. “All of the different things that I am involved in are things that I do well, but music is who I am. It is everything that I live for,” Dotson said.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Hosts 49th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

With the instrumental version of Donna Summer’s 1979 hit “Hot Stuff” blaring in the background, commentator Jada Collins wowed the audience when she sauntered on stage in a flickering flame-engulfed trumpet train gown and a fox cape created by Italian designer Angelo Marani. The gown itself, inspired the theme of this year’s production appropriately entitled “Stylishly Hot,” and was one of many highlights during the course of the evening. The show featured 11 female models and two male models, all of whom received warm receptions from the audience. However, it was Dwanna Randolph, the only full-size model among the 13, who won the crowd over with her confidence, skill and close-to-home appeal. Randolph, a Detroit native, consistently received the

loudest cheers from members of the audience. Ebony Fashion Fair is the world’s largest traveling fashion show, and since its inception has premiered creations by some of the world’s best-known designers. This year’s show included haute couture creations from some 88 American, French, Italian, British, Canadian, Japanese, German, Indian, Lebanese, Jamaican and Argentine designers. Act One consisted of scenes entitled “Hot Chocolate,” “Paisley Pepper,” “Street Heat” and “Bling Bling Blaze.” Highlights from Act One included an elaborate chocolate velvet hat worn with a printed coat and matching mini-dress by Raffaella Curiel of Milan, Italy; gold paisley printed baby-doll dresses worn with contrasting sweaters by Anna Sui of New York City and a transparent mesh jumpsuit peppered with

beaded paisley by Fausto Sarli of Rome, Italy. Act Two continued to “bring the heat” with scenes like “Winter Warmth,” “Global Sizzle,” “Night-Life Fever,” and “The Fire Ball.” Highlights included a blue four-piece swimsuit by Missoni of Milan, Italy. Dolce and Gabbana swimwear worn by the two male models, Justin Brown and Ronnel Blackmon, really got the women in the audience going. A red hot fur coat with a red jumpsuit worn underneath by Jean-Louis Scherrer of Paris, France. And a winter white gown with matching wrap by Zang Toi of New York City. The 49th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair was sponsored by Zeta Alpha Omega Graduate Chapter, and Iota Iota and Alpha Lambda Undergraduate Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Soror-

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The Fatherhood Symposium

on Responsible Fatherhood & Healthy Families

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Worshiper Business Journal.

Funding provided by the Ohio Governor's Office of
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The Grand Old Party: Out of the Ashes

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own watch dog effect. Good and honest competition has its role. Democrats would be forced to come together in the face of legitimate competition. The quality of government we have seen over the last 10 years would be improved noticeably. So everyone, even the staunch Democrats, should root for

the return of the Lucas County GOP. Fortunately, there is hope. Robert Reichert, recently elected chairman, is a roll back to the spokesperson/fundraising chairman of the past. Joanne Wack, executive director has the energy commitment and knowledge that you need in that posi-

tion. This is a good base to start with. The rest of the faithful must now do their part. Ed. Note: Jan Scotland, owner of a State Farm Insurance Agency, was the co-chairman of the Lucas County Ken Blackwell for Governor campaign.

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United Way of Greater Toledo's African American Initiative

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The United Way of Greater Toledo kicked off its African American Initiative on Thursday Nov. 16 on the eighth floor of the Toledo Edison Building.

"We have come together to build awareness among the African-American community of the impact of United Way," said Lisa McDuffie, executive director of the Toledo YWCA and president of the African American Initiative committee. "Educa-

tion builds awareness and recruits African-Americans to the cause. We want to support the organization that supports the African-American community."

Jason Daniels, director of the United Way's Community Impact, will be leading the African American Initiative from the inside of the fundraising agency. "I'm a product of United Way, I'm a product of United Way helping me," said Daniels on the impact the organization had on his own childhood. "I

get to see every day what happens to the dollars we raise," he said of his current position with the agency. "We are about changing lives. It's about the people and the lives we help every day."

Bill Kitson, executive director of United Way, offered his own assessment of the African American Initiatives, formerly known as Targeted Leadership, now in its third year. "We recognize the great strides United Way's African American has

made. I'm excited about the renewed sense of energy."

Kitson praised Charles Rice of Owens Illinois and Mel Womack of Toledo Edison for their efforts in leading the initiative during the first two years.

The leadership of the African American Initiative hopes to increase community involvement in United Way by focusing on the organization's goals of community service, educational leadership, philanthropy and networking.



Diana Patton and Larry Sykes



Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Jason Daniels and Bill Kitson



Micheal Alexander and Lisa McDuffie

Scott High School Alumni Association

The monthly Scott High School Alumni Association General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Scott High School cafeteria

The Library's Local History Department Wants Your Memorable Photographs

This is the time of year to indulge in nostalgia, remembering holidays from your first Thanksgiving to your last "lucky" New Year's Day dinner. Holiday traditions help to weave your family history, and they also help to weave our community memory.

Preserving that memory, especially our visual history, is the mission of the Local History Department at the Main Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, 325 Michigan St. Through the Images in Time collection of more than 80,000 photographs and other images, the Library works to maintain a computerized scrapbook of how the Toledo area has grown and changed.

To do that, the Library needs dozens of historians - like you. Yes, your family and work photos, whether taken with an old Argus or Brownie or a new digital, are Northwest Ohio's visual history. Thanks to a recent grant from the DaimlerChrysler Fund, the Library has two new scanners and computers to digitize your photos so that all generations can get the flavor of holidays past.

