

## Ed and Avie Dixon

Retiring Scott High School Teachers

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*"Through these opportunities, we've been able to show these kids in the band that there's a whole world outside of Toledo. We've taken them to places they can't reach by bus or car. For many, it was the first time they'd ever flown on a plane, and I have held many hands."*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

Four people have entered their names with the Lucas County Board of Elections to run for a seat on the Toledo Board of Education in the upcoming November election. The guess here is that at least another four will toss their hats into the ring.

One has to wonder why anyone in his or her right mind would choose to take on such heartache.

School Board President Deborah Barnett, whose four-year term would have expired at the beginning of 2008, resigned on Monday evening. On May 25, Barnett will ride off into the sunset leaving behind the internal acrimony on the board and the lack of civility so often displayed by those observers who believe their freedom to criticize allows them to freely exhibit their mean spiritedness.

Barnett always felt that she could approach those she interacted with as a board member and ask them to "let's sit down and see how this works." Not too many, she finally concluded as she tendered her resignation, wanted to take the "sit down and see how this works" approach. Unions, critics and fellow board members, in today's atmosphere of confrontation, generally tend to act as if they were on a family outing at the Golden Corral surrounded by a gaggle of garrulous youngsters.

Let's start swinging – literally or figuratively.

We have said this before, and we shall say it again and again, the focus for those who are involved in education, either directly or indirectly, should be education. Too often, the focus is on the process of who gets to make decisions.

We are not just mired in a lack of civility these days, however. We are beset by the hypocrisy of those who feel that they, and only they, can possibly determine what is right for a school system.

There is one well-known area critic, for example, who is prone to giving lip service to the notion of diversity and assailing school hiring practices that thwart such an ideal. At the same time he has no problem attacking politicians for their arrogance and self interest and, when pressed for examples, can only point to a black female politician who lost an election rather than to any one of a plethora of white politicians who were later convicted of high crimes and misdemeanors.

This is the kind of atmosphere of pettiness and bias that a black female leader, such as Barnett, has been forced to navigate her way through in an effort to bring a collegial spirit of cooperation and collaboration to the district.

In the end, she could not face the discord for even as long as it would take her to reach the end of her term in January. That's a tremendous loss for the school district.

Barnett did not come to the school board as a stepping stone to a political career. She ran for office after years of involvement in the school district and was elected president in this her fourth year of service.

She was well aware of the issues facing the district from the start but she probably never fully understood, when she was running for office, the intensity of those who bring to the table an unshakeable commitment to their own agendas regardless of the impact those agendas on students. She would discover that intensity, something in the nature of a manic zealotry, immediately upon assuming her office on the board. She is now all too acquainted with what can happen when human beings close their minds and fend off every overture to reach agreement with one another.

A board that worked in concert during her first several years and functioned fairly smoothly with then-Superintendent Eugene Sanders as significant strides were made in academic performance and as innovative educational options were offered to parents, was thrown into disarray with the elections of 2005 as that general spirit of discord, and the rampant incivility that followed, became a part of the workings of the board itself.

Here's what happens next by the way. The majority of those on the board are Democrats, so the Lucas County Democratic Party will recommend someone to serve in the interim until four-year replacement is elected in November.

The Democrats recently endorsed both Richard Brown and Lisa Sobecki as their candidates for the two school board seats that are in play this year. It is not unlikely that one of those two will be recommended by the party.

But we return to the puzzlement we expressed earlier. Why would anyone volunteer to step into this mess? Is it naivete or hubris?

## Community Calendar

May 15-18

Libbey Annual Co-ed Basketball Camp: For grades 4-8; 5 to 8 pm nightly; Fundamentals of team play and individual competition; Prizes awarded: 419-535-9544 or 419-385-5341

May 17

United Way Women's Initiative Annual Luncheon: Toledo Riverfront Hotel (Wyndham); Learn about the impact of social and emotional learning and progress of students at East Side Elementary; Keynote speaker Roger Weissberg, Ph.D.: 419-254-4608

Volunteer Administrators' Network: "Working together Staff and Volunteers;" Lunch meeting; Josina Lott; 11:45 am to 1:30 pm: 419-244-3063

May 18

St. Paul MBC: Faith Friday Celebration; 7 pm; Speaker Rev. DeMarco Carter; Praise and worship: 419-246-2886

May 18-19

Bibleway Church: Young People's Union State Convention; "The Generation of the Greater Work;" 7:30 pm on Friday night; 9:30 am on Saturday; Services throughout the day; Keynote speaker Elder David Hollis and Bishop Norman Wagner: 419-246-0626

May 19

Step Out For Kids Walk-a-Thon: Ottawa Park; Sponsored by the Lucas County Foster Parents Association Scholarship Committee; Registration at 10:15 am; Walk at 11 am: 419-350-3232

Health Fair: Sponsored by EOPA/Toledo-Lucas County Head Start; Hamilton Building – Second Floor; 10 am to 4 pm; Registering Head Start children, Small Smiles Dental Center, Shots 4 Tots: 419-255-7125

Pilgrim Church: Cabbage Roll Dinner; 5 to 7 pm; To sponsor a missionary trip to Jamaica: 419-478-6012

Model Casting: Kent Branch Library; Noon to 4 pm; For the first annual Hair and Fashion show presented by Motivations Salon

Citywide Christian Trustee Association: Meeting at J.B. Simmons Bldg; 10 am  
Rummage Sale: by the Daughters of Zion of Warren AME; 3802 Leybourn; 9 am to 3 pm

May 20

Third Baptist Church: Women's Day; 10:45 am; Speaker Rev. Carol Lignons; "Born Again: To Be Wild About Jesus"

Braden United Methodist Church 83rd Annual Women's Day: "Just One Touch;" 10:30 am; speaker Sister Eva Tucker-Lingo

Grace Presbyterian; 42nd Women's Day Program; "Music for the Soul, Hymns and Spirituals, of a Rich Heritage;" Guest Minister Dr. J LanYe – singer/pianist/conductor/composer: 10:30 am

True Vine MBC: 6th Appreciation Celebration for Pastor and Mrs. Melvin Barnes; 4 pm Service; Guest Rev. Floyd Smith and Calvary: 419-539-9104

May 21

St. John's Jesuit: A graduation recognition program; Mt. Pilgrim Baptist; Praise dancers, drum line and poetry recitals; 6 pm

May 24

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

May 23-25

First MBC of Swanton Revival: 7 pm nightly; Guest Supt. Johnny Hobbs of Greater St. John COGIC: 419-865-8216

May 25

The Remix 2007: "Is There not a Cause!" Holy hip-hop concert; 13 national recording artists; Addressing the importance of education; Stickney Entertainment Center; 6 pm: 419-377-3392

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My View

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political Columnist



Jack Ford

It looks as if Hillary Clinton is opening a strong lead over Barack Obama in the quest for the Democratic nomination for president. Each poll taken recently shows a significant lead by Hillary as the front-running candidate.

John Edwards and the other Democrats cannot seem to close the gap in the rankings and Hillary has been relentless in her fundraising – as has been Barack, but Hillary remains in the lead.

Last weekend, over 3,800 Ohioans shelled out \$150 each to hear Hillary Clinton speak at the Rhodes Center on the State Fairgrounds in Columbus. Hillary stumped for universal health care, independence from foreign oil, fair labor contracts and “stop the war.”

Prior to the big meeting with the 3,800, Hillary met with a group of citizens from the Governor's Circle for \$2,000 each and a second little reception that hit guests up for only \$1,000 (the Chairman's Reception).

Councilman Michael Ashford was able to get into the \$1,000 a ticket affair.

Ashford has really moved up into the big time in fundraising and spending.

It is worth noting that while Oprah Winfrey seems securely in the Obama camp, Jesse Jackson is staying clear of lining up with Barack. Al Sharpton and others on the sidelines are also steering clear of the Barack bandwagon to date. Perhaps they think that Clinton will sweep the primaries and be the party's nominee – no one wants to be on the losing end of a campaign.

