

ea Chamber of Commerce



Debrah Harleston

Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Vice President of Business Development Services

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“If you are serious about going into business, you need to give us a call. We have great programs to help people with disabilities, minorities, women and those interested in high-tech.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

"Mandatory desegregation is now a thing of the past," said Theodore Shaw, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, recently. "All that's left is voluntary desegregation, and now that is being challenged."

But are affirmative action programs already a thing of the past?

Shaw's remarks were made in reference to the pending U. S. Supreme Court case in which the desegregation plans of Louisville, KY and Seattle, WA, are under attack for their attempt to "racially balance" their school districts.

The question before the Supreme Court, and the newly appointed conservative justices, Chief John Roberts, Jr. and Samuel Alioto, is whether the legal clock will be effectively turned back to the pre-Brown v. School Board of Education days.

Couple that court case with the voters' affirmative action decision in Michigan in November in which those citizens opted to ban such programs in the arena of college admissions and public hiring and contracting and a very disturbing pattern emerges – the death knell of attempts by government entities to level the playing field.

Of course, the fact is that public school desegregation is an idea that long ago virtually disappeared from the landscape. The Louisville and Seattle school districts may be dinosaurs with their programs. Most cities, to the relief of a majority of residents, black, brown and white, have simply given up on the notion of doing whatever it takes to desegregate schools – which are segregated not by law anymore but by housing patterns.

But here's the problem with affirmative action programs as we see it. States have already chipped away at quotas and set asides in the area of admissions, hiring and contracting. There are no guarantees anymore in these public arenas just vague promises of being fair and open.

The most troubling aspect of these recent developments is that of school admissions. Many colleges, and The University of Michigan has been quite famously a leader in this filed, have gone to quite some effort in order to ensure a diverse student population, primarily because the school feels that a diverse population presents an enhanced learning environment for its students in general.

Contrary to popular opinion, there is nothing new about such policies, as we have noted in the past. In the early years of the 20th Century, prestigious institutions such as Harvard and Yale took a look at their student bodies, primarily white, Protestant and from the northeastern states of the nation, and decided that they needed to make strides to become more diverse. So they went looking for a few men from New Mexico and from Montana. Eventually, the gates opened even for the Irish Catholics. Blacks and Hispanics were not included on the early bandwagon, but their time would come also.

But here's the not-so-little secret that helps to keep a place such as UM or Harvard entertaining for students, alumni and supporters in general. UM desperately needs to have a great football team ... and they do year after year. Harvard needs to have a great hockey team ... and they do.

In order to get the great hockey team, and the band, and the reporters for the school newspaper, there are a couple of hundred very bright valedictorians sporting 1,600 SAT scores from around the nation who will be turned away. Additionally, Harvard, and UM, don't want a class full of rocket scientists. They want kids who also want to focus on the social sciences and on the humanities.

What our colleges and universities want, in other words, are diverse student bodies and diversity extends to those who come from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Interacting with those who come from different places, who have grown up with different experiences and who possess different talents and skills are all part of the mix that universities think their students should be exposed to.

Regrettably, it is only the diversity of race, ethnicity and gender that has come under attack in the effort to eliminate affirmative action on campus.

Opponents of affirmative action say that those things one cannot control – such as race – should not be the criteria used by a state-funded institution to achieve diversity. But by the same token there are more things that a student cannot control than his or her ethnicity or gender and there are many things that a student has to overcome, including at times, his or her background.

While we have never been convinced that affirmative action programs perform any great service for minority students as a group, we are absolutely convinced that institutions, for the good of the entire student body, have every right and responsibility to ensure that the environment they create for learning affords their students the best chance for success. And a diverse student body may be the most important ingredient in that environment.

And for the betterment of those students, we can only hope that institutions such as UM find the wherewithal to overcome the missteps that the voters of Michigan have taken in their recent election.



Community Calendar

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
- Holiday CD Listening Party: "In the Spirit" – A Christmas CD feat; Michael Terry & Friends of Cleveland; New Life COGIC; 7 to 9 pm: 419-250-2847
- Eighth Annual Cookie Walk: Collingwood United Methodist Church; 10 am to 3 pm: 419-476-8034

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
- Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church: 53rd Anniversary Program - A Look at Islam; 10:30 am; Viewing of the documentary "Inside Islam"

December 11

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

December 15

- Faith Friday Program: St Paul MBC; 7 pm

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
- Women in Ministry: First Seminar; "Can You Hear the Bell;" Warren AME; 9 am to 1 pm: 419-345-8602 OR 419-944-0973

December 17

- Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church: 53rd Anniversary Program; "A Look at Islam;" 10:30 am; Guest Speaker Dr. S. Zahaar Hassin of the Islamic Center

December 20

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

December 25

Merry Christmas!!

December 26 to January 1

- KWANZAA!! Wayman Palmer YMCA; 5 pm each day; sponsored by the Toledo Kwanzaa House Committee; 40th Anniversary

January 1

Happy New Year!!

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

This is the time of the year when government begins to plan its New Year activities—the upcoming budget and the state of its being: the state of the union, the state of the state, the state of the city.

What can President George Bush really brag about with a straight face?

The recent mid-term election was a pretty definitive report card on his leadership. Even with a surging stock market and low unemployment nationally, President Bush is mired deeply in a can't-win foreign policy situation.

We will see smiles in the ranks when he appears before a joint session ... or are those going to be smirks? In the final analysis, it is in all of our best interest for Bush to figure out the right Iraq exit strategy.

Governor-elect Ted Strickland will have plenty to say during his inaugural state of the state address. As the state's political elite and all the powerful lobbyist corps file into the Riffe building or

the Capitol, Strickland will lay out his upcoming four years. The new governor will be facing an easier group in the Ohio House but a most determined GOP in the Senate. By the way, I think Randy Gardner is now going to move swiftly to the ranks of the future gubernatorial candidates.

The real sticking point for Strickland, in my opinion, will now be the Ohio Supreme Court. It is all Republican and all backed by the insurance interests save for Justice Pieffer. As the Dems move to roll back all of the tort reform and industrial liability cases, the ultimate fight will be at the Supreme Court level. This will take about two years to hit full stride, but when it comes, it will be a tsunami of pro-worker law suits. Since the GOP controls both houses in the legislature, we can expect to see more initiatives and referenda about labor issues showing up on the ballots.

As for the state of the City of Toledo, are you better off

today than you were a year ago is the question that Mayor Carty Finkbeiner will be answering. Maybe yes ... maybe no.

Unemployment has inched downward but black unemployment remains terrifically high. Our housing values have declined slightly mirroring a nationwide trend. We continue to lose houses to blight and vandals.

Do we feel safer right now? No, there have been too many murders, one right after another. Two and three at a time! That scares people. Hopefully the winter cold will slow down the killings and we will feel more at ease.

The real danger I see is the drift in public education in Toledo. It is not all substantive because many great things continue to happen every day within the walls of the Toledo Public Schools but the public relations machine is not getting the word out. All we hear about is the ongoing squabbles at the school board level that are drowning everything else out.

I do not see a school levy getting passed in Toledo until not only is the War in Iraq over but also until some new faces get on the board. And, Darlene Fisher needs to sit down and try to learn the nuances of being a leader. The presidency was way too much for her as she had just entered elective office.

If we are not very careful, we will have both a city with a \$30 million deficit (the true number on the books over the life of the union contracts) and an equally huge number with TPS. At a certain point, the state will be forced to step in as it did in Cleveland several years ago under Mayor Mike White. We are now seeing and hearing of businesses making location and re-location decisions based on the status of TPS. One large downtown, hugely successful health care entity is making noises about leaving the city due in large part to the public school situation.

A very promising development in Toledo is the



Jack Ford

merger between the Medical University of Ohio and The University of Toledo into a brand new university system. That unit has great, great potential. And, I see it complemented by Lourdes, Owens and Bowling Green State University making northwest Ohio a student mecca for a rustbelt region.

