



Andre Savage

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"What is significant, and I hope inspirational to young people, is the road I traveled to get here. It was a year-long crusade of pursuing my dream and goal, even while I was struggling in my daily life."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

U.S. Senator Barack Obama (Dem-IL) has just announced his candidacy for president of the United States and already the boo birds are gathering. Obama of course is an African-American so as one might naturally expect, the fact that he is black has brought forth a chorus of mixed emotions.

Some observers and columnists, and even elected officials, appear to have taken issue with his blackness, or lack of it, and have expressed wariness at offering their support for a black man. Regrettably, the folks we are referring to are themselves African-American.

Two black male legislators from South Carolina recently threw their support to Hillary Clinton because as one of them said, if Obama is at the top of the ticket, Democrats would lose everything – the House, the Senate and the presidency. He called Clinton “our best shot.”

Other commentators have decried Obama's credentials as a true African-American because of his mixed parentage and the fact that his father, who was Kenyan, did not have ancestors who were slaves in this country. Some folks, such as the inimitable Stanley Crouch, guardian of what he deems to be African-American intellectualism, feel that unless a person has known the slings and arrows of American-styled slavery, indirectly of course through his ancestors, he cannot be a true American black person.

Others say that Obama, who garnered 92 percent of the black vote in Illinois in his 2004 campaign for the Senate – he ran against another black man and topped the vote that John Kerry received in all demographics including African-Americans – does not have black interests at heart because he does not mimic the way that an Al Sharpton or a Jesse Jackson, Sr. might have announced their intentions to run for president.

And still others speak in reverential tones about the Clintons and all that they have done for black folks over the years and how they have earned our loyalty by their actions.

Others say that Obama is not qualified, not seasoned enough, not experienced enough. Along the way, the nicest things that have been said about the Illinois senator have come from one of his competitors, Joe Biden, the long-time senator from Delaware who called his colleague “articulate, bright and clean.”

So let's step back and take a look at all of this angst and hand-wringing over the brother from Illinois.

Have people gone mad?

Let's take a brief look at the guy some in our community are dismissing all too readily.

After graduating from college, Obama headed for Chicago and became a community organizer. He then went to law school, was the first African-American (yes, Mr. Crouch, he is an African-American) elected to the Harvard Law Review presidency and, after graduation, instead of joining a white-shoe Wall Street law firm, he headed back to Chicago to join a civil rights firm.

Clinton and Edwards are also lawyers, by the way. Clinton specialized in intellectual properties matters and Edwards made millions as a personal injury lawyer.

None of the three has had any experience actually running anything at all – a company, a non-profit agency or a government agency – and none has much experience as an elected official but, interestingly, Obama has more overall experience than the other two – he spent eight years in Illinois as a state senator, representing the Hyde Park area of Chicago's South Side, before his election to the U.S. Senate.

So our question is *what* in addition to being black, devoting a career working for the interests of black people and representing blacks on legislative bodies does a person have to do to convince black commentators, black elected officials and black leaders that he is indeed black enough. In other words, what exactly *is* this thing called “black enough?”

But so many of us are enamored of Hillary Clinton, presumably because we are still smitten with Bill Clinton and all that he did for African-Americans. Fair enough. There is nothing misplaced about such loyalty.

But let's ask ourselves a question. Once we dispose of the matter of Obama's blackness, and all other matters among the front-running Democratic candidates being equal, is there some intrinsic value for the African-American community in having one of their own elected president of the United States? By that we mean, let's assume that all of the three, as president, treat issues related to the African-American community in the exact same manner – which would probably be the case.

Would having a black face in the White House do the black community any good simply because that face is black – all other things being equal, of course?

(Continued on Page 7)

The Sojourner's Truth

616^{1/2} Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700

Published weekly on Wednesday

Printed by Webco Graphics

Advertising deadline: Friday at noon

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Community Calendar

February Black History Month!!

February 15

- Fair Housing's Mardi Gras Party: The Pinnacle; Fundraiser to benefit the Fair Housing Center; Cajun food; Music by KGB; Costume contest: 419-243-6163
- Greater Toledo Urban League Young Professionals: “Urban League Thursdays” Networking Forum; 5:30 to 7:30 pm; 20 North Gallery; discussion of the Civil Rights Movement and the role that young professional can play in the lives of youth in Toledo: 419-297-3664

February 15-18

- Singles and Marriage Ministries of Bethel Apostolic Temple: Annual Weekend Conference Retreat; Services at 6:30 pm nightly and Noon and 6 pm on Sunday; Evangelist and Prophet Elder Robbi Warren of Baltimore, MD; “Evening of Elegance,” a semi formal dinner at 6 pm on Saturday at the Park Inn Hotel: 419-473-8933

February 17

- Toledo Lucas County Library Kent Branch: Black History Month program; *Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas*; African drummers and dancers, speakers, a storyteller and a marketplace full of vendors: 419-259-5381
- Citywide Afro-Ball: “Back in the Day;” Gladieux Meadows; For high-school students; Formal attire; Dinner, dancing, entertainment
- Relatively Real African-American Singles Group: Presents “Real Talk;” Discussion of relationship issues; 7 pm to Midnight; Heather Gate (next to HJ Prime Cut); Role playing, 50/50 raffle; 419-466-5265 or 419-320-7303

February 18

- Ridgewood Church of Christ: A Celebration of Black History Month; 12:30 to 5 pm; Blood pressure checks, health screenings, crafts, ethnic food, free haircuts, manicures, games, door prizes, among other activities: 419-726-2210
- Third Baptist Church (Holland): Mass Choir sponsors 20th Annual Black History Musical; 4 pm
- Majestic Praise Ministries: Family and Friends Day Service; 10:45 am; Elder Louis Self, pastor: 419-535-3317
- St. John's Jesuit High School: Forum on issues facing today's teenagers – rap, gangs, relationships, leadership and decision-making; 2 to 6 pm; Open to the public and free: 419-309-0165 or 419-309-0164

February 19

- UT 27th Annual MLK Benefit Dinner: Guest Speaker Dr. Alvin Poussaint, professor of psychiatry and associate dean for student affairs of Harvard Medical School; 7 pm: 419-530-2508 or 419-383-3609
- United MBC: Black History moments every Sunday this month

February 23

- Scott High School Class of 1977: Meet and Greet session at the Community Club; 7 to 10 pm; Preparation for 30th year reunion in October: 419-351-1339

February 24

- Mt Nebo MBC Annual Black History Banquet: Genesis Dreamplex Hotel and Conference Center; 6 pm
- United Missionary Baptist Church Nurses' Guild: “Healthy Hearts: A Health and Wellness Workshop;” 11 am to 1 pm; Topics include – heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol: 419-242-1455

February 23-25

- Neighborhood Association of Toledo: One Year Anniversary celebration of the opening of Stickney Banquet Hall; Friday – Cabaret and Dance from 10 pm to 2 am; Saturday – Family Forum and Open House from noon to 3 pm; Sunday – Shirley Murdock at 5 pm: 419-902-0670 or 419-870-4586

February 24

- Mt. Pilgrim Black History Month Forum: Community Education Forum; “A Reflection on Brown vs. Board of Education;” Guest speaker Ajibola Amira-Green; 1 pm
- Toledo Ballet Auditions: For the May 30 and 31 performances of Ballet Tapestry of American Music; For dancers 12 years and older; Noon to 4:30 pm; Toledo Ballet School: 419-471-0049 or www.toledoballet.net

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

Tough times are ahead for the Mid West states of Michigan and Ohio. The economic heart of these two industrial giants is being ripped out by global forces which cannot be ignored and surely there will be a trickle-down effect onto the Toledo region which bodes ill for the future.

We now hear that the Daimler-Chrysler marriage will soon end. A new suitor is being sought to buy Chrysler or what will remain in its aftermath of a new merger. Therein lies the problem for the future that is inevitably the new shrinkage based on the new marriage. We are told that 13,000 jobs are to be cut nationwide. More will be on the way. This only accelerates the Big Three challenge on market share as Ford is now on the ropes and may not survive. Just yesterday, Ford reported a bigger than anticipated loss.

If it was just these two large companies being knocked around, it would be

tough sledding but have you noticed the many smaller companies that are running aground. Those are in places such as Clyde, Ohio or Whitehouse that are losing 50 jobs here or 60 there. And, by the way, some of these folks are Toledoans who work in Clyde or Maumee or Fremont. Believe me, we are being hit hard, and at the end of this decade, just three years out, we will see a net loss in jobs and population for Toledo in the neighborhood of 8,000 to 15,000.

If there ever was a time for visionary on both regionalization and economic rebirth, now is that time. For all of his vaunted energy, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner cannot do it. His ideas are those of an old man; he is stuck in his ways. In his heart, he believes he can "coach" his way out of these economic doldrums. But, as I have said before, there are global players involved in this. Even a successful new arena down-

town on the west side will not dramatically change the numbers long term. And I expect some other large Toledo firms to jump ship soon for a variety of reasons.

One of our problems is using our capital improvements budget to pay present operating costs. Five million dollars should be going into roads and buildings and not operating deficits. It would be amusing if it was not tragic in the implications.

We should see how Governor Ted Strickland, deals with the upcoming fight on the Great Lakes water pact. I served as a trustee on the Great Lakes Mayors Commission and helped debate part of the language that ultimately was adopted to keep secure the purity of the water in the Great Lakes. Then-Governor Bob Taft played a key role in getting all of the Great Lakes governors to the point we are at right now. Strickland should beat back the challenge by Bill Seitz, a conser-

vative Republican legislator, who is now arguing that the Great Lakes pact will harm the property interest of some Ohioans. Do we really want to see large pipeline carrying water from our Great Lakes to California? That is really what is at bottom of this fight to keep control of the Great Lakes.

It took a lot of cheek for

Lucas County Democratic Party Chairman John Irish and Mr. Finkbeiner to "advise," the governor on who to hire from Lucas County for high positions in his cabinet. I would think they would want to do that privately, rather than and try to embarrass Strickland.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com



Jack Ford

Pulling Families Out Of Poverty: "Fathers of Tomorrow Initiative" – "A Program That Works"

By Margaret E. Watson, Director, FOTI
Johnny Mickler, Sr. President/CEO, Greater Toledo Urban League

With the emergence of the new millennium came the birth of the Fathers Of Tomorrow Initiative (FOTI) program. The program was designed to promote the positive involvement and interaction of fathers with their children, to help the men find employment so that they can begin to pay child support and to help eradicate a family's dependence on social assistance.

The program existed from July of 2000 until the funding expired in June of 2002. Although the funding ran out we continued to service this population, but not without difficulty.