Here in Toledo, we see the signs of campaign activity. Ashford has six big signs on one block in the Old West end area ... must be Ashford country. Soon, his signs will sprout up all over Toledo's downtown district which he represents. Ashford has two perennial opponents, and

perhaps two other first-timers, who will rise and fall as they normally do.

In the Old Orchard race – district 5 – Marty Skeldon is preparing to duke it out with Tom Waniewski, the former media guy who now raises funds for a youth organization. The Skeldon name is one of the most beloved political names in Toledo history. Marty himself is a great guy and will be hard to beat.

Councilman Mike Craig continues to crank away in district 3. He is a steady fellow who thinks before he acts and always makes good sense.

Expect African-American Toledo Police Detective Harold Mosley to take the plunge into local politics by running for the board of education. This will put him into conflict with Richard Green, another African-American who is running for one of two open seats on the board.

Can two blacks win seats this year? Multiple African-Americans in the race run the risk of splitting the all-important black vote and making it likely that there may be no blacks on the board come next January.

Contact Jack Ford  
jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Yes, Toledo Needs Much Stronger Academics

I was glad to see The Truth agrees with me that stronger academics is a priority for the Toledo Public Schools. Those who were at my first press conference heard me say that

lot of people talk about stronger academics, but I will make it the first priority. Every decision made by this board must focus on how it will enhance academic learning for all students. This is why the board exists and all decisions must be made within this context; our children deserve nothing less.

It is important that every child at every school receive the strongest academic programs to ensure they are adequately prepared for the future that will greet them upon graduation. As the year progresses I plan to detail more initiatives to improve academics and I look forward to The Truth's coverage of the Toledo Public School Board race this year.

Being the only declared candidate to say that stronger academics is a priority, I am glad The Truth also agrees. You and your readers can learn more about my plans on my Website at: <http://myersforschoolboard.com>.

Sincerely,  
Chris Myers

Let's Talk about the Children

Your recent “This Strikes Us” column stated that “We never talk about the children; we never talk about our students.”

Since the Urban Coalition and myself have been targets of this type of rhetoric and are frequently, if not specifically, maligned as critics in your editorials, I wanted to take this opportunity to add some perspective.

How many times do we see disingenuous politicians, entrenched self interests and those who want to belly up to the feeding trough called TPS tell us “its about the children”, “kids first”, and “our kids deserve the best”? Frankly we must be skeptical

of such claims as they invoke emotion without logic and are great smokescreens to cover the true intentions of those shouting loudly “it's for the children” or wearing the “kids first” badge on their sleeves.

How many times have those who benefit from a new tax levy said, “It's for the children?” These are the same people that defend a seniority system that strips our central city schools of the best teachers and destroys teaching staff stability at these schools.

Is it putting kids first when they send them off to Behavioral Intervention Centers (BIC), or toss them out of

school, but let teachers through their contract deny students an opportunity to complete their homework? Do they understand that such practices increase the chances of failure and leads to higher dropout rates?

Is it for the children when we have hiring practices negotiated by TPS unions that deny our children the types of role models critical to their development as tolerant individuals capable of navigating a world of diversity?

Take a close look at the practices of TPS and the union contracts and ask yourself is this about the children or the adults?

(Continued on Page 4)

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Foley Selected to Right the Wrongs in Toledo Public Schools

At present I am tearing through my books and re-reading my Plato, Socrates and Ayn Rand, realizing that this combination of writers is very contradictory, but they have worked for me all of these years.

It is obvious that I need to search for a new author as I can not find the logic used by so many that implies that a school superintendent must come from the outside. If that is the case, let us hire a search committee to look for a mayor, a city council, a teacher federation president, a board of county commissioners and a newspaper.

If the logic is that bringing someone in from the outside would be better for the city of Toledo, then this would allow us to put our current administrators on Ebay. Teddy Pendergast says in his song “Wake Up everybody” that, “The world won't get much better if we just let it be.”

It is obvious that the school decline did not start because Foley was a part of the last administration as implied by the president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers, just as the city's slide did not begin because of Jack Ford, and that the current decline of the business climate in Toledo is not because of Carty Finkbeiner and jobs are not being lost because of the Toledo Chamber of Commerce.

It is time to wake up, everybody, and make it better from within. We must begin to make it better here in Toledo and we can start by putting away our poison pens (which some have elevated to an art form) and begin working with what we have, and like in Texas Hold 'em, hope that we can improve the hand we were dealt.

With the current mind set about always wanting to bring in someone in from the outside, we could lose the Mudhens, Toney Packos and God knows what else.

Sincerely,  
Warren Woodberry

## Ed and Avie Dixon: Toledo's Goodwill Ambassadors Retire from Scott High School

By Alan Abrams  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

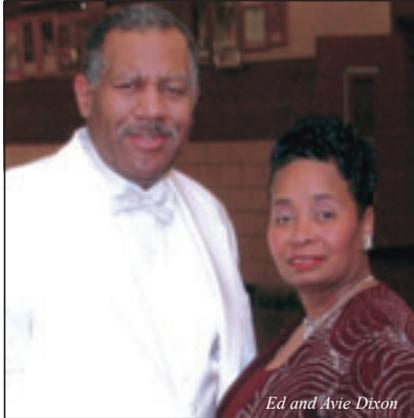
Ed Dixon never dreamed when he joined the Scott High School faculty as a music instructor that it would give him an opportunity to see the world.

The legendary director of the world champion Scott High School Marching Band retired from his post April 27. A veteran of 37 years in education, he has spent the last 31 at Scott.

His wife Avie, who was in charge of the dancers, majorettes, flags and drum majors for the band, as well as doing the announcements, will retire June 6 from her teaching position at Scott where she teaches African-American and world studies.

So what will this true Toledo power couple, who have represented Toledo so much of the nation, find to fill their time in retirement? "I'm sure we'll find something to do," says Avie with a smile. "We'll be doing a lot of traveling; we want to visit people we haven't seen in decades."

But they'll have a way to go before they can follow the roads they traveled with the Scott Marching Band. "There



Ed and Avie Dixon

were so many memorable trips and performances," says Avie.

The band performed in Amherstburg, Ontario and in Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas on two Caribbean cruises. They've presented concerts at The Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, and in pre 9/11 New York City where they traveled to the top of the Twin Towers for photos. Avie still regrets that they performed

at the Adam Clayton Powell Office Building in Harlem one day before former president Bill Clinton opened his office there.

They've played Houston, New Orleans (where they performed in two of the longest parades - one being 21 miles long), and last year traveled to Las Vegas. "We've seen the beauty and awe of the Grand Canyon," says Avie.

"Through these opportunities, we've been able to show these kids in the band that there's a whole world outside of Toledo," adds Avie. "We've taken them to places they can't reach by bus or car. For many, it was the first time they'd ever flown on a plane, and I have held many hands."

Ed says they usually took between 80 and 85 band members on the trips.

Their travels also gave the band the opportunity to visit many university campuses such as Southern University in Baton Rouge and Florida State. And along with the travel came the many awards.

"I'm going to miss it, I'm sure," says Ed.

But the Dixon legacy may continue at Scott. Erick, one

of the couple's three sons, lives in Springfield, Ohio where he is the interim band director at Central State University. He is "considering returning" to Scott to take over the position his father held. "He knows the TPS system and would be a perfect fit. Erick has been the chief arranger for the Scott Marching Bands hip-hop and R&B pieces," says Ed.

Typical of Ed's love for the community was the fact that he asked his interviewer not to overlook Scott's world-class Concert Band. "They're Class-A," he says.

When Avie says her message to all of the kids she and Ed have worked with is "Don't cut your dream short," it also applies to their own children.