Here are some samples of traditions that the Library does not yet have in its collection:

(Continued on Page 14)

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Mary Roberts: Opening Her Heart and Her Home to Teens Who Need Love

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The voicemail greeting on Mary Roberts' cell phone sums up her philosophy of life: message. "This is God's home with a plan," it proclaims proudly to the world.

Inside her recently purchased home, Roberts prominently displays the biblical verse from Jeremiah 29:11 which reads, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord... plans to give you hope and a future."

This is truly a home built upon a foundation of faith, spirituality and a devotion to help others. Over the nearly a dozen years that she has been a foster parent through the auspices of Lucas County Children Services, Roberts has had between 75 and 100 children sharing her home.

She started out with younger kids, and then moved on to the harder-to-place teenagers. Some of the foster children for whom she was both mother and caregiver still phone her to-

day, even though they now have families of their own.

"God has blessed me to do this. I have prayed for a home to work with teenage girls. God has a big plan for this house and for my work with girls," says Roberts.

November marked the celebration of National Adoption Month. There was an official proclamation issued in a White House ceremony. Closer to home, Lucas County Children Services Foster Care and Adoption Recruitment Specialist Celine Kabwasa Woods helped organize a ceremony at the Toledo Zoo Amphitheatre at which 29 adoptive parents were honored.

Among the adoptive parents who took part in that ceremony was Roberts.

After having had so many children pass through her care as a foster parent, what made Roberts decide to adopt Marissa, an attractive and shy 17-year-old student at Rogers

High School who had been a member of Roberts' extended family for four years?

"When I chose Marissa, I wanted her to have completion... I want her to be able to say this is my house and my family," explains Roberts.

And Marissa shares that warmth. Says Marissa of Roberts, "I love her like she's my mom. I've never felt that I wasn't a part of this family."

Roberts adopted Marissa on Nov. 6. She now shares the Roberts home with one of Roberts' three birth children and another foster child. Under Lucas County Children Services rules, as many as four foster children can live in the same home at the same time.

The woman who has been affectionately called "Miss Roberts" by so many children was born and raised in Toledo. She is the daughter of Sam Durham and Opal Bradley. Her parents were never married. She was the young-

est of four children; her siblings are Barbara, Don and Kenneth.

After Roberts graduated from Libbey High School, she attended The University of Toledo for a year and then went to Stautzenberger College where she received her associate's degree in business.

For most of her working life, Roberts was a single parent raising three birth children. She has much to be proud of in their accomplishments.

The oldest is Tiffany Roberts Williams. Now married with two children ages 11 and 2, she graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in business and a masters in accounting. Her husband Reginald is in the insurance and real estate business and they live in Cincinnati.

Tenysha Roberts is the middle daughter. She attends college and around the first of the year will be opening her own business, Studio 10 Nailz, in Toledo at 1332 Montain. That's in the Dorr and Reynolds area right behind Walgreen's.

Son Larry plays basketball for the Chicago RockStars, a 2006 American Basketball Association expansion team. He graduated in May 2006 from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma with a degree in business and computers. "He had several scholarships," says his proud mother, adding, "God has truly blessed him by letting him continue his dream in basketball."

Roberts has four grandchildren: Reginald, Rylee, Tahj and Tehani.

What motivated Roberts to originally become a foster parent? "There was a friend of mine who was doing foster care and needed a backup. At this time, I had lost my stepfather, my father and my mother all in 1987-88," recalls Roberts.



Mary and Marissa Roberts

"I had worked at Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 18-and-a-half years when I left and decided it was time to go back to school. Stautzenberger College hired me and I was a telemarketer for a year-and-a-half and became manager of that department. Then I worked in their admissions department recruiting students to come to the school. I was laid off, finished school, and told my friend I might try being a foster parent.

"I took the classes and became a respite provider for the first six months. Soon, I had a lot of children coming into my home. Of course, I also had my own children. I did a lot with the kids; I took them to basketball games. It was heaven. They were like siblings to my children. And we would work on their self esteem, helping them to like themselves," explains Roberts.

"I also had the support of my church family, Friendship Baptist Church, the affiliate of Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, and of my bishop, Duane C. Tisdale. We promote adoption in our church and helping other children. The church elders have been a great help, coming to my home.

"Marissa is very involved and very helpful in our church. In fact, it was Gary

Tisdale, the brother of our Bishop, who first talked to me about becoming a caregiver," says Roberts.

She acknowledges that single parents can also provide a loving home, but adds, "A mother is a mother, and will always be a mother... she can not take the place of a father. It takes a man to make a man, and it takes a woman to turn a girl into a young woman."

A young girl named Tacarra lived in the Roberts home for six years. Roberts wanted to adopt her, but "Tacarra said she wanted to be a member of a family where she had both a mother and a father. So I helped Mr. and Mrs. Tiller to adopt her," says Roberts.

She is also active in the Parents Helping Parents support group

Roberts says she always schedules breakfast as a family. "I take the children to the Boys and Girls Club. We go skating. I take them on field trips to Pennsylvania to see biblical plays. We just keep busy. You get a lot of information on the kids who come into your home, but you have to learn lot of it too. You help them with issues that they may have. And concentrate upon their school work and education. That's very important to me. All the teachers know me," she says.

"I truly, truly enjoy working with teens. It's a fun job, but it is a job.

"You've got to love children and have the patience of Job. You have to be understanding, because sometimes you may be called names you don't like," says Roberts, smiling.




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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Hosts 49th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair

(Continued from Page 5)

ity, Inc., and was held at The Stranahan Theatre & Great Hall on Sunday, Nov. 19.