In 2004 the program was given a new breath of life and the FOTI program resurfaced in full force. In 2005 the Lucas County Commissioners introduced the concept of "Bridges out of Poverty." The idea was to help families begin to pull themselves up out of poverty through programs such as the FOTI program. To date we have serviced over 500 non-custodial fathers and we have assisted them in seeking and finding employment to begin the rise out of poverty. Out of this number, 75 percent of them have become active in lives of their children, they continue to be influential figures in their children's lives in order to help break the vicious cycle of generational poverty and they are paying toward their child support obligations.

Even though we have only scratched the surface, we really have to look at the overall picture and ask ourselves, "why are the men missing from the home?" It is estimated that tonight 40

percent (25 million) of this nation's children will go to bed without a father present in the home. In Black America that statistic rises to over 50 percent and in some urban settings it rises as high as 90 percent. The repercussions of this absence concern all of us. The children remain the victims. (Lack of proper housing, food, health, dental, vision insurance and the list goes on.)

To understand the impact of this absence on the children requires an understanding of the role of the father in the household. By our Creator's design, fathers have long been given the responsibility as primary protectors, providers, and leaders of the family.

What happens when they are missing? We see record levels of poverty, violence, low educational achievement, teenage pregnancy, crime, substance abuse and, yes, sometimes suicide. For our society, and especially our children, this is a tragedy. Our question to you is "where do we go from here?"

Although the FOTI program is making changes and making a difference in the lives of children, we must continue to promote responsible fatherhood initiatives and support for this program. Fathers make unique and irreplaceable contributions to the lives of their children. Unique means they provide something different from mothers; they are not just part-time mommy substitutes. Irreplaceable means when they are absent, children suffer. If we are to succeed at ending poverty and delivering more fathers to the children, promoting responsible fatherhood must remain at the forefront of our public

agenda. If we cut the funding to programs such as FOTI, then we have become part of the problem and poverty will manifest itself.

The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," reflects the fact that many lives shape and mold the life of a child. A client who successfully completed the FOTI Program and who is currently working and supporting his children financially and emotionally stated, and we quote, "If it had not been for the Greater Toledo Urban League and this program I would be in jail today."

The Fathers Of Tomorrow Initiative program is making a difference, but what about you? We talk about helping and trying to bring people out of poverty and when we look at the statistics that this program has generated (Please see attachments) and we look at upcoming cuts in funding, we are quick to cut the successful programs. So what is the message that we are sending to our community and the people that we service? That you only matter for a moment and poverty is not a concern?

We need to remember that poverty is relative; poverty occurs in all races and in all countries; and that in order for our clients to be successful we must not scold them or excuse them from poverty, we must teach them and provide support. Continued funding for this program is critical if we are to continue to help and make a difference in ending poverty. My plea to you is to please become a part of the solution and continue to help fund the G.T.U.L.'s FOTI program.

Isn't it time for a Quiet Conversation™ about estate planning?

Without an estate plan in place, federal and state laws dictate how property, personal items and assets are divided. Family conflicts and legal problems may result. Talk to Kevin for expert guidance in estate planning and a network of specialists to help get you closer to all of your financial goals.



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City Finally Demolishes Distinctive Central City Apartment Building

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The City of Toledo took matters into its own hands on Friday, February 16, and began the task of leveling the Ira Apartments on the corner of Parkside and Dorr Street.

"We have been working on this for over nine years," said Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown, who represents District 1 in which the long-vacant apartment building occupied the highly-visible corner. "We have met with a number of developers but could not get anything done. I'm really happy to get this done and I want to thank [City Law Director] John Madigan for stepping up."

The building had been



Councilwoman Brown celebrates the long-awaited demolition of the Ira Apartments

vacant for about 15 years and was on Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's "Dirty Dozen" list of dangerous and unsightly structures. Built in 1928, the building was owned by a limited partnership and Lewis Ellis, executive director of Preferred Properties,

Inc., was the registered agent. Ellis had estimated the cost of renovation at \$3.2 million.

In October 2006, Judge C. Allen McConnell of Toledo Municipal Housing court granted the owners a stay on a city demolition order to find a developer, but they were unable to make any progress on the project.

The demolition, which the owners will pay for, began at about 10:45 a.m. on Friday morning.

Once the corner is cleared, said the mayor, the corner will become a temporary city beautification project with a small park filled with plants and flowers.



Church Services Moved to a New Location

In wake of the two-alarm fire that destroyed our church home, Tabernacle of Faith Church is holding services at Clarion Hotel Westgate in Toledo, Ohio. This very nice facility is easily accessible just off I-475 at 3536 Secor Rd.

Our Sunday morning celebration of life in Christ begins promptly at 11 a.m. and features a powerful praise and worship experience as well as uplifting and life-changing lessons taught by Pastor Jim.

For more information about our services, please call (419) 255-2507 or send email to info@tofchurch.org.



Pastor and First Lady Williams

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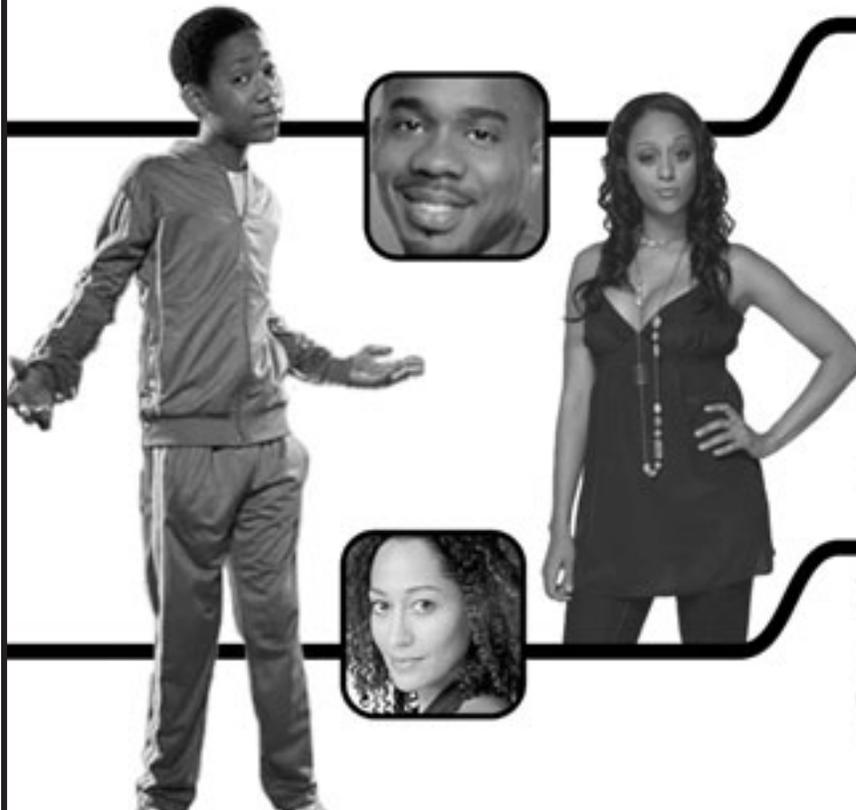
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9pm GIRLFRIENDS

9:30 THE GAME

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Relatively Real Presents "Real Talk" Gathering for African-American Singles

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Relatively Real, an African-American singles group, held its winter social gathering last Saturday evening at the Heather Gate Club House from 7:00 p.m. to midnight.

The singles group, which was started in 2001 by a trio of Toledoans, usually attracts about 50 area singles to its events for an evening of discussion about relationship issues.

"The core of what we do is conversation," said Maurice Morris, one of the founders of Relatively Real.

Over the years, the group, which tries to hold such affairs about four times a year, has brought together area singles "with the purpose of promoting healthy relationships among single individuals who are engaged in a committed relationship and those individuals who are deciding to commit to a relationship," according to the group's mission statement.

"We've had heated discussions but they have been healthy," recalled co-founder Nichole Roberts last Saturday as she and Morris and co-founder Renee Thomas pre-



Relatively Real staff Nichole Roberts, Renee Thomas and Maurice Morris

pared the club house for the expected gathering of single adults. The events used to take place in Morris' home before outgrowing that venue.

"Effective and ineffective relationships," "effective and ineffective means of communication," "women who keep dating the same type of men," "unfaithful men," "men on the down low," "women with children who are trying to juggle a relationship with a man" are some of the topics that the group has dealt with in the past.

One of the group's "claims to fame," said Roberts is the question and answer format which serves as a way of introducing participants to one an-

other. At each event, arrivals are given index cards and asked to write down a question that any other person can answer. During the evening, people select the questions randomly and give their answer, if they so desire, to the group. Role playing and a 50/50 raffle are also part of the evening's activities.

There is no charge or donation request at the door. The group helps to defray its expenses (alcohol is generally not part of the evening) by asking participants to bring a dish and by the 50/50 raffle.

For more information on Relatively Real, call Morris at 419-466-5265, Roberts at 419-320-7303 or Thomas at 419-350-2232.

Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association Pays Tribute to Pastors

*By Artisha S. Lawson
The Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up," states Ephesians chapter four, verses 10 through 12, in reference to a pastor's job.

Dozens of community members and church congregations gathered on a cold and windy Friday night to honor area pastors who have worked hard and diligently in the ministry. According to Pastor Darryl Sheares of Empowerment Temple Ministries, The Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association awarded the honorees with at least 25 years of dedication to the ministry with The Outstanding Servant Leadership Award. Several other pastors were awarded The Outstanding Servant Stewardship Award for their continuous support to the church ministry.

Soulful selections from the Northwestern Ohio District Association's 45-member choir filled the walls of host church, Union Grove Missionary, as church members continued to file into the church on February 9th. Visitors and members alike were welcomed by ushers from Calvary Baptist Church, Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Union Grove Baptist Church, St. James Baptist Church, Charity Baptist Church, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Cannon Baptist Church, True Vine Missionary Baptist Church and Southern Missionary Baptist Church.

"I travel just to see the honorees, because these men of God truly are blessed and are a blessing to the district," explained Naomi Johnson.

The 21 honorees were:



Reverend Dr. John E. Roberts, Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend I.J. Johnson, St. Mark's Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Jesse L. Spears, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Roosevelt Bennett, Cannon Missionary Baptist Church pastor until his death on January 25 of this year; Reverend Theodis Horton, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Dean Emeritus Elijah Scott Hicklin, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Bishop W. J. Murchison, St. James Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Willie Lee Barnes, True Vine Missionary Baptist Church pastor until he retired in 1994; Elder Jimmy L. Jordan Sr., Ebenezer Baptist Church pastor until he retired in 1996; Reverend Robert P. Wormely, Southern Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend U. Howard Stewart, Cherry Street Mission counselor; Pastor James R. Overton, pastored since 1972 and current pastor of Freedom Temple Missionary Baptist Church; Reverend Fred McNeal, served the organization in various leadership roles; Reverend Dr. John W. Williams, serves as pastor of three churches; Reverend Dr. Rudolph Sutton, served as pastor of Spring Street Missionary Baptist Church until his death on December 14 of last year; Reverend William Holmes, First Missionary Baptist Church of Fremont, Ohio pastor; Reverend Reece Barbour, Open Door Baptist

Church senior pastor; Reverend Willie L. Knighten Sr., Northwestern Missionary Baptist Church senior pastor; Reverend Bobby L. Welborn, Charity Baptist Church senior pastor; Reverend Jarius H. Everett, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church pastor; and also Reverend Tommy Stewart, Spirit of Peace Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio pastor.

