

Gary Daugherty

Former Manager Environmental Services,
City of Toledo

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“Everyone wants to know what it is really all about. There are so many rumors. But the premise of the case is simple. Three individuals – myself; Perlean Griffin, and Dwayne Moorehead – are included in an investigation of civil rights violations. All three were penalized.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

The Parental Responsibility Act has reared its ugly head again ... and again we are obligated to speak out against such a law.

Here's a brief summary of the history of this ordinance. The Act was first proposed in the winter of 2006 by then-Police Chief Jack Smith. About a year later, after Toledo police officer Detective Keith Dressel was shot and killed in the line of duty by 15-year-old Robert Jobe in the early morning hours this past February, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner revisited the ordinance with assurances that it was not a knee-jerk reaction to the killing.

Now that some time has passed and any semblance of a knee-jerk reaction can be dismissed, members of the mayor's cabinet are once again raising the specter of a parental responsibility act – in a slightly altered form and are trying to drum up support for such a notion in the Toledo community.

The way the ordinance works is that parents or guardians will be notified if the police feel that their child is not acting right. Then if the behavior continues, the parents can be charged with an offense.

We didn't like the idea originally and we still don't.

We think that this act is directed at entirely the wrong people, those who have accepted their responsibilities in the first place rather than those who have abdicated theirs.

Moreover, with all the laws we have on the books – such as curfews – it's hard to understand what this act provides in terms of trying to control the behavior of youths that all these other ordinances miss ... except, of course, the ability to place the blame on parents and guardians for the behavior of their offspring.

On the face of it, that's a tempting notion. The disintegration of the traditional American family unit, particularly the African-American family unit, may be the number one cultural and social problem facing our society.

Recently, presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) has ramped up his message about the family in the black community and has especially taken African-American males to task for their failure to play a part in the raising of that family.

Obama has made that message an integral part of his campaign in his numerous visits to South Carolina with its large proportion of black voters.

Since 1960, Obama notes, the number of children without fathers in their lives has risen from six million to 24 million.

As a result, Obama introduced, with Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN), the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act in which he proposes to remove government penalties on married couples, to support fathers who are already doing the right thing, to crack down on men evading their responsibilities, to provide fathers with an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, to increase child support enforcement and to strengthen domestic violence prevention services.

The message from Obama is that the chief problem with the American family is not with those who remain to raise and support their children – single mothers, grandparents and other relatives – but with those who fail to do so.

The message with the local Parental Responsibility Act is that those held accountable for the errant behavior of their children will be those who are directly involved in their children's lives. We are picking the wrong targets here in the Glass City.

Of course, as we have written before, that's not the only reason we are against this ordinance. We also have a problem with the idea that parents can be cited for their kids' behavior rather than strictly for illegal activity. As we noted earlier, we already have enough ordinances on the books that both restrict illegal activity and limit the opportunities kids have to engage in such behavior.

What we need to do is take a lesson from the Obama approach and determine how we can strengthen the family unit rather than placing more obstacles to the maintenance of such a unit. This local proposal is just that – one of those government obstacles that Obama and Bayh are trying to remove.

* * * * *

This past weekend was everything one could have hoped it would be. A great Juneteenth celebration at the Toledo Museum of Art, a wonderful Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival, a Jazz Loop on Friday that demonstrated there can be life after five in downtown Toledo, a Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club Tribute to Fathers' Style Show, among other activities.

Hope everyone got out to an event or two.

For full coverage of the weekend activities, start on page 7.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*June 18-July 20

Majestic Praise Ministries: Free lunch to children ages 2-18; Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 1 pm: 419-535-3017

*June 18-August 4

Summer Reading Pals: Sanger and Oregon branches; Free seven-week summer program for youth who need reading practice: 419-259-5276

*June 20

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

June 20-23

Golden Rule Lodge and Grace Temple: Elks Ohio State Association; Clarion Westgate each night at 7 pm; Memorial Service – Wednesday; Beauty and Talent contest – Thursday; Oratorical contest – Friday; Parade – Saturday at Indiana Avenue Baptist at 11

June 21

Majestic Praise Ministries: Free seminar – "Living a Debt Free Life;" Kevin Mason, CPA, from Columbus; 6pm: 419-535-3017

*June 23

Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: "No Cross – No Crown;" 12:30 pm; Stephenson-Roberts Hall at Indiana Avenue MBC; Speaker Pastor Peggy Moore: 419-241-7332 or 419-241-3330

Positive Force Christian School of Dance: "Redeemed;" 6 pm; Owens Community College; Sheila Gibson, artistic director: 419-944-0219

*June 28

United Way of Greater Toledo's African-American Initiative: Childhood Obesity Community Forum; In collaboration with UT, Action for Healthy Kids, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; 8:30 am to 3:30 pm; Lunch and afternoon snack provided; Prospective grantees, partners, collaborators, local government and medical community in attendance: 419-254-4670 or 419-248-2424

*June 30

Yard Sale: Mildred H. Gibson Center at the Zion Lutheran Church; 10 am to 6 pm; For a rental space or donations call 419-514-7355

*July 1

Free Retreat: "Nobody's Victim;" African-American women who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse; 1 to 8 pm: 419-936-8989

*July 6

Amazon Lodge No. 4: Fish Fry; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

*July 7-8

Phillips Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church: 90th Anniversary weekend celebration; Choir rehearsals on June 19, 26 and July 3 from 7 to 9 pm: 419-242-7906 or 419-654-1570

*July 13

Barking Lot Party to Benefit Toledo Area Humane Society: The Town Center at Levis Commons; 7 pm: 614-794-2008

*July 13-15

Annual African American Festival: Nelson Grace Park: 419-255-8876

*July 20

Harry Potter's Midnight Magic Party: Main Library; 10 pm: 419-259-5231
Amazon Lodge No. 4: Fish Fry; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political
Columnist



Jack Ford

Perlean Griffin and the Black Vote Goodbye.”

The fourth show will highlight the “exciting dining on the bridge that opens.”

So last week’s Eliot Ness impersonation clearly sets up – “The mayor cracks down on bare butts in the barn.”

Speaking of bare butts, has anyone noticed the uncanny resemblance of Carty Finkbeiner to Hugh Hefner? Check photos of both of them on the Internet.

By the way, I am ticked off at The Blade for not giving us more information about the bust in the barn. Were those two people in their 20’s? 30’s? 60’s? How did the mayor know they were in the barn? Were they body painting? Were they a model and an artist undraped for inspiration? Did the mayor pause for any length of time before ordering them to dress?