The annual event is Zeta Alpha's largest fundraiser, and is held to raise money for scholarships and other worthwhile community service projects in northwest Ohio. This year alone, the sorority raised \$7,000 to be divided up amongst scholarship recipients.

This year's group of scholars include: Jasmine Roberts, who graduated from Start High School and who is now attending the University of Michigan; Brandilyn Edwards, a graduate of Rogers High School, now attending Eastern Michigan University; Alvin Brown Jr., a Scott High School graduate now attending The Ohio State University; Jessica Jackson a graduate of Notre Dame Academy now attending OSU and DaShe Jackson Frieson a graduate of Start

High School graduate now attending Bowling Green State University.

During intermission several prizes were awarded to members of the audience, including a fur coat donated by Toledo Furs. Lucky audience member Crystal Forbes won the fur, and proceeded to take to the runway to model her new coat. Valarie Penn was entered into a drawing to win a trip for two to any U.S. destination. Almeria Martin won Fashion Fair cosmetics and Beverly Stevens qualified to win a 2007 Ford Edge.

Cheryl Slack, chairman of the Ebony Fashion Fair committee, also thanked the Toledo community for supporting the show year after year.

"We wouldn't be able to provide to the scholarships and other community service projects without [your] continued support," a grateful Slack told the audience.



Commentator Jada Collins



Crystal Forbes won the fur coat



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A portion of the proceeds will go to help support Assets Toledo organization.

The Links' Biennial Emerald Ball and All That Jazz ... and Gospel

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc. held their 17th Biennial Emerald Ball on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Hilton Hotel – a formal affair whose theme this year was "All That Jazz."

Approximately 400 guests, attired in evening wear, attended the fundraiser which is expected to raise between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for the group's community activities.

This year's décor – red, black and white – highlighted an evening of jazz (Bobby

Lewis), gospel (First Creation) and contemporary music spun by DJ Mpress. Food was arranged in grazing stations and guests had the opportunity to bid on works of art presented by local artists such as Wade Harrison.

Links Neema Bell and Rhonda Sewell provided the decorations for the affair; Gina Thompson, Shawn Sansbury, Billie Johnson, Johnetta McCollough, Ardenia Jones Terry and Yolanda Jackson served on

the steering committee; Jovita James Robertson and Lisa McDuffie were in charge of the entertainment and Laneta Goings handled the publicity.

The Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc. has 36 active members and 11 alumnae. The organization was founded in Philadelphia in 1946 and incorporated in Toledo in 1972.

The Links has been involved in a number of sponsorships of community

causes over the years. Currently the group is focused on mentoring activities at the Elle P. Stewart Academy for Girls and the Polly Fox Academy.

McCollough is president of The Links, Inc., Goings is vice president, Norma King and Barbara Selvey are recording secretaries, Yvonne Thompson is the correspondence secretary, Sandra Davis is financial secretary and Yolanda Jackson is the program coordinator.



Bill and Laneta Goings



Artist Wade Harrison



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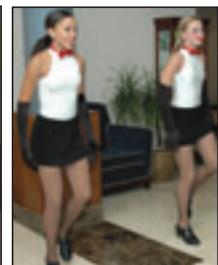
Eugene Sanders, Ph.D. and Doni Miler



Jackie Adams and Edrene Cole



Leola and Oscar Haynes and Frances Collins, Ph.D.



Tap dancing to All That Jazz

Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique Celebrates Third Anniversary in a New Location

Special to The Truth

The Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique celebrates its Third Anniversary Saturday, December 2, 2006 in a new location – 137 North Michigan Street in downtown Toledo. The celebration will feature New York designer, photographer and milliner Lawrence H. Levens.

Open house hours at Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special guest Levens will be on hand to greet customers and share his expertise on fashion while unveiling his couture collection of ladies hats.

For three years Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique has reigned as Toledo's premier shop for ladies casual and elegant hats at the original location of 118 Summit Street in Fort Industry Square. The December 2 move from Fort Industry Square to the Michigan Street Davis Building will be seamless, with the Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique becoming neighbors with Scarpe', Sophie's Sister and Sophia Lustig Shop. Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique move will literally make the Davis Building *the* downtown venue to shop from head to toe, according to owner Tracee Perryman.



Negro Business and Professional Women Present Thanksgiving Dinner

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC) brought a lot of holiday cheer to one Toledo-area family when they presented Pauletta Oliver and her household that includes five minor children – her grandchildren – with a Thanksgiving turkey and all the trimmings.

"We have adopted a family for the 2006-07 year,"

said Leola Haynes, vice president of the organization's Youth Group. The group consists of 16 school-aged youngsters who assist the adults in community service projects and educational activities. "Our main focus is to reach out into the community and help people through various methods," continued Haynes.

The presentation, held at the Mott Branch Library on Monday, November 20,

brought together key members of NANBPWC with the Youth Group and the family of six who would later enjoy the traditional turkey feast.

Oliver, who was recently honored by the Top Ladies of Distinction and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a grandmother of the year, is raising Mia Pearson, Shaquell Martin and Jonathan, Jonishia and Latia Dotson



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Hollywood Confidential: The Powers Behind the Siverscreens

By Andre L. Gaines
Special to The Truth

The most frequent question that I'm asked is "How does a movie get made?" Although there are multiple ways a movie gets made, there is only one way for a great idea to go from obscurity to the big silver screen. It's called "getting an agent."

Agents are not only the glue that holds Hollywood together, but they are the small engines that keep it running. No one does business without an agent, even the big wigs. Actors, writers and directors all look for their next projects by calling their agents or having their agents call them to relay what's the next big thing and how much money it's worth.