E. Bernard Dixon lives in Los Angeles and has had his musical work featured on BET. "He's living his dream," says Avie.

The couple also has a daughter Tishla Dixon who lives in Atlanta. They have five grandchildren, Tehran, Dionne, Israel, Deandre and Jachory.

Ed is originally from Jacksonville, Florida and Avie hails from Nashville. They met at Tennessee State when both were students there and have been married for 40 years. Avie later received her master's degree from the University of Toledo and Ed received his from Bowling Green State University.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Let's Talk about the Children

(Continued from Page 3)

Take a close look at the practices of TPS and the union contracts and ask yourself is this about the children or the adults?

Adults in this community are the guardians of our children and the stewards of their future. Adults are the ones who debate the issues and determine the policies and practices that result in educational outcomes for our children. I can't believe that anyone reading my comments could believe that having these kinds of discussions is not about the kids. So I do completely agree with your editorial that it is time we heard specifics from Board of Education candidates about how to improve education instead of trite sound bites and slogans!

For heaven's sake, how do you improve the lives of children through education without a discussion of the issues? If you don't have fiscally sound policies that assure up to date textbooks, computers and most importantly quality teachers, just how do you educate our youth? It is crucial to have these discussions because it is for the kids, at least for some of us! And with such discussions comes the politics involved with a huge economic engine such as TPS. There are tremendous vested interests in the status quo at work here so when you consider voting for Board of Education candidates check behind the curtains and see who is pulling the levers.

I don't wear a "kids first" badge on my sleeve and say "it's for the children, but that does not mean I don't care about the children in this community. In my case, I have been a big brother, youth sports coach, served and serve on several boards of organizations devoted to youth and parent issues, volunteered and supported youth activities such as youth theater, tutored children in reading and for proficiency tests, donated thousands of dollars over the years to youth organizations and the schools my children attended, volunteered at my children's schools, helped create and served as the first president of the parent organization at the Toledo Technology Academy and much more. I'm most proud of being an involved father. I was present at the birth of both of my children, attended almost every school activity and sports event they ever participated in, and continue to be a friend and supporter of my children as adults.

I'm not a politician and don't have plans to run for office so it has never been important for me to put forth my resume of activities supporting children. But perhaps its time to tell everyone that while I'm no saint, I do have a devotion to children that goes beyond spoken words. I also know that all of my fellow Urban Coalition members care about children. We speak of them at almost every meeting we have.

The idea that just because you don't wear the "kids first" badge on your sleeve somehow means you don't care about children is hogwash, plain and simple.

We may not speak of children each time we discuss schools, but we do practice our beliefs that children really are important and we're on their side!

Sincerely

Steve Flagg

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**Food for Thought:**  
WHEREVER YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY IS WHERE YOU CREATE A JOB. IF YOU ARE BLACK AND THE BUSINESSES ARE RUN BY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T, THEN THOSE PEOPLE COME AND TAKE WEALTH TO THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE.  
-Tony Brown

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# Advanced Care with the Heart of Mercy.

On Sunday, May 20, St. V's will open The Regional Heart & Vascular Center, the area's first and only stand-alone facility for the treatment of heart and vascular diseases. "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.

The Center provides full treatment capabilities from cardiac catheterization to angioplasty to stenting. Its operating suites 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 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 Paul Berlachter, M.D., 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.

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. "This building is an important evolution in our cardiac services to the community," said Dr. Ansoar Zacharias, the center's Medical Director. "Its technology and attention to patient comfort is a first for this region."

The Community Grand Opening of The Regional Heart & Vascular Center is open to the public. The celebration, which will take place on Sunday, May 20, from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m., will feature tours, refreshments, activities for children, and a reunion of past St. V's heart patients, family members, physicians and nurses.

*Learn more about the Community Grand Opening of the Regional Heart & Vascular Center at [mercyweb.org](http://mercyweb.org)*



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## Foley Back on Top at TPS – For the Long Haul

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

One year and \$50,000 later, the Toledo Board of Education is back where they started in their bid to find a superintendent for the Toledo Public School district. Interim Superintendent John Foley will have the "interim" part of his title removed.

Foley, who was named interim superintendent after the previous superintendent Eugene Sanders, Ph.D., left for Cleveland last summer and took most of his cabinet along, has been with TPS for over 30 years. Under Sanders, Foley was chief of staff. He began his career with TPS as a special-education teacher for disabled students.

But the move to name Foley to the top post did not proceed smoothly ... in just about anyone's estimation. The board hired a firm out of Milwaukee – Proact Search, Inc – to coordinate the nationwide search and eventually settled on William Harner, a regional superintendent with the Philadelphia Public Schools.

At the eleventh hour, Harner decided that he could not live within the Toledo city limits nor send his daughter to a Toledo Public School. The decision not to live in the district was a condition the school board was not prepared to accept.

On Friday, May 4, after going into executive session, the board voted to offer the position to Foley by a 4 to 1 vote – board member Darlene Fisher casting the lone dissenting vote.

On Friday, May 11, the board voted, again by a 4 to 1 margin, to offer the position to Foley. He will be paid a base salary of \$147,767 and will receive a \$500 a month car allowance, monthly payments of \$690 to an annuity company on his behalf and health and life insurance benefits.

Fisher dissented because she said she did not believe that there were any performance measurements or goals included in Foley's contract. The other four members congratulated the new superintendent and pledged to work together for the benefit of the 30,000 student school system.

## TEEN TALENT SHOW

The Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., presents its **Teen Talent Show** scheduled at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 26 in Kent's auditorium.

Interested youth in grades 6-12 can pick up a **Contestant Application** at Kent Branch during normal business hours.

Kent officials encourage a variety of acts such as singing, dancing, stand-up comedy, poetry reading, rapping, juggling, playing musical instruments, and more.

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library requests that all performers consider the appropriateness of their materials before submission.

This show is free and open to the public.  
For more details, please call 419.259.5283.  
Profanity, obscenity, racial slurs, or any objectionable behavior will not be allowed.

## Ed and Avie Dixon

*(Continued From Page 4)*

Avie's degree was in social work and she originally worked for Lucas County. Meanwhile, Ed worked at the engineering and architectural firm of SSOE as a draftsman. "But I wanted to teach music education so I took a pay cut in order to teach," he says.

Although he can play all of the band instruments, Ed started off on the tuba.

Because Ed began teaching first, Avie recalls that "he'd have the summers off." So she leveled the playing field by going into education as well and was soon teaching social studies to Special Ed students.

Ed's parents are Erna and Cleo Sanders, although he was raised by his stepfather. He is one of eleven children. Many of his siblings live in Jacksonville including Joe Reynald Dixon, Geraldine Fowler, Roger Sanders, Annette Mathis, Joyce Riley, Kenneth Sanders and Janice

Davis. Three of Ed's brothers are in California: Christopher Dixon lives in San Diego, Alphonso Dixon lives in the Napa Valley and Jackie Dixon lives in Oakland.

Avie is the daughter of Dorothy and the late Willie Martindale. She has two sisters: Deborah Martindale who lives in Nashville and Althea McClelland of Toledo.

Avie's family moved to Toledo from Nashville while she was in the sixth grade. She attended Washington and Lincoln Elementary Schools, Robinson Junior High and graduated from Scott in 1964.

The community is showing its appreciation to the Dixons with a series of events on May 26-27. There is a community rally Saturday May 26 at the Scott High School Reynald House. Former Robinson and Scott band members are asked to report for practice from 10 until 11

a.m. The event runs from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Later that day, there will be a Cabaret Party at Barbaretta's Hall from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. That event is open to Scott and Robinson band members from the class of 2001 and earlier.

Sunday's celebration begins with a church service at First Church of God at 11 a.m.

The weekend culminates with a banquet at the Dreamplex Hotel and Conference Center from 5:30 p.m. until midnight.