Going back to unemployment, we need to figure out the healthcare conundrum in Toledo. There appears to be dozens of dozens of healthcare jobs going begging in the Toledo market. Why can't we figure out how to match talent with jobs that are available.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Yolanda Gwinn Honored

The Toledo Bar Association will honor Yolanda Gwinn, law clerk for Magistrate Judge Vernelis K. Armstrong of the U.S. District court on Friday, Dec. 8 at noon. Gwinn will receive the Robert Kelb Award for outstanding service to the legal profession.

Magistrate Judge Armstrong received the highest award of the Ohio State Bar Association in May 2006 for outstanding accomplishments of women lawyers in Ohio.

Clarence Smith Community Chorus: Christmas Concert Friendship Baptist Church
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A Journey Through Healing Sponsors Annual Memorial Service

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth reporter

Tears, hugs and words of encouragement were shared by most who attended the third annual Christmas memorial service, sponsored by A Journey Through Healing. The December 2 event was held at Greater St. John's Church of God in Christ and finalized the healing process that had begun just weeks ago through several workshops.

The mission of the company is to provide the tools that will help those grieving travel through their grief and loss. The company has fulfilled this mission by providing four workshops recently in which two families were helped with fires and two families were helped with unex-

pected deaths. "This is my passion, my heart. I love to show people that there is a light when dealing with bad times," explained A Journey Through Healing founder and owner Bea Daniels.

Saturday's service featured several inspirational and gospel selections performed by C. J. Manning on an alto, tenor and soprano saxophone. Then service leader Larry Jones, after welcoming the congregation, official opened the program by reading a phrase that explained the memorial's purpose. "Christmas is a perfect time to cherish our memories of a loved one lost. Even if they bring tears. Tears at Christmas are not a bad gift to

lay under the tree for your loved one."

Daniels, who first began this company upon the death of her mother, felt that there was a need to help others who deal with similar situations. "After my mother died, I wanted to do something in remembrance of her each year. I know from experience when you light a candle for a loved one, you can still feel them living in your heart."

One of the main highlights of the service was a candle lighting ceremony. It allowed workshop participants to light as many candles as they needed. The candles would represent loved ones who died. The candles ranged in several different heights and widths, and participants were encouraged to speak the name of a loved one while lighting the candles. "Light as many candles as you need, the candles represent the size of your grief. Some of us have small grief, while others have larger grief," explained Daniels.

Following the candle light-



Bea Daniels

ing portion, each participant was given a bag that contained a candle and candle holder. "I encourage each of you to light the candle, and invite your loved one to celebrate Christmas with you," Daniels told her audience.

As the emotional service came to a close, the congregation formed a close-knit circle. That included people who had experienced the death of a family member or friend, and those just there for support. All closed their eyes as Elder William Lucas Jr. spoke the closing prayer. "Thank you for spending this time with us in reflection. Lord we know only what we do for

Christ will last, because of the love that we had for our loved one is how we are lifted today. Lord, let the hand that I hold know feel the comfort and presence of you Lord. Amen."

Daniels plans to continue the work of the company by providing more workshops, and they are open to everyone. As a certified grief/bereavement specialist and social worker, she is ready to work with anyone. "Every year I am awarded with growth. These events are always so spiritual and touch not just me, but everyone who attends," stated Daniels.

Sherrod Brown's Post-Election Visit to Toledo

Sojourner's Truth Staff
"He's a very remarkable person," said Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford of Senator-elect Sherrod Brown whom he hosted during a visit to Toledo last week, Thursday, Nov. 30 - Brown's first official visit as a victorious candidate to thank his supporters.

"You feel a sense that he's committed," continued Ashford. "He showed a lot of character in coming to what is not a major media market."

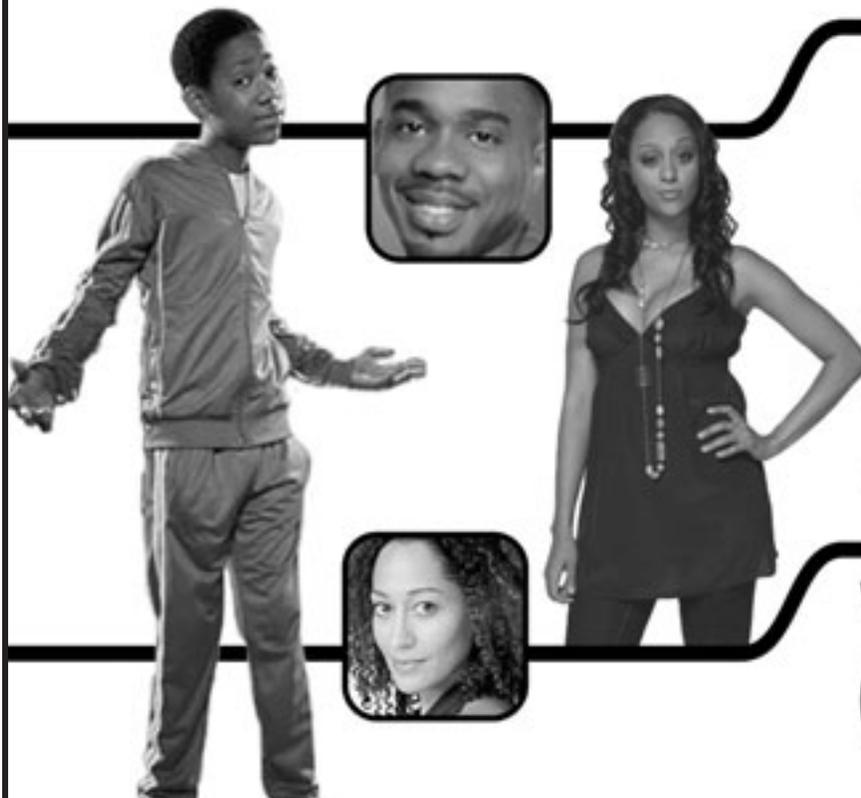
Brown, a Democratic U.S. Congressman who defeated incumbent Republican Mike DeWine rather handily in November's general election, spoke of his concern for health care and the need for education reform. The Senator-elect will serve on the Education and Health Committee under its new chairman, Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

There are many first-generation kids going to

Continued on page 5



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UT Hosts World AIDS Day 2006

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

With the theme of this year's program being "People Living with HIV," four individuals who are afflicted with full blown AIDS shared their stories of sorrow and hope with approximately 150 people who attended the University of Toledo's 18th Annual World AIDS Day program on Thursday, Nov. 30.

The panel member described how they came to be infected with HIV/AIDS, and how they are coping with the disease in their day to day lives. One panel member told the audience that she was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in October of 2002, after she had been really sick for well over a year. She described visiting several hospitals but no one could tell her what the problem was. That was until an observant intern asked her if she would consent to an HIV test, which later came back positive.

Another panel member, "Diane," said she learned that she had the dreaded disease last October after losing more than 50 pounds in a three-month period.

At-large Toledo City Councilman Frank Szollosi was on hand to present the Student Activities and Leadership Office with a proclamation recognizing December 1, World AIDS Day in the city Toledo. Szollosi commended that Toledo-Lucas County Health Department for their work in making the citizens of Lucas County aware of the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS. Szollosi also challenged HIV/AIDS activists to speak truth to those in power, and let them know that more needs to be done to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS.

"I would like to inform the activists, the folks who are here tonight, the folks on the front lines to hold policy-makers and politicians like myself accountable to the needs of your community ... our community," said Szollosi. "Come down to city hall and fight for more resources for your Toledo-Lucas County Health Department so we can more strongly address this issue as a city," he added.

Barb Gunning, director of

the Toledo-Lucas County health commission, spoke on behalf of Mayor Carty Finkbeiner who was unable to attend the event. During her speech, Gunning cited several statistics including one that showed Lucas County as having "the fifth-highest rate of persons known to be living with HIV of all metropolitan counties in Ohio. "In Lucas County as of July, 2006, there were 953 reported persons living with HIV/AIDS," said Gunning.