As in most of the rest of the world, nothing in Hollywood is done without a middleman, and agents are the most valuable and, oftentimes, richest middlemen you can find.

They know everyone, they know personal information about important people and they hold, proudly, a reputation for being shrewd and shamelessly blunt. Your agent is your best friend, business partner and chairman of the enterprise that is you. Your future is in his or her

hands. That's why you have to find a good agent, because you have to feel comfortable that this person is not leading you astray or selling you out in places where producers aren't buying.

Before we get into the details of how to deal with having an agent, let's spend some time on how to get an agent. Whether you're in Toledo or New York, Los Angeles or Burma, getting an agent is no easy feat and can often serve as the end of the road for many artists before any asphalt has been laid. It's quite common, actually. Most artists go nowhere because they can't get an agent to sell them. So they hire mom, dad or cousin Bootsy to be their "manager" when quite frankly, there's nothing to manage. No money, no prospects, no career, no competitive talent.

Start with talent. Say you're a writer. You've gone to undergraduate film school and you did well there. You've gone to graduate school and did better. Everyone, from relatives to renowned authors and playwrights, has commented on how brilliant you are and how your writing feels so remarkably natural and real. You've won a festival or two, or three, but still nothing is happening. You're still working



Andre L. Gaines

at Starbucks dishing out caramel macchiatos to pay the bills, you're struggling to make rent, you have years of high-priced education adorning your walls, you're all dressed up with nowhere to go. Here's what you do. This applies to all artists, musicians too.

Go to WGA.org and print out a list of agents who can represent you. The WGA is the "Writer's Guild of America," but the same agents that represent writers are the same agents that represent actors, directors and musicians. Send a "query letter" describing the project you want them to represent, a synopsis of the story and three sentences describing who you are and what you've accomplished. After you mail it off, then you wait, sometimes five months, for a response. Just be prepared when it comes.

The average rejection
(Continued on Page 12)

CornerBoy Films Puts the Spotlight on Detroit

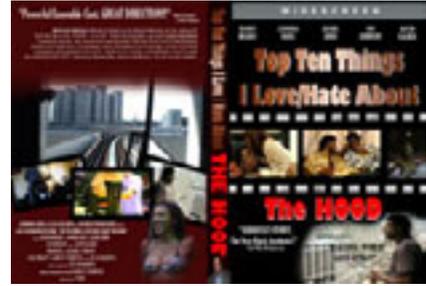
By John Dorsey
Special to the Truth

A new film recently premiered and it's all about Detroit. *Top Ten Things I Love/Hate About The Hood* is "equal parts French New Wave, film noir and 70's era Blaxploitation," according to writer, director Lee Martin II.

CornerBoy's first feature *Top Ten Things I Love/Hate About The Hood* was filmed in and around Detroit, MI in Aug/Sept. 2005 in a host of locales and historic sites. Production wrapped in late September and the next seven months were dedicated to editing in the company's shared Southfield, MI suite.

Established in August 2005, CornerBoy Films, L.L.C. is a multi-headed beast helmed by writer/director Martin. Principals include Director of Photography/Chief Editor Damon Thompson, administrators Jacquise C. Hudson and David Bomar and all around creative/technical talent Paul Philpott. Together, along with a host of talented actors and support staff, the five serve as the nerve center for metropolitan Detroit's latest entry into the indie film world.

Noted writer Shabazz Clark called CornerBoy's *Top Ten Things* the "New Black Aesthetic." Shot on digital video in five frenzied weeks, *Top Ten Things* ensemble cast included some of Detroit's most noted emerging acting talent. Notable names include Blood Holiday,



Lawanda Nance, Rachel Kiner and neo-Germanic film sensation Sir Austin Kaliber. The movie focuses on an erstwhile, disbarred Detroit attorney, Nicholas Skobey, and his trials and travails through the city.

Of course, pushing the envelope in terms of cinematic exploration is nothing new for the Motor City. The year was 1971 and the hot ticket at the box office was *The French Connection*. Little did audiences and the film industry know that in the same year the birth of a new era was about to explode: Independent Black Cinema.

The city was Detroit, and a weathered Melvin Van Peebles sat alone in the Grand Circus theatre watching only a few ticket buyers enter where his new film – his follow up to the successful comedy *Watermelon Man* – was about to play. After months of clawing, scheming and fighting to finish the film he wanted to make, the moment had arrived and, in a virtually empty theatre, Van Peebles sat with just a few curious onlookers. By the end of the screening, the filmmaker was alone. No one could have predicted what happened after that momentous end would be the beginning of history.

Melvin Van Peebles had stunned the world for the first time with his debut feature *The Story of a Three-Day Pass*. Filmed in France and selected as the French entry in the San Francisco Film Festival, Van Peebles' film was awarded the top prize. Saying it was controversial would be an understatement. In 1968, for a black man to walk up to the podium and accept the top festival award for a film he had to go abroad to make – now that's how you make your mark. After making his comedy *Watermelon Man*, Van Peebles was determined to push the Hollywood boundaries with the groundbreaking, and even more controversial, *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*. Turned down by every major studio including Columbia, where he had a three-picture deal, Melvin was forced to basically self-finance the project. Risking

everything he had, Melvin delivered to the world the first black ghetto hero on the big screen.

More than 30 years later, history is being fashioned again.

"I'm happy my people like it, but I consider *Top Ten Things* to be a universal story, "Don't let the title fool you," said Martin, a Detroit native and Wayne State Law graduate who has been hailed as one of Detroit's most promising writer/directors in recent years.

