

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Things go from bad to worse for local Democrats. How the heck do they manage to win so many elections?

The Democrats on Toledo City Council have a majority of eight to four and somehow cannot manage to gain control of that legislative body.

Just as a recap, last week a few Democratic councilmen tried to wrest the presidency from their Republican counterparts. That effort failed miserably as only four Democrats voted to entertain a motion to open up the voting. Other Democratic council members would later attribute that failure to the fact that the Party members were simply not prepared to assume a leadership role. Really ... we couldn't make this stuff up if we tried.

And the leadership, and we use that term generously, of the Lucas County Democratic Party, announced more sanctions of elected officials last week. Toledo City Councilmen Michael Ashford, Mike Craig and Ellen Grachek will apparently no longer be eligible to receive the Party's endorsements when they run this year for re-election.

It appears that the actions of these officials have not been good for party unity, so in order to heal the breach, the Party has decided to ratchet up the disunity. Yeah, we know, the logic escapes us as well.

Of course, losing the Lucas County Democratic Party endorsement these days is tantamount to having a huge thorn pulled out of one's side. In the last several years, the Party's track record – see Taylor Balderas and Lourdes Santiago – is a study in ineffectiveness.

Somehow or another, Party leaders have determined that the City Council presidency debacle of last week falls entirely on the shoulders of their recalcitrant members. We beg to differ. Party leadership has only itself to blame for that fiasco.

Last year, the local Democratic Party encouraged its members, particularly the "B" teamers, to vote for a Republican for the president of City Council. It seems as if in Toledo, the Democratic Party would rather have its elected officials voting for the other party than for those of the same persuasion. How crazy is that?

And if the logic of these sanctions strike you as just a tad off kilter, consider as well the arbitrariness of those selected for such "punishment." Ashford, Craig and Grachek's names must have been pulled out of a hat. In the announcement from Madison Street headquarters, there was no mention of Joe McNamara, who flouted party discipline to run against the endorsed Santiago. There was no mention of county commissioners, Pete Gerken and Tina Skeldon Wozniak, who did not assist the Party's endorsed slate in 2005. There was no mention of Frank Szollosi, who has opposed the mayor at every turn and whose candidacy for the presidency of council meant certain defeat for that of Wilma Brown.

So how do the Democrats manage to win so many elections in this corner of northwest Ohio? What would happen if that other party ever decided to get serious and try to win an election every now and then?

The lost opportunity to take back the presidency from the Republican minority last week is merely an indication of how off-track the Democratic political organization has gone. Brown had four votes, Szollosi had four votes and no one could broker a compromise to get the deal done.

Last year, this newspaper repeatedly took certain Democratic Party members, such as Mark Sobczak, to task for his failure to vote for a fellow Democrat for president. Sobczak apparently saw the light this year and took the initiative in promoting Brown's candidacy. Other Democrats, however, flipped and decided that Brown was, in fact, too close to the mayor and those in the Party's leadership to make an effective president, that is, to preserve the built-in system of checks and balances that is so critical for the American governmental process.

We have to disagree with them.

We haven't seen much disagreement between council members and the mayor over goals and results. We have seen such disagreement over the process and the personalities involved. And the process seems to have become more important than the results. That's unfortunate.

As all sorts of rumors float about concerning who said what to whom in the run-up to the vote, one thing seems certain. There was a huge breakdown in communication on all sides and that breakdown remains.

Wouldn't it be nice for Democrats if they had the leadership in place at headquarters, or anywhere, to restore a little order?

In Memoriam

**Pastor Rudolph Sutton
parted this life for glory on
December 14, 2006**

Due to the volume of resolutions, cards and condolences, we the Sutton, Ligon, Haynes and Bell families would like to thank you for those cards, resolutions and all of the many things you have done to comfort us during this time of loss of our loved one. May God's continued blessings be with you.

With the Love of Christ,
Lady Shirley Sutton and Family



Community Calendar

January 10

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Getting Started in Business;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

January 13

• Mt. Zion Baptist Church: NAACP MLK Youth Explosion; 11 am to 1 pm; Open to any youth group: 419-246-1850
• Toledo Royal Knights Opening Night: ABA team's first game of the season vs. the Buffalo Silverbacks at Libbey HS: 419-534-2738
• Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter's Annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast: Zenobia Shrine; Doors open at 8:30 am/Breakfast at 9:15; Guest speaker Michael Blake, community organizer for Michigan House of Representatives

January 14

• Third Baptist Church: Guest musician during the 10:45 am service will be Anthony Pattin, Ph.D., professor of music at the University of Montevallo
• Rock of Ages Liberation Church: Dedication of new facility at 4460 South Avenue: 419-867-5638 or 419-944-1124

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 17

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Writing a Business Plan;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

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

January 20

• American Association of University Women: 5th annual Transitions Conference; Lourdes College; Keynote speaker Anita Lopez; Daylong conference to inspire and motivate through workshops on balancing life, work and school: 419-474-4226

• G-Creations Vendor Networking Luncheon: Noon; Genesis Dreamplex Hotel and Conference Center; Contact Glenda Brown @ 419-870-2483 or gcreationsevents@yahoo.com

January 24

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Marketing Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

January 27

• 2nd Annual Black Bridal Expo: Genesis Dreamplex Hotel & conference Center; Noon to 5 pm; Open vendor display; Fashion show; Marriage renewal ceremony: 419-870-2483 or gcreationsevents@yahoo.com

January 31

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Financing and Record-keeping for Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

February

• **Black History Month!!**

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

Back in 1993 when I ran for president of Toledo City Council, I met with all of the members of council to gain their support in the vote for the presidency. There was a lot of promising that went back and forth.

The same process occurred years later when I staged a coup at the Statehouse and knocked off the favorite, Representative Ross Boggs of Andover. In the Statehouse battle, I won the caucus leadership role by a vote of 20 to 19 and I had to bargain for every one of the 20 votes.

I stayed up all night before the Statehouse vote and was still trying to corral a vote from a Cleveland freshman representative at 6 a.m. on the morning before the caucus meeting!

I relate all of the above to make the point that you have to talk with and negotiate fully with members of your caucus on the legislative body in order to have a chance to win

the leadership role.

Regarding the current battle for the role of president of City Council, I am told that Wilma Brown did not win the presidency last week because she was unwilling to negotiate with some of the Democratic members of council over committee chairmanships, especially the powerful finance post. If that is true, then Brown has no one to blame for her loss but herself. One must be willing to negotiate in order to win a political plum such as the presidency of council.

I hope that Deborah Barnett can turn things around on the Toledo Board of Education. Her heart is certainly in the right place and she is a corporate executive so she knows how to steer a bureaucracy. We all should simply ask her how we can help her move TPS ahead. At this point Barnett has not promised to run again so we do not know how long a tenure she will have as president.

dent.

Governor-elect Ted Strickland is making some great appointments with a mix of "celebrities" coming back to state government and a bevy of activists new to state rule. Strickland's choice of Sean Logan for head of the Department of Natural Resources is a very good selection. Logan, currently a county commissioner in Columbiana County, is a former state legislator.

I served with Logan from 1994 to 2001 in the Ohio House. He developed a reputation for advocacy on land use planning. I worked in a bipartisan way with then-Rep. Gene Krebs of Oxford to develop a state land use plan.

Columbiana County is situated on the hilly, heavily-forested land in the northeast corner of Ohio, so natural resources is a common theme for Logan.

And the appointment of John Martin from Holland means that an activist and

careerist on mental retardation issues is now in the saddle for the whole state. He reminds me of the late Bob Brown who left the Cummings Zucker Center years ago to run a state agency.

It has been good news for Toledoans that no snow has hit our streets so far. One large snow storm can cost \$400,000 to clean up so you can see how much money has been saved by the mild winter — up to this point at least.

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and the security apparatus of Lucas County will fight the proposed exclusion of Toledo from the serious terror risk list. They must fight it because it will cost us millions of dollars if we are dropped. But even more reason to fight is the fact that Toledo is vulnerable on several fronts. We are on Lake Erie, a large metropolitan area, a major hospital and healthcare hub and a transportation crossroads for both rail and highway.

Finally, thank the Repub-



Jack Ford

lican-controlled legislature for its last-minute Christmas present to the Republican Party. The legislature passed a law that bars contributions of over \$1,000 to any candidate who will vote on a contract with a labor union or vendor. This means you will not see the UAW giving \$10,000 to a candidate for support as they did, for example, to Mike Craig in pulling him over the top during last spring's special election for the District 3 Toledo City Council seat. This is an anti-union piece of legislation.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Toledo Royal Knights January Season Schedule

Saturday, January 13, Knights vs. Buffalo Silverbacks at Libbey H.S.

Friday, January 19, Knights vs. Twin City Ballers at Central Catholic

Saturday, January 20, Knights at Buffalo Silverbacks

Monday, January 22, Knights vs. Rochester Razorsharks at Springfield H.S.

Tuesday, January 23, Knights vs. Peoria Kings at Waite H.S.