"Observing World AIDS Day focuses our attention on the terrible impact of HIV and AIDS," said Gunning. "It [also] provides an opportunity for all the governments, National AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and others to demonstrate the importance of continuing to fight against HIV/AIDS," she added.

"At this milestone marking the 25th [anniversary] of HIV/AIDS in the United States, one way that we can honor those who have died and those who are affected by this epidemic is to recom-

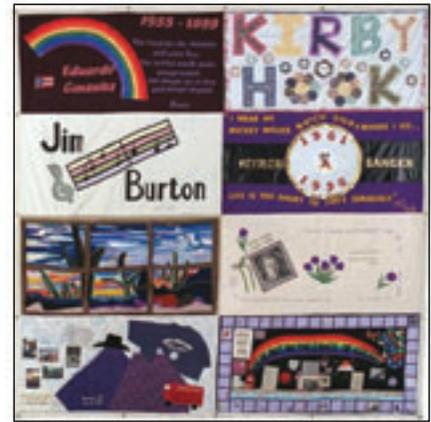
mit ourselves to the work of prevention," Gunning said.

According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 40,000 or more persons in the United States will become infected with HIV each year. Currently, over a million people in the United States are living with HIV. African-Americans and gay and bisexual men of all races continue to be disproportionately affected by the disease.

When categorized by race, 47 percent of are black, 34 percent are white, and 17 percent are Hispanic. Males make up 74 percent of the population living with HIV. Men who have sex with other men make up 45 percent of the infected population, followed by high-risk heterosexual contact at 27 percent, injection drug use 22 percent, and both male-to male sexual contact and injection drug use 5 percent.

During the 90-minute program, the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed for the audience to view at their leisure.

According to Helen Iossi, the quilt was created in 1985,



after a gay activist in San Francisco by the name of Cleve Jones, asked his friends to make placards and write down the names of everyone that they knew that had died of AIDS.

"They took those placards, and they got ladders, and they put those placards on the side of the San Francisco Federal Building," said Iossi, who lost her son Steven to AIDS in 1996.

"The quilt was first displayed in its entirety on October 11, 1997 on the National Mall in Washington, DC" said Iossi. "At that time, there were 1,920 panels, and it covered space larger than a foot-

ball field. "[Today] there are well over 46,000 panels.

"The panel will probably never be shown again in its entirety because where do you think they could do a thing like that?"

The program was sponsored by UT's Activities and Leadership Office in conjunction with the AIDS Coalition of Toledo and Northwest Ohio (ACT-NOW.)

"We really want to make sure that students and [the larger] community is educated about how HIV/AIDS affects people," said Ricardo Reddick, UT assistant director of student activities and leadership development.

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Sherrod Brown..
Continued from page 4

college who cannot afford to stay in school, noted Brown. When he went to college, he recalled, 70 percent of the financial assistance students generally received was comprised of grants and scholarships, the rest of loans. That ratio, he said, has been reversed in recent years.

Brown's audience was comprised of many of the pastors of the area's African-American churches as well as other elected officials.

Senator-elect Sherrod Brown and Councilman Michael Ashford

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Debrah Harleston: She Wants to Help You Put Your Business on a FastTrac

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Just like the ads used to say, your best friends may not even tell you.

No, this isn't about personal hygiene, but about something just as pervasive – a bad business plan. All you have to do is drive through downtown Toledo or any commercial area to see plenty of proof of its legacy in the rows of empty storefronts you pass.

But if your best friends won't tell you, Debrah Harleston will. Thank goodness there's someone who can tell you the bad news before it's too late.

For the last year and a half, Harleston has been vice president of Business Development Services for the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce. Yes, the organization that promotes area businesses will also tell you – with your permission – what may be wrong with yours.

Harleston, whose simply glamorous career as a jet-set executive and globetrotting troubleshooter eventually landed her here in good old Toledo, is responsible for overseeing seven programs for the organization. "These are business development programs, help programs, designed to help clients interested in starting their own businesses. Our goal is not to encourage everyone to go into business, but to assess their business plan," she explains.

The services provided by the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce include programs to help their clients in writing business plans, obtain market research, prepare and evaluate financial projections and offer general help and wise counsel through the difficult and daunting process of starting up a business.

How important are these services? They're a matter of life or death if you want to

secure a business loan through a financial entity. Before you can say "Show me the money" your banker is going to say "Show me your business plan." And Harleston says it is amazing how many wannabe entrepreneurs have no clue when it comes to preparing a business plan.

"Too often, people who have a great idea and want to start their own business have not done their homework. That's especially true when it comes to finances. If their credit is not good and they do not have collateral, it will be hard for them to get a loan. We tell them about the success ratio. They have to learn that how to be successful sometimes means not going into business," she adds.

Oh, did we mention that there are no fees for the Chamber's business consulting, business plan assistance and seminars?

"We can help businesses find locations if needed. And we will hook them up with other people in their industry – both successes and failures. It is important that they hear both sides. We tell people what it takes to run a business. We give them a realistic look at the pitfalls, and when it comes to running a business there are usually more pitfalls than pleasures," says Harleston.

That has been the foundation for the Chamber's popular monthly Charting your Course seminars. These popular workshops are held at the Chamber and attract between 20 and 40 people every month. In addition, the Chamber offers a popular IRS seminar. All of the seminars, which cover the full spectrum of business planning, are handled by counselors who are certified business advisers and qualified to offer business counsel.

"We offer a course on lis-

tening to your business. It is designed to help people who have been in business change their course if the business is declining. Some of our counselors have walked down that road, some have had companies that were failures," explains Harleston.

But now Harleston says she is ready to take business planning one step further.

On Dec 11, Harleston and the Chamber will introduce FastTrac, a highly-touted Ewing Marion Kaufmann Foundation program that is a template for business success.

FastTrac is a practical, hands-on business developmental program designed to help entrepreneurs hone the skills needed to create, manage and grow a successful business.

According to their Web site, FastTrac participants don't just learn about business, they live it. They work on their own business ideas or ventures throughout the course – moving their ventures to reality or new levels of growth.

Harleston is also taking the Chamber's programs to the workplace of those who need help. When she hears that a company will be shutting down in the Toledo region and displacing workers, Harleston leads a personal response. The Chamber was the first to offer help to workers at Ford's Maumee Stamping Plant.

"We visited the plant for several days because we knew there were many workers who were interested in starting businesses with their bonuses. But it is just like when we attend a job fair, we're not selling a product, we're selling help," says Harleston.

To get their message across to the widest possible audience, the Chamber often part-

ners with agencies such as Score and The Source.

"If you are serious about going into business, you need to give us a call," says Harleston. "We have great programs to help people with disabilities, minorities, women and those interested in high-tech. We have programs dealing with inventory management and procurement, and in how to do business with the government (that's PTAC – Procurement Technical Assistance Center). For a detailed list of our services, please see our Web site, www.toledochamber.com."

And Harleston knows of what she speaks. With her resume, had she opted to try out for *The Apprentice*, she would now be Donald Trump's right-hand woman.

Harleston's career has been motivated by a desire to be successful. She is originally from Long Island, New York, and is a graduate of Kings College, where she received an associates degree in business administration.

She started her first busi-

ness when she was 19. "I opened a finishing school," she recalls. Asked why she made that choice, Harleston laughs and quips, "My boyfriend had money." She later sold the business for a substantial profit.

Harleston modeled for Johnson Publishing (the sponsors of the Ebony Fashion Fair) and worked for legendary designer Diane von Furstenberg for several years.

She spent 25 years with Arrow Electronics, where she started as an audit manager and soon rose to fill key positions in training and development. She became sales manager and then supervised acquisitions and mergers and the international department.

Harleston has lived in Denver, the United Kingdom and both northern and southern California. As Arrow's Global Business Manager, she spent eight-and-a-half years in Hong Kong, where she became fairly fluent in Cantonese. "I was responsible for the entire Asia Pacific Region, from New Zealand to



Debrah Harleston

India to South Korea," she says. Subsequently she became Arrow's Global Compliance Manager.

