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"I'm tired of this system. We really need to wake up. These kids are going to jail everyday. Jail means nothing to them. Life has no value to them. That's why they can fight in the mall, and in the library, and not care."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

The accidental president, Gerald Ford, died last week at the ripe old age of 93. In the years prior to his death, he shared a few secrets with Bob Woodward, the Watergate reporter who somehow manages to obtain access to virtually every high-level government official on the continent.

Ford, the president who put an end to the American involvement in Vietnam, opposed the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq from the beginning. The American urge, or more specifically, the Bush administration's urge, to bring freedom to various peoples around the globe was admirable, said Ford, but essentially irresponsible considering the administration's foremost obligation to national security – this nation's security.

Ford went directly to the heart of the matter, even in those early days of the strife. In 2004, he summed up the errors of the Bush people's (most of whom are former Ford people) reliance on the presence of weapons of mass destruction as a *casus belli*. And, of course, he denounced the administration's desire to use the occasion to force democracy upon the people of the Middle East.

Ford managed to put his finger on the problem early on during a time when many were ignoring Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney's fascination with delivering democracy. Most critics went for the obvious – it's all about the oil. But that was always too facile an explanation for the War in Iraq. It was never about the war, it was always about hubris. The arrogance that leads those in power to believe that they can do no wrong once they have made up their minds to effect change.

That hubris tends to blind those in power even to the lessons of history, lessons that in this case, the Bush folks, who helped to guide America out of Southeast Asia, should have learned while they were on the job with Ford. He alone among his crowd remembered what we had been taught in Vietnam: we cannot force our way of life on people willy-nilly. Nations cannot use force to win hearts and minds.

The belated Ford critique of the Bush Iraq policy comes at a time when folks are really starting to pile on. It comes at a time when Bush himself has finally admitted what he was loathe to admit prior to the recent elections – that we are not winning the War in Iraq. It comes at a time when the nation is beginning to realize that our involvement in Iraq has not been flawed in just one or two elements, it has been flawed in every action we have undertaken there.

We had bad intelligence to start. We abused the intelligence we did have to suit our purposes. We executed the war itself poorly in order to satisfy Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's notion that a small, quick-striking force was the wave of the future. We executed the war badly because we forgot that we were fighting more than a war, we were trying to rebuild a nation. To that end we left piles of weapons for future insurgents and we dissolved the only institution capable of assisting in that nation building endeavor – the Iraq army.

And after the war, when we realized that we would indeed have to hang around because contrary to Cheney's prognostications the conquered did not greet the conquerors just like the French greeted the Allies in World War II, we erred repeatedly – strategically, tactically, politically, militarily, diplomatically – and in every conceivable manner.

We created and grew the insurgency almost daring terrorists to rush to the cause. Indeed, if Osama bin Laden and his followers had tried to craft such an effective battle plan, they could not possibly have foreseen that Americans would have fallen so readily into the trap. The American post-9/11 reaction was most assuredly beyond their wildest dreams.

Would wiser men than the Bush people have erred so badly?

They were the wise men that Ford relied on for advice when he quit Vietnam. What happened over the years? Obviously such men fell under the delusion that they could do no wrong ... all historical evidence to the contrary. Somehow they remembered Neville Chamberlain's Munich and forgot everything that happened after that event.

So the post-Vietnam, current Iraq lesson is what exactly?

It has to be, at least in part, that no one has a monopoly on being correct, even if he has been correct at every other instance in his life, and who among us has been that flawless? Rumsfeld and Cheney have been correct quite a lot in their heretofore successful political and business careers.

Pity their big mistake carried such a high price tag.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

December 26 to January 1

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

December 30

• Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission: Annual Christmas Dinner; 5 pm: 419-241-6579

January 1

Happy New Year!!

January 1-6

• Mt Zion Baptist Church: 21 Days of Blaze a Prayer and Fasting Explosion: 1st to 6th – week of prayer/sensitivity at 6 pm nightly: 419-246-1850

January 5

• Amazon Lodge #4 Fish Fry: 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079

January 13

• Mt. Zion Baptist Church: NAACP MLK Youth Explosion; 11 am to 1 pm; Open to any youth group: 419-246-1850

January 15

• 24th Annual King "Oratorical" Contest: The "Ghanaian" Foundation Honors Dr. King; Civic Center Promenade; 9 am to 3 pm; K through 12 grades may compete in their age group: 419-868-8396

January 18

• Spirit of Faith Adoptions: Informational meetings for domestic and international adoptions; 7 pm; 3315 Centennial Rd., Ste A-2: 419-843-5355

January 19

• Amazon Lodge #4 Fish Fry: 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079



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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

As the new U.S. Congress convenes this month, one question to be answered is whether the Ninth Congressional District representative, Marcy Kaptur, will be slated as a "cardinal"—a chairman of one of the key subcommittees within the appropriations committee. Kaptur, dean of the Ohio delegation and one of the longest serving female members in the House, may get some help from Republicans David Obie of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Obie, a good friend of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Kaptur, has proposed increasing the number of committees, thereby increasing the number of cardinals. As we have pointed out before, a cardinal has an inordinate amount of power as a subcommittee chairman. Just with the wave of open, much needed projects for Ohio and Toledo would be at the Kaptur's fingertips. We hope things can be worked out.

Last week's CareNet issue continues to reverberate in

political circles. Toledo City Council President Rob Ludeman has called for continued support of the program. It is surprising that others city councilmen did not join in that chorus since virtually all have connections with citizens using CareNet. But beyond the general mute response from politicians, what about leaders such as our ministers and agency heads? Are people so deeply mired in apathy that they have become quiescent? Let's thank Rose Russell and Roberta deBoer for raising a hue and a cry in The Blade.

The homeowners in West Toledo who suffered such severe flooding last spring might see more of the same in 2007. Another year of heavy rains at inappropriate times is being predicted in some forecasts. These homeowners are correct to look at longstanding city policies regarding infrastructure and decision making. I think that there is more there than what meets the eye at first glance, particularly with respect to

past ditch improvements or the lack thereof.