All games start at 7:00 PM

Adults - \$10

Seniors - \$8

Students - \$5

In Memoriam

Edrene Benson Cole passed away last week after an extended battle with pancreatic cancer. The following is a reprint of an article The Truth printed on June 29, 2005 after a series of interviews with Cole.

Edrene Benson Cole: Keeper of the Keys to Toledo's African-American Heritage

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Remember those days before the World Wide Web made the World Book obsolete when someone with a depth of knowledge was referred to as a walking encyclopedia?

Maybe it is time to bring back the term. Because there is no better phrase to describe Edrene Benson Cole's vast storehouse and treasury of names and facts defining the often-neglected roles played by African-Americans in the history and culture of Toledo.

Cole, along with Clarence Walker and Theresa M. Gabriel comprise a handful of individuals dedicated to researching and keeping alive the disappearing and often invisible legacy of the past for future generations.

You would expect a historian like Cole to focus upon her genealogical roots when asked about her greatest influences, and Cole doesn't disappoint.

"Both sets of my grandparents were farmers in Mississippi," recalls Cole. Her paternal grandfather, William Benson, was a classmate of Booker T.

Washington. Benson later founded the first black high school in Marks, Mississippi in Quitman County. The school is still standing, says Cole.

Her father, Escar Benson, is deceased but her mother, Tressie Beasley Benson, is still alive.

"As we grew up," says Cole of her three siblings, "education was primary. It was not something you do if you want to. Nor was it a matter if you want to go, but you will go and you will graduate."

"Booker T. Washington had gone through town when my daddy was a little boy. 'This one has spirit, send him to me,' he had said when he met my daddy. So my daddy went to high school at the Tuskegee Institute. In those days, you had to go to a college that had a high school attached. Later my daddy went to Alcorn College. And my mother went to Natchez College in Mississippi. That's why it was so important to them that their kids went to school," explains Cole.

"Appropriate behavior was paramount. We were not permitted to run

amuck. That's why every summer we were back on the farm in Mississippi, instead of being left up here where they felt we might be exposed to elements that might have got us in trouble," recalls Cole.

Her parents came to Toledo in 1935. "Daddy owned an auto repair shop. Back then it was on 11th Street and then it moved to 516 Dorr Street. It is still in business today as Bill's Auto Repair on City Park and the Anthony Wayne Trail. It is operated by my brother."

"Our aunt, Maud Gibson, had been here in Toledo since the 1920s. Back then, everyone migrated up north for better opportunities. My grandfather encouraged my father to move up here to find a good job so he could make sure his family was properly educated," says Cole.

"I went to school here, Washington, Gunkel, Robinson and Scott High School, when it was the premiere academic school in the city. I then went on to the University of Toledo where I earned three degrees, my bachelors, my masters and an Education Specialist degree."

"I was always interested

in giving back. When God gives you a lot, you are supposed to give back a lot," says Cole.

"I always liked to work with young people. I helped Dr. Helen Cocks start the EXCEL program. I was the representative from Toledo Public Schools, but Helen is the backbone of the program as program director," she adds.

Cole began her career with the Toledo Public Schools system in 1955 immediately following her graduation. "I taught at Roosevelt (now Martin Luther King, Jr. High School) and at Glenwood before becoming an administrator in 1972 of the Head Start Program through TPS. When that program was no longer under their jurisdiction, I was assigned to Macomber/Whitney Center as the girls dean, a job I greatly enjoyed."

She later served as assistant principal of Pickett Elementary for a few years before becoming principal at Ottawa River School in Point Place. "I had the opportunity there to help a variety of young people," she recalls. She is now in the second-tier retired classification with TPS, and says she is still a



long way from permanently retiring.

Cole is active with the Toledo chapter of the NAACP and the AKA sorority as well as with her church, Braden United Methodist. There, she is using her interest in history to prepare and assemble a history of the church and its members for the church's upcoming centennial.

She is a collector of African artifacts, some of which are currently on view in the Juneteenth exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art. Cole says she first began buying the historic artifacts when she accompanied an Excel student group to Africa.

Cole is also a member of the Read for Literacy board. Through the efforts of the Rev. Floyd Rose, she was able to play a part in the creation of the Art Tatum repository for black history and culture at the Kent library. She credits Rose as the driv-

ing force behind the creation of the world-renowned center.

Community honors continue to come her way. Last week she was honored by the youth of the Board of Community Relations for her 15 years devotion.

She and her husband Eddie, whom The Truth profiled on June 22, 2005, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary July 24. They have two children. Their son Edwin, a graduate of Central State University works as a personal banker with Standard Federal at their Eight Mile and Livernois branch in northwest Detroit.

Daughter Elicia is a graduate of Ohio State University and earned her masters degree from the University of Arkansas. She lives in Rogers, Arkansas with her husband Henry Smith, Jr., a financial analyst with Wal-Mart, and their two sons.

Local Women of Color Attain Top

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Linnie Willis Finds that Patience Pays Dividends

On October 13, 2006, the board of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority offered long-time administrator Linnie Willis the position of executive director of the agency after its previous director, Lawrence Gaster, had announced his retirement earlier that month.

For Willis, who had spent a total of more than nine years as the number-two person at LMHA, the offer represented a culmination of her faith in God and her decision to remain loyal and silent during times when she was confronted with what she, and many others, perceived to be grave injustices.

Twice during her 24-year tenure at LMHA Willis had sought the top position, only to be passed over. When the vacancy was announced in October, she was not entirely certain that this time she wanted the post.

"I think that because I didn't seek the job, and in the way I went about dealing with an unjust situation, God saw fit to give me what I justly deserved. A lot of waiting and patience has paid off," Willis told The Truth last week as we watched her pack for a move from her present location on Byrne Road — where she was assigned last August — back to the agency's headquarters on Nebraska Avenue.

"God has given me an opportunity and I have to seize the time and do the best I can do," she added.

Willis' journey to the top of LMHA, where she will be overseeing a staff of 150 full-time employees, an annual budget of over \$35 million, 31 housing complexes and 3100 units, began in 1982 after three years with the City of Toledo. Willis was forced out of her city job during the big lay-off of 1981.

"John Landry was the executive director when I ar-



rived here," she recalled. "During my first meeting with him, he asked me what exactly I would like to do. I replied 'one day I would like to do your job.'"

"That's what I like to hear — someone with ambition," he told me. "He became my mentor and my friend even after he retired in 1991," said Willis.

That vacancy left Willis, who had started with LMHA as a housing director, as the interim director of the agency for a period of about five or six months. Shortly after that she served as deputy director for three years before moving into the position of human resources director — a newly created job that she would end up structuring for those who followed. She then returned to the post of deputy director for another six years.

Last August, however, Willis was summarily informed by the director that she would be moving to Byrne Road to take over the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. That assignment followed the death of Jeff Rhodes who had supervised that initiative.

The move stunned observers of the agency. This newspaper, in fact, sought out Willis in order to get her comments on the demotion but Willis had decided not to air her dismay over the move in public. Even now she addresses the issue reluctantly.

"I want to leave as much of that behind me as I can,"

she said. "My whole concern with the move out here was not the move itself, but the way it was handled. We did not sit down to discuss the move. If we had been able to sit down and talk and plan and agree that this is what needs to be done for a couple of months, I would have been okay with that. But it was presented 'you go and that's it.'"

That move and the disappointments of being passed over in the past led to an entirely different attitude on Willis' part when the top spot came open again in the fall.

"The opportunity to become executive director had eluded me twice," she said last week. "I didn't know if I was going to go for it again. In three years, I will have 30 years of service in the public sector. To go through that twice and have someone say 'no' makes you wonder if you want to try again. I decided I have other options."

Willis accepted the post, with a bit of "mixed emotions" and, just this week, completed the move back to Nebraska Avenue.

She said of the shape of things at LMHA: "I know the positive things and I know what the not-so-positive things are and in some areas, there will be challenges."

First and foremost for the public agency funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is the matter of those monies. "Last year we received 86 percent of the funding we would normally receive," she says. "This year, we still don't know where we are going to fall, but we have heard that we may receive less."

Clearly that means even more belt tightening for the housing agency.

The other major challenge facing the agency's administrators is the conver-

(Continued on Page 6)

Deborah Barnett Elected President of Toledo Board of Education

Deborah Barnett was elected president of the Toledo Board of Education last Thursday evening by her colleagues during the board's winter organizational meeting and immediately set about, politely but firmly, to put her own stamp on the way the group conducts business.

But her call for unity appeared to have fallen on deaf ears as the acrimony and dissension on display so often during the reign of her predecessor, Darlene Fisher, continued unabated during the voting for the vice presidency and a board member travel expense issue.

Barnett was nominated to the post by Robert Torres and won approval by a unanimous vote of the five board members. Said Torres of the reasons for his nomination: "I spoke at length with Ms. Barnett and I am supporting

you after our discussion of the needs of children in the district. This board needs to display unity."

Barnett, who was first elected to the board in November 2003 and served as vice president last year, then introduced a unity pledge that she asked each board member to sign which asked them "to put our children in the forefront of any decision we make."

Barnett also raised the idea of a leadership development program in which she wants the board to participate as a unit. "If my fellow board members agree, I ask them to join me in healing and moving forward to do the work we need to do," she said. "The sooner we can get started, the better we can start the process of the unity of the board."