As a matter of fact, I am thinking twice about this recall thing. Who among us has not crept down in the middle of the night, with no lights on and in our skivvies, to sneak that ham sandwich out of the refrigerator in order to wolf it down without the little lady waking up to take us to task.

Now I’m going to be looking out my back door window to see if the mayor and his staff are on my back porch waiting to turn on the flashlight as soon as my refrigerator door swings open.

And who among us might have an old traffic ticket or two? Speaking of which, has the Fourth Amendment been suspended by the mayor’s office or is this Carty’s interpretation of the “plain view” exception to the Fourth Amendment’s requirement for a search warrant? Is it really illegal to be naked in Toledo?

On a more serious note, we have read several articles about Frankie Coleman, wife of native son Michael Coleman who is mayor of Columbus. Frankie Coleman is a recovering alcoholic and has been questioned about some financial dealings regarding pay she took from the State of Ohio for a job on which she allegedly did not put in her full complement of time.

This is not an apology for the difficulties Frankie has found herself in at this time but merely an attempt to provide some additional information.

Some years ago, Hans Selye wrote a book, or a series of books such as *The Stress of Life* and *Stress Without Distress* arguing that most healthy people can only handle two major stresses in life at any given point. A major stress is something life threatening or the loss of a close one or the loss of a job.

Frankie Coleman has been bombarded with big stress hits. First, she has the stress of being in the public eye as the wife of a high-profile big city mayor. Second, and third,

she has had not one but two homes burn down in the past few years. Fourth, her beloved son was a member of a U.S. Marine Corps’ Lima unit, the most decimated group from Ohio in Iraq. Something like 90 percent of the young people in the Lima Company have been casualties in the past couple of years.

Can you imagine the fear of a parent hoping and praying that every knock on the door is not the military coming to announce that your son has been killed? So by my count, Frankie Coleman,

a breast cancer survivor, has dealt with at least four major stress factors in the past few years.

I wish her well. She has an outstanding 35 year history in giving to the Columbus area, in helping those in need through her work with the YWCA, United Way and work force development.

She has also won many awards for her great service over the years. Now you know the rest of the story.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

I think I have figured out what is going on at City Hall.

It seems clear to me that Hizzoner has secretly signed a contract to do a new sitcom that will be loosely designed around his terms as mayor.

This is the only explanation I can come up with after his most recent romp where he “arrested” two citizens for being naked in a barn.

What really went on there? I can envision the first episodes of “The Mayor.”

The first show should be “How I Made It Onto Trivial Pursuit by Way of the Airport.” The second show will be titled “Why I Love King Kong.”

The third – “How I Kissed

To Whom Much Is Given ...

By Jan K. M. Scotland
Guest Columnist

The resume of Jack Ford continues with his appointment to the unexpired term of Deborah Barnett on the Toledo Board of Education. One of the most successful politicians in the history of the City of Toledo, Ford continues to show his ability to garner support.

I have known Jack since I first came to Toledo in 1981. He and I have not always seen eye to eye but I have always marveled at his ability to get elected as well as his ability to maneuver in the often tricky political waters. Jack was elected to Toledo City Council in 1988 and proceeded to gain political strength until he successfully got himself elected as President of City Council. He moved ahead of more senior members of council at that time. During this time he showed his ability to gain support from both parties for issues that he wanted passed.

He is as smart as any candidate who has run for office in the last 50 years and his law degree seems to put him on par with leaders in the unions, administrators and corporate board rooms.

When he decided to run for State Representative of District 49 (against me by the way), he was able to muster his support from both sides of the isles to win a decisive victory. Once in the state house he again showed his unique ability to maneuver on both sides, even in a Republican-run State House with a Republican governor. He was able to gain respect and support that resulted in his peers voting him in as minority whip. Once again ahead of more senior lawmakers.

Then Ford took the big plunge at what I thought was the wrong time – he ran for and was elected mayor of the City of Toledo. I was one of the people who felt that Ford’s

talents were better used in the consensus building leadership roles he had on council and the state legislature.

I did not think that taking over the City of Toledo at a time when the economic environment was heading south would work. Ford’s greatest strengths were not as useful for the type of management needed in a city that was showing signs of a major decline. In the four years that ensued Ford’s image as a political miracle worker was significantly damaged. He was not re-elected for a second term.

The appointment of Ford as the replacement for Barnett could prove to be heaven sent for his unique talents. Ford knows how to gain consensus and, once again, there is no one on the board or in the administration or the union who rivals his smarts or political know how.

No doubt the board members welcomed his application because they know that he immediately becomes the most influential member on the board. This not only means that he can help quell the in-fighting on the board but maybe he can restore some of the public confidence. The levies waiting on the horizon are also the type of project that is right up Ford’s alley.

This is a critical time for the Toledo school board. This is a critical time for our children who depend on public schools for an education. This is a time where the board can either take back control of the system or continue to cower in the face of the union.

I am sure Ford knows this and has thought of his role. He can try to scrape through a levy without much change to the product that is currently failing our students or he can work for our children and create much needed balance.

The board and administration must run the school system while allowing the union to protect the teachers. What’s good for the students must be at the forefront of our public school system not the protection of systems that are failing.

We have to stop focusing on how to trap students into failing education and make public schools the system where parents want to send their children for their education. Battles against charter schools and vouchers should include a strategy that builds confidence in public schools not a shell game of elusions that say “our system is just fine; it’s those failing students who are the problem.”

Ford is the first board member we have had in a long time whose political power does not depend on the union. He has the ability to rally all Toledoans behind a renaissance of public education. He has the chance to regain what ever luster his image lost during his stint as Toledo mayor. He has the chance to add to his very impressive resume as one Toledo’s greatest politicians.

So we must sit and watch which direction ford will choose. If it is in support of the children, we must all get behind him and the board and help turn things around. If he falls in step with the unions and a bickering board, an enormous opportunity is lost.

In Luke 12:48 it says “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask more.”

There are many who are investing their hopes in the system on Ford’s abilities to lead. Of him much is required. Of him they will ask more.

Contact Jan Scotland at jan@thetruthtoledo.com

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It's time for a Quiet Conversation.™

Dorr Street Coalition Hopes to Bring a Perfect Smile to the Historic Corridor

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Everyone in the African-American community is aware of what Dorr Street used to be – the commercial hub of activity for the central city during the corridor's hey day of the 1940's through the 1960's.

Even those who were not

“What makes this group totally different is that we are going to the community for their input,” says Suzette Cowell, president/CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union located on Dorr and organizer of the African American Festival. Cowell,

in order to ensure that everyone who wants to help stays fully engaged in the process. A continuing series of forums will follow structured along the lines of those separate interests.