*Tickets are \$25 per person and reservations are required. Call (419) 450-0024, (419) 244-8758 or (419) 244-3235 by May 19, and join the community in saying thank you to the Dixons.*

## Toledo's Best Dressed Women

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*  
It's over! Done! The votes are in and the winners of The Truth's Best Dressed Women of Toledo poll have been selected by our readers.

So if you did not have a chance to vote ... it's too late. Let it go.

You will have a chance next time.

Our top two vote getters—in a race so close we could only declare a tie—were Gloria Hillard, a former City of Toledo employee, and Cora Allen of The University of Toledo. And taking third place with a late surge in the voting was First Lady Sheila Cook.

Also finishing with significant votes were Joanne Triplett, Joette Oxner, Diane Labiche, Brenda Barnes and Denise Black



Cora Allen



Gloria Hillard

Poon.

Photos of the top three vote-getters, along with a host of other fabulously-attired Toledo women gathered from recent events around town, can be seen on page 16.

Thanks, everyone, for all of your votes.

## S.T.R.I.V.E. A Summer Tutorial Program – The Challenge to Succeed

*Special to The Truth*

Are you a parent concerned about your child's education? Do you have a high school child who is faced with passing the required proficiency test? Would you be interested in your child continuing to learn through the summer? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then you are interested in the S.T.R.I.V.E. (Success Through Review Incentive Vision Effort) Program. The Greater Toledo Urban League and the African American Police League will sponsor the program, for elementary through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

This will be a free program to students.

The program is designed to prepare elementary and junior high youth entering their next grade level (up to eighth grade), with math and English enrichment, and high school students can receive instruction in up to two Ohio Graduation Test areas. The classes will be taught at Scott High School on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00am to 11:00am. The classes are taught by caring Toledo Public School teachers.

June 11 and last through July 6. The proficiency test week will be July 9-13 at Scott High School. This will give the student an extra opportunity to take the test and if passed by the student it will count towards graduation. The program is not equipped to handle special needs students.

The Greater Toledo Urban League and the African American Police League would like to solicit donations from local churches, agencies, organizations,

The classes will begin

(Continued on Next Page)

## Taria Blanchard and Family Celebrate College Graduation

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Twenty-seven members of the extended Blanchard family trekked down to Urbana University on Saturday, May 11, to witness the commencement ceremony for Taria Blanchard—scholar (3.4 cumulative GPA), athlete (basketball player), student ambassador, cultural awareness secretary, project team mentor, relay for life participant and future educator in the Toledo Public Schools district.

Taria, who received a bachelor's of science degree in Education Studies in Math and Science, was joined by her immediate family, mother Vernice, father "Coach Pete," sister Torri (a junior at Urbana) along with several dozen extended family members for the graduation ceremony at the small liberal arts university in Urbana, OH that was founded in 1850.

Taria enjoyed every bit of her college years. "I liked the small classroom experience," she said. "If you have a question or need help, someone there will always go out of their way to find the answer."

In fact, the end of her undergraduate career does not mean that Taria will be leaving Urbana behind. She will probably pursue her master's degree at the same locale. She wants to return to Toledo to teach with a view towards becoming a public schools' administrator.



The Blanchards: Vernice, Torri, Taria and Coach Pete



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# The Sojourner's Truth Business

Business Section • Business Section

## New Law Allows IRA Owners Over 70½ to Donate RMD to Charity

By Bill Harris  
Guest Columnist

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows IRA owners age 70½ or older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA to a charity. The provision became available for IRA distributions taken after Aug. 17, 2006 and applies only through the end of 2007. Distributions can be made from taxable funds in an IRA or Roth IRA, but not from employer plans or SEP and SIMPLE IRAs. The distribution will not be taxable and there is no charitable deduction allowed on the tax return. But the provision allows those who want to contribute some of their IRA funds to a charity during their lifetime to do so without having to add the distribution amount to their income. This is better — because you do get a charitable deduction if you take the IRA withdrawal and report that amount in income. The reality, though, is that it often doesn't offset perfectly, which is why this new law is more favorable.

The direct transfer from the IRA to the charity can also satisfy a person's required minimum distribution for the year. If you are charitably inclined, it may be best to contribute from the IRA, at

least up to the RMD amount thereby avoiding that amount being included in income. This will lower your adjusted gross income (AGI) and might avoid or lessen the amount of Social Security benefits that are taxed. The reduction in AGI can also increase tax deductions, exemptions or credits that are pegged to AGI either in terms of specified amounts or as a percentage of AGI. The distributions are deemed to come from income first if the IRA has non-deductible contributions. This contrasts with the normal pro-rata rule that applies to other IRA distributions where there are after-tax funds in the IRA.

If you want to take advantage of this provision for 2006, then you must make a direct IRA transfer to the charity before year end. The distribution must be made directly from the IRA custodian/trustee to the charity. It cannot be distributed to the IRA owner, who subsequently writes a check to the charity. If that is done, then the provision will not apply and the distribution will be taxable. However, you may be able to take a tax deduction for the contribution (under the regular rules that applied before

this provision became effective). Finally, to qualify for this provision, you must have documentation to substantiate the donation (something in writing from the charity showing the date and amount of the contribution, and certifying that nothing of value was obtained in exchange for the contribution). It is generally a good idea to send the charity a letter notifying them of the amount of the contribution and where the contribution is coming from as well as requesting verification of receipt of the gift.

Charities must fall under IRS code section 170(b) to be eligible. Donor advised funds, charitable remainder trusts and private foundations are ineligible. The IRS has not yet provided guidelines regarding coding for 1099 forms or 1040 reporting. Until guidelines are published, many firms are relying on advice from the Investment Company Institute. For instance, the IRA owner is responsible for maintaining documentation to verify with the IRS that requirements were met. The IRA owner is responsible for verifying the charity is a qualified charity for this purpose. The IRA owner is also responsible for verifying their compliance with the annual limit of \$100,000.

Most firms will report the distribution as a normal distribution, but will advise the IRA owner to make a note of "charitable distribution" on their records. The IRA owner must provide instructions to waive withholding since the distribution will not be taxable.

The IRA owner is responsible for any reporting the IRS requires regarding the nature of the distribution. For most securities-based ac-

counts including mutual funds, the IRA owner must obtain a signature guarantee on the request form since the distribution is being sent to someone other than the shareholder at the address of record.

It's a good idea to consult with your financial planner before making your donation.

This column is produced by the Financial Planning Association, the membership organization for the financial planning community, and is provided by Bill Harris, financial advisor and a local member of the FPA. Bill Harris is a financial advisor with Informative Financial 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.



Bill Harris

### The Remix 2007: "Is There Not a Cause!"

Holy hip-hop concert; 13 national recording artists; Addressing the importance of education; Stickney Entertainment Center; 6pm: 419-377-3392

## Ohio Association of Community Colleges Appoints Owens Board of Trustees to Leadership Position

Owens Community College Board of Trustees member John Moore has been elected by Ohio's two-year academic institution trustees and presidents to serve as At-Large Trustee of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is comprised of eight leaders within higher education who are dedicated to expressing and advocating the interests of 23 member two-year colleges in Ohio.

The Ohio Association of Community Colleges was created with an overall mission of promoting the continued quality, strength, vitality and effectiveness within 23 independent public two-year academic institutions in Ohio. The Ohio Association of Community Colleges focuses on issues impacting Ohio community and technical colleges, and through dialogue with trustees and presidents, adapts solutions to fit the social, educational and political landscape in the state.

Additionally, the association regularly presents educational programs on matters of common interest and supports commu-



John Moore

nity college priorities on behalf of its member colleges in conjunction with related organizations.

"It is a privilege and honor to serve as the At-Large Trustee of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges Executive Committee," Moore said. "I look forward to working with my fellow colleagues as we continue to raise the level of excellence within two-year academic institutions."