She came to Toledo when her husband Russell became the manager of the HR department of a Libbey plant in Toledo. She started her work at the Chamber on Sept. 11, 2005, which is her husband's birthday. They have been married for three years. This was her first job in the Midwest.

Harleston says that when she first moved here, she joined Mt. Pilgrim Church as a volunteer, but worked a full nine-to-five shift daily just to stay in practice. She still volunteers with the church.

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First Annual "Tribute to Rosa" Gives Recognition to Five Local Women

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Montgomery, Alabama, 1955," captioned a photograph of a bus projected onto a wall in the sanctuary of Warren AME Church. It was Friday, December 1, 2006, and over 200 people gathered to pay tribute to Rosa Parks on the 51st anniversary of the fateful ride that catapulted the meek, mild-mannered seamstress into history and America into a new era, the era of civil rights.

A black and white photo of Parks appeared on the wall just as the program sponsored by the City of Toledo's Board of Community Relations, Better Community Relations, Inc. and Save Our Children, Inc. began. It was as if she was looking out of the window of that bus so long ago, peering 51 years into the future at those gathered to pay homage to her on the anniversary of her most celebrated achievement.

The quiet woman in the photograph seemed pleased, not with the tribute, which though deserved was never something someone so

humble would expect, but with the life she'd lived, with all of its trials and triumphs.

"This great woman of faith means a lot to us because of what she has accomplished," said Rev. Otis Gordon, pastor of Warren AME, in a brief welcome. "Because of her unwillingness to give up her seat on the bus while others sat, she forever changed race relations in this country."

Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner credits Rev. Floyd Rose, civil-rights activist, with having the vision for the celebration, but singled out Juanita Greene as the driving force behind the event. "God bless Floyd for the concept and you for the execution," said the mayor, addressing Greene. "We want to do this annually and fill this church and any other church up where we have this event."

The mayor also praised the five women receiving special recognition at this year's tribute. "This is a pretty wonderful group for the first recipients of this honor," he said, specifically citing the

accomplishments of City of Toledo Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance Director, Perlean Griffin. "While other cities abolished their affirmative action offices, this mayor didn't and she wouldn't let me," said Finkbeiner, adding that two other influential African-American women, Juanita Greene and Theresa Gabriel, would have blocked any such effort to dismantle Toledo's affirmative action office.

The mayor ended his brief remarks with a tribute to Parks and an unexpected tribute to a former adversary. "God bless Rosa Parks," said Finkbeiner, following a heartfelt tribute to the woman who jump-started a movement. "God also bless one of our own, Rev. Floyd Rose. Rev. Rose and I haven't always agreed. But you know what? I love him. I love him and he knows that. And you know what, sir? Your heart is always going to be in Toledo, Ohio."

During an emotional moment in which the mayor directed

his final remarks to the founding pastor of Family Baptist Church and the Family Church Without Walls, Carty Finkbeiner said that Floyd Rose remains an inspiration to him and the Toledo community.

"I welcome the opportunity to comment on one of my personal heroes, Rosa Parks," said Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown. "I had the opportunity to ride in the back of one of those buses before Rosa Parks." Brown's brief statements about Parks were a personal tribute from one African-American woman in public service to another.

"All of us can join together to try to shape a better community right here in Toledo," she said. "By doing so, we will continue the legacy of Rosa Parks."

Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak agreed with the mayor that the tribute should become an annual event. "This is a tradition that must go on and on," she said. "I know I, like everyone else, will never think of December first in the same way again." Skeldon Wozniak called Parks "an advocate of advocates." "She really taught us what advocacy really means," she said. "Now women can become Speaker of the House. Women can start businesses. Women are great leaders."

Looking back 51 years, the commissioner asked a poignant question. "Can you imagine what was going through Rosa's mind?" asked Skeldon Wozniak. As if on cue, a black and white mug shot of Parks appeared on the sanctuary wall as a stark reminder that Parks, like countless others before her, paid dearly for her courage.

Unaware of the graphic



Dorothy Day and presenter Rev. John Roberts

image that visually reinforced her words, Skeldon Wozniak proceeded to verbally portray the kind of strength that caused Parks to take a stand in the face of long-held racist traditions and fiercely guarded laws against integration.

Then something phenomenal happened. A living symbol of the struggle that began with Parks' simple refusal to give up a bus seat and continued with the movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. suddenly appeared.

Whitnee Smith, a student at BGSU, walked to the podium and the black and white photo of Parks on the bus with that smile as enigmatic as the Mona Lisa's appeared once again. It was as if Rosa once more gave her approval for what was about to happen, because what happened next epitomized all that she and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers and Rev. Floyd Rose and all of the rest fought long and hard to accomplish in this nation of freedom and opportunity.

Smith, an Asian studies major, who recently traveled to Japan, has knocked down all the barriers that once stood between African-Americans and their dreams of achievement to become an international player in the global marketplace, which was aptly demonstrated in her brief, but profound re-

marks. It wasn't so much what she said as how she said it, or better yet, the language in which she said it.

Speaking fluent Japanese, Smith said, "Kikai no sekai e doa a agero tame ni doumo arigatou gozaimashita." The English translation: "I thank you for opening the door to a world of opportunity." No wonder Rosa was smiling! This is what she fought so hard for - for an African-American child to have the opportunity to do exactly what she wants to do in life without the impediments of racism and classism.

Parks' heart must have leapt in heaven as she looked down on a member of her race who has traveled to Japan and can speak the native tongue because one day she, a seamstress, sat down on a bus and opened up a world of opportunity for generations to come. Somebody knew that heaven wanted to rejoice, so a heavenly choir was summoned and The Clarence Smith Community Chorus asked the rhetorical question "Ain't That Good News?" as if telling the whole world that Parks' promise has been fulfilled and Dr. King's dream realized.

The harmonious voices singing a *cappella* could have been the heavenly hosts sharing their joy at young Whitnee's accomplishments. "We shall walk

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First Annual "Tribute to Rosa" Gives Recognition to Five Local Women

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through the valley in peace," sang CSCC a little later. The words of the song symbolized a different walk for Whitnee than the one Rosa took 51 years ago. Rosa sat down, refusing to move while Whitnee got up and flew to Japan, refusing to sit still.

Furthering the illusion that Parks was in attendance at her first annual tribute in Toledo, actor/director, Sylvia Carter read from "The Future," written by Parks herself. "My fight will continue as long as people are being oppressed. Looking back on that day in December, I feel proud of the progress we've made."

Five of today's local standard bearers were presented

with awards for their achievements: Edna Brown, state representative, 48th House District (Politics); Perlean Griffin, City of Toledo Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance director (Civil Rights); Dorothy E. Day, co-founder, the House of Day Funeral Service (Business); Lola Glover, director of The Coalition for Quality Education (Education) and Deborah Kofa Nimely-Washington, Ph.D., principal, Harvard Elementary School and adjunct professor, Owens Community College (Religion).

Presenters were retired pastor of St. Martin de Porres, Father Donnelly (Brown); Donna Hughes from the

NAACP (Griffin); Indiana Baptist Pastor, Rev. Roberts (Day); Southern Baptist Pastor, Rev. Wormely (Glover) and Rev. Gordon (Washington). The celebration committee accomplished the formidable task of choosing a stellar group of women who, like Parks, have accomplished great feats in the face of diversity.

Brown made history by becoming one of the first two African-American to serve on Toledo City Council (along with Wilma Brown). Most recently, she broke precedent by becoming the first African-American female from Toledo/Lucas County to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives and this year was elected to a third term.

Griffin, who has worked on behalf of municipal employees and the city's administration to resolve work place complaints in civil rights, disparate treatment, hostile work environments and sexual harassment, drafted the city's Affirmative Action and Sexual Harassment policies, convinced the mayor to support an annual women's confer-

ence, initiated the Annual Pacesetter Awards Conference to recognize individuals working for civil rights, designed the Diversity Training Manual for the City of Toledo, drafted deed restrictions for homeowners in Plats in Washington Village and trained groups through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to deal with various areas of daycare services. Her accomplishments have resulted in numerous awards, including this most recent one.