And it's not just area residents who Cowell and company are hoping to attract to this process. Once the broad strokes of a plan are clear, they are hoping to obtain funding for the comprehensive blue print from public officials such as the Lucas County Board of Commissioners.

“They told us that they were willing to take the lead, but they were not willing to force their vision on the community,” says Bishop, a statement that Commissioner Ben Konop did not take issue with.

“We are devoting a lot of time and energy to meeting with the Dorr Street Coalition and examining their vision,” says Konop. “We would be willing to invest, but we are at the preliminary stages. We are trying to get private partners in line to help complete a comprehensive study of the Dorr Street corridor to see what is viable.”

The task of coordinating this group's efforts with others who have an interest in



Darren McCormick

around for the glory days of Dorr Street have heard the stories – the numerous black-owned businesses, the all encompassing shopping and entertainment environment.

Riots and urban renewal – sometimes dubbed urban “removal” – changed all that. Dorr Street is but a shadow of its former self in spite of numerous attempts over the years to get something started on the corridor. How long has the community been talking about a potential revitalization of the street?

“Twenty-seven years,” said Charles Welch, owner of The Juice radio station and a local Church's Chicken franchise.

Welch is a member of the Dorr Street Coalition, Inc., a group of area residents who are poised to take the proverbial bull by the horns and eliminate what board member Rev. Raymond Bishop, the pastor of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church on the corner of Hoag and Dorr, calls the “snaggle-tooth effect” brought on by disparate and unrelated renovation efforts.

“Why can't we have a strategic, comprehensive plan?” asks Bishop.

Why not indeed?

Bishop envisions developing a plan that “connects and ties us to developments on both ends of Dorr Street – the Sports Arena downtown and The University of Toledo.”

So what makes this effort different from all the ones that people have banded about in the preceding 27 years?

the driving force behind the Dorr Street Coalition, knows a bit about getting things done in spite of whatever failures have preceded her. Both the credit union and the annual festival are results of her perseverance.

“What others were missing,” says Cowell of this latest effort to rehab the corridor, “is community involvement.”



Charles Welch

On June 27, at 6:30 p.m., the community will have an opportunity to get involved with, and be part of, the Dorr Street Coalition during an initial town hall meeting at Mt. Pilgrim.

“We want to introduce, define and describe to others what we are doing,” says Bishop. “These sessions will develop a plan.”

The organizers are hoping to align community participants into five separate areas of interest – commercial development, health care, educational, residential and entertainment, for example –

“They want to do something about the deterioration,” says Brown of the Dorr Street coalition. “They want to put together a strategic plan for that part of the street and they have the drive to do it”

So who do the organizers hope to welcome to this June 27 meeting?

Anyone and everyone who is interested, they reply. They want to place all views and ideas on the table in the spirit of inclusion. It's the first important step, stresses Bishop, in eliminating the snaggle-tooth effect and bringing a “perfect smile” to the corridor.



Suzette Cowell



Pastor Raymond Bishop

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Gary L. Daugherty: Engineering Solutions by Pollution Prevention

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Gary Daugherty's well-publicized firing by Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner from his post as the city's manager of Environmental Services, and his subsequent filing of a lawsuit, have unfortunately overshadowed Daugherty's significant achievements and accomplishments as an innovator in the field of pollution prevention.

Daugherty was terminated after only 15 months on the job after Carty perceived him as being lazy. Daugherty bristles at the accusation. "I had 14 projects on the books. I had been involved in the issues regarding the former dry cleaners in Westgate at the Costco site. I worked on brownfield redevelopment. And I drove around on my own time on weekends looking for buildings to add to Carty's Dirty Dozen.

"Everyone wants to know what it is really all about. There

are so many rumors. But the premise of the case is simple. Three individuals – myself; Perlean Griffin, director of the office of Affirmative Action; and Dwayne Moorehead, co-executive director of the Toledo Youth Commission, are included in an investigation of civil rights violations. All three were penalized; they were discouraged from pursuing the investigation. People were discouraged from filing discrimination complaints. Dwayne Moorehead was told not to talk to Perlean or to me. I didn't even work in the same building. My office was in the Quilter Center, across from the Erie Street Market," explains Daugherty.

Daugherty's inglorious departure from his city job was in marked contrast to his 2005 retirement from lawn product manufacturer The Scotts Company in Marysville, Ohio. At Scotts, Daugherty directed 104 em-

ployees on three continents – North America, Australia and Europe – for the firm's Global Environment Management Program encompassing air, water, brownfields, hazardous waste, community noise standards, pollution prevention, and loss prevention.

Daugherty's leadership at the Scotts Company did not go unrecognized. He was honored by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as being the main force that transformed the Scotts Company's Environmental Management Program from being almost non-existent to a program that was rated as outstanding in the United States.

In 1996, Daugherty was recognized by then-Ohio Gov. George Voinovich as being one of three people in the state who succeeded in practicing classical pollution prevention. His accomplishments were highlighted in the

governor's second inaugural address. Daugherty's mantra was simple: don't control pollution, don't create it in the first place.

Daugherty recalls that "In 1987 when interviewed for the position at Scotts, they had one plant located in Marysville and were a \$138 million company. When I left in 2005, it had become a nearly \$2 billion company.

"There were five people on my staff when I started with only that one plant. When I left, there were still only five people, but I had a full stable of consultants from 21 different firms. During those years, my department's budget had risen from \$200,000 to one million dollars," says Daugherty.

Daugherty, a secretary and three managers ran the program.

"After I was there for a year, I told them their environmental program was lacking," recalls Daugherty with a chuckle.

Scotts was founded in 1868 as a seed planting company by an officer home from the Civil War. The company supplied nitrogen from fertilizer for army munitions during World War I. In 1921, Scotts introduced Turf Builder lawn fertilizer. The company also produces Miracle-Gro.

Daugherty was recognized as a global expert and leader in environmental management as well as in the allied fields of economic decision modeling, sustainable development, management of transparent environmental health and safety programs. He helped executives and staff from numerous blue chip Fortune 500 companies such as General Motors, Ford, Sun Oil, DuPont, Shell, Monsanto, Hewlett Packard and British Petroleum to implement these programs at their companies.

He also obtained the first certification in the world to the International Standards Organization 14001 program for the manufacture of lawn and garden products by a multi-billion dollar organization.