After the vote on the presidency and those appeals from the new president for unity,



the board entertained vice presidential nominations. Fisher nominated Torres and that bid fell short by a margin of two to three, with only Fisher and Torres supporting his candidacy.

Steven Steel, Ph.D., was then nominated for the vice presidency by Larry Sykes who commented that Steel "would best serve the president and the board and he has always been open and honest."

Fisher raised the point, (Continued on Page 13)

Children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin...



...but by the content of their character.

Every child is a gift.
Become a foster or adoptive parent today.



419.213.3336



Posts . . . And One Does Not

Lisa Canales Elected President of Washington Local School Board

Lisa Canales, a member of the Washington Local School Board since 1999, was elected president of that board last week in a five to zero vote. This is Canales' second stint as president, she previously served in that post in 2004. She will succeed board member David Hunter.

Canales cited as the greatest accomplishments of the board, during her tenure as a member, the implementation of an all day, every day kindergarten, the passage of several levies and the recent opening at Whitmer High School of a renovated auditorium, new auxiliary gym, new fitness center and the expanded field house lobby.

"There are a lot of special projects and renovations that have been accomplished during my seven years on the board," said Canales. "But my favorite moment has always been at the end of the year when as board members we hand over diplomas to the graduating class. It is such a privilege to hand them that one document that they have worked for their entire lives. As I hand the graduates their diplomas, I whisper in their ears, 'congratulations ... now go out there and make us proud, I'll be watching!'"

Canales' priorities for her term as president include the continued improvement of the district's school year



State of Ohio report card for the 7,000 students served by WLS and the negotiation of a teachers' contract.

The greatest challenges faced by the school board, said Canales, "will always be the funding issue and passing levies within our district ... we will have to go back to the voters sometime within the next year and ask for their support for a levy."

Top Prize on City Council Eludes Wilma Brown Once Again

Once again, Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown and her supporters on council made an effort to capture for her the presidency of that legislative body and, once again, such efforts were foiled as local Democrats failed to gain the leadership of a body on which they have an overwhelming majority but cannot manage to control.

Last Tuesday, Democrats called for a vote on whether or not to re-organize council and name a new president. That motion failed by a margin of seven to four as Democrats Mike Craig, Joe McNamara and Frank Szollosi voted with the four Republicans—President Rob Ludeman, Joe Birmingham, George Sarantou and Betty Shultz—to maintain the status quo. Democrat Ellen Grachek was absent during the vote.

Szollosi, who has openly campaigned for the position himself, declared that the Democrats did not have their "act together" and therefore did not deserve to take over the leadership of council.

For Brown, the outcome was a bitter disappointment. "They tried to embarrass me and they tried to discredit me," she said of several of her Democratic colleagues on City Council. "I'm very hurt and very humiliated."

Part of the reason for the outcome, it appears, was the perception among her fellow colleagues that Brown has

become too close to Mayor Carty Finkbeiner over the past year. Brown, who has been identified with the "A" team of the local Democratic Party in the past, has voted with the mayor on a number of issues this year.

"They are saying they should control Carty," said Brown of those who opposed her this time around. "All those ideas are contradictory to what the city needs. We should be working together."

After the vote, word spread that Brown was reluctant to negotiate with other Democrats to re-vamp committee chairmanships, particularly with respect to replacing Sarantou as finance chairman. Brown vehemently denied to The Truth that she refused to consider such replacements or that she was even approached by other Democrats about such deals.

"Why wouldn't I consider such a deal?" she replied. "I'm not stupid."

Working together was definitely not in the cards for the Democrats on council during this latest debacle by the majority party. During last year's vote for the presidency, Brown was supported, more often than not, by Szollosi and Grachek. In the interim, however, Szollosi has decided to seek the post himself.

On the other side, Mark Sobczak, who last year voted for Republican Rob Ludeman, made a dramatic turnaround. Sobczak, not only supported



Brown's candidacy, he held a press conference during the run-up to the vote to encourage others to support her.

It appeared that the Democrats were unprepared for the vote at the outset. Councilman Phil Copeland made a motion placing Brown's name in nomination only to be informed by Ludeman that such a motion was out of order. Since this latest session was not an organizational meeting, council members, Ludeman stated, would first have to vote to call for a vote on the presidency. That was the vote that failed for the Democrats.

As a possible consequence of the failure of the Democrats to gain control of Toledo City Council, the leadership of the Lucas County Democratic Party threatened to once again sanction member of council who have been less than supportive of endorsed candidates. Ashford, Craig and Grachek were all named as possible candidates for sanctions. The three expressed a mixture of disbelief and amusement at the threats.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1929-1968



"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir."

—At the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, August 28, 1963



Francine Lawrence, President — Sylvia Washburn, Vice President

Building a Bridge to College



EARN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND COLLEGE CREDITS FREE. Toledo Early College High School

is accepting applications for new freshmen for 2007 - 08 school year. If you are: first generation to attend college, or minority, or low-income or English language learner, please plan to attend one of the informational sessions listed below at UT Scott Park Campus Auditorium.

Thursday, January 18 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, February 3 from 9 - 11 a.m.

Enrollment criteria and applications will be available at that time. Questions contact us at 419-530-3003



TOLEDO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH

Strickland Appoints Health Director

Special to The Truth

Ohio Governor-elect Ted Strickland and Transition Chairman Mayor Michael Coleman announced today the appointment of Dr. Alvin Jackson as the director of the Ohio Department of Health.

"It was a true pleasure to meet Alvin through the cabinet selection process. I am so glad he will be joining us in our effort to protect and promote the health of all Ohioans," Strickland said. "His passion for serving others is inspiring. He is exactly the person we need in this critical role."

This appointment marks the ninth cabinet appointment made by Strickland.

"Alvin's lifetime commitment to serving others makes him ideal to lead the Ohio Department of Health," Coleman said. "This department is a critical partner for Ohio's cities, as we work together to immunize children, serve our seniors, plan for situations like bird flu or homeland security emergencies and encourage all our residents to live healthier lives."

Since 1995 Dr. Jackson has served as the medical director of the Community Health Services in Fremont, Ohio, but he began his career at the center during his four-year family practice residency. Community Health Services provides comprehensive and preventative primary healthcare to all people regardless of their ability to pay.

During his tenure the center expanded access to ser-

vices with a fully equipped mobile unit. The mobile unit extended healthcare services from three counties to 12 and has served as an immunization center at local schools.

Dr. Jackson served as Chief of Staff at Memorial Hospital in Fremont from 2003-2005 and staff physician at the Sandusky County Department of Health from 1994-2006. He served as president of the Midwest Clinicians Network in 2000 and was the Clinician's State Representative to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers in 2001.

In addition to Dr. Jackson's work at the Community Health Center and international and national medical humanitarian efforts in Honduras, Liberia and the Mississippi Coast after Hurricane Katrina, he is active in his community. In 1995 Dr. Jackson and his wife, Gayle, founded the African-American College Club, an organization that tutors students and encourages them to go to college. That same year Dr. Jackson helped found Brother-to-Brother, a mentoring group to steer young African-American males away from violence, drugs and alcohol.

Dr. Jackson was a recipient of Pfizer's Ohio Quality Care Award and the Department of Health and Human Services' Clinician Award. In 2001 he won a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award, which came with a \$95,000 check for Community Health Services. Dr. Jackson used



Dr. Alvin Jackson

the award money to establish the Community Health Services Foundation to support the clinic.

Dr. Jackson graduated from Andrew University in Michigan with a B.S. in biology. He received his medical degree from The Ohio State University. In 2004, Dr. Jackson received the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Heidelberg College.

Alvin Jackson has four children. Two are physicians, one is a banker and the youngest is a college student.

"I am excited to be a part of Governor-elect Ted Strickland's Turnaround Ohio plan to provide affordable, accessible healthcare to all Ohioans," Dr. Jackson said. "Quality healthcare, patient education and disease prevention will be my priorities at the Ohio Department of Health."

To ensure a smooth and successful transition for his patients, Dr. Jackson will begin his service on April 1, 2007. Until then, Ann Harnish, current assistant director of the Ohio Department of Health, will serve as acting director.

Linnie Willis Finds that Patience Pays Dividends

(Continued from Page 4)

sion, dictated by HUD as of January 2008, of the financial operation to asset management, says Willis. As she explains, in the past, various segments of the agency operate at different efficiencies and with different financial results. When that has happened, it has been possible to shift funds from one such segment to another. No longer.

The agency must now operate its different facilities as separate cost centers, much as does the private sector. In order to facilitate that transition, Willis plans to have her staff operating on that basis by mid 2007 so that the conversion in 2008 can move along smoothly.

In addition to her local duties with LMHA, Willis is also a board member of the Housing Authority In-

surance Group, a captive insurance agency developed in 1987 because of the difficulties that housing authorities encountered over the years in obtaining insurance.

The Oxford, MS native, who arrived in Toledo in the 1970's, is married to Rev. James H. Willis, Sr., pastor of the Third Baptist Missionary Baptist Church. The couple has two adult sons.