Eleven reverends were recognized as a form of gratitude for their work with the ministry. These ministers were: Reverend Donald M. Murray, First Missionary Baptist Church of Swanton, Ohio pastor; Reverend Rufus G. Middleton, Friendly Missionary Baptist Church; Reverend Floyd Smith Jr., Calvary Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Dr. Willie L. Perryman Jr., The Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Lawrence N. Henry, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Lewis Savage, LoSalem Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Cedric M. Brock, Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Robert W. Lyons Sr., St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church pastor; Reverend Johnny L. Barringer, Christ Congregational Baptist Church senior pastor; Reverend Charles E. Ham; and also Reverend Dr. Phillip L. Paschal, involved with several Christian organizations.

The service closed with a sermon by Reverend Curlee L. Johnson, St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church pastor; and also remarks from Chairman Verna Cheers and Moderator Tommy H. Byrd Jr. of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio.

"The service truly touched my heart. I cried a little, danced a little and sang a little, all in the name of Jesus. It sure wasn't a program, it was worship," said Naomi Johnson.



Buckeye Cable System celebrates...

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This month, spend some time learning about the extraordinary accomplishments of African-Americans and how they have overcome enormous obstacles throughout history. In recognition of these remarkable accomplishments, **Buckeye Cable System** proudly promotes programming from **The History Channel**, **Black Family Channel**, **TV One**, **BET**, **The Biography Channel**, **ESPN** and many more. Please join us in our effort to bring national attention to the contributions of African-Americans.

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Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Wows Perry Burroughs' Audience

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

For the second time in three years, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice James E. Graves, Jr. filled the role of keynote speaker for the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club Annual Black History Brunch and his encore performance proved to be no less inspiring than his initial appearance two years ago.

"I am honored and humbled that I came to a place and was invited to come back again," remarked Graves as he opened his address.

This year's brunch, the third annual affair, was held at Gladieux Meadows last Saturday and, as usual, many of the tables were filled with Toledo Public School students and their sponsors. The presence of the youngsters provided the focus for Graves' speech.

Graves had arrived in Toledo on the previous day and was taken on a tour of the new Robinson Middle School and then of the Juvenile Justice Center. At Robinson, he met a group of students he called "the best and the brightest." At the Juvenile Justice Center, he met another group of youngsters who were falling between the cracks.

"It was poignant to see in a single afternoon all that kids can accomplish and to see what can happen when we don't provide guidance that can prevent them from falling like that," he said of his tours.

But before addressing the students directly, he sent a message to the adults in his audience to set a tone that

the younger generation could emulate. And he lauded the Perry Burroughs club for its commitment to preserving democratic values.

"A democracy is not intolerant - it tolerates diversity; a democracy seeks for everyone to get justice ... it hears from everyone; a democracy is not mute ... we don't sit silent when we see an injustice ... a democracy speaks out."

Graves used lyrics from Jay Z and Tupac Shakur to demonstrate to adults in the audience that hip-hop artists can provide democratic values for their listeners. "I hear an eloquent description of racial profiling and the Fourth Amendment constitutional rights," he said of Jay Z's "99 Problems."

"Don't allow your views to block your vision" he told the adults. "Don't allow what you see in front of you to block your vision of what can be." Graves told the adults not to be so hasty to condemn the music and culture of the younger generation.

But he also had cautionary words for the students, especially on the value of education. Graves recalled that when he was a trial judge in Mississippi, before moving on to his appellate duties, most of those whom he sentenced to jail or prison were between the ages of 17 and 25 and virtually all of those he sentenced had one trait in common - they had dropped out of school.

"There is nothing more important we can do than to provide a meaningful educa-

tional experience," he said. And he also spoke of the fact that parents' involvement in that educational experience was invaluable for their children.

"A father's involvement in a child's academic life can increase the child's chances of success by 40 to 42 percent," he said citing various studies which were able to measure the results even though they could not arrive at any conclusion as to why a father's involvement was so important. It doesn't matter why, said Graves.

Speaking to his entire audience, Graves suggested that one of the difficulties facing America these days is the over eagerness to fix blame on others for whatever problems exist: Republicans blaming Democrats and vice versa, blacks blaming whites, parents blaming teachers, church members blaming just about anyone who was not a member of that particular church. "I want to encourage us to take responsibility for our own actions," said the justice. "We cannot wait for conditions to be perfect before we seek to take action or seek to make a difference."

Graves, a native of Clinton, MS, received his undergraduate degree from Milsaps College and both a law degree and a master's of public administration from Syracuse University. His legal career began as a staff attorney at Central Mississippi Legal Services before service in the state attorney general office.

Graves served as a Circuit

Court judge before his appointment to Mississippi's highest court in 2001. He won election to the Supreme Court in 2004. A renowned orator, Graves frequently speaks at schools, churches and universities throughout the country.

The Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club's mission is to study, understand and perpetuate the principles of the Democratic Party and to aid in the election of endorsed Lucas County Democratic Party candidates.

Student sponsors included: Doni Miller, CEO of Neighborhood Health Association; Judge Charles Doneghy, Lucas County Court of Common Pleas; Bill Lichtenwald, Teamsters president; John Chapman president Blue Gill Fishing Club; Ron Wingate, Esq., Jackie Martin, director Lucas County Mental Health Recovery Service; Myron Duhart, Esq., Toledo Councilman Michael Ashford; Toledo Councilwoman Wilma Brown; Alan Konop, Esq.; Jerome Phillips, Esq.; Shelton



Councilwoman Brown presents key to the city to Justice Graves



Representative Edna Brown, Councilwoman Wilma Brown and Perry Burroughs President Yvonne Harper

Whittenberg, Esq., Clerk of Court for Toledo
WilliAnn Moore, NAACP Municipal Court, served as the mistress of ceremonies.
George Gusses, Esq., Yvonne Harper is the organization's president.
Vallie Bowman-English,

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Owens Community College Celebrates Black History Month With Events in February

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College has been celebrating Black History Month with a series of events and activities highlighting and honoring the role and impact of African Americans throughout this country's history. The public is encouraged to join the campus community for guest speakers, entertainers and educational awareness programs.

All events and activities will occur on the College's Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses. Owens' Toledo-area Campus is located on Oregon Road, four miles from downtown Toledo, while the Findlay-area Campus is located on Bright Road in Findlay.

"Owens Community College is proud to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of black Americans who, throughout history, have done so much to make America the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today," said Betty Valentine, Owens Director of Employee Relations and Diversity. "It

is also an opportunity for Americans to learn about the experiences of black Americans in our society and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history."

Valentine added, "I encourage area residents to engage themselves in Owens' various events surrounding Black History Month and draw inspiration from their important messages."

Owens continues to serve as a leader in providing academic opportunities to African Americans throughout Northwest Ohio. For Spring Semester, 2,146 African Americans are pursuing an Owens education on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses. The College has more than tripled its African-American enrollment since 1996. Eleven years ago only 629 African-American students were enrolled during the spring term.

Owens remaining activities occurring during Black History Month include:

Thursday, February 22
Brown Bag Luncheon Se-

ries - Life and Times of Civil Rights Activist Benjamin Mays Owens Presidential Fellow Cleveland Henderson Jr. will provide expertise into the life and times of Civil Rights activist Benjamin Mays. A President Emeritus at Morehouse College, Mays served as an advisor and mentor to many Civil Rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (12-1 p.m.) (Findlay-area Campus Conference Center Room 111)

Tuesday, February 27
"Diversity Within Black Culture" Soul Food Luncheon and Panel Discussion Authentic soul food from the African-American culture will serve as theme for a Terrace View Café luncheon. In addition, several Owens international students from various countries will provide attendees with insight into their cultural history and background as part of a panel discussion titled "Diversity Within Black Culture". The cuisine will be prepared by Owens students within the Culinary Arts program.

Reservations must be

made prior to the event. (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) (Toledo-area Campus College Hall Terrace View Café)

In addition, Owens' libraries on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses will display a variety of African-American heritage and cultural artifacts, as well as feature a selection of books and audio/visual materials related to Black History Month in February.

Finally, Owens students

will have the opportunity to participate in an essay, poetry and art contest where each participant will be able to share their thoughts using the topic of unity through diversity. The top submissions will be honored at the conclusion of Black History Month.

To celebrate and honor the contributions made by African Americans throughout America's history, longtime black history

advocate Dr. Carter G. Woodson introduced Negro History Week to the country in 1926. Later changed to Black History Week, the observance was extended in 1976 to a month-long celebration occurring in February and renamed Black History Month.

For additional information about Owens' Black History Month activities, call (567) 661-7421 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7421.



International Blues Legend Performs at Flower Hospital Diversity Celebration

International blues legend Roman Griswold and The Griswold Band performed live at ProMedica Health System's *Taste of Diversity* Black History Month celebration at Flower Hospital on Thurs., Feb. 15, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Samples of traditional soul food favorites from local vendors, Shaffer's Hot Foods To Go and Ruby's Restaurant, were available for purchase at the event from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"We're excited to have Roman Griswold and The Griswold Band join our *Taste of Diversity* celebration," said Jewell Lightner, ProMedica's corporate director of diversity. "ProMedica values the diversity of our patients, employees and communities. The musical performance and food from local vendors are fun ways to promote diversity and unity in our work day."

Roman Griswold's late brother and bandmate, the

legendary Art Griswold, received treatment at Flower Hospital during his battle with cancer that ended in 2003. This connection gives special meaning to the group's upcoming performance at Flower.

Other ProMedica facilities, including Defiance Regional Medical Center and Fostoria Community Hospital, are celebrating with festivities this month recognizing the contributions African-Americans have made to the United States.



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This Strikes Us ...

(Continued from Page 2)

We have to respond with a resounding "yes." We have to conclude that glass ceilings all over the land are likely to weaken simply because of the example of a Barack Obama. We have to conclude that many African-Americans themselves, particularly young African-Americans, would begin to see themselves in an entirely new light. We have to conclude that the "firsts" we

celebrate during future months such as this one would all pale in comparison to this particular "first." That is how important such an event would be for black Americans.

It is a shame that a few African-American elected officials are climbing on the Clinton bandwagon so early because they feel that she is the more likely winner of the two. Certainly everybody

loves a winner. But now, in our opinion, is not the time to be quite so practical, if that is indeed what we are being.

The campaign is quite young, let's at least give the African-American candidate an opportunity to show what he can do as a candidate. If enough of us make a case for the fact that he cannot win, then indeed that prophecy will be self-fulfilling.