Professional breakthroughs were nothing new for Daugherty. Beginning in 1973, Daugherty was employed by Owens Corning for 15 years working in environmental engineering and environmental management. During that time, he was credited with four significant in-



ventions. One completely eliminated toxic air pollution from chemical operations, and another reduced visual emissions' air pollution by 99 percent.

"All of them were examples of how pollution could be reduced through process change," says Daugherty. Although trained as a civil engineer, he had a chemical background, and put it to good use.

Daugherty grew up in Toledo and graduated from Scott High School. He recalls that "I was often bombarded with discouraging comments from people I knew and strangers. I was told when I was a senior in high school that my determination to graduate from college was ridiculous. These people also told me that I didn't have the intelligence or the skills to graduate from college, let alone obtain a degree in engineering.

"My parents, Earnest and Velma Jordan, gave me rock solid values and a great work ethic. When I was four years old, my mother said 'you are going to college.' It was important to her because she had always wanted to go to college. I started saving my money in a cigar box when I was five years old and eventually opened up a savings account at the old Lucas County State Bank so I would have the money to go to college. By time I was 18, I had \$125 in there. It was a good thing I already had other ways to finance my college education," says Daugherty.

After three years at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Daugherty

transferred to The University of Toledo where he earned both his bachelors degree in civil engineering and his master's degree in industrial engineering.

What does Daugherty, who is 59, see as his next career move? "I'd like to spend three or four years teaching at universities and sharing my experiences and the knowledge I've learned," he replies.

Daugherty coached football at Scott for 17 years, while also coaching at Glenwood Elementary and Old West End. He had also coached while he lived in Lindenwood, New Jersey. He and his family also lived in Columbus before returning to Toledo.

"When I was coaching football, one of the players who knew I wasn't a teacher at the school asked me what I did for a living. I told him that I was an engineer with Owens Corning. The football player replied, 'I didn't know black people were allowed to do that.' Years later, I learned that he graduated from college with a degree in mechanical engineering and told others that his exposure to me was the key factor in choosing his course of study in college," says Daugherty.

Daugherty has credits a mentor for his success. "In the 1950's, Crystal Ellis was the athletic director of the Indiana Avenue YMCA, He founded the Junior Leaders Club in 1960 and picked 12 young men for the startup group. Nine out of the 12 went on to become successful mentors and role-models. I was among those nine," proudly recalls Daugherty.



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Spring Blessings '07: The Annual Women Blessing Women Luncheon and Fashion Show

By Ashlee Austin
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Last Sunday was a special day for Women Blessing Women, a Toledo-based group of volunteers dedicated to serving and empowering less fortunate women in the area. The group held their annual Spring Blessings program, featuring a catered lunch, a fabulous spring fashion show, a raffle drawing, live testimonials and a special guest speaker. The June 9th program was held from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Franciscan Center gymnasium of Lourdes College.

Chris Palmerton, director of Women Blessing Women, opened the event and shared a video documentary with the guests that displayed testimonials from several volunteers and participants from the program.

Women Blessing Women Board Member Sr. Gretchen Faerber welcomed the guests and led them into the Prayer for Ministry of Women Blessing Women before they were dismissed for the lunch buffet.

A delightful three-course lunch, entirely donated by Outback Steakhouse, was served before the main event began.

Five Women Blessing Women participants were finally given their chance to shine, modeling various pieces that were provided by Fashion Bug. The show featured a few different scenes which demonstrated appropriate attire for various occasions. The ladies modeled

casual attire for a schooldays scene, business wear for interviewing and career days and dressy apparel for a classy night out on the town.

The guests applauded and nodded their heads in ap-

praisal as they watched the women strut their stuff. "They all did such a wonderful job," said a guest as the last model exited the runway.



Following the fashion show segment of the program, a Women Blessing Women participant took the platform to deliver a heart-warming testimonial and express her gratitude for the group's continued support and prayers.

Toledo's own Kristian Brown of WTGV-ABCTV 13, delivered her own testimony about her personal struggles and unpredicted success, giving every young woman in the room hope for a bright

future and faith that God is real. She was the perfect candidate to speak at the event because she is living proof that "your beginning does not dictate your end," as said by Brown. Brown also ex-

pressed her appreciation for Women Blessing Women, saying that it is definitely a blessing to Toledo. After Brown concluded her speech, Sr. Gretchen Faerber returned to the podium to announce the 50/50 drawing and raffle winners. Janette Robertson, Women Blessing Women board member, wrapped up the afternoon – thanking the fashion show committee and the guests for their support.

All proceeds were respectfully donated to the Women Blessing Women Empowerment Program. Women Blessing Women is a non-profit

organization for women 18 and over living in poverty. They are dedicated to helping women of Toledo break the cycle of poverty and establish better lives for themselves and their families.

and lift themselves out of poverty by obtaining living-wage employment.

Also, as indicated by printed material, in 2006, 286 Women Blessing Women volunteers provided 11,077 hours of service to 452 women in various capacities as tutors, job coaches, spiritual leaders, empowerment workshop facilitators, financial and administrative consultants.

The Women Blessing Women organization is always looking for passionate women to join them in serving other women. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Women Blessing Women family through donations, volunteering, or even participating in the empowerment program yourself, please don't hesitate to call (419) 241-9789 or visit the organization's website at www.womenblessingwomen.org to inquire about more information.

Contact
Ashlee Austin at
ashlee@thetruthtoledo.com



Obama Supporters Start Toledo Grass Roots Effort

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"We all had a sense that there's something going on with our country and he seems like the best choice to do something about it," said an audience member last Thursday evening at a local gathering of Barack Obama supporters and fundraisers.

The event, organized by local attorneys, Keith Mitchell and Keith Wilkowski, drew several dozen participants for a grass roots effort to raise \$20,000 for the Obama campaign.

Mitchell and Wilkowski have started the local Obama organization fully aware of the fact that Ohio, in spite of the state's great importance in the general election, may have a good deal less impact in the nomination process. Iowa will have the first critical caucus on January 14, 2008 and New Hampshire will host the first primary on January 22. At the moment, 21 states are scheduled to hold primaries and caucuses on Tsumani Tuesday – February 5. Ohio's primary is presently scheduled for March 4.

For that reason, there is not yet an established Obama organization in the state of Ohio – an absence that Mitchell and Wilkowski are eager to correct. During the first 10 days of their fundraising efforts, the duo raised \$7,000 towards their goal of \$20,000, a sum that appears to be easily achievable. And, of course, most of that money will be sent out of state in order to assist in the early stages of the Obama campaign.

For more information, the group can be contacted at toledoansforobama@gmail.com.