We see a continuation of the bickering at Toledo Public Schools. Now we have a possible duel of competing web sites now that board members, Darlene Fisher and Robert Torres have started their own. How petty has this fight become? We hope that those who are talking about running for the Toledo Board of Education next year are really serious. This is a train wreck coming closer each week. And, a \$100 million deficit in four years is possible.

And, we see Columbus now pushing even more vouchers into the Toledo school system. Some of the new vouchers will result in even less enrollment at TPS and even more of a deficit. How crazy is that?

Just last week, the outgoing Republican-controlled General Assembly expanded the number of schools in which students could apply for state-funded vouchers from 99 to 212.



Jack Ford

Maybe we are getting close to the time of bringing the two city school districts together. The split, accomplished long ago, was born out of discriminatory intent. Maybe the looming fiscal crisis will be reason enough to revisit the dual system in Toledo.

City Council should check the settlement on the "Hoops." Taxpayers are losing on this deal. What is the market value of the land and buildings? How much city money has gone into this deal? Infrastructure improvements? Land sales in the future?

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Why Can't We Say "Merry Christmas?"

By Jan Scotland
Special to The Truth



Jan Scotland

I know that saying "Merry Christmas" is not politically correct but the heartfelt wishes that go with it are universal in their intent. Most Christians mean only that good will to all men and peace on earth be renewed during the season. It is at this time when we are recommitting ourselves to the teachings of Jesus Christ to treat even the least of us as we would him.

So many times we get hung up in the offense of projecting our religion on others that we do not concentrate on the universal message that has no offense. Christians, of course, know that there are other religions out there and most do nothing to discourage their practice. The fact that Christianity is the majority religion in this country means that the symbolism and holidays of our re-

ligion are more prominent in the culture.

If we were in other countries where Islam, Judaism, Hinduism or Buddhism, for example, are prominent, the symbols and holidays of those religions would be displayed with no apologies made to members of minority religions of those nations. To the extent that the practice of other religions is not discouraged or prosecuted I would say again where is the offense?

Now some may say that in those counties there is

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Letter to the Editor,

The statements, accusations and allegations being printed in the newspaper, reported on the television news and released through the media are unfounded, it is slanderous and a defamation of character. I have taken the necessary legal action to stop this sabotage of my Name and my business respectively. I will continue and I am determined to move forward in this direction until the facts are presented accurately and accordingly. It is unethical, irresponsible and totally unprofessional for the media or anyone to release this information or any information for that matter without merit. Further legal action will be taken against anyone who continues or initiates negative defamatory remarks, statements, stories, etc.

The media is invited to our SoulRiver office and studio facilities in Toledo and Minnesota at their convenience to take a tour of our day to day operations. We recently addressed all the issues in an interview conducted on Monday December 18th at 10:00 a.m. on WJUC "The Juice" 107.3 fm morning show. I am fighting this head on, I'm not hiding and I'm not hard to find. During this period I have had no communication with anyone, there have been no attempts to contact me at all, the media nor anyone else has spoken with me or all those directly involved concerning this matter. We were never contacted, yet they report these untruths and misrepresentations. I am a product of Toledo, all of my family still lives in Toledo and I am proud of where I come from and who I have become.

I have not been in the newspaper or on T.V. attacking anyone, even though I have been attacked to no end. This has hurt me and my family and caused a tremendous amount of controversy. I have integrity and I am a professional and I will remain as such, that is how I was taught and this is how I was raised. However, I will let the legal process we have started finish its course. The Toledo ABA basketball team will not move forward without us having our day in court. I will prevail the truth and facts will come out, let's see if the media, the papers, and the news will present this outcome with the same intensity. I am dedicated and committed to seeing this through and bringing all the facts to the fore-front. I am not going away I will not rest, I will fight with everything I have, proving that I have done absolutely nothing wrong.

My name will be restored, so before you pre-judge let all the facts come forward. I will prevail and nothing and no one will stop me.

Respectfully,

Chris Dotson Inc.

Margaret Johnson
Public Relations Director
mjohnson@chrisdotsinsoninc.com

Attorney General-elect Dann Announces First Appointments to His Administration

Special to The Truth

Attorney General-elect Marc Dann today announced the appointment of the following three key members of his administration:

Tom Winters, First Assistant Attorney General. Winters' responsibilities will include oversight of the legal operations of the Attorney General's office.

Brian Laliberte, Deputy First Assistant Attorney General. Laliberte's duties will include advising the Attorney General on legal and policy issues, developing and implementing initiatives of the office, and assisting Winters in overseeing the legal department of the office.

Joyce Chapple, Chief Operating Officer. Chapple will direct the human resources, information technology, budget and fiscal operations of the office.

Joyce Chapple brings a wealth of governmental and private sector managerial and administrative experience to the Attorney General's of-

fice. Most recently the Director of Human Resources for the City of Toledo, she was responsible for all Human Resources functions, including Selection and Evaluation, Workers Compensation, Employment Relations, Benefits and Training, Labor Relations, including major role in negotiations with the City's eight labor unions. The City of Toledo has 3,000 employees and a health care budget in excess of \$20 million dollars.

During her tenure she led an effort to reduce the City's health care costs by over a million dollars per year by successfully selecting a health network with discounts from medical providers and by educating employees. She also worked successfully with the Manager of Workers Compensation to expand training to prevent injuries and to increase transitional work opportunities for injured workers.

"I am both pleased and humbled that these highly

talented individuals have agreed to join me in serving the people of the state of Ohio," Dann said as he announced the appointments. "Most importantly, each of them shares my commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards and to operating this office in the most effective, efficient, and professional manner possible."

Dann also noted that members of his leadership team share his belief that the AG's office can be a force for positive change and growth in the state. "Like me, Tom, Joyce and Brian understand the incredible potential of the office and, like me, they are excited by the prospect of using that potential to protect consumers and the environment, reform government, make and keep our neighborhoods safe, and fight corruption. The fact is, we can't wait to get to work."