Willis referred her visitor to a quote from Isaiah 40:31 when speaking of the trials she underwent before receiving the opportunity to lead the agency where she has spent most of her adult life.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

"Connecting the Pieces" Project Public Meeting

East Toledo Family Center will hold the first public meeting on the "Connecting the Pieces" project.

• Public Meeting 7:00p.m. Thursday, January 11, 2007 at the East Toledo Family Center located at 1020 Varland Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43605.

• This meeting will begin the process of community involvement for creating a comprehensive neighborhood transformation plan in the East Toledo area adjacent to the proposed Marina District.

Partners in the process

in addition to the East Toledo Family Center include:

Housing East Revitalization Corporation, Neighborhood Housing Service, River East Economic Revitalization Corporation, River East Associates, the Design Center, the Urban Affairs Center of the University of Toledo and Paul Sullivan Architects.

Toledo Local Initiatives Support Corporation selected this neighborhood transformation planning proposal through a competitive process in which a number of neighborhood planning proposals were received.

LISC is taking a new approach intended to encourage collaboration and tighter focus among community development organizations and other non-profits serving neighborhoods. "Neighborhoods are comprised of people and it is the people in the community that can best determine its future," states Hugh Grefe, Senior Program Director of LISC. Residents and business representatives from East Toledo are invited to participate in the meetings and work together with area agencies to develop and implement this endeavor.

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library honors the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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The Sojourner's Truth Education

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Owens Enhances Access to Higher Education Through New Financial Aid Awards Program

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College is entering into a new partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Board of Regents in which area residents will have the opportunity to apply for thousands of dollars in financial aid as part of a new awards program designed to assist

students in their pursuit of a college education.

The new state awards initiative, titled TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Educational Awards Program (TEAP), will be available to eligible Owens students enrolling for the upcoming Spring Semester. Academic classes for the

spring term begin on Thursday, Jan. 11.

"Owens Community College is committed to helping students pursue their academic and career aspirations by providing an array of financial aid programs and resources," said Betsy Johnson, Owens Director of Financial Aid. "Students of-

ten face many barriers in obtaining a college education. Owens Community College is proud to partner with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Board of Regents and further eliminate these financial barriers by making available resources such as the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Educational Awards Program."

To be eligible for the TEAP financial aid initiative, a student must be a United States citizen, an Ohio resident and enrolled in college level un-

dergraduate courses during the upcoming Spring Semester at an Ohio public or private academic institution, which has elected to participate in the program. An applicant must also meet one of the following eligibility requirements: a parent of a minor child who is an Ohio resident, a legal guardian or a specified relative of a minor child who is an Ohio resident, a woman who is pregnant, or a non-custodial parent of a minor child who is an Ohio resident.

Additionally program-eli-

gible students must have completed a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and at least 15 credit hours of college level work with an accredited institution of higher education.

Students who meet the requirements will receive \$600 in non-repayable financial assistance for use during the upcoming academic term. Award recipients can use the \$600 to help pay for tuition and costs not covered by other grant programs. The award can also pay for tech-

(Continued on Page 10)



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BGSU to Receive CHEA Award for Learning Outcomes

Special to The Truth

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation has announced that Bowling Green State University has been chosen to receive the 2007 CHEA Award for Institutional Progress in Student Learning Outcomes.

"Given the current debate regarding the role of student learning outcomes in accreditation, Bowling Green State University serves as a solid example of the enormous progress that institutions are making through the implementation of comprehensive, thoughtful and effective initiatives. We are delighted to recognize this distinguished institution with this award," CHEA President Judith Eaton said in a news release announcing the recognition.

BGSU is one of only five institutions in a nationwide pool of 31 selected for the honor. Other winners are Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz., Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terra Haute, Ind. and the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kan.

The awards will be presented to representatives of the five institutions on Jan. 31 during the 2007

CHEA Annual Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

When educators talk about "student learning outcomes," they're talking about "what students know and what they can do with that knowledge," according to Milt Hakel, Ph.D., a BGSU professor and Ohio Eminent Scholar in psychology who has been heavily involved in the University's efforts to measure student success over the past decade. Those "outcomes" include problem solving, oral and written skills, teamwork and leadership skills, among others.

Hakel called the CHEA Award "a rare honor" in light of the nation's having some 3,000 institutions of higher learning.

Institutions were judged on the basis of four criteria: articulation and evidence of student learning outcomes; successful outcomes; informing the public about outcomes, and using outcomes for improvement.

In addition, CHEA noted that BGSU showed outstanding achievement in:

- Attention to outcomes embedded in an institutional culture
- Good use of current technology in the methods and tools to track outcomes
- The extensive use of fac-

ulty and strong faculty support

- Institutional leadership that is dedicated to the importance of outcomes

- Approaches to outcomes that can be replicated at other institutions.

"It is gratifying to be recognized nationally for the emphasis we place on student success and measuring how well our students are learning the skills and knowledge they truly need," said BGSU President Sidney Ribeau.

Founded in 1996, the CHEA is an organization of nearly 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities and the only higher education institutional membership association to be created by a referendum of college and university presidents. CHEA scrutinizes accrediting organizations for quality, based on self-created standards, and serves as an advocate to government on accreditation issues. Currently, CHEA recognizes 60 institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations. The association also hosts numerous conferences and produces publications on matters relating to accreditation.

Local Nonprofit to Gain Strength Through National Grant Program

Special to The Truth

Northwest Ohio College Access Program - Think College Now - received more than \$11,500 in technology funding from the AT&T Foundation to help serve those in economically disadvantaged communities. The mobile computer lab will allow Think College Now advisors to reach out to families in their communities to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), have small group activities to include virtual tours of college campuses, take online career assessments and search for scholarships.

AT&T Ohio presented the check from their AT&T Excelerator, a competitive technology grant, to the non profit board members of Think College Now on **Monday, January 8, 2007** at The Source - Lucas County One Stop - 1301 Monroe Street (Downtown Toledo)

Why the need for the computers? Many high school students and their parents believe that the cost of postsecondary edu-

cation is well beyond their means not only for the average income household, but especially for the student of a low income family. In reality there are several ways to fund or supplement the cost of a college education. Locating these sources, completing necessary applications, and ensuring all requirements are met can be an insurmountable task for a high school senior and their parents. Bringing technology to these communities and working in small groups will allow students and families to complete necessary requirements to receive funding or to complete college applications, thereby removing many of the seemingly insurmountable barriers to attending college.

"The primary goal of TCN is to provide information assistance to all seeking postsecondary education. Our vision is to help all individuals pursuing postsecondary education, both academic and vocational and, as a result, improve the economic growth of Northwest Ohio by motivating and assisting students and their families in the education process. Reaching out

to families where they feel comfortable - whether in community centers, libraries or churches will allow us to serve more families. Having the mobile computer lab gives us the tools to do just that," said Libbey McKnight, executive director.

Think College Now is part of the Ohio College Access Network which was started by the Ohio Board of Regents, Ohio Department of Education and Knowledge Works in 1999. College Access Programs are designed to increase the number of students who pursue education beyond high school thereby improving the economic growth of the communities they serve. The target population are economically disadvantaged, first generation college attendees. Think College Now works in collaboration with The University of Toledo, Owens Community College, Lourdes College, Alliance of Construction Professionals, the business community, Rotary Clubs, Toledo Public Schools and other Lucas County Schools.

The AT&T Excelerator program, a competitive technology grant program from

the AT&T Foundation - the philanthropic arm of AT&T Inc. - awarded more than \$45,000 to four northwest Ohio nonprofit organizations.

AT&T Excelerator is a major philanthropic initiative that helps nonprofits fully integrate technology into their ongoing operations and community outreach. AT&T Excelerator grants also help nonprofit organizations put technology tools into the hands of the underserved populations they work with, providing resources such as Internet access, computer training, math and reading programs and job-skills development.

"For five years, the AT&T Excelerator program has underlined the importance of how technology can benefit communities and organizations," said Connie Brownning, president, AT&T Ohio. "These organizations in northwest Ohio will continue to use technology funded by the Foundation to empower the community and change the lives of those they serve on a day-to-day basis."

The 11th Annual NOBMA MLK Classic

Special to The Truth

The undefeated Libbey and Scott high school basketball teams will be playing two of the top teams in Michigan in the 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Classic on Monday afternoon, January 15.

The event for the first time leaves a Toledo Public high school and will take place in the Student Health and Activities Center at Owens Community College. The junior varsity games will start at noon with the varsity games beginning at 3 p.m.

Libbey will take on Saginaw Arthur Hill, the defending Michigan Class A State champion and its top player, 6-5 Darquarvis Tucker. Tucker, who led Arthur Hill in scoring last year, is considered one of the top players in the country and is predicted to attend DePaul. He will man up against Libbey's 6-5 William Buford, the Cowboys returning All-State performer who has committed to Ohio State. The match-up was arranged with the help of Saginaw Schools administrator John Norwood, Ph.D., a Libbey High School graduate himself.