2007 City Wide Afro-Ball a Huge Success

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Despite predictions that the Afro-Ball would prove a failure due to the enforcement of a strict dress code, Coordinator India Santos proved the naysayers wrong as more than 300 teens attended the 2007 City Wide Afro-Ball held at Gladioux Meadows on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Santos says she was asked to relax the dress code but refused because she believed the students would step-up. "If we set a standard, they'll meet it," said Santos, who delighted in the fact that the young men looked regal in their tuxedos and formal suits, while the young women were stunning in their formal gowns.

The 2007 Afro-Ball marks the return of the event to its former glory as a place where high school students come together to celebrate who

they are and where they come from.

The evening began with a two-entrée dinner, followed by an award ceremony. During the award ceremony, St. Johns Jesuit High School seniors Allen Boyd and Will Washington were awarded \$500 dollar scholarships to be sent directly to the colleges of their choice.

Later in the evening, students representing Libbey, Central Catholic, Notre Dame Academy, Rogers, Scott, Springfield, Start, St. Johns Jesuit, Waite and Woodward took to the floor to showcase their Afro-Ball Courts and to present their respective Afro-Club king and queen.

An elated Waite High School was awarded the Club of the Year award for exemplary community service, as the Afro-Ball concluded without incident.



Taylor James and Allen Boyd



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Andre Savage and Game Savvy: Shining a Positive Light on Young City Athletes

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Although "Game Savvy," the WMNT-TV city sports television show produced and hosted every weekend by Andre Savage is a new addition to the Channel 48 (Channel 58 on the Buckeye Cable) lineup, it has taken Savage more than a year-long struggle to get it on the air.

"Just my being here today is a tribute to my overcoming obstacles," says Savage. "What is significant, and I hope inspirational to young people, is the road I traveled to get here. It was a year-long crusade of pursuing my dream and goal, even while I was struggling in my daily life."

You may remember Savage as a play-by-play commentator, color analyst and sideline reporter of high school, college and professional basketball for the Buckeye Cable System Sports Network. Savage also was involved in the coverage of boxing, football, volleyball and track, and was a highly-recognizable figure in the network's sports coverage.

"I was flying high. On Dec. 29, 2005, the day I turned 32, I was asked to come in for a

meeting to plan for 2006. When I got there, I found out what those plans were. I was told "What we're going to do with you is get you out of here," says Savage.

Although he declined to discuss the specifics of his dismissal, Savage maintains it was "without rhyme or reason and was deliberately intended to hurt me." He was working for BCSN as an independent contractor.

Despite the bitterness and pain Savage still feels, he says he has come to realize that his firing was "part of God's master plan for me to overcome a little adversity. You won't understand why He's making the maneuvers He's making.

"But I needed the one thing to get to another. The longer I stayed at BCSN, the more popular I became. I would have been less willing to make a move at a later date. I had to go through an emotional drain. It was my choice to make how I would respond to this kind of adversity," recalls Savage, who earned his bachelor's degree in Communications at The Defiance

College in Defiance, OH.

"Over the course of the next year, I decided to keep trying to pursue my goals into business. I decided I wasn't going to dance any Mr. Bojangles number. I would just not be content unless I was the guy running the show. So I started the goal of being in business for myself.

"Around this time, Channel 48 changed management. Now there was a new network on the old frequency. I had made my choice to go ahead and produce my own show. I called the station to get the cost of buying one-half hour segment a week. The person I spoke with said that if I could produce local programming for the station, they wanted to talk with me.

"So I came in and pitched the show, even though I was now meeting spiritual resistance on several new fronts. These included miscellaneous mishaps such as my computer crashing. But the station management was firm. These were problems I can't make excuses about. If I did not meet the station's dead-

line, the deal was off," says Savage.

He began looking for videography and editing equipment he needed to produce the show. Savage says he was promised the use of equipment by one of the area's best-known churches who later reneged on the offer. "They said we will not give you our stuff or help you. There were lots of slammed doors. I could have easily become dismayed. I was frustrated, but I kept trying.

"Then one day I talked to my cousin, Pastor John Walthall III. He became a very important source of inspiration through his belief in me. I asked if he knew anyplace that could loan me the equipment I needed. He referred me to Mike Webb.

"A week-and-a-half went by and I still didn't call him. I was still trying to succeed from my efforts. I did not realize I had gotten a spiritual command," says Savage.

Savage finally called and met with Webb. "I told him about all the people who had not come through on their promises and that I was in dire straits. But not only did he have the three-chip camera I desperately needed; he also had all the other equipment as well.

"He told me that he trusted me to leave with all of the equipment, and even told me to take a computer with me too. Although I was a complete stranger, he opened up his heart to me. Without him, things never would have come together," says Savage of Webb.

But Savage still had even more misfortunes to overcome. "I lost my car, and I really needed it to go to the City League basketball games," says Savage. But once again, his faith and determination prevailed.

The show debuted last month. It is broadcast at 7 pm



Savage interviews Scott hoopster



Savage interviews Coach Joe Suboticki

Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday show debuts new material and coverage for the week. The Saturday show is a repeat. Remember, although the station is on Channel 48, it is broadcast by Buckeye Communications on Channel 58.

"Game Savvy" covers the intense and competitive world of northwest Ohio sports, and manages to do it in just 30 minutes. Savage goes inside the game and the practices, giving his audience a unique and much-needed perspective on local talent through interviews, highlight footage and analysis.

Savage has high praise for the young athletes he covers. "Anybody who plays athletics in the city of Toledo, they're my little brothers and sisters. They're family of mine," he says.

But he admits he can also be critical of their shortcomings when necessary. "Parents and coaches thank me for saying things like that. They can say it night and day

to the kids. But when you say it on TV, you see results," says Savage.

He plans to expand coverage to Perrysburg and Maumee. "Call us," he tells parents and coaches, "we'll get to you."

Savage can be reached through the company phone of Irma Young Enterprises, the parent company of Game Savvy LLC. The number to call is 213-842-7225. "That's our Los Angeles headquarters phone," says Savage with a chuckle.

Savage is the son of Andre Young and Darcel Savage. He has five siblings: Alexis, LaKeeta, Andrea, Imon and Andre' Young, Jr.

He has a daughter, Jennis M. Savage.

Savage also credits the influences of his grandfather, Enoch C. Savage, "who taught me how to work everyday" and his recently-deceased stepfather, Robert Basemore, "who taught me how to be a fighter and never be weak."



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Business Ownership: The Last Frontier ... But Maybe Not in My Lifetime

By Vince Davis
Guest Columnist

Far too often we summarize hate one another and wish one another an ugly death. It is not wholly our community's fault. The lessons sewn in the hem of our garments from the teachings of "Willie Lynch" resonate today more so than they ever did. Divide and conquer is the oldest and most efficient battle strategy.

We are stuck in the shackle-less prisons of our own self-destruction. Our destruction is to the glee of those that will use our self-loathing to make profit. Somehow we've got it in our head that our brother's follies will catapult our success. We think that then that the majority community will look to us for leadership and shower us with financial gain, when in reality we will stand more firmly together as brothers and sisters watching each others' back.

But there are reasons that we can address for the huge financial divide between the minority and majority communities. There are reasons why we aren't going anywhere:

Reason Number 1 why we aren't going anywhere

Small to medium-sized white business do not hire African-Americans. So we are not going to learn how to do business from the people who do it best. Eighty percent of all business hiring will take place in the small business sector. Romie Brown, Jan Scotland (two other African-American State Farm agents) and I were in a business meeting. Several of my staff also attended. One of my staff members came late. A Caucasian guy in back of me asked his buddy, who she worked for "Romie, Vince or Jan?" I politely told him to go sit somewhere else. The guy had no idea that saying something like that would bother me. What he essentially was saying is, "I know darn well that a white business didn't hire her."

Reason Number 2

We are killing our-

selves with drugs, alcohol, sex, violence. Our lifestyle as a people is pathetic. My brother, Eric, just died. In tribute to him The Truth is doing an Insurance Agent/Financial Planner addition next month. We will feature insurance professionals. Imagine if every black person who passes away dies with in excess of \$500,000 of life insurance. It costs less than you think. Eric did not kill himself. At least no more than a diabetic does by eating sweets, drinking, etc. Eric, as do so many others in our community, suffered from an illness that he battled his entire life.

Reason number 3

We are everybody else's profit margin. We put the P in profit for other people. Essentially we are their suckers. If they were pimps we would be the "John's and Hoes." For the most part the people whom we spend our dollars with will never ever do business with you. They do not hire "you." They hire their own people. When they leave town their money goes with them.

When they hire us they treat us like garbage and teach us nothing. Eric rented from the same man that owns Fox's Liquor Store on Dorr near Reynolds. Let's see how many turns Fox's owner got from Eric. He collected Eric's rent. Then in the evening, every evening he would sale Eric his bed-time medicine. They had my brother faded every 'which a way.'

Reason number 4

Blacks do not patronize the businesses of other blacks. We will pass any number of competent black businesses to do business with folks who have never, and probably will never,

given your kid a job. When we do business with our own we hold them to a standard far in excess of what we expect from majority businesses. Eighty percent of all African-Americans have never done a significant amount of business with their own people beyond a trip to the barber shop or beauty parlor.

Reason number 5

We who hire our own are often sabotaged by our "own people" There is a small percentage of our own people who work for other African-Americans with the sole purpose of getting a case, robbing him, stealing from him and, when the opportunity presents itself, kill "their own." Back in the day we had more solidarity. When James Brown died a little of us all died with him. James coined the phrase "say it loud, I am black and I am proud". Where has that spirit gone?

Reason Number 6

Black businesses are like a flea on an elephant's back. We generate a pitiful amount of the business revenues in this city and most cities. Most African-American businesses fail within the first five years. We are typically undercapitalized. Banks give us start-up capital. Banks give others finishing capital. Typically we are required to put up every dollar we have and some. Then hen the wind blows we are gone. Every major business in Toledo has been in dire financial shape. Yet we let them focus in on "us." More than likely they have never risked one penny of their own money.

Reason Number 7

We idolize stuff and not each other. We want to im-

press others with our cloths, cars and stuff. The people that we are trying to impress hate us anyway. We have allowed ourselves to be imprisoned by stuff. At the very hint that someone might take our stuff we turn on one another like rabid dogs.

Reason Number 8

No longer do we fight for our freedom. Like the scared little punk in the playground we allow the bully to attack our friend. All the while we are praying that the bully does not inflict harm on us. Our community leaders are disrespected on a daily basis and we say and do nothing.

Business is inherently risky. It takes a lot of guts and inspiration to go in business. On any given day an entrepreneur may lose everything. We allow people to put our business leaders "on blast" and we say nothing. Some of their critics have never risked one thin dime. We allow them to disrespect us. They "put us out on front street" for our

kids to see.