Dann said he will announce additional appointments next week.

Edna Brown Takes Oath of Office at Braden United Methodist

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On December 28, 2006, State Representative Edna Brown (House District 48) took her oath of office to begin her third term - her second full term - in the Ohio House of Representatives. The ceremony took place at Braden United Methodist Church and was attended by a host of friends, supporters and fellow elected officials.

State Representative Jeanine Perry served as mistress of ceremonies, Pastor Cedric Brock of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist gave the invocation and the oath of office was administered by Judge C. Allen



McConnell.

Brown began her career as an elected official in 1994 when she began a 10-year run as a Toledo City Councilwoman representing District

4. She was one of the first two African-American women to serve on City Council.

Brown was appointed to replace then-State Representative Jack Ford in the Ohio House in 2002 - the first African-American woman from Toledo or Lucas County to serve in that body. She was elected on her own merits in November 2002 and re-elected this past November.

During her term in office, Brown has introduced legislation to protect young females from dating vio-

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Why Keyser is King: Hot 97-3 air personality Is the Man with the Plan for Toledo Youth

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

His real name is Will Lucas, but you can call him King.

As King Keyser, he dominates the local airwaves as the number one disk jockey on Hot 97-3 (WJZE-FM), where he holds down the 6-10 pm slot Monday through Friday. A talented song writer and record producer, at 26, he is arguably the most respected young urban figure in the community.

But that's not just because he spins the hits. This King does more than talk the talk. He cares about the kids who comprise the majority of his audience. That means your kids. Your neighbor's kids. They're all listening to every word he says. But are they hearing his message?

"I'm not on the radio to be King Keyser, not here to be cool, or to play the new Jay-Z or Young Joc. I'm here to reach these kids. If I'm in the position I'm in, and I don't use what God gave me to make a difference, I'm the fool. I'm to blame," says Keyser.

"This community didn't make me the number one radio personality around for five years for me to care less about what's going on in these streets.

"The reason I'm King is because parents listen to me more than they listen to their own kids, and kids listen to me more than they listen to their own parents. It's sad, but it's true," says Keyser.

"I wish I could take all of these kids and show them the world. Being completely honest, most of the kids here will never see anything past Detroit. I lived in Atlanta for two years. I've seen people of high-school age who are millionaires. Not because of music or sports, not because they're rappers or dope boys. These kids own businesses, they own real estate.

"If our kids saw that there were people just like them out there who were this successful and that young, I don't believe they would continue to make some of the same mistakes that are

continually being made here in this city," believes Keyser.

"I'm tired of this system. We really need to wake up. These kids are going to jail everyday. Jail means nothing to them. Life has no value to them. That's why they can fight in the mall, and in the library, and not care.

"All of this, at the end of the day, falls back on the men. Our men are dead here. Dead as sleep. Comatose. We have really neglected our responsibility to carry our people. White, black, Mexican, it doesn't matter what color your skin is if you're a man. As long as God says it, then I'll continue to be that real man for Toledo and for the world, I'll be that role model to show that this is what a real man is and this is what a real man does. If you're a man, and you're offended by that, you're probably not doing what you're supposed to be doing," says Keyser.

"The real issue is that there are kids having

kids... If girls saw what a real man was while they were growing up in their households, they would not go out with thugs who would disrespect and violate them. I want to be able to show them what a real man is. That is why I insert my message into everything you love. Even if I use three seconds between songs, you're going to hear it because I know you're listening.

"I'm challenging our media. I'm challenging our school boards, our administration, our church leaders. Nobody is exempt. Everyone is responsible for the state of our city. I'm talking to you," explains Keyser.

But don't get him wrong, King Keyser is not just another angry voice with a hidden agenda speaking to youth.

"The only thing I'm really mad at is seeing a person with so much power to make a difference, and who doesn't do anything with it. That person doesn't care. I'm irate about people who have a voice in the community but do nothing about the problems. Ten kids get arrested in our elementary schools every day. There are people dying out there," says Keyser.

He says there are some leaders who are doing a great job for the youth in our community. He names Dwayne Morehead of the Toledo Youth Commission; Sandra Eldorado of Wake Up Youth Inc.; and Jason Daniels of United Way.

Daniels praises Keyser for "His focus on working with the community, youth and young people, and for finding alternative ways and means for them to stay out of trouble. He gives a lot back to the community through dollars."

Pastor Richard Brown, youth pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, also has great respect for Keyser. "He is always actively work-



ing with youth projects. His passion has always been to help young people," says Brown of Keyser.

Currently, Keyser serves as an advocate to the Toledo Youth Commission. One of Keyser's most visible activities in that field was the street rally against gang violence he organized and held in 2003. Speakers included then-mayor Jack Ford, members of the Toledo City Council and the Toledo Board of Education, UT professors, pastors, youth groups and former gang members.

Keyser's long-standing commitment to the youth of Toledo is underscored by his founding of the I Am Network, a non-profit for youth. And his pulpit, indeed his ministry for getting that positive message out on the streets is his radio show.

"Forget the money... if you do what you're supposed to do, then God will take care of the rest. I hate to see organizations, churches, etc. doing programs for the underprivileged only because for every person they get to join the program, they get a dollar sign. If you're not doing it to help, don't do

it. "If you give, you receive. It has to happen. That's not just a biblical fact, but a fact of nature. Like if I throw a ball in the air, it's eventually going to fall because it has to. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are the richest men in the world, but they give more money than anybody else in the world. But they're still the richest men in the world," says Keyser.

Born in Flower Hospital, Keyser is the son of William and Elaine Lucas. His father is the pastor at Liberty Ministries. He has two sisters, Lydia Casey and Kala, both live in Toledo.