In the second varsity game, defending City League champions Scott Bulldogs will face Detroit Consortium. Detroit Consortium won over 20 games last year and are the defending Detroit Public School Academy champions and the Class C district finalists. One of Consortium's top players last year, Otis Polk, is now



playing at Bowling Green State University.

Along with the games, there will be a lot of special honors as well. The late Flute Rice, the first African-American principal at Scott, will be honored posthumously, along with Dan McLemore, who helped lead Libbey to the state finals in 1966 and coached the girls' basketball team at Scott for nearly a decade. Top students at Libbey and Scott will also be honored at the event as well winners of the MLK Oratorical Contest, which will take place in another location earlier in the day.

The MLK Classic is the major scholarship fundraiser for the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association, the Toledo-based affiliate of the National Association of Black Journalists. NOBMA, which was formed in 1990, is a nonprofit organization with a membership consisting of African-American communicators and supporters from all over northwest Ohio.

Tickets in advance are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. At the door, the tickets will be \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at Libbey and Scott high schools or at the Sojourner's Truth office, 616 Adams Street.

Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Breakfast

Special to The Truth

On Saturday January 13, 2007, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Xi Lambda Alumnae Chapter will sponsor the 15th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast.

The MLK Breakfast will be held in downtown Toledo at the Zenobia Shrine, 1511 Adams Street. The program begins at 9:15 a.m. and doors open at 8:30 a.m.

The MLK Scholarship Breakfast raises money for the Alpha Phi Alpha scholarship fund. Each year the fraternity sponsors two programs to raise money for scholarship; the MLK Breakfast and a golf outing, which enables the organization to award over \$3,000 in scholarships to deserving college-bound young men who reside in the Toledo area.

The program features a keynote address from Michael Blake who serves as director of External Affairs with the Michigan

House of Representatives. Blake, who is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, will speak on the importance of community activism and service, which was the essence of the movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Alpha Phi Alpha will present a community award called the "Drum Major" award to the House of Emmanuel, a social service agency that helps endangered youth. The Drum Major Award is given to a deserving individual who has served the community in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The House of Emmanuel is the second annual recipient of the Drum Major award.

Tickets are \$15 per person and are sold in advance and may be available at the door. For tickets and information contact Program Chairman Martino Harmon at mharmon@bex.net or 419.475.1718

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Pastor Robert P. and First Lady Edna Wormley
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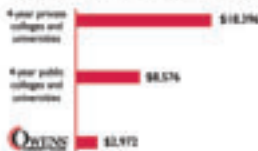
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Fifth-grade teacher Jacquelyn Houston (back row - l.), Links members Jackie Adams and Edna Robertson and Assistant Principal Suzanne Muggy with recipients of gifts

Links Members Lend a Helping Hand to Stewart Academy Students

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"We wanted you to now that we are very proud of you," said Edna Robertson, member of The Links, Inc., last week to a group of Stewart Academy for Girls students whom her organization has been mentoring during this school year.

The Links presented each of the 19 students a gift bag of toiletries – "little things that are different for little girls," said Robertson. And, in addition to the toiletries for their own group of students, The Links also



Edna Robertson and Stewart students

brought in another eight boxes of school supplies for the general student population.

Members of The Links, Inc. have been working with

Stewart Academy and the school's students for the past four years – since the inception of the academy in the 2003-04 academic year.

• Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section •

Advocating For Your Child Who Is Having Trouble Learning

By Sharman W. Dennis
Guest Columnist

I am an educator.

When I began my quest to become an educator I was in high school and had volunteered at a facility that served children with special needs. That experience led me to pursue a degree in elementary education. I was going to teach elementary education but eventually zeroed in on those children who were developing differently. That pursuit led me to the best degree I could ever have obtained, a degree in special education.

This degree was and is still special to me because I was in a program that focused on teaching children not labels. I was taught to look at the child and observe his/her strengths and needs. Parents and teachers – but parents in particular – need to know that the field of special education is a very useful one if the teachers with degrees in special education are trained properly. By properly I mean that the teacher should be teaching children

by focusing on their strengths first and by how to strengthen their needs second.

The teachers should also be teaching students who are diagnosed with a disability – developmental, educational or social/emotional needs. Again, they should not teach to a label. All too often I hear teachers say “I am working with LD kids.” Kids are kids first.

So as a parent what should you expect if your child is in need of special education services? First you want to know from the regular classroom teacher and from those who evaluate your child exactly what the problems are that interfere with his/her learning. You also want to know the things your child does well. Often teachers focus on the needs without any knowledge of the strengths of the student or how to channel those strengths to help the student's needs.

You also want to make sure that no meetings or

evaluations of your child have occurred without your consent and, if meetings or evaluations have occurred, you want to make sure the school followed established policy or law.

You want the information about your child to be presented in a manner that you can understand. The information should be understandable whether you have a GED or a Ph.D. in engineering. You should never sign anything at any meeting pertaining to your child's needs unless you fully understand all of the material presented. You can always ask for a copy of the information to review and sign at a later date.

As an educational advocate I suggest that, if you have any concerns about such a meeting, you have an advocate attend with you. When choosing an advocate look for one who has knowledge related to education and who knows the law – not just the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act) 2004 – but other pieces of legislation as well that may help improve your child's developmental, emotional, educational and



Sharman W. Dennis

social development.

A good advocate will provide you, the parent, with information and will support you in the meeting, but will not speak for you. An appropriate advocate remembers that you are the parent and that he or she is supportive of your role.

Remember special education services can be as therapeutic as they should be but you as the parent have to know what to expect.

Ed. Note: Sharman Dennis is an educational advocate and the CEO of Global Enrichment Solutions, LLC, a company that provides advocacy training, evaluations, therapeutic services and tutoring. She may be contacted at globalenrichment@aol.com.

Owens Enhances Access to Higher Education Through New Financial Aid Awards Program

(Continued from Page 7)

nology fees, books, tutoring, counseling, course supplies, and computer and Internet access.

Owens this past year provided more than \$45.5 million in grants, scholarships, loans and federal work study to support the educational needs of students. Recently, the Owens Community College Foundation awarded scholarships and program support in the amount of more than \$87,000 to students exemplifying academic excellence and leadership.

For more information about the new awards program, contact the College's Financial Aid Office on the Toledo-area Campus at (567) 661-7343 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7343, or on the Findlay-area Campus at (567) 429-3540 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 3540.

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Civil Rights Movement Led By Dr. King Part of a Tradition of Christian Activism That Continues With Today's Christian Right

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Modern Christian activism in this country began with the Civil Rights Movement.

It all started with a peaceful boycott of segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. Led by a Baptist minister, a small group of African-Americans, mostly Christian, brought an entire city to a standstill.

That protest was followed by non-violent sit-ins to protest segregated restaurants and marches to advance the cause of civil rights for African-Americans with the hope of ending legalized segregation in the South and de facto segregation in the North. The activists demonstrated non-violent resistance when they were attacked with brutal force by police, often using billy clubs, attack dogs and/or fire hoses to subdue them.

This commitment to non-violent protest drew world attention and the largest crowd to that date for a march on Washington, D.C., in 1963. The impact was felt throughout the nation and across the globe and the leader of the movement was

rewarded with a Nobel Peace Prize, an honorary doctorate and many other accolades, posthumously, including a holiday in honor of his birthday.

"Twenty years after President Reagan grudgingly signed legislation that made Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, millions of Americans and most businesses still refuse to celebrate the day ... But businesses and millions of Americans don't ignore the King holiday solely out of greed, ignorance or racism. They ignore it because they've swallowed the terrible myth that King was solely a black leader, that the civil rights movement was a movement by and for blacks and that his holiday should be celebrated exclusively by blacks. When King formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, he staked out the moral high ground for the modern day civil rights movement. This made it possible, even obligatory, for most white Americans to condemn racial segregation as immoral and indefensible. Their moral outrage didn't stop with segregation. Vietnam war protesters publicly ac-

knowledged King's brave and outspoken opposition to the war and militarism. They credited him with giving a huge boost to the anti-war movement. The leaders of the gay and women's rights movements were inspired by King's actions and borrowed heavily from the tactics of the civil rights movement. Caesar Chavez ... often hailed King and other civil rights leaders for encouraging and providing aid to the farm worker and labor organizing battles. The civil rights movement also had a major impact on other world struggles. It spurred student and workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America to oppose the military strongmen, dictators and demagogues in their countries. It inspired liberation priests in Latin America, student demonstrators in Europe and anti-apartheid activists in South Africa to struggle against injustice." [Hutchinson, Earl Ofari. "King Holiday Still America's Most Shamefully Ignored Holiday," feature report published by The Hutchinson Report.]