Keith Wilkowski, Paul Hubbard and Keith Mitchell

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A Splendid Weekend in Toledo

A Splendid Weekend A Splendid Weekend* A

Jazz Loop Sends Jazz Lovers for a Loop Prior to the Art Tatum Festival

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Art Tatum Jazz Heritage Festival was June 16th and 17th at International Park in downtown Toledo.

An hour before the pre-festival event, JazzLoop2007, was to start, Friday, June 15, the only music heard at Manhattan's was the clink of cocktail glasses, the continuous buzz of dozens of dinner conversations, occasional bursts of laughter and cars passing by on Adams Street.

It was a typical Friday night at the popular downtown dinner club. Dinner guests came and went. Bar stools, empty for the most part at seven, filled up by 8:00. Most dinner guests had reservations, but still had to wait for their tables before dining and dashing off to take in a movie or perhaps "Guys and Dolls," playing down the street at The Valentine. The place was packed!

But unless they were true jazz lovers, most of the patrons didn't realize this was no typical night, this eve of Toledo's premier annual jazz

event. Many left Manhattan's sated but missing out on one of the best opportunities they'll have all summer to enjoy downtown Toledo's many nightspots.

For only \$10 in advance and \$15 the night of the event, those lucky enough to be "in the loop" this year got to go to their choice of nine venues and listen to nine or more different artists. A wristband got "loopers" into all of the venues via UT buses that shuttled jazz lovers from club to club.

Participating locations and artists this year included: Pub St. George - John Arnold & Jeremy Ellis, and SoulSystem, 1701 Adams, above Manos Greek Restaurant; Wesley's Bar & Grill - "Big Blues Bob" Michaels, 1201 Adams; Collingwood Arts Center - Cynthia Kaay Bennett, 2413 Collingwood Blvd.; Mickey Finn's - Nomo/The Boston Afrobeat Society, 602 Lagrange St.; Oliver House - Rumbata, 27 Broadway St.; Diva - Kelly

Broadway, 329 N. Huron St.; Jackson's Lounge & Grill - Jesse Coleman, 233 N. Huron St.; Murphy's Place - The Murphys, Summit & Jefferson; Manhattan's - Damen Cook Quartet, Adams & 16th Streets.

Some folks having heard about the Damen Cook Quartet's stellar performance at last year's jazz festival, opted to skip the bus ride and hunker down at Manhattan's to hear and see jazz royalty.



Trombone Shorty (second from right) joins band at Diva's

"A tribute to recently deceased Toledo jazz great Leon Cook by his son, Damen Cook & Friends was bittersweet, mourning the loss of one of the city's premier jazz guitarists while at the same time celebrating the next generation of jazz musicians as his son, drummer, Damen Cook performed in his father's memory" (Sojourner's Truth, 6/21/06). Cook continues the jazz tradition started by his father and the legions of fans who showed up to hear him at Manhattan's prove that he is definitely following in his father's footsteps while carving out his own niche in the music world.

Some folk did leave Manhattan's, eager to make "the loop" and hear it all. About 8:30, a small group gathered outside to catch one of those UT buses that had whipped by several times, only stopping once or twice to drop folks off, but never picking anyone up until this trip.

The next stop was Pub St. George. A couple of dozen folks were standing outside waiting to be picked up - still energized by the music of John Arnold and Jeremy Ellis with SoulSystem.

Arnold has a fresh almost hip-hop sound that brought some youthful flavor to the loop. No wonder folks were still dancing! Think modern urban funk - another reason to dance! You can feel in Ellis'

music his influences and nuances of emotion not often found in electronic music.

Leaving Pub St. George, a few folk were anxious to go to the Oliver House and hear Rumbata. One gentleman debated stopping at the Collingwood Arts Center in the Old West End to hear Cynthia Kaay Bennett, until he found out they don't have a restaurant. "I want to eat!" he said, deciding to hold out for the Oliver House.

Six people exited the bus at the Collingwood Arts Center and four people boarded, obviously swooning from the sweet, sweet melodic voice of one of jazz's up and coming vocalists - Cynthia Kay Bennett. L

Listening to her voice with its crystal clear clarity and light, airy melodic tones takes you back to bygone days when torch singers could be found in most night clubs, making folks cry in their beer. Hearing her sing "Wish I Knew" is worth the price of her CD with that title.

The bus left the Old West End and headed back downtown, passing Manhattan's, which was jammin' by 9:00. The bus emptied out at Wesley's, while some folks who'd left Manhattan's 45 minutes earlier got back on the bus, complaining that the music was too loud.

Big Blues Bob could be heard out in the streets belting out the blues, sounding

rather "down home" and guttural in the night air, like the blues is supposed to sound. Maybe those folks just didn't like blues - some jazz lovers don't, not realizing both originated from the same slave spiritual music, America's only original art form.

The bus nearly emptied out again at Diva where Toledo favorite and oh-so-smooth crooner Kelly Broadway performed with a band that was playing at two locations on the loop. We caught Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews jamming with Broadway's band.

Nomo, along with The Boston Afrobeat Society, made up the venue at the ever popular Mickey Finn's. Proclaiming themselves as "Boston's answer to the global Afrobeat movement," BAS has a sound somewhere between reggae and salsa, with a lot of African rhythm thrown in for good measure.

Together with Nomo, they make up a complete blend of music from three continents: North and South America and Africa.

The few folks left on the bus got off down the street at Jackson's Lounge. However, nobody got on when the bus emptied because it's hard to leave when Jesse Coleman is playing his saxophone. Beads of sweat splashed off Coleman's face, giving him

(Continued on Page 10)

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Food for Thought:

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-Tony Brown

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Pat Hogue, Jettie Sansbury, and Dr. Cecelia Peters



Juneteenth Celebration at The Toledo Museum of Art

More photos and full story beginning on page 11

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3rd Annual African-American Festival "Celebrating our History" July 12-16, 2007

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union will celebrate its eleventh year of existence in the community, and we would like to express our gratitude to the community for being supportive over the years. The 3rd Annual Festival will commence with a Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, and activities will include local vendors, a parade, live entertainment and a gospel celebration that will close out the Festival on Sunday. The four

days of celebration is as follows:

Thursday, July 12

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Prayer Breakfast
Southern Missionary Baptist Church

Friday, July 13

5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – Festival Begins @ Nelson Grace Park
Rides, Games & Amusements, Jazz,
Jessie Coleman & Affinity

Saturday, July 14

8:00 a.m. – Line up for parade
Huntington Bank Sponsoring the Parade
Mecca Temple # 43

10:00 a.m. – Parade Begins @ Smith Park (Dorr Street)

Ending @ Nelson Grace Park

12:00 noon – 10:00 p.m. Festival

Jazz

Sunday, July 15

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Festival City Wide Praise
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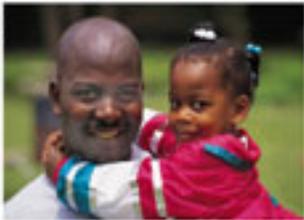
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Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club Holds Annual "Tribute to Father's Day Style Show"

See Full Story on Page 13



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Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept. 635 N. Erie St. 419-213-4131 9:00 - 4:00	BGSU - Bowling Green Bowen-Thompson Student Union 4th floor 10:00 - 3:00 1-419-372-9355

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Roberta Flack at Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival in International Park

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Picturesque would be one way to describe the scene.