Day, a retired TPS teacher with 25 years experience, proudly owns one of the few 'family owned' establishments in the community. She is an active speaker and leader for women's rights and author of the book Down, But Not Out.

Glover, mother of nine and wife of the late John Glover for over 40 years, has acted as an advocate with and on behalf of Toledo Public School student, their families and the schools they attend. She has also received numerous awards and much deserved recognition from the commu-



Awardees and presenters



Deborah Washington and presenter Rev. Otis Gordon



Perlean Griffin, presenter Donna Hughes, State Rep. Edna Brown and presenter, Father Martin Donnelly

nity which she has tirelessly served for the last 25 years. Washington's educational achievements are many, including an associate degree in retail management, a bachelor's degree in business management, two master's degrees in human resources and education, a specialized degree in education-special education (severe behavior handicapped-SBH) from The

University of Toledo and a doctorate of philosophy in educational administration, supervision and leadership from Bowling Green State University in 2000. All of this was accomplished while she worked fulltime and helped her husband of 30 years, Leonard J. Washington, Sr., raise their four children. A native of Liberia, (Continued on Page 10)



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The Alpha Phi Boule's Evening of Elegance at The Glass Pavilion

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Alpha Phi Boule held its annual Christmas affair last Saturday evening at the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion and celebrated the fraternity's theme "Christmas

Is for Archousai (wives)."

The black tie event brought together well over 100 people to recognize the spouses of the fraternity members, particularly those who were present for the founding of the group

and to acknowledge new members of the local chapter.

Archons and Archousai dined in the elegant new glass Pavilion and danced the night away to the music of CJ and company.



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Boule Inductees (l. to r.): Mark Chastang, Richard Fisher, Dr. Anthony Armstrong, and Larry Hamme

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Washington's goal is to help the children of that nation educationally and "to rebuild their lives and promote self-empowerment because learning offers more freedom for people."

Marshall Rose, director of the Office of Equality and Diversity at BGSU, gave a brief history of Save Our Children, reminding those that came to pay tribute to Rosa Parks that it was the death of a child that inspired Parks to take a stand against racism. That child was 14-year-old Emmett Till, who was murdered in Mississippi. "Likewise, Save Our Children was founded to help save our children," said Rose.

"The Toledo Blade once called him the most vocal and influential voice in the African-American community," said Master of Ceremony Efreem Graham (ABC-13), introducing guest speaker, Rev. Floyd Rose, founder of Save Our Children.

"While I lived here, the mayor and I had trouble staying in the same room," Rose said with a loud chuckle as he came to the podium. "I wrote him a letter when he was elected mayor this time—I left when he was elected the first time."

This time Rose wasn't the only one laughing. Admitting that he'd hoped Jack Ford would have been able to serve another term, Rose said he accepted the voters' decision and asked the mayor if he could come visit him. Rose told a story about Finkbeiner asking him if he'd like Bill Clinton's phone number and how he has since contacted the former president about speaking at a similar tribute in Valdosta, Georgia, where Rose now resides.

More laughter ensued when Rose asked the audience to stand and applaud. "When I go home and Estelle asks me how the speech went, I'll tell her I got a standing ovation," he said, although he had already gotten a standing ovation when he was introduced by Graham.

"When Rosa Parks sat down, the world turned around. Nothing has been the same since Rosa Parks sat down." Using the renowned preaching style that is the exclusive domain of Southern black preachers, Rose gave a litany of the changes that Parks witnessed in the final decades of her life.

"She saw many things," he said. "She also saw some things that disturbed her. She saw our children become more intellectual and less intelligent." Recalling the words of



Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and Floyd Rose

Dr. King describing that fateful day 51 years ago, Rose continued. "It was a chilly afternoon," he said. "Instead of going home, she went to jail and into the history books of the world."

Rose said three black men got up to give their seats to whites. "Three black men. Three black men," he repeated. "They didn't just get up. They tried to get her to get up. But she just sat there."

Rose said when the white bus driver told her that he was going to call the police and have her arrested, Parks' response was, "You may do just that." "Rosa Parks was not the first or the last to speak truth to power and say 'you may do just that,'" said Rose.

Drawing on his biblical knowledge, Rose gave numerous examples of similar displays of courage as recorded in Holy Scripture. Applause erupted in response to the biblical references. "As I revisit that bus scene for the last time," continued Rose, "Rosa, I know it wasn't easy. You lost your job and your husband almost lost his mind."

Rose reminded every one that it was Michigan Representative John Conyers that offered Parks a job and helped her move to Michigan where she lived the remainder of her life. After retiring with too little money to live on, she lost her car and was evicted several times; then, was attacked in her own home by a young African-American male.

Rose shared all of this to remind everyone paying tribute to Rosa that she suffered greatly for her courage. "But, Rosa, there is an accountant in the sky and He keeps good records," said the preacher, reaching his stride. "So, one day, Rosa, you will be ushered into the presence of a just God."

Regaling those paying her tribute with all that God will give Parks in reward for her service, Rose ended his brief homily. "And you will tell Him, 'You can do just that!'" Bonita Bailey, who was supposed to sing an original song from a musical written by Rose's sister about MLK, could not find a musician at the program to play it, so she sang one that seemed to have

been chosen by the guest of honor, whose shy smile still beamed from the wall of Warren AME as she looked off into the distance at a future none of us can see, but which stretches out into an eternity that is within her sights now.

She heard Floyd list the various indignities she suffered on this side, but had a message for those who came to pay tribute to her. "I Won't Complain," sang Bailey, giving voice to a woman who can no longer speak to us, but whose life tells us volumes.

In final remarks, Rose revealed a photo of himself with Rosa Parks when she visited Toledo to attend the first anniversary of Family Baptist Church in 1981. "I will let you have her picture for nothing, but if you want mine, it will cost you \$10.00," he said, with his customary humor.

Money raised by the sale of the photos and some of Rose's books at the tribute went to Save Our Children, Inc. A few minutes later, Rose elicited more laughter when he was joined at the podium by Mayor Finkbeiner and told the photographer to take their picture as the two men posed cheek-to-cheek. "John Conyers is the most powerful man in Congress," said Finkbeiner. "We're going to try and bring him here next year for this event."

And there was that smile again as Rosa fondly remembered the man who brought her up north and gave her a way to make a living. She seemed to approve of having Conyers speak at the next celebration of her life and her legacy.

Other sponsors of the tribute included The Andersons, ProMedica Health Systems, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center and Clarence Smith Community Chorus.

Members of the Planning Committee included Al Smith, Robert Smith, Carter Wilson, Ph.D., Evelyn Covington, Juanita Greene, Kim L. Penn, Clarence R. Smith, Jr., Bishop Marjorie Holt, Rev. Floyd E. Rose and Tyson Turner.

Financial advisor, Bill Harris, formerly of ABC-13, also served as master of ceremony along with Graham.

ALMA Drum & Dance Performs Live in TMAS Winter Legacies

Special to The Truth

ALMA Drum & Dance will give a performance of traditional West African drum and dance on Friday, December 8th, at 8 p.m. in the Great Gallery of the Toledo Museum of Art, with an open workshop for young people directly afterward.

The performance is part of the Toledo Museum of Arts Winter Legacies program, which highlights music and dance from around the world. The performance and workshop are free to the public. This is the third year of ALMA Drum & Dances participation in the popular museum series.

ALMA drummers will also be collaborating with the dancers of Toledo's own, Lapis Lazuli, as part of their performance the same night. Lapis Lazuli, led by popular, local Middle Eastern dancer,



ALMA dancers

Leyla, will perform a 30-minute set of traditional Middle Eastern dance, beginning at 7:15 p.m. that evening. ALMA drummers will join Lapis Lazuli onstage for their final number; the first of many public performance collaborations the two groups have planned.

ALMA Drum & Dance is a group of professional musicians and dancers who specialize in traditional Afro-

Caribbean drum and dance, as well as, creating their own modern drum and dance styles. ALMA has been a company for four years now, but the core of our group has been working together for a decade or more, and among our group members they have multiple decades of professional experience in a wide variety of music, dance, and performance styles.