His wife, Angela Lucas, is from Toledo. They'll be celebrating their third wedding anniversary in March. "I love her more than everything," says Keyser of his wife. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her. I wouldn't be the man I am today if she wasn't here. I don't think she knows how intelligent, how beautiful, and on point she is. She's my partner."

Deeply committed to his faith in God, Keyser is a member of Cornerstone
(Continued on Page 6)



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Why Keyser is King: Hot 97-3 air personality Is the Man with the Plan for Toledo Youth

(Continued from Page 5)

Church in Toledo. But his home church is New Birth Church in Atlanta, where Eddie L. Long is pastor.

He took his on-air name from two sources: as a tribute to Keyser Elementary School, which he attended,

and Keyser Soze, the unseen presence of *The Usual Suspects*, whose name became a household word. His other schools were Burroughs (sorry, but "King Burroughs" just doesn't have that same ring),

Byrnedale, Toledo Christian and Rogers High School.

Keyser started his radio career one week before he graduated from Rogers. He attended the University of Toledo for two years at the beginning of his broadcast

career.

He was known on air as Buttah on another local radio station. Keyser took a sabbatical from his radio career to live in Atlanta during 2002-2003 and again in 2005, where he refined his career as a producer and song writer.

A professional DJ for five years, Keyser has hosted and opened concerts for some of Hip Hop and R&B's biggest stars. He created and served as executive producer of Drop Zone Videos, a music video show in 2001.

He is also the founder of Definition Media and Lifestyle Group (DMLG) which consists of an event promotions company, production house and consultant firm.

Keyser has free reign – which befits a king – on his radio show. "My program directors at Hot 97-3, Rocky Love and Brandi Brown, have given me an opportunity to make a difference with the radio show. It's not just about music with us; we're really trying to make an impact. We support our local music scene. I have local artists on



my show weekly promoting their projects. So, we're daily chipping away at an old attitude that has kept our community at one place for so many years, when we should be 63 steps ahead of where we are." But above all, that radio show is Keyser's link to the community.

"Every time I open that microphone on the radio, I'm responsible to you. I'm your voice. This is what I'm here for," explains Keyser.

"If I cause one kid to make a difference, then my mission is complete."

Contact Alan Abrams at alan@thetruthtoledo.com.



2007 Bowl For Kids' Sake Honorary Chair: Indy 500 Champion, Sam Hornish, Jr.!!!!

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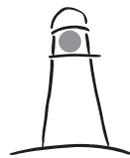
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REGINALD TEMPLE PROMOTED AT FIFTH THIRD BANK

Reginald E. Temple has been promoted to Financial Center Officer, according to Robert W. LaClair, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio).

As Banking Center Officer, Temple will continue to manage Fifth Third's Swayne Field Banking Center, 3053 Monroe Street, Toledo. He is responsible for managing the daily operations of the office, customer retention and developing new relationships for the Bank. Temple joined Fifth Third Bank in 2004 and has five years of financial experience.

A resident of Holland, Ohio, Temple holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from the University of Toledo. He is a member of the Greater Toledo Urban League Young Professionals,



Fifth Third Bank's Minority Leadership Council, Amazon Lodge #4 Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons and Braden United Methodist Church. He also volunteers as Treasurer for the Crystal Creek Homeowners Association in Holland.

Christmas...

Continued from page 3

no constitutional commitment to freedom of religion as we have here. They would argue that because of this we should be more sensitive about other faiths. But I would argue that being sensitive to other faiths does not include subduing your enthusiasm for your own faith. There is no subduing the human nature that promotes what's in our hearts in the expression of our faith.

I know that when I say "Merry Christmas" I am expressing and sharing my love for all of my fellow human beings no matter who they are or what their walk of life may be. When others express the same to me, my hopes are that they are sharing the same

sentiments.

I feel the same when others wish me a happy Chanukah or express genuine greetings from other religious holidays. I assume that they are wishing the blessings of their faith upon me no matter who I am or whether I am a believer in their faith or not.

Maybe I am naive enough to believe that blessings wished upon me from any faith are still blessings. Maybe I am just as naive to believe that the overwhelming majority of faithful who express religious greetings on their holidays do not mean those greetings to be offensive. Maybe we have become so cynical in our lives that we

have to find the negative intent behind every expression instead of sharing the positive messages that come with these greetings. Maybe if we embrace the spirit of the greetings instead of the political nature of those who seem to promote religious conflict, we could all enjoy the worship of our holidays without feeling guilty or put upon.

Nothing I feel strongly about in this day and age of war, crime, moral decay and fear is that blessings offered in the true spirit of a religious faith should be received in the spirit they are given.

So to all of you, I say (without shame) a belated **Merry Christmas!!**

Edna Brown...

Continued from page 4

-lence and she has also introduced legislation to allow voting by "no-excuse" absentee ballot. Both initiatives have been passed by her colleagues in the House. Just recently she has introduced a bill to require all Ohio sixth-grade girls to be vaccinated