What's next for CornerBoy Films? They have a number of projects in the works including *Cutty's Homecoming*, which is currently in pre-production, *10 Mo' Things* which is the sequel to their first film, and *Who Killed Seymour Pettigroove* which is slated in begin production in the winter of 2008.

"Our vision is simple, write, act, direct, produce, create. Our numbers are small but our will is strong. We are always looking for partners to collaborate with... artists, writers, poets, musicians, you name it," Martin said.

The folks at CornerBoy are currently seeking interns in the hopes of building strong promotional teams in the greater Atlanta, D.C. and Houston areas. They are always on the lookout for hot, new music to feature in their films. Musicians who are looking to feature their music in future CornerBoy Films projects, please contact David Bomar at info@cornerboyfilms.com for an email address to direct Mp3 files.

They are not currently accepting scripts for development or production. However, they do hope to in the near future. Actors can send headshots/resumes to info@cornerboyfilms.com, up to this point the company has been doing a lot of their casting work in Ann Arbor.

Top Ten Things I Love/Hate About The Hood is currently seeking a theatrical distributor, and is being sold online through the company's website.

Visit www.cornerboyfilms.com for more information.

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(Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.)

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Hollywood Confidential: The Powers Behind the Silverscreens

(Continued from Page 11) rate is about 90-95 percent. Meaning that out of 100 letters, 95 agents won't give a rat's spit about who you are or don't accept "unsolicited material." That is material that was not referred by a professional and/or doesn't have legal protection. Five out of 100 agents will return a phone call, letter, or email to say they're interested. And only two of them will actually be interested.

Remember, the word "interested" in Hollywood is equivalent to the word "bs" in the rest of the world. It's an easy way to blow someone off while still being nice. Works like a charm.

You should know though that most artists do not get their agents by sending query letters. I surely didn't, and I've been represented by both a woman running shop out of her kitchen and a high-powered agency like William Morris. While getting an agent is not necessarily easier in Los Angeles than

it is in Toledo, it most certainly is more practical. Most artists get their agents by networking, meeting people, mingling, sitting around talking about themselves, working in the studio system, or acting fake long enough for someone to say, "We want to sign you."

Those few words, plainly and directly, serve as the doors to Hollywood. You ever hear anyone talk about that? The doors to Hollywood? These are the doors that serve as the entrance to bright young talent and the exit to has-beens. The only way you can get through these doors is to know someone on the inside.

You don't have an uncle who's the head of some major studio? Your dentist didn't go to school with Will Smith's dentist? You don't know a soul on the inside, and don't have any prospects of meeting one? Get an agent, or meet someone who can introduce you to one, and impress the pants off them when you do.

There's one caveat

though: you only get one chance to impress them. Meaning, if you waste an agent's time with returning your calls or responding to your letters, you better have something very valuable to show them. The best way to make sure you have something of value is to let a trained professional tell you what it's worth. Not in dollars and cents, but in creativity and originality.

Is this "script" valuable enough to become a "product" that can be sold multiple times over? As a novice, you really can't answer that without years of training and experience to know what's good and what's a piece of junk.

If you're lucky, the trained professional who tells you your script is worth gold will be the same person that can hook you up with an agent. If they're not, they often know someone who can. Find that person and latch onto them like grim death. Six degrees of separation might just be the difference between a fruitful

career and a fleeting dream.

It's not all chance though, remember that. Actually, there is one way to guarantee your success without schmoozing, praying you run into someone who knows someone, or writing letters. It's the one way to jump-start the career for an aspiring actor, director or writer without knowing a single person in the industry. I'll tell you what it is next week.

Ed. Note: Andre Gaines, a Toledo native and graduate of St. John's Jesuit, earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University and spent several years in Hollywood before gaining a full scholarship to attend New York University's Tisch School of the Arts to study film. Gaines, the son of Jimmy and Sharon Green Gaines, will be returning to Hollywood after the new year to join Disney as a writer and producer.

Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts Hosts Annual Fall Art Sale, Nov. 30

Area residents will have the unique opportunity to purchase masterful artwork created by students at Owens Community College as the Center for Fine and Performing Arts hosts the second annual Fall Art Sale on Thursday, Nov. 30.

The artsale, which will feature works from more than 30 Owens students, will occur in the College's Center for Fine and Performing Arts Rotunda from 9 a.m. * 7 p.m. Owens is located on Oregon Road.

"Owens' Center for Fine and Performing Arts is proud to provide Fine and Performing Arts students with an opportunity to make their art available for purchase to the general public," said Wynn Perry, Owens Part-time Manager of the Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery. "The Fall Art Sale is a great venue for Owens students to display their ac-

complished artistic pieces, enabling them to showcase the knowledge obtained within the classroom in a real world setting." Perry added, "The artistic expressions are extremely individualized and reflect the unique creative ability of each student artist."

Owens' Fall Art Sale will feature various artwork, including ceramics, jewelry, paintings and photography created by students enrolled within Fine and Performing Arts courses. Additionally, the College's faculty and staff will have various artistic expressions on hand for purchase.

The event is free and area residents are encouraged to attend. For additional information about the art sale or the College's 2006-07 Art Exhibition Season, contact the Center for Fine and Performing Arts at (567) 661-2721 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 2721.

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Album Review**Jay Z Kingdom Come****(parental advisory)**By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Silly me, after reviewing *The Black Album* I really thought that would be the last Jigga album I'd ever grade. That's not why I gave it an A+, I graded it high because it was a classic.