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Hooray for Hollywood: Another Path to Glory

By Andre L. Gaines
Special to The Truth

Ever heard of a program that could make you a star in less than a year, and the only prerequisite was that you had to be a disenfranchised minority with talent? Thanks to something called a Diversity Training Program, being black in Hollywood just got good. Read carefully.

It all started back in the 90s, when Kweisi Mfume, then prez of NAACP, basically told Hollywood that if it didn't stop "whitewashing" primetime television, black folks would stop watching TV. The threat came right around November Sweeps, a time of year when the networks tally up ratings to determine which shows could potentially make millions in advertising dollars.

With tons of money at risk, Hollywood responded fast by adding minority roles to previously all-white casts—hoping to squash the problem before anybody really noticed. But before long, Hispanic groups were

protesting too, demanding studios add more Latino roles to primetime shows.

So Mfume armed himself with lawsuits and sat down with execs demanding they 'let freedom ring.' By the time the meeting had ended though, both Mfume and executives realized something profound: the real issue was not the fledgling number of black faces on camera, but the disgracefully low number of black faces behind the camera. They concluded that the only way to ensure that minorities were fairly represented throughout the industry was to put people of color in positions of power. Thus, Diversity Training Programs.

Diversity Training Programs are exactly what they sound like, programs targeted at mentoring ethnically diverse talent and ushering them into entertainment jobs. Every major network has one, and thanks to the Internet you can download an application from



Andre L. Gaines

their website and submit it along with a sample of your work. You don't need an agent. You don't need a recommendation. You just need talent.

I've seen aspiring actors, writers and directors go from complete obscurity to making six figures in less than a year, simply because they applied to a Diversity Training Program and proved they had the chops to be there in the first place. That could be you, but there's one thing you should know before applying. You have to be really, really good.

Over the years, these
(Continued on Page 12)

Polly Fox Academy Receives \$1.8 Million Grant

Special to The Truth

The United States Department of Health and Human Services recently selected Polly Fox Academy to receive a \$1,875,000 Adolescent Family Life grant, payable over a five-year period. Polly Fox is one of only nine secondary pregnancy prevention programs chosen from more than 150 applicants.

Grant money will be used in a demonstration project that will target seventh through 12th grade pregnant and parenting teens, their infants, fathers/male partners, parents and/or guardians of the pregnant/parenting teen, and members of the extended family.

The program intervention will use a school-based model that features a youth development approach to help students improve in six critical areas: 1) to reduce the incidence of repeat pregnancies among students, 2) to increase conformance with the Ohio Department of health infant immunization schedule, 3) to increase the educational attainment of students, 4) to increase students' parenting knowledge, attitudes, skills and self-efficacy, 5) to im-



Computer Student

prove students' abilities to build healthy relationships and, 6) to improve students' self-efficacy beliefs regarding academic achievement, obtaining employment, using contraception, and resisting pressure to have sex.

Among other things, Polly Fox will be able to hire a full-time special education teacher, implement a service learning program in the community, provide academic tutors and a remedial program, provide in-home visits with a nurse, create a mentoring program for husbands or partners, provide career counseling, provide on-site childhood immunizations and improved contraceptive counseling and referrals, hire a half-time mental health counselor and three additional child care workers, and create a formal parent education program. Student outcomes will be reported annually to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The mission of Polly Fox Academy, a four-year old community school, is to provide enrolled pregnant and parenting teenage girls with a full seventh through 12th-grade academic program



Dental

and comprehensive social service support, including subsidized childcare. Certified teachers work to ensure each student's schedule is individualized with the goal being high school graduation and preparation for parenthood and future education or employment. The Academy is located at 2238 Jefferson Ave. in Toledo.

Last year, 242 young women attended the Academy. Thirty-seven advanced a grade during the school year. Twenty-four students graduated last June, seven of whom received post-secondary scholarships. At the beginning of the current school year, 151 girls were enrolled.

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U.G.E. Again: Presenting the AyeDee Showcase

By Monique Ward
Special to The Truth

If you live in Toledo or surrounding areas and you don't know what U.G.E. means by now then you obviously have not been reading the entertainment section of this publication. Those three little letters represent one of the most talked about record labels in the Glass City, Under Godz Entertainment.

Tuesday, November 28, 2006, U.G.E. held a showcase for one of its very talented artists, AyeDee. It was held at the classy Peacock Café located at 1700 Monroe Street in Toledo, Ohio. The event started promptly at 8 p.m. and was a public affair for family, friends and long-term fans of the label. I decided to make an appearance that night to show some love to my boy AyeDee and support U.G.E. crew as a whole.

When I got there the place was nicely packed with familiar faces, some I haven't seen all year who were all there for the same reason, to pay respects to a spectacular artist. U.G.E. CEO Michael Hayes (a/k/a Mercury Rising) greeted my friend Melvin Johnson (the host of "Open-Mic Night" at MarSyl's Thursdays at 8 p.m.) and me at the door with a warm smile. Standing next to him was the host of "The Village Voice" open-mic at Robert B's, D.J. Boo-Dyl, who I had last seen at my A.E.I.O.U. Tour event a week before.

After exchanging greetings with a whole bunch of wonderful people, I found a seat and listened intently as AyeDee began to sing an original song entitled "Are You the One." It was a soulful ballad about a man that wants to know how this woman feels about him because he's falling in love her. At that point I realized that this young man was definitely no stranger to his craft. AyeDee has been singing for nearly a decade which may seem like a long time for someone who is only 24 years old. The



AyeDee



U.G.E. artists

smooth R&B vocalist can almost be considered a seasoned veteran performing at numerous venues in Toledo and surrounding areas.

I sipped on some water and watched everyone bobbing their head in appreciation for AyeDee's performance. He sang another original song entitled "Simple Things" which explains how a man really wants to be with a woman because of the little things she does. I thought it was touching. Then he introduced "Comfort Zone" which tells the story of a man who thought he was comfortable being on his own until he met the woman that made him want to change his mind about how he was living. You could tell that AyeDee touched the crowd (especially the women) with that one.

After blessing his listeners with new music that had not been heard before by the general public until that night, he thanked his audience and announced a break for everyone to eat. The selection of food was traditional southern-style cooking by U.G.E.'s Artist Development Coordinator, Chazzy. The menu included wing-dings, mac-and-cheese, mashed potatoes, and collard greens. There was so much of the delicious buffet left over after everyone had a plate that AyeDee had to make an extra announcement for his guest to help themselves to more food! Free venue with plenty free food... You know that no one was complaining about that.

The night was almost over when AyeDee did an extra soulful rendition of his hit single "Grown Ass Man." Nicknamed by him, "The Men's Anthem" he describes it as the counter song to all the man-hater songs out there. Now I had to admit, I had seen AyeDee perform this one many times before but I had never heard it sung with the range he managed to reach this for on this occasion. We witnessed him hit high notes that shocked and awed even his mother who

was proudly watching her son do his thing.

There was a long, loud, generous applause complete with a standing ovation when he was finished. Hayes took the stage and the microphone to thank everyone for coming and congratulate his artists. He announced that U.G.E.'s goal was to make good music that the city of Toledo could be proud of stating, "We're not like these labels that just make beats, we make real music!" He made sure that the audience was aware that U.G.E.'s other male R&B singer Darron Scott's showcase is coming up next. Hayes also did not fail to mention their newest addition to the U.G.E. family, dancer, singer/song-writer and actress, Jerrica Rai, who is another rising star in the Glass City.

Before the crowd left the Peacock they made sure they showed their support by patronizing the young artist and buying his six-song CD sampler which was available at the conclusion of the show. Mercury's mom, Jay Hayes, veteran designer, dance choreographer and owner of Ha'Jami Fashions & Dance Studio (Where she hosts an open-mic every Saturday & Sunday night) kept it real by buying a CD and asking AyeDee for an autograph. It was definitely a night to remember for UnderGodz Entertainment.