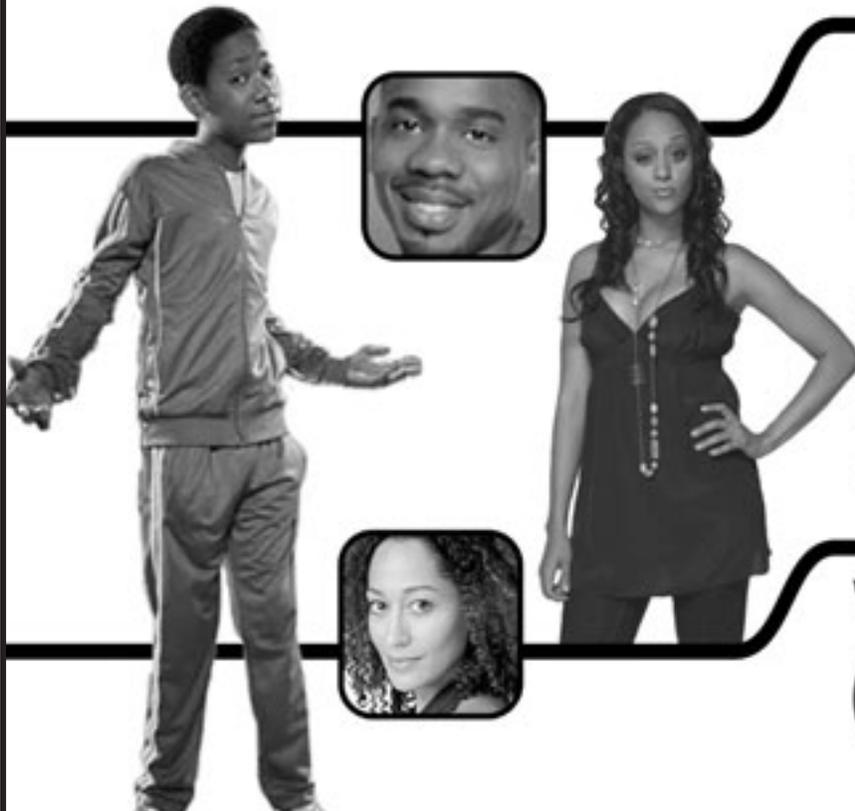
against a virus that often leads to cervical cancer.

Brown was recognized early in 2006 by the Ohio Association of Elected Officials as one of two Legislators of the Year and was presented with the 2006 Jack Wolfe Memorial Award for her efforts in improving

Ohio's election process.

Attending last week's event were Councilmen Michael Ashford, Wilma Brown, Mark Sobczak and Frank Szollosi, State Representative Peter Ujvagi, State Senator Teresa Fedor, Judge Charles Doneghy and former-Mayor Ford.

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8:30 **ALL OF US**

9pm **GIRLFRIENDS**

9:30 **THE GAME**

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Kwanzaa Celebration at Wayman Palmer

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Hundreds of people turned out for this year's seven-day Kwanzaa celebration at the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday celebrated from December 26 through January 1. It is based on the agricultural celebrations of Africa called the "first-fruits" celebrations at times of harvest, ingathering,

reverence, commemoration and recommitment. Kwanzaa was created 40 years ago by Maulana Karenga to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African culture – *Nguzo Saba* or the Seven Principles. Washington Muhammad served as chairman of the first evening, and the first principle – *Umoja* (unity) and Morris Jenkins, Ph.D. of the University of Toledo

was that night's guest speaker. Chairmen for the following nights, and principles, were: Donald Lynn (*Kujichagulia* – self-determination); Laurentz Lewis (*Ujima* – collective work and responsibility); Rev. Kenneth Peterson (*Ujamaa* – cooperative economics); Diane Gordon (*Nia* - purpose); George Sherif-Kuklah (*Kuumba* - creativity) and Rolita Noble (*Imani* - faith).

The week-long celebration, organized by the Toledo Kwanzaa Committee under the direction of Gordon, coordinator of the Toledo Kwanzaa House, brought out a number of local vendors as well as area restaurants who provided food for the evenings' celebrations. The Toledo Kwanzaa Committee has been conducting Kwanzaa celebrations for over 30 years.



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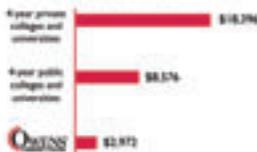
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John Edwards for President and "LET THE GAMES BEGIN"

By Warren Woodberry
Special to The Truth

For those not aware, there is a position in government that gets little attention and does not advertise for resumes. It is the job of king maker.

Most recently, we saw a highly skilled king maker known as Karl Rove take a most unlikely candidate, and turn him into the president of the United States. Rove drove his charge through quite an obstacle course to secure him the top position in the country as he had to steer him past accusations of incompetence in business: an earlier acknowledgment

that the candidate knew nothing about foreign affairs and that he would leave that up to his advisors; anxiety about his ability to even read a written speech correctly; questions about his failure to complete his military obligation; accusations and innuendos about his over-indulgence of alcohol a stated opinion that he was not studying the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden and that he was not on his priority list and accusations that his choice for president knew nothing about the various cultures of the world.

But yet and still, through marketing and other questionable methods which affected the election results, direct communication with God and the enlistment of various religious groups, Karl Rove pushed, pulled and steered his man to the top. Brilliant.

However, that was then and this is now. America now finds itself embroiled in conflicts that could have been avoided with sound judgment and intelligence. Not every conflict should be re-



John Edwards

solved with combat, a fact that we are trying to convince husbands, boyfriends and our youth.

But now with the USA fiddling while Baghdad, Lebanon, Palestine, Darfur and other countries and cities and regions burn, it is time to take another look at where we are going and who will take us there. Here is my ticket for the future. For president - John Edwards, Secretary of State - Hillary Clinton and for ambassador to the United Nations - Barack Obama

"I'm here to announce I'm a candidate for president of the United States" Edwards told NBC's "Today Show" Thursday, one of three back-to-back interviews by the candidate on morning news

shows.

"I've reached my own conclusion this is the best way to serve my country," he said. With the charisma of Jack Kennedy or Bill Clinton and with the young appeal of a Bobby Kennedy, no king maker need apply as this candidate should be a shoo-in.

Couple that with the ability to think on his feet without having to rely on speech writers scripting every word, America would have no fear of him being able to sit down with world leaders on a one-on-one basis without a baby sitter and intelligently discussing the issues that will not only enhance America's position in the world, but will enhance the world's position. Unfortunately and honestly, the American psyche is not ready for either a woman or an African-American as President. (One man's opinion) In addition, I would rather see a united layer of qualified people running the country rather than dream about what race or gender they should be. When the time is ripe, it will happen.

Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a African father and a white American mother. And although he gave an electrifying speech at the Democratic National Convention and won an Illinois seat in the U.S. Senate, becoming the nation's only African-American U.S. senator, being on the cover of magazines and on top talk shows will not be enough to qualify him to be president.