Serving a two-year term, Moore's responsibilities, along with that of fellow Executive Committee members, is to provide leadership and guidance to the 23 two-year academic institutions with the overall goal being the continued advancement and

(Continued on Page 13)

## S.T.R.I.V.E.

(Continued from Page 6)

businesses and unions. By donating to the S.T.R.I.V.E. (Program, your contributions will yield a big return to each student's future (education and high school diploma). Last summer (2006) the program assisted 200 high school students and administered 300 tests.

The Greater Toledo Urban League and the African American Police League would like to thank you in advance for any contributions or donations to the S.T.R.I.V.E. Program.

With more parental and community involvement, the listed agencies hope to provide the youth with the tools to stay on task with their education. They hope our youth will become productive working citizens in today's society, because a mind is a terrible thing to waste and it does take a village to raise a child.

If you are interested in having your child attend this program, please contact Officer Floella Wormely or Rick Turner at 419-245-1162. Class sizes are limited and children must be registered by May 29. Parents must complete a registration form and a release of information.

**Are you an African-American adult age 21 or older? Have you also had Type 2 Diabetes for at least one year?**

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## Economic Empowerment in the Black Community

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., the Committee of the Whole and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. joined forces last Saturday to present a workshop titled Economic Empowerment in the Black Community.

The breakfast seminar, which was free and open to the public, was the first in a series of such events that the organizations will be presenting over the next year.

J. Burner Crew, senior portfolio manager in the public sector for KeyBank who works out of Cleveland, was the keynote speaker and addressed the theme of "Buying Back Our Community." However, the highlight of the morning was a series of presentations by a trio of local insurance agents and financial managers: Derick Gant, investment manager with Gant Investments; Kevin McQueen, financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and Vince Davis, agent with State Farm Insurance.

"Cash is king," said Gant at the onset of his speech as he laid out his three keys for successful investing. First, said Gant, an investor has to have available cash, and enough cash in order to sustain a loss of that cash in case things go sour with a particular investment.

Second, an investor has to



Derick Gant

have the time to weather the vagaries of the stock market or any other investment vehicle. "The rewards can be good if you are willing to take the time to go through a few investment cycles," Gant told his audience of about 75 who had gathered for this event.

And the third consideration for Gant and his clients is risk. "What are you willing to risk, what can you stand to lose?" he asked.

McQueen's address was a natural follow up to that of Gant as he addressed the issue of establishing one's security before arriving at the investment phase of financial well-being.

"Risk management is the foundation," said McQueen as he touched on the matter of how important it is to place one's financial house in order through proper use of insurance - health, life, disability, long-term care.

"Before you get to the point at which you are ready to invest, you want to make sure your risk management is in place," said McQueen. "How

does wealth get passed from generation to generation?" he asked. "The number one way is life insurance."

McQueen emphasized that financial decisions made by individuals could impact their family's financial well-being for generations. He used as an example the case of a family with an older relative, without long-term care insurance, who has Alzheimer's disease. Such a situation would mean that her children, regardless of their own insurance decisions, would be forced to reach into their pockets to assist and that sacrifice would trickle down to the youngest member of the family.

Davis continued that theme as he spoke to the issue of asset management. "Would you insure the goose or the golden eggs?" he asked. "People may have insurance on the house but not on the payment plan in case of death or disability."

Davis attacked the culture of consumerism which, as he noted, minority communities tend to fall into far too easily. "We as a people have fallen into consumerism rather than generationally passing wealth on. The best insurance you can buy is that which you have in place when you pass away," he said.

"Life insurance is the most unselfish thing you can ever purchase," said Davis. "It's not about me, it's about them."

Crew addressed the matter

of how the audience could become directly effective as investors through an investment club strategy.

"The challenge is - how do we take the talent that is right here in this room and put it together," he said. "If you cannot create the company, then buy the company that does it. There is more power in coming together and eliminating the race battle."

Closing out Saturday's inaugural economic empowerment seminar were representatives from the sponsoring groups - Pete Culp from the Committee of the Whole and Ethel Scott and Wanda Terrell of the Toledo Club of NANBPW Clubs, Inc. - who announced plans for upcoming seminars.

The second Friday of each month has been set aside to continue the economic forums and the next event will take place at the Park Lane Apartments. For more information, please call Vince Davis at 419-244-2904 or Ethel Scott at 419-255-4174 or email either at [vince.davis@statefarm.com](mailto:vince.davis@statefarm.com) or [ethel.scott@keybank.com](mailto:ethel.scott@keybank.com).



Kevin McQueen



Vince Davis and grandson

*Ed. Note: Last week's Economic Empowerment speakers may be contacted at the following telephone numbers for more information about their presentations: Derick Gant, Gant Investments - 419-517-1325; Vince Davis, Vince Davis State Farm - 419-244-2904; Kevin McQueen, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network - 419-407-8656.*

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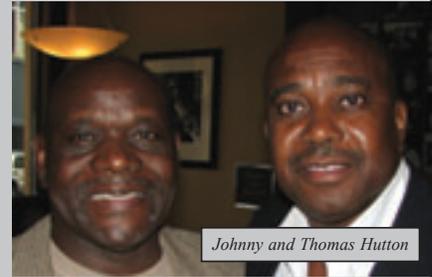
## State Rep. Edna Brown Hosts Annual Birthday Fundraiser



Brown with long time supporters Bill and Betty Huntley



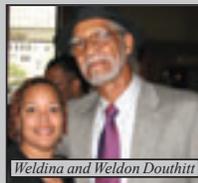
Assistant Prosecutor Ian English, Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English and son



Johnny and Thomas Hutton



Richard Brown and State Representative Edna Brown



Weldina and Weldon Douthitt



Lindsay Webb, Amy Voigt, Councilman Joe McNamara



School Board President Deborah Barnett and State Representative Edna Brown

Approximately 100 friends, family members and supporters joined State Representative Edna Brown at Jackson's Lounge last Thursday afternoon for her annual birthday fundraiser.

Brown represents Toledo's 47<sup>th</sup> District in the General Assembly. She was appointed in 2001 to fill the seat formerly held by Jack Ford and has won election twice since then. Prior to her appointment Brown served on Toledo City Council.

Brown has most recently worked to support Workers' Comp Reform, to decrease domestic violence and to mandate HPV testing for young girls in order to prevent cervical cancer.

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Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson is organized by the Columbus Museum of Art and Arts Midwest in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council.

## Three with Links to Northwest Ohio Awarded Scholarships at 11<sup>th</sup> Annual AALEAA Scholarship and Awards Banquet

By Alan Abrams  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

More than 160 people, including Toledo Public Schools Board member Larry Sykes and Lucas County Sheriff James Telb, along with African-American law enforcement officers from across the state, their supporters, friends and families honored the African American Law Enforcement Agents' Association, Inc. by their presence Saturday at the organization's 11<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship and awards dinner banquet.

The festive event was held at the Park Inn Hotel and was themed "A Taste of Essence 2007." The gala, with entertainment by the jazz group Forecast, also paid tribute to Mother's Day.

The keynote address was delivered by Earl D. Mack, Jr., the President of the African American Law Enforcement Agents' Association. Mack, who was recently profiled in a *Sojourner's Truth* cover story, is currently the Agent in Charge of the Toledo Enforcement District Operation of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. He is assigned to the Investigative Division, which is responsible for alcohol, food stamp fraud and tobacco enforcement in Ohio. Mack is the second African-American to hold this position in the 60-year history of agency formerly known as the Ohio Department of Liquor Control.

The AALEAA annually presents scholarships in honor and memory of two of its members who died in the line of duty. Agent James B. Burns was a veteran Liquor Enforcement Agent who was shot to death in 1964 while arresting a suspect during an investigation of an illegal liquor establishment in Xenia.