Reason Number 9

Our sons are being warehoused in prison, and we are allowing it to happen. This of course bolsters the economy of the towns that house the prisons. It pays for the lawyers, social workers and structure that keep them locked up. It costs in excess of \$25,000 a year to keep your son locked up. It would cost far less than that to give every black child scholarship to an institution of higher learning. It is more profitable to keep us all emotionally, spiritually and physically locked up.

Reason Number 10

Politicians use our self loathing to minimize and marginalize "us as a people". They get elected by stirring up the fear and hatred. They get elected by casting us as evil, unsuccessful, lazy, drunk, insane people to be avoided at all cost. Tough on crime really means "tough



Vince Davis

on us." Our successes stories are marginalized and our failures are exacerbated. They say see we tried to help "those people" and look what they did. This guarantees that we do not have a chance.

Through it all I will persevere, continue to hire mostly my own, teach my people the business and pray that one day the dark clouds will subside and we will have our day in the light.

Ed. Note: Vince Davis is the owner of Vince Davis State Farm Insurance at Cherry and Bancroft and is a partner in the Captain D's Seafood Franchise at 2060 W. Laskey



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It Takes a Village To Send a Child To College

By Bill Harris
Guest Columnist

As we celebrate Black History Month it is refreshing to know that more of our young people are going on to college these days. The United Negro College Fund, which funds historically Black colleges and universities, is doing a great job of helping our youngsters gain access to higher education.

Since 1985, the UNCF has awarded scholarships and grants of over \$105 million to more than 28,000 students enrolled in its 39 member colleges and universities. (Source: United Negro College Fund). That's money well spent when you consider the cost of a college education these days.

The price tag for a typical 4-year public college education is now about \$71,000 – and that's estimated to reach over \$202,000 by the year 2025. A typical 4-year private college education is about \$145,000 – and that's estimated to leap to over \$413,000 by 2025. (Source: The College Board). That's according to The College Board, which projects col-

lege costs will increase by 6% a year over the same time period.

Talk about sticker shock! Many parents are trembling in their boots and wringing their hands wondering what to do. But don't take my word for it. Go to collegeboard.com and plug your numbers into their calculator to see for yourself.

The College Board points out that college graduates earn 73% more on average than high school graduates. It is a difference in earnings potential that could exceed one million dollars over the course of your child's life. That's why education is so significant if our children are to compete with the rest of society.

If we are to survive as a people, we are going to have to reorder our priorities. Some of that money we spend for our children to have those baggy pants, ipods™, DVDs, gold teeth, and body piercing, must be redirected to savings and investment programs to help offset the skyrocketing cost of college.

In my financial management seminars and workshops, I urge African American families to pool their resources to send their children to college. You know that old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child?" Well, that principle must now be applied to saving for college if our children are ever to set foot on a college campus.

Parents must pool their money together with grandparents, uncles, aunts and other relatives to pay for tuition. Our families must also be joined by our churches, sororities, fraternities, civic groups, businesses and corporations, who will dig deep and to comprise a financial "village" to help pay for tuition and books. This is a most serious matter.

We must couple these valiant efforts with knowledge about the various college savings, college investments and tax advantaged programs available to us. The Hope Scholarship Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit provide a dollar-for-dollar

credit on your taxes. In addition, there are two above-the-line deductions for higher education when you file your taxes: one for higher education expenses, the other for interest paid on qualified higher education loans.

There are a number of savings and investment vehicles that can be used as education funding strategies – with an array of features ranging from tax deductions for contributions, to tax free earnings on the growth of these investment dollars to tax free withdrawals for college expenses.

The bottom line is this: college tuition is growing at twice the rate of inflation. That's not good for society in general and it is particularly devastating to the Black community. If we don't begin saving now, Heaven help little Jamal and Shaquana if he or she can't get one of those academic or athletic scholarship or grants when they leave high school.

I try to impress upon the minds of my seminar and workshop participants, as



Bill Harris

well as clients in my office, the fact that, "Nobody will save us, for us, but us. Don't put off saving for college – start now! Although the grade school is just down the street, college is right around the corner."

Bill Harris is a financial advisor with Informative Fi-

ancial Services of Toledo, Ohio. Securities and advisory services offered through Mutual Service Corporation, member NASD/SIPC. Informative Financial Services is not affiliated with Mutual Service Corporation. For seminars and speaking engagements, Bill can be reached at 419-885-8384.

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Toledo's Arts Scene: Black History Month at a Glance

By John Dorsey,
Special to the Truth

Black History Month came early for Toledo arts patrons this year—kicking off with the Toledo Museum of Art's Jacob Lawrence exhibit entitled "Jacob Lawrence Prints: A Comprehensive Survey, 1963-2000," which opened January 26.

The exhibition, which is part of a traveling show organized by the DC Moore Gallery, New York, consists of more than 80 works of art that tell visual stories drawn from Lawrence's interest in African and African-American history and heritage.

The show was intended to complement the TMA's other current exhibit "Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson." That show examines MacArthur Foundation "Genius" honoree Aminah Robinson's unique and complex works of art, which celebrate family and community. Her major works are composed of found objects and materials such as homemade paper, buttons, cloth, pieces of leather, stones, leaves and a special medium she calls "Hogmawg."

Other events this month have included the Toledo Lucas County Public Library's "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas," a program which featured local artist Pamela Jean Patterson, storyteller LaRon Williams, and dancers of Little Wisdom.

Local artist Terry A. Burton's Laboratory Inc. also



Terry Burton

made its return to Toledo this month with the "Mind Over Social Matters" group show at Club Vamps. This showcase of the area's finest in the world of outsider art featured original works by Patrice Davis, Megan Bremer, Corey Crammond, Nate Masternak, Dave the Sign Guy, Andrea Baker, Yusuf Lateef, Webs, J'Vann Agnes Winfield, Jack Johnson, Wade Harrison and Burton himself.

In celebration of Black History Month, Burton said he plans to donate a portion of all door proceeds to help support the Stickney Arts and Entertainment Center in North Toledo, which houses the Jean Overton Gallery. It was the Overton Gallery that recently hosted the unveiling of the North Toledo mural painted by Yusuf Lateef.

"It's important we remember the riots that took place in North Toledo, and that we ask ourselves how we can turn a large negative into a positive," Burton said.

There was also the recent Congressional Exhibit,

which featured a very diverse group of student artists, held as part of "Artistic Discovery", a nationwide activity initiated by members of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize and encourage young people's artistic creativity. Works exhibited include paintings, drawings, collage, prints (lithograph, silk screen, monotype, woodcut, and intaglio methods), mixed media, photography and computer-generated art.

Also not to be left out, the 20 North Gallery launched its annual exhibit, this year highlighting featured artist Frank Morrison, in addition to local talents, including John Wade, Wil Clay, and Wade Harrison, among others.

The Collingwood Arts Center was proud of present the return of The Experience, which featured JP Dynasty, Cleveland's *The Distinguished Gentlemen of the Spoken Word*, and the popular hip-hop troupe The House of Adonis, featuring The Truth's own Minister of Culture, Michael Hayes.

There were also a number of offerings this month from the University of Toledo's Multicultural Center, including a series of new pieces by veteran photographer Thomas Vines.

Of course we don't want to forget ongoing events, which help to make positive changes in our community on a regular basis, such as the Village Voice, a weekly

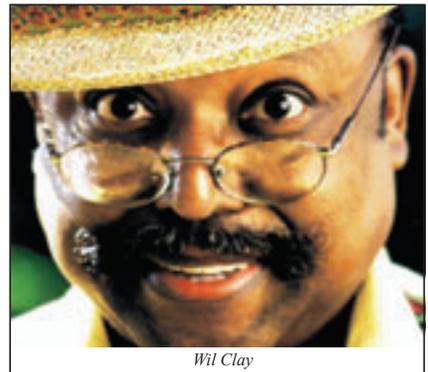
poetry reading/spoken word event held Wednesday from 6:30-9PM at Robert B's Restaurant.

The Village Voice, which was put together by Organization Critical Movement, and Dj Boo-dyl (dail), will offer, not only the chance to hear work by up and coming local poets, but good food, and live music.

Dj Boo-dyl (dail), which stands for Brotha's On Operating Daily Young Life, is the chosen name of Kameron Kyser. The reason Kyser choose the acronym is because he was working with children, the majority of whom were of African American descent, and he wanted to be someone positive that they might be able to relate to.

Next year Kyser, who has always looked to his own mother for wisdom, is also going to try to start a flag football league in the community.

"I've always wanted to do something in the community. I've been making plans to do something for years. I found myself in a situation in my old neighborhood where kids were fighting. Most of the neighbors were just watching. I went in the middle of the kids and told them what to do, because



Wil Clay

that's what was expected in my neighborhood when I was growing up. At that time I decided that something needed to be done, and it couldn't wait, so I started playing football on Saturdays with the kids. I work three jobs, so it doesn't allow time for much else. Then I decided to put together The Village Voice. I started writing without thinking; at the same time tears from my eyes were falling to the paper. I woke up in the middle of the night and was drawn to a paper and a pen. Those kids sparked me to finally put it together", said Kyser.

While this is merely just a glance into the local scene – all told, it's been another very diverse month for Toledo in terms of the arts, something

we can, and really should be proud of, and hopefully attempt to make a part of our every day lives.



Kameron Kyser

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Celebrating Black History Month



INNOVATIONS FOR LIVING™

Kent Branch Celebrates Black History Month with Village Marketplace, Drums, Dancers, Storyteller, Civil War Re-Enactors, Local Artists, Speaker & Food

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Hugs and "hellos" were happily exchanged by old friends, while others rushed into the Kent Branch Library's auditorium following the sound of drum music. Some sat down to listen, but the young and adventurous grabbed shekeres and other percussion instruments and played along with Drums of Thunder.

Iman Hancock walked up to Michael Hayes and started beating his drum as if she was born to do it. Hayes gave the soon to be three-year-old 'musician' her own little drum and her mother, Pajil Wiggins-Hancock, watched her gifted child from a distance, smiling her approval.

The drumbeat continued, with old and young sending out the call to gather. A celebration was about to start: an African-American history celebration was held Satur-

day, February 17, 2007, at the Kent Branch Library, but it was not the usual honoring of the well known or the annual display of little-known trivial facts of our history.

Yes, there were speakers, but they didn't talk about the historical figures everybody knows; there were names few had ever heard before but who made great contributions to our history. And there was music, but it wasn't an "American Idol" type display of dubious talent, but rather music to be shared because of its message.

There was also drama, not the fictitious kind, but the real historically-based reenactment of real men and women who lived during the Civil War and who risked their lives to end slavery.

And there was storytelling. No, not somebody's grandmother or

grandfather sitting in a chair spinning yarns, but a real professional storyteller who used his entire physical and spiritual being to tell story after story and who also got the audience involved.

There were also vendors selling oils, jewelry, "Blessed Blossoms," art, scarves and purses, T-shirts, photographic services and Kewape's African Fashions. The latter, a member of Drums of Thunder, wasted no time once the room filled for the opening ceremonies getting everyone to sing.