Unless Karl Rove decides to switch parties, Obama will not get the nod and could possibly rival the flack that Hillary Clinton receives whenever her name is mentioned. In politics, class, style, intelligence and hard work sometimes are not just enough.

I would send him, with his potential for being a great statesman, to the UN as the ambassador. With his obvious diplomatic skills, careful choice of words and his racial mix, he would be a great asset in repairing the damage the US has inflicted on the world scene by its gun-toting cowboys and



Barack Obama

shoot-from-the-hip-ambassadors who have suggested that there would be no loss if certain floors in the UN building were to disappear.

It would be nice to see a UN Ambassador who was capable of sitting down with world leaders and was able to intelligently discuss the solutions to the world's problems. After a stint at the UN, Obama would then be in a better position to plan his next step.

In the meantime, we keep the media from pitting one capable candidate against the other, further dividing the country and this plan would allow America to have three of the best minds on the job.

OK ...now go at it and tear this "one man's opinion" apart.



Hillary Clinton

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My Real Name: Breaking the Silence on Child Sex Trafficking

A play about prostitution and real life accounts of life underground

When: Friday, February 2, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
 Where: The University of Toledo Doernman Theatre
 What: An artistic retelling of stories of women and girls in prostitution and life underground.
 This is the debut showing of a local play soon to go national
 All proceeds of *My Real Name* will benefit Second Chance.
 Second Chance provides services to women and girls who are caught up in a cycle of abuse related to prostitution
 Celia Williamson, Ph.D. (419) 530-4084 or email: celia.williamson@utoledo.edu

My Real Name
Champaign, Candy, X-Tasy, Pleasure are just some of the adopted street names that go into creating the persona of prostitutes who have built their lives on creating an exploitive fantasy molded with sex and money. Who are these people? Where are they from? How did they get to the streets? What were their real names before they had to create the multiple personalities that make it more bearable to get into the cars of strangers? More importantly, who are they outside the imprisoned definitions of a hooker?

We all have facades that oppress us and stop us from digging to our essence. The heavier the burden of oppression, the deeper we have to dig to free our essence. Few know this better than women and men who have been sexually pimped by the greed and indifference of the streets.

People of all walks of life often feel they are labeled/named by others. Rarely are we allowed to label/name who we are. This reality is doubly felt by those who are oppressed by a series of unfortunate circumstances. *My Real Name* consists of stories of ex-prostitutes who are willing to share their experiences in a monologue format. Adding depth to the monologues will be flashback scenes that dramatically accentuate the life-altering scenarios of each story. By using the simple theatrics of the stage and a microphone, *My Real Name* will give people who have been abused as audience who will listen to them.

The performances will be succinct and powerful dialogues. The goal is to place a human face in front and not behind the solutions.

The Meaning of New Year's Resolutions

By Alex Epstein

Every New Year's Eve millions of Americans make New Year's resolutions. Whether the resolution is to get out of debt, to spend more time with loved ones, or to quit smoking, these resolutions have one thing in common: they are goals to make our lives better.

Unfortunately, this ritual commitment to self-improvement is widely viewed as something of a joke—in part because New Year's resolutions go so notoriously unmet. After years of watching others—or themselves—excitedly commit to a new goal, only to abandon the quest by March, many come to conclude that New Year's resolutions are an exercise in futility that should not be taken seriously. "The silly season is upon us," writes a columnist for the Washington Post, "when people feel compelled to remake themselves with new year's resolutions."

But such a cynical attitude is false and self-destructive. Making New Year's resolutions does not have to be futile—and to make them is not silly; done seriously, it is an act of profound moral significance that embodies the essence of a life well-lived.

Consider what we do when we make a New Year's resolution: we look at where we

are in some area of life, think about where we want to be, and then set ourselves a goal to get there. We are tired of feeling chubby and lethargic, say, and want the improved appearance and greater energy level that comes with greater fitness. So we resolve to take up a fun athletic activity—like tennis or a martial art—and plan to do it three times a week.

Is this a laughable act of self-delusion? Hardly. If it were, then how would anyone ever achieve anything in life? In fact, to make a New Year's resolution is to recognize the undeniable reality that successful goal-pursuit is possible—the reality that everyone at one time or another has set and achieved long-range goals, and profited from doing so. Indeed, not only is it possible to achieve long-range goals, it is necessary for success in life. To make a New Year's resolution is also to recognize the undeniable reality that rewarding careers and romances do not just happen automatically—that to get what we want in our lives, we must consciously choose and achieve the right goals. We must be goal-directed.

Unfortunately, a goal-directed orientation is missing to a large extent in too

many lives. It is all too easy to live life passively, acting without carefully deciding what one is doing with one's life and why. How many people do you know who are in the career they fell into out of school, even if it is not very satisfying—or who have children at a certain age because that's what is expected, even if it's not what they really want—or who spend endless hours of "free time" in front of the TV, since that's the most readily available form of relaxation—or who follow a life routine that they never really chose and don't truly enjoy, but which has the force of habit?

Too often, the goal-directedness embodied by New Year's resolutions is the exception in lives ruled by passively accepted forces—unexamined routine, short-range desires, or alleged duties. It is the passive approach to happiness that makes so many resolutions peter out, lost in the shuffle of life or abandoned due to lost motivation. More broadly than its impact on New Year's resolutions, the passive approach to happiness is the reason that so many go through life without ever getting—or even knowing—what they really want.

It is a sad irony that those who write off New Year's resolutions because so many fail reinforces the passive approach to life that causes so many resolutions—and so many other dreams—to fail. The solution to failed New Year's resolutions is not to abandon the practice, but to supplement it with a broader resolution—a commitment to a goal-directed life.

This New Year's, resolve to think about how to make your life better. At least once a year, but not just in one or two areas of life, but in every important aspect and in your life as a whole. Resolve to pursue goals that will make you successful and happy, not just in a life of convenience, but as the rule that governs second-nature. If you do, you will be resolving to do the most important thing to take your happiness seriously.