Agent Tillis L. Ewing was an Enforcement Agent with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Investigative Division. A former Lucas County Sheriff's Deputy, Ewing died in 1998 after suffering a heart attack while working on a food stamp fraud investigation in Bucyrus. The scholarships are given in honor of their ultimate sacrifice in the line-of-duty.

All three of this year's scholarship winners have links to northwest Ohio.

Raymond DaShaun Scott of Toledo is a senior at St. John's Jesuit High School. He will be attending the University of Cincinnati in the fall majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Business Administration. He was born in Toledo and is the son of Raymond and Ethel Scott. Young Raymond is an active member of the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church and has been a mentor to younger children in the community.

Chanel Griffith is a recent graduate of Bowling Green State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Law. She plans to attend George Washington Law School in the fall. She is of West Indian descent and a native of Jamaica, NY. Her parents are Ginette Parkin and Menrol Griffith.

Kortney Mosley is currently a Criminal Justice Major at Bowling Green State University where she is chapter president of Phi Sigma Theta and the Law Society. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Toledo College of Law. Kortney was born in Cleveland, and her parents are Susan and Richard Mosley.

Mack's keynote address dealt with community-police relationships. "We as law enforcement officers must remember that our pay does not come from the agencies that employ us. Our pay comes from each and every citizen we are sworn to protect. They are our true employer and whom we work for. The treatment of those who employ us is of the utmost and they must be treated with respect," he told the audience of his peers.

Continued Mack, "We must provide guidance and education to our citizens in personal and community safety. We must also encourage our communities to be vigilant in reporting information to help increase their safety." He used the examples of 9/11 and the Virginia Tech massacre to make the point that both tragedies might have been averted if there had been better police-community relationships. "Someone knew someone that knew something about what was to occur. We missed it due to the lack of communication."

"As law enforcement personnel, we must demonstrate patience and never rush to judgment. As law enforcement personnel, we should never place stats above ethics and integrity. What may be legal to do may not be the moral thing to do," said Mack.

Additional celebrities present were: Michael Akrouche, retired director of the Ohio Department of Liquor Control; Cathy Collins-Taylor, executive director of the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety's Investigative Unit; Rick Barga, assistant director of the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety; Sonia Troche, director of ADELANTE, Inc.; John W. Blatt, former mayor of Put-In-Bay; William (Bill) Harris, financial manager; Ruby Radford, M.ED, poet & CEO of RLR Enterprises and Kevin Page, deputy director, Ohio Dept. of Public Safety, Investigative Unit.



Sheriff James Telb and Earl Mack



Photos by: NC Abrams

## Governor Appoints Connie Zimmelman to Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

Governor Ted Strickland announced today the appointment of Connie Zimmelman to fill a vacancy on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division. "Connie's career has been marked by professionalism, high standards and a commitment to serving families," Strickland said. "Her service to the people of Lucas County makes her well-suited for this position." Zimmelman fills a seat on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division that was vacated when Judge James Ray retired. Zimmelman's term as judge begins effective June 4. The term of the juvenile court appointment will extend until January 2, 2009. Zimmelman, 52, brings more than 25 years of legal experience to the Lucas County court. Zimmelman has worked in private prac-

tice since 1998 with concentrations on adoption, juvenile and probate law. Since 2004, Zimmelman has run her own law office; she was previously a partner in the Toledo law firm of Britz and Zimmelman from 1998 to 2003. Zimmelman served as magistrate for Lucas County Probate Court from 1994-1997. Her responsibilities included overseeing adoption clerks, assisting the judge in adoption hearings and teaching changes in adoption law to staff and local attorneys. From 1987-1994, Zimmelman worked as the staff attorney for the University of Toledo College of Law Legal Clinic. She served as an associate at Britz and Zimmelman from 1982-1987 and as clerk/bailiff for Judge Reno R. Riley, Jr., in the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas from 1979-1980. Zimmelman received

her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in 1976 and her juris doctor from the University of Toledo College Law in 1981. Governor Strickland selected Zimmelman through Ohio's new judicial selection process, in which members of the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel (OJARP) evaluate the qualifications of applicants for judicial vacancies and then make non-binding recommendations to the governor based on their evaluations. OJARP is currently working to fill judicial vacancies in Montgomery and Stark Counties. Zimmelman was one of 14 applicants for the judicial vacancy. The list had been narrowed to three by the OJARP last Thursday - Zimmelman, Ian English and Laura Restivo.

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## Too Young To Feel Old?

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture  
Wow.

For real yo, growing older is no joke.

Yeah, it was all cool when Jigga tried to start another trend with

"30 is the new 20" but that doesn't always make it easier to swallow.

I can assure you – being a step away from 30 and being around folks who are a step away from 20 ... it's not always a good look. Even though we are in the same era, my end of it feels old.

Growing up, I was never one of those teens who wanted to grow up or always talked about how "grown" I was.

I was always around people much older than me while I was a teen and I saw first hand that being an adult didn't exactly seem like a fun thing to do – LOL.

Now, being 10-11 years removed from high school – technically I am still young, but I feel old sometimes and I know I'm not alone.

My older cousins grew up on Whodini and Run DMC in their teens.

With me and my crew, B.I.G. and Jay Z served as our high school soundtrack.

All this time, I've been thinking that's still current – but it's not.

My little sister is graduating this year and her class has grown up with T.I. and Young Jeezy.

They all know and respect the idols I had in my teens, but they have their own idols for their own time.

Funny how so many of the most successful rappers are over 30 but the actual hip-hop fans are becoming more and more divided based on youth.

Kaj Boogie on WJUC plays hip-hop that I really appreciate his show.

He hits you with some Keith Murray, some Redman or whatever and I know most of the heads I came up with really respect that and enjoy that kind of hip-hop.

But the average 18-year old probably doesn't care one little bit about Redman.

Which is actually part of why hip-hop sucks right now.

The younger heads don't care about quality in music, and the older heads are too self-righteous to try and school them.

Our generation has been accused of being the furthest removed from our elders in terms of knowledge and morals that can be shared or passed down.

In other words, only a few of us chop it up with our old heads as much as we should and we are losing out on all types of wisdom by NOT

having that convo.

But what happens when members of Generation Y becomes divided among themselves?

The average 20-year old and the average 30-year old have a lot in common when it comes to hobbies (going to the club, shopping, cars, electronics, games, etc.)

The average 20-year old and the average 30-year old are both probably still trying to find their way through this awful job market on the way to some stability.

The average 20-year old and the average 30-year old both grew up with the same harsh realities of current times (young teens having babies, gang warfare, drugs in school etc.)

But I think where the divide comes is when those late 20's peeps start to finally mature and take notice of how wild they used to be and they see some early/ barely 20's peeps come along and make even dumber choices with their lives.

Like yo, in the mid-late 90's this so-called small city of Toledo was dangerous as hell!

Right now there's still blood and crip gangs and a few new sets and a few di-hard old sets. But there's not even a real reason to trip over it now (not that there ever was, but ... still). When I see some ign'ant ass (that's right, 'ign'ant ass') 15-year old boy throwing up gang signs at the bus stop and it's 2007... hell, I feel ashamed.

Not just because it's the gang mentality but because he's too young and dumb to know how played out it is.

When I was 15 it was the middle of the 90's and people were getting shot and killed left and right in this city over gang violence.

I'm still meeting cousins TO THIS DAY that I never even knew I had because certain parts of town were off limits to me and who I was around.

Back then, the territories were being outlined and you couldn't walk two blocks in either direction without a very real possibility of some gunplay.

It was real in the field in every way.

And now these teenage boys are trying to invent threatening situations where there's not one. Trying to act like it's really hot out here like that, and it's not.

So even though there may only be 10 or so years between my half of Generation Y and the younger half, it makes peeps on my half want to avoid the younger ones.

It makes some 25-year olds say things like "I'm not going to Franklin Park, too many 20-year olds."

We were already wild.