Shawn Carter is proof that true hip-hop is an intellectual sport.

That's what I miss most about New York City's domination of the game, but oh well.

But that intellect is as much apart of Jay Z's legacy just like flamboyance is a part of Diddy's legacy. Jay Z was supposed to be smart. I mean yo – he is the Mike Jordan of recording!

Where MJ eclipsed his own perfect ending by coming back from a storybook finale to his career, I actually expected Jay Z to be smart enough to go out on top.

But yo, what's more important ... posterity or paper?

It's not that Jay Z needs the money. But Def Jam could probably use some.

Things aren't all necessarily bad at the biggest label in urban music, but breaking even isn't the goal. Hey, even

the most successful labels can't have an entire roster of Kanye's and Jeezy's.

Ne-Yo, Rihanna (her second joint), Rick Ross and, hopefully, Luda's albums will all make up for the complete lack of sales for Method Man, Ghostface Killah, L.L. Cool J, The Roots and a few others that have dropped since Hov took office.

But just look at that. Hip-hop lovers and casual mainstream rap fans alike all speak of Jay Z as a living phenomenon... presidential and gutter all at once. So a new album from Jay Z is of course a threat to his legacy, but that's only if it fails critically and/or commercially.

Neither of which are too likely.

So I guess it's all another credit to his genius.

But before he can make his mark on the world by pulling double duty behind a mic and behind a desk, he's got some demons to slay.

New York hip-hop is damn near in a laughable state right now.

The average album by an East Coast rapper these days would be lucky to top

400,000 units sold after two or three quarters sitting on shelves around the country.

People say it's a creative slump, people say the South is too powerful right now ... but no matter what they say, it's obvious The Big Apple steelo is growing more and more distant from what people think about when they think of successful rap music.

Jay Z can help return NYC to its former glory.

But hate it or love it, there is a groundswell movement on the streets of New York City that has Dip Set written all over it.

And at least on a street level, some parts of NY are actually conflicted about where their loyalties lie. Cam'ron and Jim Jones would love for King Hova to fall because of their personal beef and also because of their vested interest in remaining New York's favorite home team.

In addition to knocking the bird-gang dudes out the box, Jay also has to overcome the public perception that the way he handled the whole Dame Dash/Biggs/Roc-A-Fella name thing was ... damn yo – it was straight foul to say the least.

When I see the Roc logo on this new album, it kinda makes me sick to my stomach.

You hate to see people go their separate ways. Missy and Timbo now make entire albums without collaborating. Puffy and Mase, not a good situation anymore either.

But I never expected Dame and Jay to fall out. Everyone knows that Roc-A-Fella was Dame's company first and he bought Jay Z onto it while on the grind ... for Jay to cut a deal with Def Jam and orchestrate a buyout behind the backs of his close business partners... just doesn't sit well for the

legacy of someone who wants to be remembered as the greatest of all time.

But Dame doesn't rhyme.

So even if it leaves the slightest bitter taste in ya mouth, you've got to listen to Jay.

Actually, there is a song called "Lost One" on this album that closely examines his relationship with Dame in the first verse and Beyonce in the second verse.

"I don't think it's meant to B... B, for she loves her work more than she does me.

And honestly at 23, I would probably love my work more than I did she. So we ain't "we", it's me and her, cuz what she prefers over me is work..." Trouble in paradise?

Damn if Jay Z and Beyonce are having problems maybe those Rihanna rumors are true after all.

But to hell with the gossip, this song is personal like a page straight from a diary.

When something like this comes on, it's impossible to front – it's good to have Jay Z back!

An emcee is supposed to Move the Crowd no doubt, but it's always better when it's personal.

I don't know about ya'll, but I couldn't give less of a damn about what most rappers these days are talking about. That's what makes Jay so important to the culture, he's interesting.

Even on a joint like "Show Me What You Got" where he's essentially just spittin' and reminding everyone why he's so rough with it, there's still so much skill, wordplay and wit that you've got to mess with it.

How do you want ya hip-hop these days, ya'll?

I want mine the way Jay puts it down on *Kingdom Come*.

Just Blaze has a sizeable portion of this album's production credits and I've always felt Just was far more ill than Kanye. So when it comes to Jay's usual suspects on the boards, I'm already the lovin' this. Of course Pharrell shows up, Swizz shows up, Kanye shows up but another surprise is how often Dr. Dre shows up.

Mixing on more than a few and mixing and producing on a few tracks, it's obvious Hov is trying to get that polished bi-coastal feel even if he is putting NY on his back right now. Another thing that's obvious in most veterans' albums these days (Busta, Diddy, Fat Joe etc.),

there's always that one track that you can tell was intended to put you on your ass.

It sounds bigger than life. As if this one track would dead all non-believers.

"What you call money, I pay more in taxes" is what Jay spits over the track that damn near assaults your ears when it comes on, the Just Blaze banger "Oh My God!" "30 Something," what can I say? Jay Z said "30 is the new 20."

I know some peeps got jokes already seeing me single this song out – LOL.

Me and half of U.G.E. were up in Jacksons for my boy Moni Featchurs/D.J. Mpress birthday party last week and the DJ made sure to shout out all the 30 + yr. olds in the building.

My peeps who are like 24 were laughin, but me at 28 ... I'm happy to see DJ's and even the boy Hova makin it clear that 30 ain't old.

Now, to be perfectly clear... if 30 really is the new 20... Jiggaman is truthfully still pushin 40 – LOL. But hey, we'll roll with it.