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Owens Community College Expands Access to Higher Education Through New Partnership With Toledo Public Schools

Owens Community College and Toledo Public Schools are entering into a partnership in which the two organizations are creating new higher education opportunities in Lucas County. Beginning Spring Semester 2007, Owens will offer its first-ever academic courses at Rogers High School in Toledo.

"Owens Community College is honored to partner with Toledo Public Schools and open new doors for students to succeed in their educational pursuits," said Dr. Paul Unger, Executive Vice President and Provost of Owens Community College. "As an academic institution, we are continuously looking at opportunities to provide greater access to higher education. Nearly half of our students reside in Lucas County and this academic partnership is focused on making an Owens education more accessible to Lucas County residents."

Provost Unger added, "We welcome this collaboration with Toledo Public Schools and embrace the idea of aligning our educational philosophies."

Owens academic courses that will be made available to area residents at Rogers High School include climate and weather,

composition, American history, astronomy, modern business math, mathematics of finance and introduction to literature. Classroom instruction for each of the three-credit hour courses will occur one night per week from Jan. 29 * May 11.

The 14-week classes will be held from 6-9:20 p.m., Monday-Thursday, in multiple state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories within an academic wing of Rogers High School.

"This is one of many partnerships we are building to utilize and coordinate community resources toward a community of learners," said John Foley, Interim Superintendent for Toledo Public Schools. "Partnerships such as this one with Owens Community College will continue to contribute to Toledo Public Schools students and parents to further their successful careers."

Situated in northern Lucas County, the new Rogers High School is located at 222 McTigue Dr. in Toledo. Toledo Public Schools recently marked a milestone in the high school's 50-year history by opening a new \$38 million state-of-the-art facility for its students and the community in Aug. 2006. The

225,000 square-foot educational center features the latest in state-of-the-art multimedia capabilities and academic resources designed to stimulate academic learning through hands-on instruction and exercises. Building highlights include a planetarium, theatre, several academic laboratories and two gymnasiums. Rogers High School houses grades 9-12 and enrolls over 1,200 students.

Rogers High School * as a collaboration of faculty, administration and community * is committed to providing an opportunity for all students to pursue self-discipline and self-direction through the successful acquisition of knowledge and social skills, essential to fostering quality participation in a diverse, global society.

In addition to offering higher education on its Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses, Owens recently expanded its educational opportunities by partnering with the Putnam County Educational Service Center and making available its first-ever academic courses in Putnam County. As part of the partnership, the College began offering classes at the new Putnam County Educational Service Center Skilled Learning Center in

October.

In 2005, Owens entered into an agreement with the then-Medical University of Ohio (now the University of Toledo) to offer its first-ever educational classes on the Health Science Campus.

The College also has longstanding off-campus educational partnerships with Arcadia High School in Arcadia, Liberty Benton High School in Findlay, Riverdale High School in Mt. Blanchard, Springfield High School in Holland and Swanton High School in Swanton.

According to Provost Unger, Owens is continuing to explore additional locations for the College to provide even greater access to higher education throughout the region "Owens Community College is focused on meeting the needs of the surrounding communities by

looking to expand the number of educational options and serving even more individuals throughout Northwest Ohio and beyond," he stated.

Spring Semester classes at Rogers High School begin on Monday, Jan. 29. For more information about the new academic course offerings on the Rogers High School campus, call (567) 661-7777 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7777.

Toledo Public Schools is recognized as a leading urban school district in the state in academic achievement as measured by the Ohio proficiency tests and is the fourth largest public school system in Ohio. The school district enrolls nearly 30,000 students and operates 41 elementary schools, seven junior high schools, eight senior high schools and various specialized learning

centers.

Owens Community College is one of the fastest-growing higher educational institutions in Ohio. On the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses, Owens serves more than 45,000 credit and non-credit students. Owens is committed to providing small classes, personal attention and unmatched affordability. Owens Community College offers baccalaureate transfer degrees in the Arts and Sciences and over 150 technical program areas in Agriculture, Business, Health Sciences, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Skilled Trades, and Engineering and Transportation Technologies. Owens students also can earn the first two years of a bachelor's degree with a smooth transfer to any area four-year college or university.



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-Tony Brown

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Mistle Toe Jam Tank and Musiq Soulchild Valentine Theatre Presented by Mix 95.7

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Okay, first things first I have to admit that the name "Mistle Toe Jam" doesn't sit well with me. Any time you publicize an event with the words "toe" and "jam" next to each other, your public relations staff needs to be a bit more attentive.

However, it's a brilliant concept. To bring a neo-soul artist to the Glass City is a very noble way of saying Happy Holidays to music lovers here in Toledo. I'm grateful to the folks at both 95.7 and also 97.3 for making this happen.

It took a little bit of work to get ya boy some tickets, but Mike from WIMX came through with some great seats and I'm greatly appreciative (yo, I know you wanted photo ops and all that but I wasn't at the after party).

Saturday, December 23 was a true night to remember.

The Valentine Theatre was the place to be and Toledo's black folks who who showed up dressed to impressed. Now, that's one thing that will never cease to puzzle me.

I've noticed how white folks do it.

They realize that when they go to see a performer, it's the performer who's on stage so there's no need to try and outshine the person headlining the show.

Don't hate, I'm just telling it like it is.

Wouldn't it make sense to just dress comfortably?

Essentially all you're going to do is sit in a chair for two hours.

You're there to listen.

You're there to watch.

So why is it when black

folks go to a concert, a comedy show or even a fashion show... why do WE dress up like we're the ones doing the entertaining?

I'm not hating, be clear - I'm not hating.

I actually think it's more funny than anything.

But rest assured Toledo, you could've given Detroit a run for their money when it came time to pull out those furs, leathers and gators.

I saw people in fur from head to toe.

I saw people dressed in sequins and/or rhinestones from head to toe.

Considering who was headlining the show, a part of me was expecting to see a crowd full of 'stereotypical' Musiq fans. Just like in Detroit when I went to see Amel Larriex, Neo-Soul/Conscious music acts tend to bring out the dreads, the headwraps, the cargo-pants and sundresses. But not here in the good ol' 419.