Laurence Glasco addresses the worldwide influence of the civil rights movement in an article published in the University of Pittsburgh's newspaper. "America's civil rights movement not only benefited from the watchful eye of world public opinion, but also inspired oppressed

groups worldwide to seek greater freedom for themselves. I became aware of that influence when I taught during the spring of 1989 in Beijing, China, where the student Democracy Movement was gathering momentum. I taught a course in African-American history, something I erroneously presumed would be a tough topic to get through to Asian students halfway around the world. To make the topic more accessible, I utilized autobiographies, beginning with the life of Frederick Douglass, the famous slave and abolitionist ... They enthusiastically proceeded to cite ways in which the life of a student in Communist China had uncanny parallels with Douglass' life as a slave in America. They went on to say how inspired they were by the struggles of Black Americans and how much they admired Martin Luther King. Later, at Tiananmen Square, they eagerly pointed out to me banners that proclaimed in Chinese, 'We Have a Dream.' I got another sense of the worldwide impact of the civil rights movement a few years later when, on a visit to Madras, India, I met leaders of the Untouchable caste, also known as Dalits. Two large portraits hung on the walls at the headquarters of the Dalit Liberation Trust. I was told that one was their national hero, Ambedkar, and the other I easily recognized as Martin

Luther King. When I expressed surprise at seeing King's portrait, they told me that they greatly admired Martin Luther King and closely followed the civil rights struggles of Black Americans ... Numerous other examples could be cited of groups around the world who have been inspired by the U.S. civil rights movement. In Northern Ireland, Catholics sang "We Shall Overcome" while marching for religious justice. Demonstrators for political, racial, ethnic and religious justice in locations as diverse as Poland, Prague, Berlin, Palestine, Australia, South Africa and Brazil have also drawn inspiration from America's civil rights movement. Even in America, one can say the whole world was watching. Women, other ethnic groups, the elderly, gays and the handicapped all were inspired by the civil rights movement. They also benefited from the movement's success, for laws that banned discrimination on the basis of race also banned discrimination on the basis of color, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability." [Glasco, Laurence. "The Whole World Was Watching: Worldwide Linkages of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement." PittChronicle, newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh, May 10, 2004.]

However, the civil rights movement was not the first



'moral cause' taken up by Christians in this country. Bryan F. Le Beau of Creighton University points out in his Article, "The Political Mobilization of the New Christian Right" that during the nineteenth century, "the Christian right was an animating force in American political life." According to Le Beau, it was the Christian Right that "contributed greatly to the growth of anti-slavery sentiment in the North, and, paradoxically, reinforced the commitment of Southerners to the maintenance of the slave economy."

Following a long absence from political activism, Le Beau states that Christian conservatives got back into the fray in modern times. "The return of conservative Protestants to organized political action, manifested in what has been labeled the New Christian Right, was facilitated by a number of local movements that developed during the social ferment and upheaval of the 1970's."

Stephen Zunes writes about this emergence of the Christian Right in an article published in *Asian Times*, crediting the Republican Party with giving the movement its impetus. "In recent years, a politicized and right-wing Protestant fundamentalist movement has emerged as a major factor in U.S. support for the policies of the rightist Likud government in Israel. To understand this influence, it is important to recognize that the rise of the religious right as a political force in the United States is a relatively recent phenomenon that emerged as part of a calculated strategy by leading right-wingers in the Republican party who - while not fundamentalist Christians themselves - recognized the need to enlist the support of this key segment of the U.S. population in order to achieve political power ... By mobilizing rightist religious leaders and adopting conservative positions on highly charged social issues such as women's rights, abortion, sex education and homosexuality, Republican strategists were able to bring millions of fundamentalists Christians - who as a result of their lower-

(Continued on Page 12)



"I didn't just get a lawyer - I got a friend."

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Civil Rights Movement Led By Dr. King

(Continued from Page 11)

than-average income were not otherwise inclined to vote Republican—into their party. Through such organizations as the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition, the Republicans promoted a right-wing political agenda through radio and television broadcasts, as well as from the pulpit.” [Zunes, Stephen. “U.S. Christian Right’s Grip on Middle East Policy.” *Asian Times*, July 14, 2004.]

Perhaps images of King giving his now famous “I Have a Dream” speech resonated with Christian conservatives who saw firsthand just how powerful the media can be in furthering a cause. However, some would say that is where the similarities end.

Whereas King’s movement fought to secure rights that had been previously denied to African-Americans and other poor people, much of what the Christian Right attempted to do involved limiting rights previously won by women and other groups and denying rights to other groups, such as gays and lesbians.

“I don’t find much that I recognized as Christian,” says Randall Balmer, discussing his new book, *Thy Kingdom Come, An Evangelist’s Lament: How The Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America*. “They have taken something that is lovely and redemptive and turned it into something that is ugly and retributive.”

The aggressive tactics used by some Christian Right leaders (in opposition to the non-violent tactics of the civil rights movement) seem to affirm Balmer’s statements about their ‘activism.’ Focus on the Family founder James C. Dobson, according to Rob Boston, writing for www.believe.net, “flew into Washington, D.C. ... with twin goals: attend a meeting of the secretive Council for National Policy and issue a new round of orders to top Republican leaders Dobson made it clear that he expects action now Religious conservatives enjoy great influence over federal courts and their social agenda is being implemented, item-

by-item. But it is never enough. Dobson growls and the top leaders of American politics rush to assure him that all is well. The incident is also a good example of the influence the religious right holds in the Republican party and, thus, the larger political system, today Yet many Americans remain unaware of the scope of the power, money and aspirations of the religious right or how radical its goals are. More than 25 years have passed since a band of conservative strategists convinced the Rev. Jerry Falwell to lead the Moral Majority, and the movement is today at the apex of its political power.”

Scott Wyman from The Kansas City Star wrote in a December 30, 2006, article about Coral Ridge founder Dr. James Kennedy, “His fundamental message has been that Christians should be active in ensuring their voice is heard on social issues Among Kennedy’s recent causes have been pushing Congress for a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage and outlawing partial-birth abortion. He raised money to help Alabama’s chief justice defend himself in the fight over displaying the Ten Commandments at the state’s Supreme Court Building and urged supporters to fight to keep Terri Schiavo on life support.”

Although Kennedy’s causes seem to champion moral positions on social dilemmas, each of them represents a violation of the individual’s right to choose, a fundamental freedom in this country. King’s causes were all efforts to secure more rights for American citizens, not limit those we have or may fight for in the future.

This has not stopped Christian Right leaders from attempting to align themselves with King; however, particularly, this time of year when many African-Americans and others take time out to honor his memory. Right-wing conservative Marcus Epstein makes this point in his article, “Myths of Martin Luther King.” “This is amazing because during the 1950s

and 1960s, the Right almost unanimously opposed the civil rights movement. Contrary to the claims of many neocons[neo-conservatives], the opposition was not limited to the John Birch Society and southern conservatives. It was made by politicians like Ronald Reagan and Barry Goldwater and in the pages of *Modern Age*, *Human Events*, *National Review* and *Freeman*. Today, the official conservative and libertarian movement portrays King as someone on our side who would be fighting Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton if he were alive. Most all conservative publications and websites have articles around this time of the year praising King and discussing how today’s civil rights leaders are betraying his legacy There are nearly a half dozen neocon and left-libertarian think tanks and legal foundations with names such as ‘The Center for Equal Opportunity’ and the ‘American Civil Rights Institute’ which claim to model themselves after King. Why is a man once reviled by the Right now celebrated by it as a hero?”

This question should be asked every time those who fight to revoke many of the civil rights and freedoms we enjoy evoke the name and memory of Dr. King.

Following is an account of how this happens from an article titled “Martin Luther King, Jr. vs. Christian Right,” by Max Blumenthal. “On Sunday, January 8, the Christian Right held its third ‘Justice Sunday’ program promoting a reformed judiciary where their Christian values take precedence over the law. What’s curious about this Justice Sunday was how long-time opponents of racial equality attempted to assume the mantle and tradition of Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Blumenthal goes on to give the history of some of those involved. “In 1996, while working as campaign manager for the failed U.S. Senate candidacy of his mentor, Woody Jenkins, [Tony] Perkins signed a check for nearly \$90,000 to David

Duke for the purchase of his phone bank list. Then, even after a steady stream of bad press doomed his own Senate campaign, Perkins spoke at a 2001 fundraiser for the Louisiana chapter of the Council of Conservative Citizens, a white nationalist group which has called blacks ‘a retrograde species of humanity’ on its website. Sunday, Perkins will be joined by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who incited opposition to the civil rights movement from the pulpit in 1950’s and 1960’s Virginia. Seeking to continue his image makeover ... Tony Perkins has staged Justice Sunday III at a black church in inner-city Philadelphia ... Even worse is Wellington Boone a Georgia clergyman and member of Dominionist organization Coalition on Revival. Boone makes no secret of his bizarre racial views either. Consider this statement he made in his book, *Breaking Through*. ‘I want to boldly affirm Uncle Tom. The black community must stop criticizing Uncle Tom. He is a role model.’ Or this, on Pat Robertson’s 700 Club, in the immediate wake of Hurricane Katrina: ‘We need to consider the culture of those people still stranded in New Orleans. The looting of property, the trashing of property, etc., speaks to the basic character of the people. These people who have gone through slavery, segregation and the Voting Rights Act are doing this to themselves.’ Were any of those attending

the event—in a black church—aware of these things?”