Ed. Note: Monique Ward is a promoter, event planner, freelance journalist and aspiring Holistic Health Counselor. Recently she started a movement called the Artist Exchange Initiative Out of the Underground (A.E.I.O.U.) which held its first tour November 18, 2006 in Toledo, Ohio featuring artists from all around the country. For questions please call 419-471-0094 or email aciou_4life@yahoo.com for more details.

Hooray for Hollywood: Another Path to Glory

(Continued from Page 11)

programs have become a cheap way for the industry to find the best and brightest new stars and not waste lots of time doing it. Essentially, it's a talent contest without the high-priced glitz and glam of shows like "American Idol." But unlike "American Idol," Diversity Training Programs offer no guarantees of a job, agent or career, even though it's common knowledge that all three are a given once you're admitted.

That's why they're extremely competitive. Every year, nearly 800 people apply to each program, and the program chooses only 15. It was the same at NYU, 900 people applied, 20 were chosen, and one was given a full-scholarship - me. And still to this day, I count that as a miracle because I had some seriously talented classmates.

Diversity Training Programs have also gotten snobby over the years. If you recall, I said you don't have to know anyone special to get into these programs, but the truth is, it doesn't hurt. Agents started ushering their ethnic clients into these programs after major advertisers proved that diverse shows lead to better business. Now black or brown clientele have a shot at getting their own

shows on air, and for the agent, that means an even bigger commission, even if the show stinks.

Finally, some DTPs are really good at getting people hired while others are just an excuse for networks to keep black people happy. FOX has a diversity institute that strives to get minority programming on air, but it's ultimately less effective than the diversity institutes that focus solely on finding people jobs. CBS has a fairly decent program, but like FOX, it doesn't pay you a salary. Nickelodeon does pay you a salary but the program is little recognized by the industry because they usher trainees into jobs for kids programming only. Last but not least is the ABC Disney Fellowship and, plainly speaking, their program is amazing.

If you apply to no other program in the course of a year, apply to the ABC Disney Fellowship. They pay \$50,000 to not only train you but also introduce you to tons of people who want to hire you. People's lives have changed because of this program. A friend of mine did the program and now directs episodes for "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Wire." Another friend became the only black writer for "Frasier" and now has two

development deals at NBC and ABC. Understand this though, I've never seen anyone get into the ABC Disney Fellowship without having won several festivals first or without holding a degree in Fine Arts. Education is key, folks, don't forget that.

Still, any one of these Diversity Training Programs can lend you success, if you're lucky enough to get into one. Go to Moviebytes.com and click on "Contests." Scroll down and you'll see a category marked "Minority." There you'll find a list of Diversity Training Programs stacked into a neat little pile for you to choose from. You can apply as many times as you like, just don't apply prematurely. Repeat applicants look desperate and unqualified.

Ed. Note: Andre Gaines, a Toledo native and graduate of St. John's Jesuit, earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwest 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.

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The Truth in Music 2006 – Year End Review

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Every year, it seems as if all matters related to music just get crazier and crazier. It's debatable whether or not the music we have to choose from is getting better or worse, but there's certainly many more ways for us to have music in our lives.

We've got ipods, cell phones with media players, myspace pages and all types of ways for us to stay up on our favorite songs. Usually, every year I've been writing this article, I come with a little vote-driven survey to determine what was hot in movies and music.

This time I'm just gonna put it out there and whoever feels like it can hit me up to let me know that they agree/disagree or whatever. There's more than enough to talk about, so let's chop it up:

Before I even get into the actual CD reviews and all that, I gotta take some time to speak on the live shows I've been to this year. Actually, there were more this year than in previous years but I especially wanna focus on the following ones:



Bobby Valentino –
Courtesy of The Juice 107.3FM.

Like I said before, I thought that Toledo's independent urban radio station brought some heat with the whole series they pulled off. This particular show was hot because it started off with a great open by Sir Versatile. Once Bobby V got on stage though, he gave everyone a taste of the talent and versatility you need to make it in the music industry.

The show was held at Club Bijou and it was packed, definitely a high point of 2006

live entertainment here in Toledo.



Al Jarreau @ Art Tatum Jazz Festival

Courtesy of Toledo Jazz Society & Daimler Chrysler
No doubt yo, my favorite part of every Toledo Jazz Fest is the Toledo School for the Arts jazz tent, but this year there was African dancing and the whole nine. George Benson in '05 was a little more crowd pleasing, but there's nothing like seeing a legend onstage and Al Jarreau is certified modern jazz royalty.

Held at International Park, this is becoming one of the Glass City's premier events. Only stumbling block I foresee is the steep ticket prices. But true jazz lovers have shown themselves to be a hardcore bunch. This year many of us sat in the rain just to enjoy the music and scenery.

Oh yeah – can't forget that amazing time I had on the Jazz Loop.

All the parties responsible for that... remember what I said – ONCE EVERY SEASON!

Make it happen!



Jada Pinkett-Smith & Wicked Wisdom

Let's just be honest. Jada Pinkett-Smith could yodel over some chopped and

screwed polka music and if she was coming to Toledo I'd still pay money to see her – LOL.

But I was also in attendance to see her heavy metal band ... I dig Wicked Wisdom. Held at Headliners, there were death metal bands on the bill that night that had all the power and volume of Jada's band... but they all lacked the content.

It's not called Wicked Wisdom for nothing yo. And Jada jumps all across the stage, screams lyrics into the microphone so loud that it distorts beyond perceptibility all while every musician puts it down while backing her up. The place went bananas during her set with quite a few brown guys and girls front and center mouthing every lyric.

If they ever come back and you decide to go... there will be a mosh pit, so be prepared.



Danity Kane
Courtesy of Kings Of Clubs

After interviewing them, I loved seeing them tear it down onstage because I could tell everything they told me about wanting to be taken as more than just reality TV stars is very serious to them. I remember watching the show on MTV where they had to step up their game when it came to live shows but they've come a long way since then.

The music on their debut album is a lot hotter than people would expect and Headliners was packed wall

to wall for this event. This show meant a lot because of the accident that almost kept the ladies from returning to Toledo, but they came back and put it down. I saw it live, ya'll – these ladies can sing!



India.arie – Testimony Vol. 1 "Life & Relationships"
Courtesy of The Charles E. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Mi.

This was no doubt the high point of my year.

I can't think of a better vocalist, performer or true artist. A lot of people know how to get onstage and entertain, but it's a completely different thing to connect with the audience and share your artistry.

The review I gave after going to this show spoke about how she routinely would kneel down and let fans sing on the mic or take time from her show to speak to the families or say how cute the kids were and all that. Her band was small, but they were talented enough to make much of her material sound identical to or better than it does on CD. Whereas most shows attract folks to a club, this was outdoors on the lawn outside the museum. Just about every person in attendance was a true Amel fan and she made it seem as though she was there to see us instead of the other way around.

The music, the words, the

energy and vibe – everything was just sublime.

BIG LET DOWNS OF 2006 (albums that were supposed to be the ish, but weren't)

India.arie – Testimony Vol. 1 "Life & Relationships"

You surprised, huh? Hell, so am I.

I love India.arie's music. I love the legacy she's building as an artist centered on refreshing approaches to music and image. Trust – I'm a big fan.

And "I Am Not My Hair" was ill – the regular joint and the remix with Akon.

The album just doesn't do it for me, though. I've tried to like it but the only songs I play off of this entire disc are "These Eyes", "Good Mourning" and the aforementioned "I Am Not My Hair."

Outkast – Idlewild

A reader once emailed and asked me if I ever regret giving an album a certain grade.

This album proves that I most certainly do regret things I've said about certain music at certain times. It was typical Outkast in the sense that music was unlike anything else released this year. And it was good to hear Dre spit a little more than in recent years.

But they just seem out of sync with each other and I don't think the rest of the world was quite ready to follow them into a fictional place during prohibition era 30's.

Big band and hip-hop don't have to mix. It's not that the music is wack... it's just not all it was cracked up to be.