"Have some fun!" Kewape instructed four young drummers, including little Miss Hancock as he and Hayes played an African folk song. "If you feel like moving, it's o.k.!" he instructed the audience as he and Hayes plus guest

drummers played one last spirited number.

"Check out the vendors!" Kewape advised. "I'll make you a good deal."

Librarian Dorcel Dowdell gave the official greeting to the event sponsored by the Toledo Lucas County Library and the Library Legacy Foundation. "We welcome you to our Black History program on a snowy day," said Dowdell. "This is our opening ceremony, more or less our call to gathering."

As part of the opening ceremonies, "Little Wisdom," under the direction of Alisha Murphy, performed. The group consists of young girls who strive to promote positive and empowering images of girls and women.

"Two thirds of the illiterate people in the world today are women," said Murphy during a statement about the global plight of women at the beginning of "Little Wisdom's" presentation. Murphy talked about the economic disparity women all over the world experience; women supply two-thirds of the world's labor but earn less than 10 percent of its wealth.

"Protect, educate and nurture girls and women and provide them with equal opportunities educationally and economically," said Murphy. "There's a saying in Ghana: if you educate a man, you simply educate an individual; if you educate a woman, you have educated a nation." Nuf said.

Following Murphy's spoken words of wisdom, each of the nine girls voiced her own expression of what wisdom is, then the group performed a synchronized dance routine to an African children's song. The energetic dance included African and modern dance movements. Enthusiastic applause followed the short performance as the village embraced its youth.

Local artist Pamela Jean Patterson had her own gathering in another part of the library as she gathered many of the children attending the celebration to create their own unique works of art.

Meanwhile, back in the auditorium, more wisdom was imparted as Professor Lillian Ashcroft-Eason gave a brief presentation titled "A Slave Woman Pioneer in 18th Cen-

tury Legal Justice."

The half hour discourse was not about Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Nat Turner or any of the other well-known slaves in African-American history. Ashcroft-Eason told the audience about not one, but two women that most of them had never heard of before.

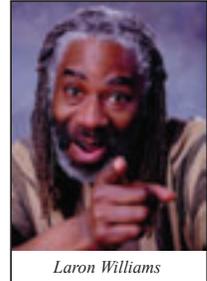
"What I'm going to be telling you about today is taken from an actual court trial in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1731," she said in her introduction, reminding the audience that the first slaves came into this country in 1619.

"From 1619 to the 1660s, the institution of slavery developed." According to the professor, slavery was opposed from the start. "There were always anti-slavery sentiments in colonial Williamsburg," she said, then offered an example. "In 1656, Elizabeth Kay appeared before a general court in Virginia asking for her freedom. In asking for her freedom, she said, 'I am a Christian. I am baptized. I should be free.' She also said she was the daughter of a white man."

Ashcroft-Eason said that Kay won her freedom due to the latter reason; however, her case precipitated a change in the law. "In 1663, Virginia enacted a code that said, 'We don't care what your paternity is, you will be judged by your mother's status,'" explained the professor.

"In 1667, a code was enacted that said, 'Whether you're baptized or not, you will not be free.'" Slaves were happy to receive Christian instruction, said Ashcroft-Eason, because they could learn to read. "There was no law against [slaves] reading at that time," she said. "Always while they were being taught, the slave owners were fearful. They were afraid they'd secure their freedom."

Ashcroft-Eason shared the story of another African-American female slave who pled her case in court, using her religious status as a means to try to secure freedom. "[In 1732] Mary Aggy used her knowledge of Christianity - remember this is some 80



Laron Williams

years since the path to freedom through religion had been cut off - she was able to display her knowledge for them," she said. "Little did she know that one person in her audience was the governor of Virginia, Governor Gooch."

Mary Agee's bid for freedom was denied and she went to work at an inn where she was accused of a capital crime - stealing a ham. When her trial came up before the governor, he decided that if she was convicted he would appeal. The governor asked if the benefit of clergy, available to slave in England (the colonies were still under British rule), could be extended to slaves and women in the colonies.

"He was so favorably impressed by her knowledge of Christianity that he decided he wanted to spare her life if she was found guilty," said Ashcroft-Eason. "It was because she could read, she was extended benefit of clergy and as a result her life was spared in 1732."

The professor said that because of Mary Aggy, starting in 1732, women and slaves had benefit of clergy to the extent allowed by slave owners. Having passed on some true wisdom and little known history, Ashcroft-Eason left the audience thirsting for even more knowledge. That thirst was quenched immediately.

"John Brown's body lies a mould'ring in the grave," sang one lone soldier as a 'regiment' of black soldiers in Civil War Union uniforms marched into the auditorium behind their white officer. "All of the officers in the black regiments were white," said the officer. "That was part of the deal between the Lincoln administration and Congress in order for Congress to authorize them to fight."

A brief display of maneuvers was narrated by the officer. There was also a musket-loading demonstration.

(Continued on Page 16)

INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BURROUGHS ES, BYRNEDALE MS, CHERRY ES, KEYSER ES, LEVERETTE MS, MCTIGUE MS, NAVARRE ES, AND STEWART ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOLS FURNISHINGS & EQUIPMENT BID

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on March 13, 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 Burroughs ES, Byrnedale MS, Cherry ES, Keyser ES, Leverette MS, McTigue MS, Navarre ES, and Stewart ES Furnishings and Equipment Bid, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger Munger + Associates Architects, Inc., The Collaborative, Inc., SSOE Inc., and MacPherson Architects 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, The Construction Association of Michigan, and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **February 14, 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 **February 26, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.** 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 LeShay Hadley, LGB-LLC fax (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No.1 Burroughs ES: School FF&E	\$ 226,390.30
Bid Item No.2 Burroughs ES: Office FF&E	\$ 88,040.66
Bid Item No.3 Byrnedale MS: School FF&E	\$ 255,628.00
Bid Item No.4 Byrnedale ES: Office FF&E	\$ 115,630.00
Bid Item No.5 Cherry ES: School FF&E	\$ 257,313.06
Bid Item No.6 Cherry ES: Office FF&E	\$ 100,066.18
Bid Item No.7 Keyser ES: School FF&E	\$ 208,115.00
Bid Item No.8 Keyser ES: Office FF&E	\$ 88,478.00
Bid Item No.9 Leverette MS: School FF&E	\$ 254,377.95
Bid Item No.10 Leverette ES: Office FF&E	\$ 110,558.37
Bid Item No.11 McTigue MS: School FF&E	\$ 320,418.43
Bid Item No.12 McTigues ES: Office FF&E	\$ 160,000.00
Bid Item No.13 Navarre ES: School FF&E	\$ 272,411.77
Bid Item No.14 Navarre ES: Office FF&E	\$ 115,000.00
Bid Item No.15 Stewart ES: School FF&E	\$ 196,343.00
Bid Item No.16 Stewart ES: Office FF&E	\$ 83,900.00
Total Estimate:	\$2,852,670.72

The Lima Truth

Page 14

The Sojourner's Truth

February 21, 2007

The Congregation of St. Paul AME Prepares to Celebrate Their Sesquicentennial!

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to The Truth

The rich history of African-Americans!

It's a phrase we hear most often during Black History Month. It's a challenge to pack everything in during those 28 days underline contributions people of color have made to American history.

St. Paul AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church was the first physical structure built as a black church in Lima, Ohio. As the congregation prepares to celebrate 150 years in existence, a committee has put together a tremendous display of a timeline depicting chronological highlights of their sojourn up through today.

The display is housed in the majestic setting just west of the sanctuary. Pictures, research notations and memorabilia trace the tumultuous journey of their mo-

mentous beginnings. It is the first church or religious denomination in the western World that had its origin over sociological and theological beliefs and differences.

After years of practicing the ideology of the Methodist church side by side, it happened that one day, during service, officials at St. George's MEC pulled blacks off their knees while praying. The AMEC grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which **Richard Allen**, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787.

Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists in other middle At-

lantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy, Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME.

Members of St. Paul AME invite the community to visit their display for an historic look that will encourage and empower African-Americans of all ages. During their annual breakfast, discussions centered around the possibilities of inspiration for youth that could stem from pride and the feelings of ownership that arise from understanding what it really means to be an African-American. The idea that this country enjoys a great deal of its best qualities due to the contributions of African-Americans, is not driven into students as strongly as it could be on a consistent basis.

Charles Brown, a retired

school administrator for the Lima City Schools, and Joyce Garrett, a retired Spanish teacher from that same school system, have a strong belief that today's students would benefit from learning that strength comes from building upon the solid foundation laid by their ancestors. They are planning an impressive celebration for their upcoming anniversary.

In the meantime, visiting the display that has been assembled in their church is a great starting point. According to Brown, it is a work in progress – a labor of love and honor he and his wife are proud to host. Each year, new information, more pictures and a greater depth of understanding is put into place for the education and enjoyment of all who are interested in learning.

Brown spent time remi-



niscing about groups of students involved in the Pride Project. He told many stories of successful youths who enjoyed great educational opportunities at historically black colleges as a result of their efforts toward college tours. Now, he hopes students will visit their church and its displays each year and continue to find

positive feedback and the realization that they only need to want to make a difference. That desire in itself will assure that they do, in fact, make a difference, says Brown.

The African American History Display continues at St. Paul AME Church, 1103 West Spring Street, Lima, Ohio.



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This summer St. V's will open their Regional Heart & Vascular Center, the area's first stand-alone facility for the treatment of heart and vascular diseases. "This building is an important evolution in our cardiac services to the community," said Dr. Anwar Zacharias, the center's Medical Director. "Its technology and attention to patient comfort is a first for this region."

The center will provide full treatment capabilities from cardiac catheterization to angioplasty to stenting. Its operating suites will feature the latest imaging technologies – critical for conducting minimally invasive vascular procedures. "People don't realize that vascular disease, often called hardening of the arteries, is as big of a problem as heart disease. It can have a devastating impact on people's lives," said Dr. Gregory Kasper, St. V's Section Chief of Peripheral Vascular Surgery. "The Center will be the region's most advanced for treating vascular diseases."



The Regional Heart & Vascular Center doesn't stop at cutting-edge medical technology. "The facility has been designed to blend the latest technology for diagnosing and treating heart problems with the most comfortable setting as possible for patients and their families," said Dr. Paul Berlacher, a cardiologist with Northwest Ohio Cardiology Consultants.

The emphasis on patient convenience begins from the moment of arrival. Check-in occurs at the patient's bedside as part of a "universal bed" approach. As patients progress from preparation for a procedure through recovery, they remain in the same room. Appropriate equipment and personnel move to the patient. The spacious, private rooms feature large windows for a more comforting environment. Patients' loved ones also will appreciate the relaxing family gathering areas complete with kitchen amenities.