The list of King ‘admirers’ from the right wing goes on: “John Ashcroft, who drew intense fire from civil rights groups for his retrograde conservative views on civil rights, claims that King is on his most admired list. Former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, who opposed the King holiday, now praises King as part of his mea culpa apology for his public tout of segregation.” [Hutchinson]

While conservatives use King’s words to try to lure African-Americans into their ranks and form political alliances with African-American Christians, possibly motivated by the success of the civil rights movement to follow in King’s footsteps as Christian activists, it is not just King’s legacy they are not being true to when they fail to follow his ideology. “Whereas evangelical abolitionists of the nineteenth century sought freedom for African-Americans, the religious right of the late twentieth century organized to perpetuate racial discrimination. Sadly, the religious right has no legitimate claim to the mantle of the abolitionist crusaders of the nineteenth century. White evangelicals were conspicuous by their absence in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Where were Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham on August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington or on Sun-

day, March 7, 1965, when Martin Luther King, Jr. and religious leaders from other traditions linked arms on the march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama, to stare down the ugly face of racism?” [Balmer, Randall. *Thy Kingdom Come, An Evangelist’s Lament: How The Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America*]

Is it wrong for people who once opposed the civil rights movement to now ‘jump on the bandwagon’ and support Dr. King’s dream? Should their sincerity be doubted just because they’re conservative and right wing?

“Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Jack Van Impe follow in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Ghandi and Jesus Christ King’s legacy of non-violent protest in pursuit of equality for the descendants of slavery was one of the high points of his religion. As he knelt down before the police, to be taken to jail in Birmingham, the world could see submission to authority and the willingness to endure the pain that the hatred of society wanted to inflict upon him He was trying to change society in the grand and ancient tradition of the Church. A decade after his death, the South produced another Christian movement that took over the White house, the religious right. After 25 years of their agenda, America is feeling like it is a burnt over region

(Continued on Page 16)

INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – START HIGH SCHOOL DEMOLITION – LIFE SKILLS CENTER BID

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 P.M. on January 24, 2007**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers’ Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor material and supervision necessary for the Start High School Demolition – Life Skills Center Bid, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by SSOE, Inc., and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **January 9th, 2007** which can be purchased from Toledo Blueprint, 6964 McNerney St., Northwood, OH 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **January 16th, at 3:00 pm** at the Toledo Public Schools’ Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions, or if you need additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Dan Timmons, LGB-LLC fax (877) 281-0784, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or by email at Dan.Timmons@LGB-LLC.com

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Reel Review

The Children of Men

Clive Owen, Michael Caine

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

I know, I know.

I can already hear in my mind what most of my readers have made me aware of.

As you're reading this first film critique of the new year, no doubt many of you are wondering "what's up with *Dreamgirls*?"

Yeah, I've read the emails, fam.

I know most of you are gonna check out *Dreamgirls* anyway, whether or not I review it.

It's getting all types of award nominations and critical acclaim, so it's pretty much a sure bet that it's a good film that all types of people will enjoy.

I mean, it's Beyonce, Jamie Foxx and Eddie Murphy – there's almost no way that could be bad. –LOL.

So, I chose to go in a different direction.

I thought about things going on in the world at the moment.

We lost James Brown on Christmas. The Democrats are taking control of Congress.

Saddam's hanging is all over YouTube. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream and how feasible it may or may not be – all of these things have been on my mind.

And I thought about this film, *The Children of Men*.

I thought about last year around this time when *V for Vendetta* came out.

Producing songs always makes me wonder what it's like for people who write books.

Especially these books that become movies, those are usually the most intriguing.

With music, when you sit down to create something you are trying to express a feeling you could only explain through song.

It can be about your personal situation, or it could be about your views on the world as a whole.

But at least in the scope of writing a song or making music that will allow someone else to write, it's a very subjective experience that is immediate and almost fleeting.

Films such as this come across more like a warning.

Based on the P.D. James novel of the same name, *The Children of Men* achieves the same effect as George Orwell's 1984 or even the book that details the Christian belief in an event known as *The Rapture*.

That effect is a bone-chilling sense of possibility.

Instead of offering you a window into the here and now, book-adapted films such as this one offer you a window into what could feasibly come to be ... a here and now that none of us want.

One thing about 1984, *V for Vendetta* and *The Children of Men* ... they are all described as depicting a "dystopian" future. So what is "dystopian"?

You know what utopian means right? Well "dystopian" is the opposite. Here's the wikipedia definition:

a fictional society that is the antithesis of utopia. It is usually characterized by an oppressive social control, such as an authoritarian or totalitarian government.

Oppressive social control...

Authoritarian or totalitarian government...

NONE of these things are fictional at this point.

When I went to D.C. for the anti-Bush protests, I got to see first hand what a police state might look like. No cameramen, no props.

Real suppression of First Amendment rights, and real brutality carried out by those who are supposed to be protecting and serving the people they were beating.

When I wrote my piece about 9/11 this past Septem-

ber and I said loud and clear (and backed up with proof courtesy of Loose Change) that our own government was behind it... I encountered real hatred and real ignorance.

The Children of Men is based in London, England in the year 2027.

Various world events have led to an influx of Eastern Europeans, Northern Africans and even Arabs into Great Britain. The British Parliament deemed these persons – illegal immigrants/terrorists. And that designation allowed them to be detained without reason in prison camps, where they existed without any human rights whatsoever. Even the right to life.

The movie depicts scenes that hint at the random killing of so called "illegal immigrants" or "terrorists" at the hands of armed servicemen/ law enforcement.

It doesn't take any stretch of the imagination whatsoever to see that our world right now in 2007 is very capable of witnessing such atrocities.

But the main issue in *The Children of Men* is a worldwide problem that might need just a little further stretch of the imagination.

The plot centers around a very big problem: no woman anywhere on Earth has been able to give birth to a child for the last 18 years.

Scientists have theorized that it might be any combination of factors that could lead to worldwide infertility.

The flu pandemic that wiped out large cities in the U.S., there's a possible cause.

Genetic tampering and environmental hazards are possible causes as well.

But the point is, nowhere in the world is it possible to conceive a child.

When the movie starts, the youngest person on the planet dies at 18.



Chiwetel Ejiofor and Clive Owen

The literal extinction of the human race is at hand.

But in London, the government is still trying to weed out so called "citizens" from so called "refugees" (nicknamed "fugees" throughout the film).

Different factions of movements call for an uprising to overthrow the oppression they live under but there is warring between them as well as the constant fighting between those organized enough to stand up to the military and the actual British/American military.

Things are so hectic that the political powers in London have begun selling suicide kits known as Quietude that will allow an easy way out for anyone who wants it.

The Children of Men focuses on Theo Faron (Clive Owen) as he returns to London at the request of his ex-wife Julian (Julianne Moore). Both were activists back in the day which would technically be now since it's set in the future, but he sold out for the loot and she became a powerful leader of a revolutionary cell in London known as The Fish.

As Theo struggles with whether or not he should consider helping his estranged spouse or not, he's made aware of the exact favor she needs from him ... his assistance with obtaining citizenship for a teenage African girl named Kee.

He's supposed to oversee her passage through hostile areas and be handed over to a society of people known only as The Human Project.

We never see The Human Project, but we know why it's important for them to find Kee.

In nearly a quarter century, she will be the first female to experience full-term pregnancy.

The first baby the world

has seen in roughly two decades will be her baby.

She has somehow become pregnant, and it's somewhat Theo's job to make sure she's taken care of.

But that's kinda hard when you've got no one to trust and no help from people in power.

I urge everyone to see this film.

Ev – ry – one.

The film itself is greatly

entertaining.

The direction and cinematography are surely to go unmatched by anything else that could come out of Hollywood for at least the next couple of years.

YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE IN THE MOVIE.

When gunshots go by, when cars race, when people are running for their very lives... you feel it.

I would love for ya'll to check this film out and get back to me to tell me if you think any of the hardships they face are feasible enough that we could experience them soon in our lifetime.

Because I've gotta be honest, with the way things are headed... there's no telling how far down the rabbit hole truth goes.

get at me

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Deborah Barnett

(Continued from Page 4)

without referring to the facts of the situation, that Steel had a possible conflict of interest. Steel's wife, Catherine Hernandez, a TPS teacher, served on the Toledo Federation of Teachers' board of directors until her resignation after Steel's election in November 2005. Fisher and various other school board critics have in the past questioned whether or not Steel is insured under his wife's TPS health insurance policy. That, presumably, was the possible conflict that Fisher raised. As he has in the past, Steel once again declined to address the particulars of his family's insurance status.

"I will continue to work in the best interests of the students of this district and that's my statement regarding a conflict of interest," said Steel.

Steel won approval to the vice presidency by a vote of three to two, with Fisher and Torres dissenting.

Barnett took over the meeting and proceeded to announce committee assignments. She moved Fisher off the finance committee, on which the past president had served as chairman during the last year, and named Sykes to

head that group.

Barnett's committee assignments brought a rebuke from Fisher who expressed the desire to make a few switches. "As president," said Barnett, "I make the appointments."

Barnett created a new ad hoc committee – community and public relations – that she intends to lead and under which the board's student recruitment and retention efforts will fall. Fisher had led that ad hoc committee and expressed chagrin at what she felt was an effort to diminish the importance of the recruitment aspect of the board's operations. Barnett explained that recruitment and retention was an important facet of the public relations effort she planned to lead.