Musiq Soulchild drew a different kind of crowd.

Actually, that raises an interesting point because I'm still a little unclear on how many people were there to see Musiq and how many were there to see Tank.

Musiq has the obvious edge in record sales, exposure, impact and stage performance.

However, Tank is much more than the one or two-hit wonder many people wrote him off to be. We all knew about his writing and producing skills for other artists (especially Barry Hankerson's Blackground camp) but I wonder how many people knew that T.U.G.'s biggest hits from a couple of years back were also the work of Tank.

Omarion's "O" and Marques Houston's "Naked" were both Tank's songs.

And once you've heard him perform them live, you kinda wished them other cats had never laid their hands on 'em.

But before sitting at the piano and busting into full singer/songwriter mode, Tank steps on stage and instantly becomes the target

of playful catcalls from Glass City females who shout at him: "TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF!!"

During one of his brief little impromptu interludes, he briefly mentions something about taking someone somewhere after the show and the ladies in the audience scream at him once more: "What Hotel?" and "What Room Number?"

"Maybe I Deserve" is still his biggest hit to date and it sounds as fresh as ever when he does it live.

The crowd participation during this show (both sets) was the highest I've ever seen in Toledo history. Mistletoe Jam should go down in history as proof that audiences in our city are alive!

Tank was a huge crowd pleaser. Of course with the ladies, but he gave a show and displayed an artistry that even the guys could enjoy.

I was impressed because I had damn near forgotten what dude even looked like until that night. I knew he was still makin' moves in the industry, but he was completely off my radar. But his vocal skills are enough to make an indelible mark on the memory of music lovers everywhere. Plus he gets tall props for sitting down at the keyboard and playing while he sings.

It was kind of weird though, because it seemed like the ladies were way more into him as a sexual entity even though he seemed to be trying to make an impression as a serious

artist. Here he is singing his heart out, debuting new material and showing all of his skills and everything and the only thing he hears from the crowd is "TAKE YO SHIRT OFF!!" - LOL!

But his set was damn good.

Not much on capturing hearts and minds (even though the instruments were set up for Musiq's live band, Tank did his via pre-recorded CD/DAT) the show was still impressive in how it showcased his range and commitment to his art.

After an intermission, hosts King Keyser and Brandi Brown mentioned the various after parties and got the crowd ready for the main event, Musiq Soulchild.

Of course, true fans know he dropped the 'Soulchild' from his stage name with his last album but it's fair to mention for all the folks who aren't up on him like that.

So he took the stage with band and background singers in tow and you could already tell that it was gonna be one hell of a show.

First off, I was kinda disappointed to not see Aaries with him.

All of the TRUE, true heads will know who I'm talking about why that's so important.

Neither "Girl Next Door" nor my all time favorite Musiq song, "Settle For My Love" wouldn't be as memorable if not for the twin Neo-Soul female act, Aaries.

Those ladies possess some of the sweetest and smoothest vocal tones to ever come out of Illadelph, but I digress.

Musiq put it down from start to finish, and it was obvious from the very beginning that we were wit-



Musiq Soulchild

nessing tried and true world-class talent.

When it was time to get into the live version of "Girl Next Door," Musiq and his band pulled the illest trick out the bag. He had them build it up instrument by instrument and remixed it every step of the way from a Philadelphia neo-soul groove (courtesy of that Touch of Jazz crew we know all too well by now) to an organic blend of salsa and 70's funk. Sound kinda bizarre, huh? You had to be there to truly appreciate it, because I've been to a few live shows with bands and I've never in my life seen or heard anything like the song Musiq opened his show with.

At first the crowd didn't really seem like they were willing to rock with this unorthodox way of starting off a show, but the groove proved undeniable and eventually everybody was on board.

But then I was kinda pissed when I noticed how the crowd responded when Musiq went through one of the roughest album cuts of all time when he hit 'em off with "Mary Go Round" from *Aijuswanasig*. Most of the audience looked like they had never heard the song, and then when he got to the all-important part at the end where he spells out:

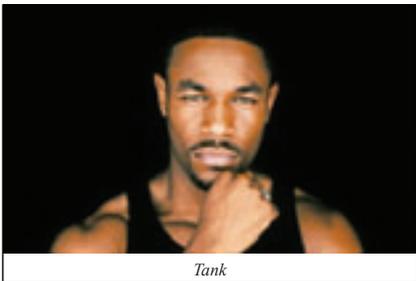
"Mary how could you leave me, so cruel to me my love," I was expecting more from my city than that.

But when "Halfcrazy" came on, all was well.

This is a classic soul song and everybody knows it, the crowd was even singing along.

It really started to feel like a show at this point, the

(Continued on Page 14)



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Mistle Toe Jam

(Continued from Page 13)

energy of the whole place was on one accord and Musiq was singing his heart out.

A multi-octave voice like his makes for one damn good show if you're into music.

"Previous Cats" went

over really well and even new material such as "Teach Me" kept the audience in-step throughout the night.

However, you could tell everyone was ready for him to sing one of his signature slow hits.

Why could you tell?

Because the same voices that were screaming for Tank to take his shirt off were now screaming at Musiq: "Sing 'LOVE'."

But when he did go into this particular song, it somewhat missed the mark.

The rendition that came

out that night featured a pulsating bass line that erased the soothing mood everyone was all geared up for.

It wasn't bad, but it was a little much to ask of the audience to have a song they'd been waiting all night to hear be subject to an ex-

perimentation that undermined the overall feel.

"Just Friends" "For One Night" and "Buddy" got the crowd completely open!

I mean open all the way.

Toledo was treated that night and I hope Musiq makes his way back to our

city sometime soon because we've never had it so good.

Big thanks to 95.7 and 97.3 for bringing us an early Christmas Present.

It was among the best shows I've ever been to.

Get at me: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

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