Now this track was produced by Dr. Dre and it's a guaranteed 3000 spins a week if it creeps its way onto any radio format. It just has that perfect blend of Dre and Jay's trademark approaches to hip-hop. Yo, maybe things do get better with time after all.

Actually, I recommend everyone to listen to this song.

You a hip-hop fan and you reading this... get this album.

You a hip-hop fan and you're like 13 and you're reading this, get this album, and have your mom and dad listen to "30 Something."

Feels good to see these knuckleheads get scolded from a for-real authority figure in this culture.

Stop ice grillin', fa real!

The weakest song on the whole entire album is the joint with Beyonce entitled "Hollywood."

It's not wack by any means, it's just not as potent as the other material on display.

Cam'ron gets addressed over Swizz Beats da Monsta's blazin production on "Dig A Hole."

You know Swizz and Jay got that ill chemistry.

Too bad Timbo didn't get anything on here. I'm still missin' the days when Primo

got a track on every Jigga album, but even if the boom bap ain't there – trust and believe that this is still an East Coast hip-hop album.

The title track is classic material in and of itself.

You know the ladies gotta get some attention too right? What would you think a song with Jay Z, Pharrell and Usher would sound like?

Whatever you can imagine doesn't even come close to how hot "Anything" is.

And you know what? I'm gonna end it like that.

Truth Readers, hip-hop fans, music lovers... go and cop *Kingdom Come*.

Be a witness to the return of the king.

I guarantee you will love this album. Guarantee. Not one single wack joint.

Everything is polished and truly high quality (producers, check the ill mix/mastering job!) music and rhymes. I mean it's a comeback album from Hov ... what do you expect?

The true grade for *Kingdom Come* is A+

Shouts to my boy DJ Mpress and Rhonda Sewell and all who were at

Jackson's this past Friday. I missed the open mic part, but peeps were still getting' open when we walked in. That was the most fun I've had since it's been cold out!

Toledo, I also wanna ask everyone to support Give God Glory Productions

and the presentation of "Nobody's Fault But Mine," a play written and directed by Toledo's own Patrice Tolbert.

This production is a benefit for 3D Academy, an inner-city private school.

Contact 419.944.4498 for ticket price and show details.

And about last week's article ... I've been getting emails about U.G.E.'s Thanksgiving quotes. Just to be clear, Undergodz Entertainment has two male solo singer/songwriters, and two female solo singer/songwriters. And that's in addition to The Undergodz as a hip-hop act. We are not looking for any new talent at this time.

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The Library's Local History Department Wants Your Memorable Photographs

(Continued from Page 6)

How about the first Yule parade in 1955? Or outings to see the decorations in the downtown department store windows? You may have pictures of Old Newsboys collections from decades past or of Christmas Around the World. Don't forget the high school rivalries of Thanksgiving Day

football. There are feather parties, caroling, and family rides to see holiday light displays.

Children's Wonderland has hosted thousands of families in its history, and so has Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo. The Manor House is a must-see for many folks.

And this doesn't even touch all of the many ethnic celebrations in our melting pot area or the ecumenical and shared services in our houses of worship.

Don't forget the traditional New Year's Eve celebrations in supper clubs like Kin Wa Low or the big hotels or the

Shrine. Or perhaps your family's favorite observance to share is Hanukkah or Kwanzaa.

But families don't have to go anywhere for holiday celebrations that others would like to share. How about your first sled or your first puppy or your first doll? How about

Grandpa falling asleep before Thanksgiving pie is served? Or the New Year's Eve when the kids stayed up past midnight for the first time?

Please share your photographs with the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, so that your neighbors can see and feel and almost taste what our

community was like in the 1900s, the 1920s, the 1950s, or the 1990s!

The Local History staff will scan your photo and return it to you in its original condition. If you are willing to help create a visual holiday scrapbook, please stop by Main Library or call 419.259.5233.

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Bowling Green State University

The Human Resources/Payroll Business Analyst is responsible for certain areas of BGSU's PeopleSoft (Human Resource Information System - HRIS) including updating tables, gathering information from the system, testing and systematic data review, is the lead for various upgrades and installations, reconfiguration of system, documentation of processes and procedures and assists with data entry for HR and for Payroll. In addition, the incumbent interfaces with other offices/departments in regards to the system

Minimum Qualifications: Associates Degree required, Bachelors Degree preferred, also required 3 - 4 yrs. exp. in web based information systems and business processes in regards to development, configuring, data output, analysis, trouble shooting, conversion, testing of data, etc. and 1 - 2 yrs. exp. working in a Human Resources/Payroll office or work experience the IT area supporting one these types of units. Official transcript(s) will be required of final candidates.

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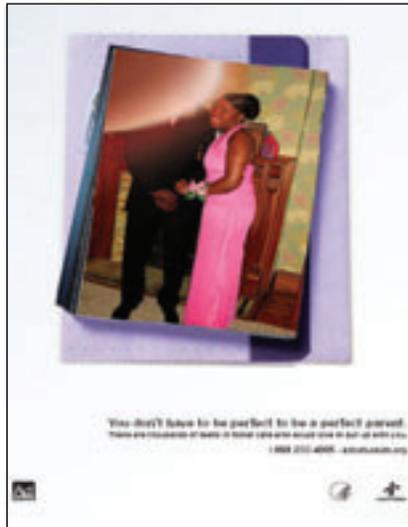
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EOE/AA



Assistant Registrar The University of Toledo

Reposting - Job #AR9790: This leadership position has the responsibility of serving as a representative of the Office of the Registrar by conducting professional presentations or attending interdepartmental meetings, and developing and ensuring stability and functionality of the information system in the Office of the Registrar. Other duties include, but are not limited to: writing enrollment related ad hoc reports using various programming and reporting languages to provide timely and accurate information; maintaining existing report libraries; supervising the production scheduling staff and processes for the office through data analysis to ensure data integrity for the information systems related to the Registrar. Previous applicants must reapply for further consideration.