I don't care what event it is, anything that happens at International Park always highlights our city's attributes in a way no one can ignore.

Yeah, yeah – I know.
YOU HATE TOLEDO.

You, whoever you are that's reading this... you absolutely hate it here. I get it.

However, there is no better time to gain new perspective on our city than the weekend of the annual Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival.

Freak floods and elected officials' attempts to kill our city's spirit are just a few of things worth complaining about when it comes to Toledo.

But if you take time to complain... at least shut up long enough to balance that out.

At least get out and do something.

Of course Toledo is boring if you are on your couch

every night talking about being bored. But that's YOU, not Toledo.

Nestled between two landmark bridges, on the banks of the beautiful Maumee River (which didn't stink this weekend), International Park filled with the sounds of jazz (from local to international) makes it impossible to be depressed about Toledo.

I heard Saturday night's performance with Boney James was the biggest crowd ever recorded at the Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival but when I was there Sunday the crowd was there, but not exactly record numbers.

Jon Hendricks never disappoints.

Onstage he is always impeccably dressed and smiling as he runs through standards with his trio. Afterwards, people clamor to shake his hand and greet him.

The people's love for Jon Hendricks is always on par

with how they feel about the headlining act.

I didn't stay all day like I usually do.

It was Father's Day so I took time out to go and chill with my pops but when I got back the crowd was starting to grow as Roberta Flack's stage time drew near.

One thing I noticed this year is that there way far more of us

20-somethings there this time than any other year I've attended.

Well, I even ran into a few young 30-somethings who are very vital to our city's art

culture and they were there representing for our generation as well.

The beauty of jazz is that it truly spans all reaches of time.

Hip-hop makes us feel old at 30 and in this day and age 30 isn't old at all.

But jazz keeps people feeling young at 60.

Whether you're a hardcore fan who knows all the songs and their origins or if you're just a casual enthusiast, jazz is so vivid and so universal that it can't help but put you in a different space.

So no one was really bothered when it was time for Roberta to take the stage even though the show ran about 20 minutes behind schedule.

Now, once Roberta Flack got on stage—there was thunderous applause.

It felt great to have an international music icon here at home.

However, I have to admit that her first few songs left a bit more to be desired.

The band was on point but the vocals were... umm... iffy.

It wasn't until her third song, her classic "Will You Love Me Tomorrow?" that things really took off. It was such a soft and melodic rendition and perfect for the summer night atmosphere.

Then Roberta Flack started to really make it a show by adding the frankness and humor to her show that seems so commonplace in jazz music.

Under those bright stage lights she confessed that the mosquito's and bugs were not only eating her alive but also literally flying into her mouth whenever she would open up to belt out a note. Well, that explains some of the iffy vocals. – LOL.

At one point she had a stagehand come out and wipe down her piano with OFF – and even asked that the lights be turned down lower.

It must've helped because "Feel Like Making Love" really got the audience on its feet.

I was proud that so much of her music is relative to my dad's generation and my own.

For those of us who grew up on neo-soul like Erykah and all of them, you'll probably remember D'Angelo's second album featuring a remake of that Roberta Flack classic.

It was a true high point of the entire show.

Then at the perfect time, the opening riffs of "Killing Me Softly" filled the air and the high point of the night just went into orbit.

Lovers held each other, people rocked back and forth and even though there were a couple of sour notes in this song as well, everyone just enjoyed the music.

It was a beautiful scene. Tony Terry, whom I had been standing next to earlier

that day and had no idea who it was, accompanied Flack on stage for the duration of her show but he broke into his own hit "When I'm With You" and he tore it up.

A completely amazing vocalist, his voice seems limitless – like it's gotten better with time. The two of them, Flack and Terry, as a duet were pretty amazing.

Then she debuted one of the artist's signed to her new indie label who is also one of her band members. He had a ton of family in from Cleveland so he got his shine by performing one of his own songs called "I Appreciate You."

I liked it, but much of the crowd used that time to mingle and get food.

Once back into the swing of things, Terry and Flack jumped into "Where Is The Love?"

and it was mesmerizing. That's one of those songs that will still be amazing 50 years from now. The crowd loved it.

"Jammin To The Break Of Dawn", and "Back Together Again" (and the drummer truly got open on that one) were no doubt the highest points of the evening as the energy in the crowd swelled to what you would expect a jazz festival to be.

Now, for most of the show I had the best seats I had ever had.

Usually when the Sunday evening headliner is performing, I'm usually in the gazebo at International Park. This time, I had a bright idea.

Chrysler is one of the biggest sponsors of this event.

There's a lineup of Chrysler/Jeep vehicles sitting right here in perfect view of the stage.

Why not take a seat?

And that's what I did. I watched the majority of Roberta Flack's show surrounded by the immaculate comfort of a Chrysler Aspen.

A couple of attendees from Chrysler's corporate office sat with me for a minute and didn't mind that I was using their show vehicle as a lawn chair.

But I left my seat and went down front just a few feet away from the stage during the height of the show.

One thing I noticed in addition to there being more young people there this year, is that we weren't exactly welcome.

Everywhere I stood someone was yelling at me, not politely, asking me to move to one side if I happen to be blocking their view. And

then when I would move to the side, I would see the same thing happen when someone else my age would unknowingly obstruct someone's view. But it's all good.

Down at the stage front, there was a party going on and I was loving it.

The night wound down with Roberta Flack showcasing some of her new material, which I must admit is far superior to most new material released by former R&B greats who continue to make music after the limelight has moved on.

She had this one song called "It's Okay To Say No" – it was brilliant.

I suggest you find it online or where to get her album or whatever, because

that song was a masterpiece. A modern day classic.

Low points of the evening, however.

Her voice wasn't up to par throughout and the show was wonderful, but not as much of an out and out wild time like the last two year's Sunday night headliners.