So seeing our younger brothers and sisters not only fail to learn from our mistakes but routinely make bigger and bolder mistakes... it makes us feel old, and it widens the divide.

When I was at Old West End Jr. High, there were quite a few pregnant girls in the eighth grade.

It's never really been a shocking statistic to those of us who grew up in the 90's.

But these days it seems bad situations like that haven't gotten better, they've gotten worse.

Daycares across the city are swarming with toddlers whose mothers and fathers aren't old enough to vote. It's not like "oh yeah, I heard that so and so is pregnant again".

Now it's more like "dang, you ain't got no kids? what's wrong with you?"

And the more that us late-20-somethings criticize those younger adults, the older we start to feel.

The more we sound like our parents saying the same mess to us just 10 short years ago.

Truth be told – we aren't really that old.

Because peeps who are pushing 35 still look at me the way I look at someone pushing 21.

Pop culture burns through your years though.

Slang changes so fast and before you know it, you find yourself doing one of two things:

A. – Trying desperately to stay hip by saying things you hear on 106 & Park

B. – Ignore new slang all together because you've learned not to follow the masses, just talk your talk.

Pop culture makes everyone feel old.

A vast amount of entertainment is geared towards 13-year olds so at times even my 18-year old sister has said she feels old. But of course she loves to make fun of me when I say it because she knows it's far more true in my case.

But all in all, there's not much difference between us.

The average 30-year old and the average 20-year old probably have more in common these days than at any other time in history.

(Continued on Page 13)

## Insight from the Bench: Judge Greg Mathis to Speak in Lima

By Vickie Shurelds  
Special to the Truth

The excitement is mounting as the Lima YMCA's Black Achiever's prepare for their annual Scholarship Dinner on June 9. This has been a stellar year for the veteran group that has as its primary directive: developing young minds into the future leaders for Lima and Allen County – in some cases Ohio and beyond.

Black Achiever Director Emmanuel Curtis and Board Chairman Jason Upthegrove have set the bar just high enough that you have to put "your back into it" to reach the goal – but the goal is attainable.

The difference this year has been that bar was set for the students and adult volunteers – they had a 'zero tolerance' attitude for slackers and, as they were encountered, non-doers found themselves mumbling their excuses into the cloud of dust created by the forward movement of the project.

The program can boast its most successful participation by students in its existence. The group averaged 60 students at their bi-monthly meetings, and they've made a strong impact inside the schools as well, going into classrooms all over Lima and speaking to students on a very personal level. The success of the contact cannot yet be measured, but there has to be some impact when members of the community come directly to your desk, look you in the eye and say – "we believe in you, we support you, we are listening, and

*preparing ourselves to be in a position to help you, all you have to do is get ready!"*

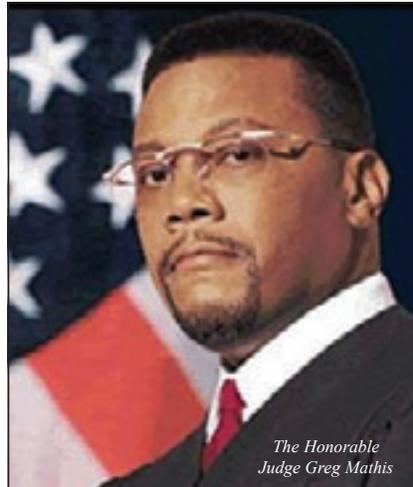
The annual dinner has been a time of reflection and celebration for those seniors who have been active members during the previous year. This year will have the same general tone, but they've called in some aggressive reinforcements – the keynote address will be given by Judge Greg Mathis. At first glance that may seem to be a great touch – having a national TV personality come in and talk to students about their possible successful careers – but when you look deeper you see it for what it is – inspiration on a very basic level.

Mathis was a gang member from the projects of Detroit – a high school dropout who lived his early life in and out of jail but overcame all of these obstacles to become the youngest judge appointed to the bench in the State of Michigan.

His journey was chronicled as a book he titled *Inner City Miracle* and in 2003, his personal story earned the Blackboard Non-fiction Book of the Year Award. Plays and musicals have been written about his activism and determination.

He is a committed individual determined to see through the promise he made to his dying mother to turn his life around and become an advocate for others.

The inclusion of Judge Mathis for the Black Achiever's banquet is an ex-



The Honorable  
Judge Greg Mathis

cellent parallel to the work he and his wife are doing in Michigan. In 1986, Mathis and his wife co-founded Young Adults Asserting Themselves (Y.A.A.T), a non-profit youth agency that serves thousands of young people. The foundation counsels youth from the ages of 17-25 about career and job opportunities, provides job training, and offers school and job placement services. The foundation has also opened five pre-schools in Detroit.

Whatever else his message may contain on June 9, it will most certainly impart vital information youth can use to evaluate, reflect and build upon as they head toward that road to success we keep referring to. His address can only enhance the words as they come from someone who has "been there, done that."

Judge Mathis has been

to encourage individuals to develop and achieve worthy goals, and prepare themselves for a more prosperous future. The Expo has since become an annual event in Detroit and has now branched out to other cities.

Extending the invitation to Judge Mathis is another example of the beneficial planning efforts of this unique youth organization. "We are very happy with our program" says Curtis, "We've even expanded this year to continue the program throughout the summer months. Our partnership with Rhodes State College has helped us to develop programming for our elementary and middle school students, and we're working to get programming for our High School students before summer gets here – our annual banquet is just another building block for the Black Achiever's Program – and

having Judge Mathis here just emphasizes what we tell our youth every day. You can be successful. It is possible."

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Lima YMCA Black Achiever's Award Banquet will begin at 6 pm on Saturday, June 9. The event is scheduled to be held at Lima Senior High School. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults, \$10 for students. Tables of 8 are \$175.00.

For more information regarding the banquet, volunteerism, or programming, contact Emmanuel Curtis at 419-221-2715.

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# Owens Community College Expands Access to Educational Opportunities in Lucas County

Owens Community College is expanding access to higher education opportunities within Northwest Ohio through the creation of new on-site academic and support services at The Source, Lucas County's One-Stop Employment Center. The new on-site educational services at The Source will provide convenient access to higher education, including opportunities for citizens to connect education and training to employment.

"Owens Community College is committed to pro-

viding students with access to enriched learning opportunities," said Christa Adams, Ph.D., president of Owens Community College. "The Source mirrors Owens Community College's educational mission of serving and strengthening the surrounding communities through quality academic programs and services. This new initiative is an investment in meeting the education and training needs of northwest Ohio's citizens and preparing them for career opportunities within today's competitive workforce."

Owens' new on-site academic offerings will be sup-

ported in multiple classrooms and computer laboratories at The Source. Situated in downtown Toledo, The Source, Lucas County's One-Stop Employment Center, is located at 1301 Monroe St. The education and training service center was created with the overall mission of providing quality-driven workforce services that assist individuals in developing and enhancing a multitude of work skill sets to meet the current and future needs of local businesses, while embracing local economic growth and individual prosperity.

"Lucas County is excited to partner with Owens Com-

munity College to bring more educational opportunities to downtown Toledo at The Source," said Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak.

"One part of our mission at The Source is to ready employees with marketable skills and educational opportunities. By locating Owens Community College at The Source, job seekers will have the additional resources they need to succeed," said Commissioner Pete Gerken.

"Our downtown is undergoing a true revitalization right now and the announcement that Owens will be locating classes and services at The Source will bring even more people downtown and showcase our progress," said Commissioner Ben Konop.

The Source is committed to quality-driven services, meeting business needs, meeting job seeker needs, reaching out to diverse population groups, offering accessibility of facilities and programs, collaboration of community resources, economic development, innovative leadership, and lifelong and continuous learning, among many other community outreach services. The organization also offers an array of resources and ser-

# Ohio Association of Community

(Continued from Page 7)

development of academic programs and services, which meet the needs of current and future Ohio students.