A successful candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree in Information Systems or a related field and at least 3 years related work experience or, in lieu of Bachelor's degree, must possess the equivalent of 7 years work experience in a higher-education and information systems role. Must also have strong leadership skills, be highly proficient in MS Access, Crystal Reporting, or other similar database and reporting systems. Familiarity with FOCUS and JCL are preferred.

The salary range for this position is \$40,000 - \$48,000 per year.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job#), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax 419.530.1490; or email, which is preferred, recruit@utoledo.edu. Use only one method of application.

Resumes must be received by Friday, December 8, 2006.

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Margarita

Birthdate: August 1991
Intelligent, strong-willed, outspoken and precocious describe 13-year-old Margarita. She can be very charming and charismatic, but definitely wants to be in charge and has strong feelings on how her life should be. She was forced into the mother role with her younger siblings and she has had a difficult time in relinquishing that role. She is easy to engage in conversation, but sometimes has a difficult time in accepting responsibility for things she has created. She is in counseling to deal with the above related issues.

Margarita is in junior high school and does well in her academics. She has played basketball and seemed to like being on the

team. She is very much into drawing pictures and is quite accomplished at that. She also likes being outside, talking on the phone with friends and shopping.

Margarita needs a strong, self-assured family and would probably do best in a home where she is the youngest.

Contact: Kevin Marks (419) 213-3622



Demetrius

Birthdate: October 1992

This active young man wants to be a football coach when he grows up. He loves all sports, especially basketball and football. He has many friends to play ball with, likes to ride his bike and play with his GameBoy.

Demetrius is serious about his education and maintains A's and B's. He is polite and

is liked by his teachers and his peers.

He loves to dress nicely and will take the time and effort to look well groomed. He loves to receive compliments about his appearance.

Demetrius is receptive to an adoptive family and believes he would do well with two parents and some brothers to play ball with him. He surely has a lot of love to offer and will open his heart to the right loving family.

Agency: Lucas County Children Services

Contact: Denise Springer 419) 213-3529



Tyesha

Birthdate: September 1990

Tyesha is a pleasant young lady with a heartwarming smile. She is polite and very helpful to her present

caregiver. Tyesha enjoys roller skating, bowling and going to the movies. She also can style and perm hair and this will be a part-time career for her. She would like a career in construction, also. She would enjoy a family that likes to travel and maybe even see a baseball game or visit Cedar Point together.

Please call if you would enjoy parenting this great young lady.

Lucas County Children Services

Contact: Denise Springer (419) 213-3529



Zaire

Birthdate: October 1993

Zaire is such a vibrant young man. He has an infectious smile that will brighten your day. He has so many interests, including video games, sports, reading,

swimming, collecting Pokemon cards, drawing and he states that he would like to learn another language. He is open to trying all kinds of different things.

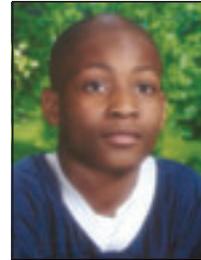
Zaire really wants a family. He is not picky about what he wants in a family, "I just want someone to watch football with and eat chili."

Zaire has a wonderful sense of humor. He does need a lot of structure. He does well in his current foster home because he knows his foster mom means what she says.

Zaire is a really neat child, who has a lot to offer a family.

Lucas County Children Services

Contact: Lori Brim (419) 213-3697



Mark

Birthdate: July 1995

Mark is a very handsome, outgoing young man with an appealing smile. He is an average pre-teen who enjoys playing with his Play Station. He loves to play outside and loves the challenges of a good basketball game. He has a sense of humor, likes to tease and make others laugh. He is an all-around good kid. Mark is cheerful most of the time and does not have any difficulty expressing himself. He does not find it to be a problem to apologize or say, "I'm sorry" if he has done something wrong. He is very affectionate and loves hugs, kisses and positive comments!

Mark doesn't have a favorite subject in school, however he loves lunch time and gym. When Mark grows up, he would like to work with children.

According to Mark's foster parents, he is an easy child to parent. He needs parents who are consistent, structured and loving.

Contact: Lynette Ludwig (419) 213-3668

Thank You, Toledo!

Eric Brian King, owner of KING Law Offices, returned to Toledo in the Fall of 2006 to open his second law office, after successfully operating his first office in Columbus, Ohio, five years prior. It has always been King's ambition to return to his hometown, but admittedly there was some trepidation. Unfortunately, King faced a tragedy in September 1996, when a reckless driver killed his mother, Patricia Ann Sturdivant-King. This is why King became a personal injury lawyer, and that's why he states "To Others It's Just Business at KING Law Offices— We Take Your Personal Injury... Personal!" King continues, "While growing up, my mother would tell me about all of the black businesses that used to lace Dorr Street back in the 60s and 70s." He adds, "It was a time when black people were generating jobs and creating commerce within their own community. When I decided to become a lawyer, I always envisioned operating such a business that served the community." Since his return, the community has embraced King. King states "I am so grateful for the support and patronage that I have received since my return home to Toledo it particularly touches me when young children recognize me on the streets from my advertisements, and state: "Mr. King, when I grow up, I want to be a lawyer."



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