Janet Jackson – 20 Y.O. (twenty years old)

You know things are bad when Jermaine Dupri, an veteran producer and executive, leaves his post as president of Urban Music for Virgin Records all because his girlfriend/Virgin Recording Artist Janet Jackson's album performed below expectations.

No doubt, "So Excited" was all over 106 & Park this fall but no one was really

checkin' for that Nelly collabo.

This might be Janet's first album not to touch platinum since the two joints she released before meeting Jam and Lewis in '86. And I can tell you, the album is not hot at all. Out of everything, the joint I listen to the most is also the one likely to become the next single and also the only one solely produced by Jam & Lewis: "Take Care." Now trust me, that joint is classic. If she and JD wanted a hit they should've tried sticking to her sound instead of aiming for Ciara's audience.

But, oh well.

Beyonce – B'Day

Surprised? Please believe I was loving "Déjà vu" in a big way!

But the rest of this album isn't anywhere near as dynamic as that song.

"Irreplaceable" is a favorite among the ladies at the bar if it comes on at the club or whatever, but it's not the anthem that "Me, Myself and I" was.

I don't even listen this album at all. I'm not a Beyonce hater, it's just that the entire album seems to be trying to follow in the exact footsteps of her debut and it actually holds her back.

Other Flops This Year Mobb Deep – Blood Money

I still got this one, but I only play three songs

Juvenile – Reality Check Gave this one away, didn't even want it

Christina Millian – So Amazing Gave this away too!

A'ight then, ya'll.

That's just a little bit of what went down this year.

Next week I'll put ya'll up on my picks for the biggest singles of '06 and the best albums and all that.

Got anything you'd like to say... get at me: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

(NOTE: On behalf of U.G.E. ... I wanna thank everyone that helped us pack the house for Aye Dee's showcase last week at Peacock Café. It was a true success and we appreciate everyone sharing in the music we make. Peace)

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Strickland, Mayor Coleman Announce Strickland-Fisher Transition Team Leaders

Columbus, Ohio - Ohio Governor-elect Ted Strickland and Transition Chair Mayor Michael Coleman today announced the Strickland-Fisher Transition leaders who will convene state government re-

view teams to evaluate current practices and report their findings to the new administration.

The transition teams will be concentrated in 14 major areas, including: Education, Economic Development and

Workforce, Environment and Natural Resources, Regulatory Climate, Justice, Health and Human Services, Community Safety and Security, Budget and Revenues, General Government and State Resources,

Ethics, Personnel, Local/State Relations, Government Efficiency and Veterans Affairs.

"We are excited about the committed and talented leaders from across our state who have agreed to head up these

government review teams," Coleman said. "They will evaluate what our state is doing right and where we can improve, and report their findings to Governor-elect Strickland to help guide his

administration." Toledoans Doni Miller and Baldemar Velasquez will play roles on the transition teams for the Department of Health and the Commission on Hispanic-Latino Affairs, respectively.

The Black Market Place

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 <p>4403 Bromley Drive Kitchen has marble floor, 2 fireplaces, 2.5 baths, finished Rec rm, 4 bd possible 5, circular staircase - MUST SEE! Call Bessie Humphrey Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215</p>	 <p>UNIQUE COLLECTIONS LADIES & MENS DESIGNER CLOTHING 316 N. MICHIGAN ST. SUITE 103, TOL, OH 43624 STORE HOURS, MON-SAT: 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. (419) 244-0992 OWNER PHENON PHOENIX-BUMPUS FAX (419) 244-0997</p>	 <p>1918 Peacock Lane 4 bd, step down living rm w/vaulted ceiling and skylight, first floor laundry, master suite with cathedral ceiling, walk in closet Call Bessie Humphrey Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215</p>	
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**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)**

The funding application for both programs will be made available on Thursday, December 14, 2006. There will be a mandatory training session on completing the application. Immediately following, applications will be distributed.

APPLICANTS MUST BE PRESENT TO APPLY.

Interested nonprofit agencies and development groups for eligible activities are welcome to make application through this competitive process.

December 14, 2006 Training Schedule
Community Development Corporations - CDBG: 9:00 –11:00 a.m.
Public Service Agencies - CDBG/ESG: 1:30 –3:30 p.m.

Department of Transportation
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(Parking is located across the street from the building. Handicap-accessible parking is located on south side of building.)

* Any special needs or auxiliary aids will be provided upon request.

For additional information, contact:
The Department of Neighborhoods @ 419-245-1400

**TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
11013 AIRPORT HIGHWAY
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NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Directors that proposals will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:

Management and Operation
Of Ground Transportation Services
At
Toledo Express Airport

The contract is for providing ground transportation services including necessary personnel, management, and vehicles at Toledo Express Airport located at 11013 Airport Highway, Swanton, Ohio 43558.

Proposals will be received at the administration office of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority ("Port Authority"), Toledo Express Airport, 11013 Airport Highway, Swanton, Ohio 43558, until 2:00 p.m. Monday **December 11, 2006**.

Notice to Proposers, Instructions to Proposers, Forms of Proposal, General Conditions, and Technical Specifications are on file at the administration offices of the Port Authority. Proposals must be submitted on the form furnished by the Port Authority. A proposal deposit in the form of a bid bond, certified check, or cashiers check in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) must accompany each proposal.

Any proposal may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals.

The Port Authority reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any or all proposals, to waive any technicalities, to advertise for new proposals, or proceed with the work otherwise as it may deem to be in the best interest of the Port Authority.

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
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Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique Celebrates Third Anniversary

Special to The Truth

The Preacher's Wife Hat Shop & Boutique celebrated its third anniversary, and a move to a new location, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Owner Tracee Perryman, and the rest of the Perryman family, played host to numerous guests and shoppers during the special event. They were joined by New York designer, photographer and milliner Lawrence H. Levens. Levens shared his expertise on fashion and unveiled his own collection of ladies' hats.

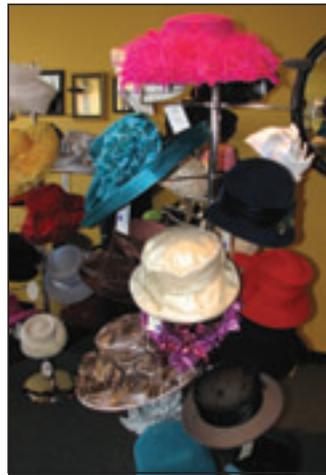
The Preacher's Wife is

now located in the Michigan Street Davis Building next to the ladies' clothing shops, Sophie Lustig and Sophie's Sister, and shoe store, Scarpe'. The Preacher's Wife completes the building's head-to-toe shopping experience for women.

The move from Fort Industry Square, where the shop had been located for the previous three years, was completed without interruption to the service. The Preacher's Wife has provided those who desire top-of-the-line casual and elegant headwear.



Tracee Perryman-Stewart, Lawrence H. Levens, First Lady Willetta Perryman, Staci Perryman Clark



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Lawyer Returns to His Roots

Eric Brian King, a graduate of Rogers High School defended our nation in the Persian Gulf War as a Petty Officer in the United States Navy. King an Ohio State Buckeye Alum and a Thurgood Marshall School of Law Graduate passed the Ohio Bar in 2001 and opened KING Law Offices in July 2001 in the state capital. King yet to start his own family faced a tragedy in September 1996, when a reckless driver killed his mother Patricia Ann Sturdivant-King. So, he definitely understands the pain and frustration that his clients endure when they are forced to deal with a personal injury case. This is why King became a personal injury lawyer, and that's why as he states "To Others It's Just Business at KING Law Offices— We Take Your Personal Injury... Personal!" King explains "Returning to Toledo is very personal to me. As a child I often noticed the absence of business leaders that look like me— black. Every other racial group has leaders they can be proud of and so should we. Blacks are much more than entertainers we are professional, intelligent and innovative. I don't just represent my clients, I represent my God, my Race, my Mother and my Self and if I can inspire one black child in Toledo to live a 'purpose driven life' and to not accept being called 'one of those people' my goal is accomplished."

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