Since April 2000, Moore has served as a Board of Trustee member for Owens Community College, and has held the position of Vice Chairman for the past two years. He currently serves as a consultant and motivational speaker. Previously, Moore spent 30 years in banking, retiring as the corporate vice president of the former Toledo Trust Corporation. His background also includes serving as the vice president of university development at Bowling Green State University.

Active in the community, Moore holds board-level membership with the Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Boys and Girls Club of Toledo, Urban League of Northwest Ohio and the American Red Cross. The Holland resident has also authored a book on surviving stress titled "A Positive Attitude is a Muscle: A Managed Stress Survivor's Manual."

vices to aid a prospective job seeker in their search or with retaining their current job, highlighted by career assessment services, career exploration services and career exploration workshops, as well as knowledge related to resume and cover letter writing. In addition to offering higher education on its Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses, Owens recently expanded its educational opportunities by partnering with Toledo Public Schools and offering its first-ever courses at the new Rogers High School in Toledo this

past Spring Semester. The College also has within the past year collaborated with the Putnam County Educational Service Center and made available its first-ever academic courses in Putnam County in October 2006. The College also has longstanding off-campus educational partnerships with Arcadia High School in Arcadia, Liberty Benton High School in Findlay, Riverdale High School in Mt. Blanchard, Springfield High School in Holland and Swanton High School in Swanton.

## Too Young?

(Continued from Page 10)

Music, fashion, T.V. shows, electronics – we all share the same space in those areas and many more.

But it's still a delicate balance for us to relate to one another.

If you're 28, you may not be able to get parental on someone who is 18.

But you might have to tell them, "ayo, I've been there and done that – and it wasn't even that long ago."

Just so we can stop making the same dumb mistakes over and over again.

Before you know it, you'll have some 14-year old girl complaining about how it feels to be getting so old so soon.

I think the moral of the story is, it's a blessing to do it – so do it gracefully.

Growing old is one thing, growing up is something to be proud of.

peace :  
glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Be on the lookout for U.G.E. at Vamps in June, Aye Deeat Jacksons in July, Scott High's 1996 late as hell reunion and the U.G.E. official mixtape "In The Beginning..." and an upcoming interview with music industry executives.

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**Assistant Clinical Manager**

**Youth Homebased services** Seeking a currently competent professional who oversees all clinical and administrative aspects of the SED Community Support Program. Candidates must have a master's degree in a mental health field from an accredited college or university and be licensed to practice in Ohio (PCC, LISW). Familiarity with and desire to work with the SED population is required; clinical and management experience is preferred. Duties include managing, coordinating, evaluating and supervising operations for assigned clinical staff, providing personnel management functions, and assisting in innovation, development and implementation of programs and services. Must be able to use computer and software to manage and monitor program and to communicate with staff. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 5/23/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (ACM-22), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234 or fax to 419-724-9425 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org. **EOE.**

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### Program Analyst

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, a progressive outpatient mental health agency, is seeking a competent professional to assist the Vice President of Quality Improvement. Bachelor's degree in mental health or business related field with an emphasis on data analysis required. Experience in accreditation and certification processes helpful. Knowledge and ability to lead and evaluate Continuous Quality Improvement processes highly preferred. Duties include implementing and evaluating the agency Utilization Management activities and investigating patient complaints and grievances.

Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 5/23/07, to

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Attn: Human Resources (PA),  
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### Facilities Director

Seeking a competent individual to work part-time providing oversight to outside contractors on projects and soliciting and securing bids on facility improvement and repair projects. Minimum of 5 years prior experience involving building, construction, or renovation work required. Experience must include formulation of contractor bid requirements and selection and oversight of contracts awarded. Experience in supervising building maintenance, HVAC and other building systems strongly preferred. Duties include coordinating the tasks of contractual maintenance and janitorial vendors, overseeing the maintenance of all HVAC plumbing and electrical systems of Harbor facilities, identifying and prioritizing needed facility improvements and preparing bid specifications for contractors for identified projects. Retired individuals encouraged to apply.

Send resume with cover letter and salary expectations by 5/23/07 to  
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### Life Skills Trainer

Seeking a competent mental health provider who delivers professional care in the community setting to adults and their families who are experiencing a severe and persistent mental illness. Requires Bachelor's degree in mental health related field plus experience working with adults who are severely and persistently mentally ill. Requires license to practice as a social worker or counselor (Ohio LSW, PC or Counselor Trainee). Duties include developing and updating an Individualized Service Plan for each client, ensuring quality and completeness of clinical records and helping the client achieve and maintain their highest level of functioning by striving for successful community living. Send resume with cover letter and salary expectations by 5/23/07 to

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### Vocational Specialist

Seeking a competent mental health professional to provide psychosocial and vocational assessments, and coordinate linkage between clients and employers. Requires Bachelor's degree in mental health related field plus 1 year vocational rehabilitation experience; or Associate's degree with 3 years vocational rehab experience; or 5 years experience providing vocational rehab services to BVR, ODJFS funding sources. Preference given to licensed candidate (Ohio LSW or PC). Duties include assessing client readiness for employment, identifying client interests/skills, and evaluating worksite/employee job match. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. **Send resume with cover letter and salary expectations by 5/23/07 to Career Connections, Attn: Human Resources (VS), 4334 Secor Rd., Toledo, OH 43623-4234, or fax to 419-479-3230, or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.**

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### ATTENTION ALL VENDORS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual African American Festival will be held at Nelson Grace Park on Friday, July 13, Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15.

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### Legal Notice

The Toledo Public Schools' Board of Education is seeking community input regarding an initiative to name/rename two new schools that are scheduled to open for the 2007-08 school year.

The first proposal deals with naming the new middle school being built at 430 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43602. The Board is considering naming the school Samuel M. Jones Middle School in honor of Mr. Samuel M. Jones, former Toledo mayor and businessman.

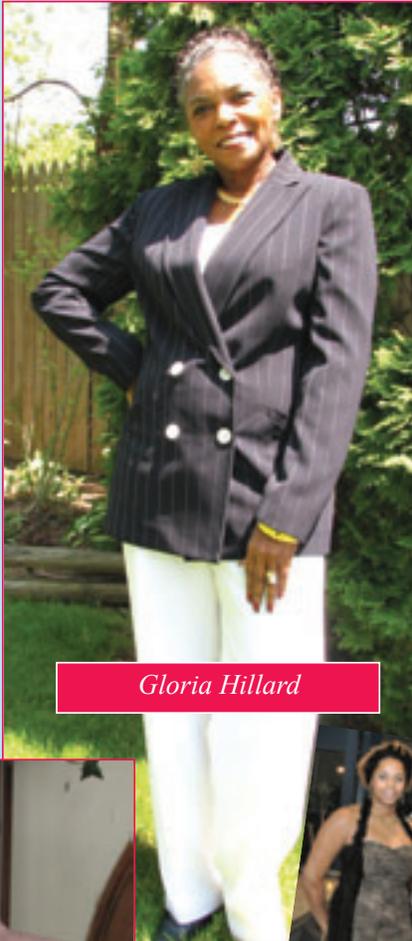
The second proposal involves naming the new elementary school that is being built on the site of the current Cherry Elementary School, 730 Spring Street, Toledo, Ohio, 43608. The Board is considering naming the new school Rosa Parks Elementary School in honor of civil rights leader Mrs. Rosa Parks.

The Board of Education will accept public input one these issues through Friday, May 25, 2007. Comments can be sent to the Board of Education Office, Naming New Schools, Thurgood Marshall Building, 420 E. Manhattan, Toledo, Ohio, 43608 or via email to [namingschools@tps.org](mailto:namingschools@tps.org). A recommendation regarding the naming of the two aforementioned schools is expected to be brought forward at the May 29, 2007 regular Board of Education meeting.

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