But hey, no one can blame you for setting the bar high.

On a personal note, I was really – really looking forward to

"The Closer I Get To You" and it never came.

She had her boy Tony Terry right there, and it never came. And my editor was really upset by the omission of "Reverend Lee."

Hmm... maybe when U.G.E. finds another female singer – we might do some remakes.

Anyway, the 2007 Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival at International Park was yet another great success.

Toledo, you heard me last year.

If you want to get out and do something memorable... something that gives you a new perspective on your town, and something that you are guaranteed to enjoy –

The Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival is the premier entertainment event in our city.

Don't be left out. Speaking of being left out: Dear organizers, when can we get some Ramona Collins?

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

COMING EVENTS:
Singer/songwriter and U.G.E. recording artist
Aye Dee

July 6th – First Friday at Jacksons.

Jazz Loop

(Continued from Page 7)

the appearance of standing outside in a rain shower.

But his hard work paid off in the effortless riffs of musical wonder that poured out of his instrument like a deluge of jazz. Real jazz. The kind you listen to if you really love this genre. At times slow and soulful and at times rollicking and rocking, Coleman's music kept folks so enthralled, some forgot about catching the next bus for a while.

A few minutes after the bus arrived, a couple of folks walked down from Diva because Kelly Broadway's music had lulled them into such a state of relaxation, they were afraid they'd drift away and miss the other stops. Half an hour later, they stood outside with a crowd that managed to tear themselves away from Coleman and his band and continue their journey.

The bus picked up its biggest load so far on its way to the Oliver House, the next stop on "the loop." About three dozen people got on the nearly empty bus, several wanting to hear a group featured in this year's jazz festival.

The inclusion of Rumbata in this year's Art Tatum Jazz Festival continues a tradition of musical diversity in the annual festival. It was standing room only on the bus on the way to the Oliver House and only a few jazz devotees

continued the trip to Summit and Jefferson where Toledo's number one jazz club, Murphy's Place is located.

Rally by the River raged on down by the Maumee and was like coming home after a long journey.

The Murphy's – bassist Clifford Murphy, pianist Claude Black and their drummer Sean Dobbins – were in full swing, accompanying chanteuse Linda MacFarland, whose fans screamed and howled as she lit up the stage and the night with her sharp, crisp vocals and easy, jazzy style.

Also appearing in this year's Jazz Festival, The Murphy's were billed as "Toledo's Jazzy Treasure" and the pirates that sailed in on their ship "the loop" got their share of a bountiful booty of jazz and blues classics performed in the inimitable style of true jazz greats.

During an intermission just before 10:00 p.m., the opening act for the Art Tatum Jazz Festival, students from the Ohio Music Association Honors Jazz Ensemble, took the stage. For a minute, everyone was transported back to Jackson's and déjà vu of Coleman on that sax when a young trumpet player stirred the crowd to a fever pitch. That trumpet should have burst into flames, it was so hot!

Then, a young bassist wearing shades brought us back home, mimicking elder statesman Clifford with younger, nimbler fingers that have plenty of room to grow and learn the intricacies of the strings that only experienced hands like the elder statesman's can truly master.

The party was on when the young quintet, proving they really are "the district's best student musicians," led the audience through the "hidey-hidey-ho's" of a Cab Calloway classic. The party continued for two more hours, giving those lucky enough to be in "the loop" a true taste of Toledo's club scene and all that jazz.

Jazz. The music loved from New Orleans to Parish. Amsterdam to Havana.

Although the roots of jazz are humble and unassuming, its correlation to other forms of music, including classical, is unmistakable. No other music has as many connections with all of the other forms and with us as does jazz.

Next year, make sure you "loop the loop" and enjoy one of the area's best summer treats, live in downtown Toledo. It's a great preview of the Art Tatum Jazz Festival and a good excuse to party!

The Toledo Museum of Art's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration

By Alexis Randles
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



(L-R) Elisa Hatfield, Joan Wetzel, and Sherya Hall

This past Saturday while the sun was blazing, the Toledo Museum of Art's (TMA) Committee for Cultural Diversity urged all Toledoans to post-pone their agendas and trade in their bottles of water for a little bit of ice cold lemonade, barbeque and blues at the Third Annual Juneteenth Celebration.

The festival, which has a history that can be traced back for more than 140 years, has rather quickly become a

as slaves" within the rebellious states are, and henceforward shall be free."

However, the passing of the proclamation was not the difficult part; the obstacle was spreading the word of the good news from town to town, which, as you might have already guessed, was done by foot or horseback because back then there was no CNN, text messaging or email.

As a result of troops and slaveholders' efforts to de-



Sherya, Leah Brash, Elisa Hatfield, John Wetzel

highly anticipated community cultural event.

Juneteenth, originally being an event celebrated in only a few cities across the nation, pays homage to Abraham Lincoln's controversial Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation, which went into effect on January 1, 1863 as the nation approached its third year of the bloody Civil War, announced that from this day forth "that all persons held

lay the message, it took two and a half years for the word to reach the slaves of Galveston, Texas.

On June 19, 1865, exactly 250,000 slaves who had been denied the tools of literacy and the rights as full citizens were finally informed of the abolishment of slavery. Hence on this day they declared it Juneteenth: a day of celebration from their former slave owners.

Much as African-Ameri-

can slaves in 1865 celebrated, the day was filled with a similar nostalgic feeling of excitement, pride and collectiveness this past Saturday.

"It is about integrating art, culture and history," said Crystal Coleman, director of Human Resources for TMA. "More than anything we want to enhance our history and this has proved to be an exceptional way to do both by combining the museum and the community."

Coleman whose major role consisted of strategic planning for the Juneteenth celebration worked with over 200 volunteers, staff and sub committees to make this event a success and free to the public.

"Next year we plan to make the celebration three times as big," said Coleman. "We are looking for more sponsors and African-American entrepreneurs because we know that they are the heart of the community."

The day's activities were kicked off with an opening ceremony held on the main terrace stage of the Museum. Following was a praise dance performed by the Kay Cook Praise Dancers.

The schedule of activities proved to be a great balance for all age groups. Throughout the day there were a variety of activities such as arts and crafts stations, glass-blowing demonstrations, live entertainment and a bake-off.

Inside the museum volunteers offered art exhibitions and documentaries that highlighted African-Americans contributions to history.

Events this year were extended to the lawn of the newly-constructed Glass Pavilion which proved to be a great way to attract uninformed motorists.