At this point, any effort at creating or maintaining some semblance of unity had just about completely dissolved.

The board capped off the opening of the winter session with a discussion of spending on travel. The "service fund" which pays for board members' travel to state and national conventions and education forums, was increased from \$15,000 to \$29,380 – \$1 for each student in the district. Fisher cast the lone dissenting vote as she chastised the spending habits of her fellow board members.

Fisher, as she herself pointed out, has spent no money on such travel, while the other board members have spent between \$380 to \$7,000. Barnett, Steel and Sykes noted that such travel is important in order for the board to gather information, to share ideas, and to represent the district.

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Seeking an energetic, dependable professional to provide home-based, solution-oriented services to severely and emotionally disturbed children and their families. Requires Bachelor's degree in social work or mental health related field, or may substitute an Associate's degree with 3 years related experience. Preference given to licensed candidate (Ohio LSW, PC). Must have bio-psychosocial assessment skills, knowledge of community resources, linkage and advocacy skills, as well as strong documentation and communication skills. Seeking a positive team player with the ability to work well independently in the field. Must be committed to providing excellent customer service. Valid driver's license, good driving record, and ability to perform therapeutic holds required. Send resume, with cover letter and salary expectations, by 1/17/07 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (CSP),
4334 Secor Rd.,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234,
or fax to 419-720-6103,
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

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**INTERESTED BIDDERS:
TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS –
WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on February 8th, 2007**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor material and supervision necessary for the new **Whittier Elementary School Bid**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by SSOE, Inc., and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **January 10, 2007 which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo Ohio 43615 Phone: 419-385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **January 23, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.** at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Kimakus.Johnson@LGB-LLC.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No. 1 Site Work	\$	683,100.
Bid Item No. 2 General Trades	\$	3,676,403.
Bid Item No. 3 Fire Protection	\$	104,600.
Bid Item No. 4 Plumbing	\$	430,900.
Bid Item No. 5 HVAC	\$	1,343,700.
Bid Item No. 6 Electrical	\$	814,400.
Total Estimate:	\$	7,053,103.

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PART-TIME HR ASSISTANT

The Toledo Zoo is currently looking for 1 HR Assistant to work in our Human Resource Department. I am looking for a Sophomore or Junior college student with a GPA of 3.0. They must be willing to work weekends, and I can be flexible around their school schedule.

The pay rate is \$7.00 an hour and this is a part-time position. Please have students fax me their resumes. During the summer they could work up to 40 hours. Here is the job description for this position:

*Learn the history of the Zoo, present this on tours with new employees

*Assist with recruiting efforts for part-time seasonal employees

*Review and learn existing part-time orientation program for new and returning employees

*Set up orientations, schedule employees, coordinate with department managers, present orientations, and handle paperwork.

*Review and learn existing supervisor/leader training and present trainings.

*Plan and supervise special events for the part-time seasonal employees

*Answer telephones, general office work

Civil Rights Movement Led By Dr. King

(Continued from Page 12)

nationally. One Christianity was a backlash against another Christianity.... The marriage of fundamentalism and consumerism, media and individualism, does not mimic the courage and goals of the civil rights movement. If it did, we would see swarms of Christians in Baghdad, not converting Muslims, but marching against the madness of extremism. The religious right is too much like its brother, big business, finding salvation through lifestyle.... And political conservative Christians are not prepared to risk their lives or their fundraising.... Unlike Martin Luther King, self-sacrifice, suffering and deprivation are too strange in our culture to have a compelling impact.... Christianity has always been about the marriage of social nationalism and religion. Just as Jesus tapped into Jewish nationalism and tradition to get his point across, Dr. King also used the American Dream and Chris-

tian social justice push his cause." [Shaver, Brock A. "From Martin Luther King to the Religious Right: New Change Coming?" *American Chronicle*, December 12, 2006.] However, there are those on the right who seem to want to move away from the notion of only 'breaking bread' with those who espouse their views and forcing politicians to bend to their will in order to get their support. The best-known example is Pastor Rick Warren, celebrated author of bestseller *A Purpose Driven Life*, who recently invited two senators to speak to at a conference on HIV/AIDS held at his California church. One of them was Senator Sam Brownback (Kansas), a conservative Republican and pro-lifer; the other was Senator Barack Obama (Illinois), who is a liberal Democrat and pro-choice.

"The inclusion of Obama... has generated alarm among some evangelical leaders.... 'Of course we expect criticism,'

Warren wrote in an e-mail sent to his 22,000-plus congregation. 'Jesus loved and accepted others without approving everything they did. That's our position, too'.... Warren, a Southern Baptist... says he opposes abortion but can work with his 'good friend' Obama on other issues, such as HIV and AIDS prevention." [Driscoll, Gwendolyn. The Orange County Register, November 30, 2006.] Not all conservative Christians disagreed with Warren's invitation to Obama. "I believe Rick Warren is making the right call by inviting people like Obama to be part of the conversation on AIDS. We already speak to ourselves as evangelicals. It's time to start a dialogue in this country - and around the world - with those who may not agree with the evangelical position, but who are willing to talk about ways to find solutions to the problems we face. And if you haven't noticed, AIDS is one of the biggest problems facing the

Church around the world today.... These are people - people that Jesus died for - people who are mothers, sons, daughters and fathers - people like you and me who need our compassion and not our political infighting." [von Buseck, Craig. Church Watch, November 30, 2006.]

Do Warren and von Buseck signal a new breed of right-wing Christians who put the compassion in the 'compassionate conservatism'? President George W. Bush campaigned on six years ago?

"Just outside of St. Louis, Missouri, Pastor Jeff Perry leads the St. Louis Family Church. Their motto is simple, 'Honor God. Help People.' Those words are displayed behind the pulpit. They do. Eighteen wheel trucks leave regularly from the church parking lot to go to New Orleans where rotating teams of people work to rebuild. Across the world his brother is helping rebuild homes in Sri Lanka. During the last campaign season Pastor Perry closed his pulpit to politicians and in so doing made an important statement about what matters most. This movement is new and it is just starting and there is a long way

to go. As N.T. Wright would put it, the kingdom of God involves God's people putting the world to rights, but it's a constant struggle both against the various powers that be AND against ourselves.... That being said, onward Christian compassion." [Kuo, David. "Inanity, Idiocy, and Real Hope." *J-Walking*, November 29, 2006.]

In his article, Kuo also talks about the criticism waged against Warren and takes a position similar to von Buseck. "Rick Warren and his wife, Kay, are leading like Jesus did," writes Kuo.

Further evidence that some in the Christian Right may finally be on the right path was evidenced in a *60 Minutes* interview of rock star Bono from U2 by Ed Bradley, July 30, 2006. Asked how he gets support for his projects, which include providing AIDS medication to over 200,000 Africans, Bono said. "It was probably that it would be really wrong beating a sort of left-wing drum, taking the usual bleeding-heart-liberal line." Instead, he enlisted help from those who had little in common with him. "Particularly conservative Christians. I was very angry that they were not



involved more in the AIDS emergency. I was saying, 'This is the leprosy that we read about in the New Testament, you know. Christ hung out with the lepers. But you're ignoring the AIDS emergency. How can you?' And, you know they said, 'Well, you're right, actually. We have been. And we're sorry. We'll get involved.' And they did."

Rick Warren did and, like Bono, he formed a coalition with someone with whom he had very little in common. Appearing on Larry King, Warren probably further infuriated some right-wing Christians by saying that although he does not support gay marriage and has serious differences with feminists, he will work with both feminists and gays and lesbians to stop the spread of AIDS. Now, that sounds like a stand that King might have taken himself had he lived to see the 21st Century - one of tolerance and compassion.

Contact Geneva at Geneva@thetruthtoledo.com

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BLACK BRIDAL EXPO
THE DAY'S EVENTS
Saturday, January 27, 2007

Genesis Dreamplex
2429 S. Reynolds Rd.
Toledo, Ohio

Bridal Registration
1st 20 brides registered will receive gift bag

Vendor Displays
Open vendor displays showcasing products and services to make your special day complete.

Fashion Show
Rhonda Sewell, Commentator
Showcasing formal wear, hair styles, and accessories for bridal party and guest.

Vendor Prize Giveaways
All brides must be registered and present to be eligible to win a prize giveaway.

Musical Entertainment
Showcasing dancing, vocalists and instrumentalists

Marriage Renewal Ceremony
Pastor Allen & Rhonda Dawkins
Celebrating 20 years!

Reception After
Dinner & Drinks at 7:00pm

Contact G-Creations 419-870-2483

Engaged couples—Buy one advance ticket for \$5.00 and get one free for fiancé
Advance ticket \$5.00 and \$10.00 at the door
Tickets available at the following locations.

Genesis Dreamplex 2429 S. Reynolds Rd. 419-381-8763	Hair It Is Salon 1703 W. Bancroft St. 419-870-2207	Birthdays Salon of Beauty 2101 Monroe St. - Suite B 419-523-3331	ReYach Salon & Spa 4903 Dorr St. 419-378-0945
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