"Walking through the facility, particularly the spacious, private patient rooms, you immediately notice what a comforting environment it will be," said Barbara Dianda-Martin, R.N., St. V's Vice President of Nursing Services.

The Regional Heart & Vascular Center is the centerpiece of the St. V's Legacy Project, a \$90 million investment in enhancing the hospital's services. "By providing highly qualified physicians with the most up-to-date technology, the facility is a tremendous advancement in this region," said Dr. Ameer Kabour, Section Chief of Cardiology for St. V's.

Learn more about St. V's cardiac care at mercyweb.org.



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Movement for National 2-1-1 System Grows

Ohio at 75% Coverage; Ohio United Way working to build system

Special to The Truth

As support grows in Washington for a universal 2-1-1 system, the Ohio United Way is working with 2-1-1 providers in Ohio to expand coverage so that every single Ohioan has access to this critical health and human services resource.

Tuesday, Feb. 13 was recognized as National 2-1-1 Day in Washington by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Representative Anna Eshoo and United Way of America President Brian Gallagher. The leaders called on citizens, stakeholders and legislators Tuesday to support national legislation to improve America's 2-1-1 system.

Clinton and Eshoo are the lead Senate and House sponsors of "The Calling for 2-1-1 Act," legislation that would authorize \$700 million over six years to assist states with implementing and sustaining 2-1-1 statewide. To date 124 Members of Congress have co-sponsored the legislation, including Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-10) and Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-14) from Ohio.

"2-1-1 is about giving people answers without the red tape," said Clinton. "Following 9-11 in New York, 2-1-1 was instrumental in connecting citizens with the information they sought on post-traumatic stress syn-

drome, housing opportunities and bioterrorism during the anthrax scares."

Meanwhile, in Ohio, the Ohio United Way is working to support these national efforts by advocating for state support to expand 2-1-1 so that it is available to all Ohioans.

Currently, only 75 percent of Ohioans have access to 2-1-1, the number set aside by the FCC in 2000 as a single, memorable way to access human services information and services. 2-1-1 call centers are staffed by well-trained information and referral staff who can provide information and link callers to agencies from a regional database of services.

Many of the counties without 2-1-1 access are rural, with a high concentration of poverty. Of the 37 counties in Ohio with poverty levels above the state average, 62% do not have an operational 211 center. Overall, 2.8 million Ohioans are outside the system.

"We can do better," Barbara Sykes, President & CEO of Ohio United Way, said "It is time for 2-1-1 to be available for all Ohioans."

While Ohio is blessed with a rich infrastructure of services, finding out about those services can be a challenge for families. The goal

of 2-1-1 centers — funded primarily by United Ways, local government sources and by assuming special projects (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit program) - is to make life a little simpler.

"This is about cutting down on bureaucracy and making life a little simpler by putting important resources within the reach of average Ohioans," Sykes said. "Millions in state monies and private funds are invested in health and human resources - it is critical that Ohioans easily access those programs."

The Ohio United Way projects that a statewide 211 system would handle over 1 million calls annually - a level not sustainable without financial support from state and federal resources.

On Friday, February 9th, 2007 Ohio First Lady Francis Strickland, an avid supporter of health and human service causes, toured United Way of Greater Cleveland's 211/First Call For Help Center with Ohio United Way President & C.E.O., Barbara Sykes.

Ohio United Way encourages citizens to ask their Congressional Representative to support The Calling for 2-1-1 Act by calling 1-888-PASS-211 [(888) 727-7211].



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St. Francis de Sales High School
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Kent Branch Celebrates Black History Month

(Continued from Page 13)

The white officer took a seat while the black soldiers and their chaplain told their story. Over 100 black regiments joined in the Civil War.

Blacks also served at sea. "The Navy actually had blacks on ships before the army had black soldiers in the field," said one well-informed soldier, who also cleared up a common misconception. "Buffalo soldiers came after the Civil War. Even though we wear the same uniforms, we are not Buffalo Soldiers."

He said 20 percent of the black soldiers who were sent to Massachusetts during the Civil War were from Ohio. "A lot of soldiers did not take kindly to blacks being in the service," he said, then talked about riots that resulted from blacks fighting in the military, including one in Toledo.

"The chaplain's job was probably more unique in that time than any other time," explained a gracious gentleman portraying a Civil War chaplain. "At that time women and children followed their men into war."

He said the black soldiers who fought in the Civil War received little honor. If captured, they were either shot or hung because no black prisoners were taken. "We can see that it took an extra measure of courage for a man to fight, knowing he'd never see his family again. That's how much they wanted their freedom."

A number of questions were asked by members of the audience whose interest in this period of history was stimulated by the proud men in uniform. Everyone was impressed by the historical accuracy of the re-enactors, as well as their knowledge of the time and wanted to learn more.

There were many excellent questions asked, but one of the best was asked by a young man who wanted to know if any of the black soldiers who fought in the Civil War were awarded medals. "We had four Medals of Honor given to men of our regiment [the 5th United States Colored Troops], which is one more than any other regiment," answered the officer. "The movie *Glory* only had two."

One of the soldiers shared that there were only 16 Medals of Honor given to black soldiers during the Civil War. "And of the 16 given, four were given to the soldiers in Ohio."

Homage was also paid to well-known African-American historical figure,

Frederick Douglass, who campaigned for blacks to fight in the Civil War and sent two of his own sons into battle.

The female re-enactors, who'd been outside the auditorium, were asked to come in and speak, as well. One portrayed a woman who purchased freedom for herself and her son for \$1200. Another portrayed Charlotte Forten, a free, educated woman from the North. Perhaps the best question was asked by one of the re-enactors. "What was the name of the war?" Many in the audience were surprised to hear that what we call the Civil War was actually named "The War of the Rebellion." A little more wisdom shared.

But the 100-plus people who came and went throughout the afternoon celebration were not done learning yet. Story teller LaRon Williams got things off to great start with an African name song.

Introduced by 'home girl' Rhonda Sewell, the Ann Arbor native immediately launched into his first story, using a giant 'calabash' as a visual aid. Using a character familiar to almost everyone, Anansi the Spider, Williams spun a tale that pulled the audience into his web.

"In West African, there live some very important people - these people are called djali's," said Williams as he quickly shifted gears from storytelling to wisdom-imparting. "Djali's are storytellers, but they are much, much more. If you wanted to know who your great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather was on your mother's side, you'd go to a djali and they would think and scratch their heads and dandruff would fall out. It might take them a day, it might take them a week or it might take them a year, but they would tell you your history."

Williams claimed to know the son of a djali who can trace his history back 1,000 years. "If you know our history - if you know what happened before you came here, you'll know how you're supposed to act while you're here, so you can leave things much better after you leave here."

Just a little more wisdom, but the lesson wasn't over yet. There were still more stories to tell. Completing enrapturing the audience in his web of delight, Williams used their participation and limber body movements to weave a tale about a storytelling cricket. The moral of the story is that, unlike crickets, human beings never run out of stories because human stories are not only about the past and the present, but about future dreams. "When those first Africans came here they didn't have anything but what was inside of them," said the very wise storyteller. "They told their stories. And we're still telling them."

Williams asked members of the audience to tell the stories of less familiar African-American historical figures. A number of people were named and each one's story was shared, teaching some, reminding others. More little bits of wisdom were shared.

So much wisdom was shared throughout the afternoon that it could all have been compiled into one single volume and kept in the library for future generations to read and remember the day a village gathered around a marketplace and listened to the wisdom of their youth, their elders and themselves.

Throughout the afternoon, children came in from Pamela Jean Patterson's art class to excitedly show off the beautiful mosaic squares they'd constructed. The event ended as it started - with drum music.

The Drums of Thunder brought people back from the adjacent meeting room where they'd gone to sample some of the delicious food prepared by Club 300 Catering.

"A Little Wisdom" offered another exhibition of enlightened femininity with a graceful, fluid dance, using flags. Adults and children from the audience helped Drums of Thunder bring the celebration to a dramatic close.

The event ended, but not the wisdom, knowledge, fellowship and fun that were shared.

Dear Ryan,

It seems the more I read or listen to people talk, the more confused I get about nutrition. Some say to eat no fat, eat fat, eat only fat-free things, no carbs, high carbs, eat only one time a day. Blah blah blah. I just want to eat healthy and lose some weight in the process. What is the right way to good nutrition?

Tormented in Toledo



Dear Tormented,

I'll just get straight to the point. Sugars are bad and carbohydrates are both good and bad. It's a bit complex but I will give an easy explanation in a moment.

Protein is great and you should not cut your fats out. Your body will convert other nutrients into fat and store it. You want to pay close attention to your sugars and carbs. These raise your insulin levels very high and help your body to store unwanted fat. Sugars have no positive nutritional value and they cause a spike in your insulin levels. Sure they taste good but it is worth all the calories and fat that they will help you store into those unwanted fat cells.

Eat carbohydrates that are low on the glycemic index and eat only fibrous carbs with your last meal (you can obtain a glycemic index list on the Internet).

I suggest keeping protein high at about 60-65 percent of your calories, your carbs at about 20-25 percent and fats around 10-15 percent. If you feel real sluggish then adjust your carbs - five grams higher and protein five lower. Give yourself a few days to adapt to this before you adjust your grams. This will promote an increase in fat loss, keep your blood sugar from rising too high and help keep your hunger at bay.

Design yourself a menu that is easy and convenient for you to follow. Quick foods like tuna, cottage cheese and hard-boiled eggs are protein rich and easy to take with you. I keep a can of tuna in my glove box or a protein shake just in case I'm not going to make my mealtime. It's so much better to consume protein than to stop at McDonalds or any of the other fast food chains. Let's face it, tuna in the glove box is also more convenient and less expensive than fast foods. If I have to grab something fast I prefer it to be a protein. This will keep me full longer, keep my insulin levels from sky rocketing and keep my fat intake down. If you take the fast food route you get tons of saturated fat, lots of carbs to help store it and little protein. Important keys to follow here are:

Cut out your sugars

Watch for high-glycemic carbs

Drink lots of water

Be prepared with convenient, high-protein foods

Good luck you way to your Dream Bodies out there and keep the questions coming.

I hope to see you all at my Toledo Glass Scepter Building & Figure Championships at the Maumee Indoor Theatre on March 24

RYAN ROLLISON

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Reel Review

Tyler Perry Presents: Daddy's Little Girls

Idris Elba, Gabrielle Union

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Thank the heavens for Tyler Perry.

I'm not even playing or exaggerating with that one, seriously give thanks for Tyler Perry.

Black men everywhere across this country finally have someone that speaks up for us.

I feel like there is finally a voice that will portray us with accuracy, I feel like there's a chance that the somewhere on the silver screen there might be some TRUTH being told when it comes to black men.

From the looks of his last film along with this one, Tyler Perry plans on showing the world our true colors. Yes, there's plenty of us who seem trapped in the thug persona and every tired cliché that can be attached to a young black men in the inner-city... some of us will wear those things like badges of honor.

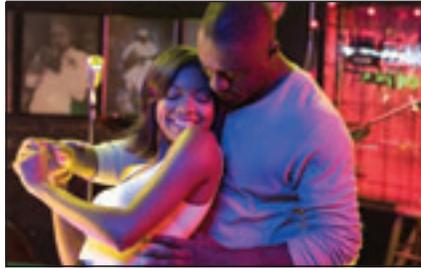
The gangsta, the wanna-be gangsta, the abusive womanizer ... so on and so on.

YES, there are many of us who play that role in real life, everyday all day.

But Tyler Perry is doing what Terri McMillian, and even John Singleton, failed to do, which is admit to the world that although it may be dramatic and interesting to portray the majority of brothers in all of their ghetto glory, it's actually more precise and accurate to showcase the contrast between the drug dealer/gang banger and the hard-working/responsible young black male.

Peeps who read my column frequently might pick up on how often I quote Chris Rock and it's appropriate right now because he always talks about the civil war going on between BLACK FOLKS and NIGGAZ!

And the niggaz have been getting way too much screen



time in my opinion.

Tyler Perry puts black men in situations that are much closer to home than John Singleton's *Baby Boy*. There are those of us who spend our adult days drinking, rolling dice, hustling and trying not to get caught up. There are those of us who duck responsibility at every turn and rely on video games and cheap thrills to provide us with a brief escape from our reality.

But there are many more of us who are trying to make up for our past mistakes and spend every day reaching higher by holding down bad jobs, raising families and instilling dignity in the youth we come across.

And things aren't always peachy keen between these two different sects of Black Brotherhood. And Tyler Perry always points that out as well.

Daddy's Little Girls stars Idris Elba as Monty.

Devoted father of three adorable girls who are actually all sisters in real life:

Twelve-year old Sierra, eight-year old Lauryn and five-year old China (who is the sassiest of the bunch!). The girls stay with their grandmother (mom's mom) but Dad drops by everyday to see them or to come through with money for the household.

The girls momma is Jennifer (Tasha Smith, a/k/a the mom with the station wagon from *ATL*). She's one of those moms who simply is nowhere to be seen even

though she's in the same neighborhood as her children. She's more interested in dressing fly and looking cute so her role as mainly to the big boss of the local drug trade is her main preoccupation.

When the girls' grandmother passes on (lung cancer ... and check the shot that fades in to the funeral - it's ill) Monty takes on raising the girls full-time.

As a mechanic at the local garage, he's the man.

He's in line to buy the shop from its owner Willie (Louis Gossett, Jr.) and become an entrepreneur. But until then, he's got four mouths to feed and a mechanic's wage to do it on so he has to take on another job after his day job.

Monty is responsible, intelligent and well-meaning but he's still from the inner-city. He's still just a tad bit gully, and that makes his character seem even more real.

But it also makes it that much more hilarious when his new gig as personal chauffeur to a wealthy black lawyer finds him in a miniature culture clash. If I was in the backseat of a Lincoln Town Car and my driver started beat-boxing, it wouldn't be anything to trip about. But a lawyer who's so upper crust that she makes Mr. Drummond seem gangsta, a person like that would surely have to check Monty on being much too comfortable on the job. Of course you know that the lawyer I'm speaking of is the lovely and talented Gabrielle Union. As Julia in *Tyler Perry's*

Black Identity: Are We Starting to Lose It?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Last week I spoke about issues that affect black people across this country.

I was piggy-backing Tom Joyner's and Tavis Smiley's State of Black America forum.

I wanted everyone to understand the dialogue taking place and how important it is to get in where you fit.

But in the week since that article came out, something even deeper has come to my attention. It's hard to address black issues facing Black America when a growing number of black people don't fully identify with being black at all.

"I'm not black, I'm brown .. from the Boogie Down" - said K.R.S. One so many moons ago. And even though it was just a poignant but clever rhyme, it certainly seems as if that couplet foreshadowed a future where black men and women don't necessarily see themselves as a member of a race living in a society completely immersed in racial issues.

Yeah, we know from that era of hip-hop that K.R.S. One was probably just rhyming when he said that. All the African medallions and grass roots consciousness that infected the rap airwaves back then was so dominant that it's very difficult to assume a rapper would openly play himself out like that.

Man, do you believe that there was once a time where you could be anywhere in the country and turn on a rap radio station and actually hear songs about how beautiful or powerful it is to be a black person?

People say that our generation (Generation Y) ushered in this color-blind era where race is a lot less im-

portant. Those of us who grew up in the 90's and were just hitting adulthood as the new millennium dawned can certainly attest to having more friends or associates from various cultures. Our time is multi-hued and willing to openly discuss racial topics.

But that newfound comfort has led some to take an apathetic stance on being a minority.

The importance of class as a means to measure success in America has led even more minorities to throw out the race topic all together and center themselves around an ideal that the only thing that determines your livelihood in our society is the cash and credit you have access to.

White folks are still calling us niggers, and young white folks are calling each other (and some of us) "nigga!"

James Brown died on Christmas day and it was gone from the headlines before the end of that same week but Anna Nicole Smith's death is on every channel every day.

Still feel that black people DO NOT need another black leader.

But I DO sincerely feel that its time to question our sense of black identity in this day and age.

When my parents were coming up, it was all about the black fist.

It was about community. When I was growing up, it was about getting rid of the gangs to get back to the sense of community.

NOW, we don't even seem to see the need for us to become a community ever again.

So ask yourself how important is your race to your overall existence?

Does that black skin on your body hold you back or does it make you great? Does it even matter at all?

Would you be content to be a millionaire even if meant giving up your heritage?

Is every black man in jail because he committed a crime and deserves to be there?

If black folks didn't put the alcohol and the drugs in the black community, is it still entirely their fault if they get hooked?

If black students at black schools under-perform and fail to succeed is it the black students/parents fault or is it the predominately white staff of teachers and administrators fault?

Do YOU... you reading these words at this very moment... do you even see yourself as a member of a race of people?

It's weird, the concept of race has no real scientific or biological significance.

Just like religion, it's a construct of the human mind and like most things created by particular humans it's done nothing but cause pain.

But here in this land, in these days and times... you need to ask yourself if your race even matters to you.

But while you're thinking on that, please believe that just because it doesn't matter to you, it doesn't mean it doesn't matter to the people watching you.

We will pick this up next week, fam, hit me up - gasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Feel free to drop by the U.G.E. myspace page to wish ya boy a Happy Birthday on the 26th.

Peace.
gasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Daddy's Little Girls, her role is similar to other times we've seen her do her thing onscreen.

She's successful, she's lonely, she's conflicted over the appropriateness of what she feels.

And I think some sistahs might feel that the over-

worked and under-loved stereotype of black women navigating corporate America is a dead-on example of their real lives, but just in case that mold is getting old, Tyler Perry purposely gives Julia some friends to contrast how different she is from the typical well to do black woman complaining about the scarcity of good black men. Julia has a tough exterior, but she's well aware of how much she needs to be loved and she seems genuinely interested in having that need fulfilled.

But of course it's not an easy thought to digest that the man of her dreams (or

even the man of the moment) could possibly be the rough-around-the-edges brother driving her around Atlanta in a cheap suit.

Their early interactions make for some of the funniest moments in a movie that only rarely budges the funny bone, but I appreciate a good drama so it's a welcomed distance from the jokey-jokey nature of black, romantic films.

And actually, the point isn't really the romance.

The point is those girls. When an emergency custody battle breaks out, it's Jennifer's extra-long movie courtesy of her drug-deal

(Continued on Page 18)

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Reel Review: Tyler Perry Presents: Daddy's Little Girls

(Continued from Page 17)

ing thug boyfriend versus Monty's good intentions as the parent who will actually protect and nurture the girls.

This is the exact type of story that we need told and it's full of people who really look like us, think

like us and act like us. ALL of us.

Tyler Perry became a millionaire by creating the character Madea, everyone's favorite old lady that just happened to be rowdy and wild

as hell - LOL.

But Tyler Perry is becoming one of the most important filmmakers of the day by creating movies that look like the reality we all live in day to day.

Where black people are

just people dealing with life and black men are getting it done and trying to do right.

As a movie, the acting was on point, the writing was on point and even the pacing was very even so that it doesn't feel too long even

though a lot of time was elapsing.

The true grade for Tyler Perry's *Daddy's Little Girls* is A-

GO SEE THIS ONE YA'LL... don't keep bootleggin' everything.

Y'all gon put Tyler Perry out of a job then the only one we'll have to portray black men is Maury Povich or some nonsense!

Be easy, Toledo.

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Based on the evidence-based practice of college health promotion, the Director, Wellness Connection develops, implements, coordinates and evaluates a comprehensive, interdisciplinary health promotion program for the diverse BGSU student population. Using population-level prevention, s/he works to make the campus healthier by cultivating healthy attitudes and behaviors, coordinating efforts amongst various university constituencies and fostering a culture that values and supports a healthy community. S/he gathers data to determine what health issues are most impacting the academic performance of BGSU students, and coordinates a broad-based, comprehensive team of student affairs and health professionals to create interventions that address those issues.

The Director, Wellness Connection directly supervises a team of health professionals, graduate assistants and peer educators; writes, develops, and coordinates grants; and educates students in the classroom setting and in the campus community. Reporting to the Director of the Student Health Service, s/he is a prominent and integral member of the Division of Student Affairs and the Student Health Service leadership team, participating in strategic planning, fiscal resource allocation, budget preparation, quality improvement, and other initiatives.

Minimum qualifications: Doctorate in a health-related field & 1 yr. exp. in college health promotion or related field OR Master's degree in Public Health, Health Education or related field & 3 yrs. exp. in college health promotion or related field. 1 yr. Grant writing and supervisory experience, and CHES certification preferred.

Full-time administrative staff position. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Review of applications will begin March 9, 2007. To apply: submit cover letter w/email address, resume, and names/addresses/ telephone numbers of 3 professional references, to: Ofc. of Human Resources (Search J-60703), 100 College Park Ofc. Bldg., Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201. (419) 372-8421. (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr>) BGSU is an AA/EO educator/employer.

Community Club Hosts Jazz Fundraiser

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Community Club hosted a tribute to jazz and the visual arts on Saturday afternoon, February 10, spotlighting a number of local artists and entertaining visitors with the musical renditions of the Michael Witt Band.

The purpose of the event, which took place at the center's location on Franklin and Pearl Streets, was to raise money for the Jamil Lewis

Cultural Center that will open this upcoming May.

Artistic Impressions, a partnership formed by consultants Alecia Robinson, Audrey Johnson and Felissa Green, was on hand to lend their expertise to the gathering as well.

Pamela Jean Patterson and Wade Patterson graced the display with a number of their artistic renderings, as did Robinson, who is also an artist.



Alecia Robinson



Wade Harrison



Alecia Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Felissa Green



Pamela Jean Patterson

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