A crowd favorite this year appeared to be the returning bake-off contest. Third year bake-off committee volunteers Laneta Goings and Norma King expressed their

excitement about the success of the bake-off over the past few years and how they enjoy being apart of it each year.

"I believe that this is a great community event and I look forward to it each year," said Goings. Contestants were able to enter the contest by responding to the advertisements placed in local newspapers.

Twenty people entered this year's contest, which were divided in to the three categories of pound cakes, peach cobbler and pies. Nine contestants entered in the pound cake category, eight entered in the pie and three entered in the cobbler category. All contestants were judged on a scale from 1-5 on taste and appearance.

Tanya Seldon won first prize for best peach cobbler, following Marcia Staunton for best Sweet Potato Pie and, lastly, Dexter Barringer for best pound cake. All first place winners were awarded a Calphalon bake ware set.

"There was this one pound cake that looked like grandma made it! And I had to ask for a second helping," joked Derrick E. Roberts, director of the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir about his judging duties.

Another exciting attraction was the musical presentation titled "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot: A Gospel Music Journey."

Rev. Robert Jones and Sis. Bernice Jones performed a unique interpretation of gospel music's progress over the years by weaving song and narrative. Rev. Jones shared stories of how music has consistently sustained African-Americans during slavery and as well as today.

"Spirituals are a part of African American tradition; each one has a unique and powerful message," said Sis. Bernice.

Rev. Jones continued by explaining that even in slavery the moan was important, because while working if you could not say how you felt, you could hum it and moan it to a melody everyone could join in.

"Ancestors used spirituals to get work done because their only expectation was getting freedom one day," said Jones. He continued by explaining that it is important to keep spirituals and congregational songs alive because they are a form of telling our history.

Rev. Jones and his wife are from Detroit, Michigan and the Sweet Kingdom Missionary Baptist church. As a group they have been performing together for four years but Rev. Jones by himself has been playing the blues for over 23 years.

Rev. Jones broadcasts weekly on 101.9 FM on his radio program Deep River, which was formally titled,

(Continued on Page 14)



Jarrah Smith and Jaden Jefferson (4yrs old) making a felt quilt.

Owens Community College to Host Mitchell-Jackson Youth Basketball Camp, July 9-12

Special to The Truth

Area youth will have the opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of basketball and life lessons as basketball stars Todd Mitchell and Jim Jackson host their annual basketball camp at Owens Community College, Monday-Thursday, July 9-12. This marks the first year that the annual basketball camp is being held at Owens Community College.

The four-day youth basketball camp runs from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the College's Student Health and Activities Center on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township.

"Owens Community College appreciates the opportunity to play an active role in supporting a longstanding community outreach program dedicated to enriching the lives of area youth through education and the sport of basketball," said Edward Willis, Owens Special Assistant for Community Outreach and Engagement. "Todd Mitchell and Jim Jackson are both leaders on and off the basketball court and Owens is proud to collaborate on such a worthwhile initiative effecting area youth throughout Northwest Ohio."

Camp instructors for the four-day event will include college and professional basketball standouts Mitchell and Jackson, as well as area high school coaches and current and former collegiate basketball players. Boys and girls entering grades 5-12 will receive instruction on various basketball skills, highlighted by ball handling, passing, shooting, defense and rebounding.

Additionally, participants will learn about teamwork, eating healthy and making the right decisions in life. Attendees will also be evaluated on their skill level and compete in games and a variety of contests.

Sponsored by Owens Community College, ProMedica Health System Sports Care and Marco's Pizza, the camp registration fee is \$75 per participant and space is limited. Lunch is provided each day and each attendee will receive a basketball camp jersey. For more information, call (419) 720-5252.

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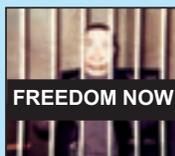
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Confessions of a Hope Pusher: The Life and Times of Eric Wright

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to The Truth

The Middle Passage – whether we envision our ancestors' painful descent into the hull of the slave ship or we create our own bindings and restraints through a process of bad decision making, we can emerge damaged, destined to wander through life in despair and detriment, or as strong testimony to a proud race of royalty. At some point in the journey, a decision must be made: a life of purpose or meaningless anguish.

In 1995, Eric Wright was already a very young man who found himself married, the father of two children, and in such turmoil he was self-medicating with drugs and alcohol.

On the road to self-destruction he sought out help at a local hospital that turned him away because the drug treatment unit was already filled to capacity. He refused to leave knowing this was his moment of truth; this was his time for change.

The hospital called in a doctor who saw the determination in the face of a man at the crossroads. He, too explained all the rooms were taken, but there was one room not really set up for patients – no TV, no amenities – but he could stay there and begin treatment. Wright explained his side: he hadn't come there to watch TV.

The journey began. After his release, Wright and a group of friends from Lima headed to Dayton because

they had heard Panasonic was hiring. Following the initial stages of the hiring process, his friends were ready to return home to wait for the news – Eric decided to stay.

He would make his way in Dayton and it was there he made his promise to God – a life for a life. If he could be given the chance to make enough of a living to take care of his children for the next five years – he would do whatever God wanted him to do.

Of the group of men from Lima who applied for positions at Panasonic – he was the only one hired. The security of his children promised, he began looking for a church, and was led to Omega CDC. He was offered the Rites of Passage Program. The training took place at the Afrocentric Personal Development Company under the direction of Dr. M. Kelsey.

During the intensive two-week training there was an exercise in trust. Participants were roughly awakened, bound, shackled with cloth bags over their heads and led through a wooded area – a reenactment of the taking of Africans to America for a life as slaves.

As they were rushed through the woods, they could hear the sound of confusion and mounting fear of the others, water, boats – they were taken to a marketplace and sold to the highest bid-

der after being prodded like cattle, and evaluated by strangers.

The mind tried to grasp the meaning. The experience had a profound affect. Wright immediately understood this was the service God has entrusted in him – to mentor African-American males to maturity using the Rites of Passage Program.

Since that time, Wright has mentored over 500 young men, and to his knowledge, only two have fathered children out of wedlock, and less than a dozen have become caught up in the judicial system.

"Every day I would check on the young men in my program. Every day. I went to their school every morning, made sure they were there, they had what they needed to stay on track – if something had happened the night before – I would explain to them – that was a moment. Don't let that moment define the rest of your day. You decide how today will be for you," says Wright. He advocates believing in yourself; believe you can succeed.

His dedication to his students did not go unnoticed. The principal at one of the largest community schools in Dayton commented how nice it would be for Wright to be there every day. All day. She insisted he needed to be there – so he is now the Truancy Officer, Intervention Specialist and eighth grade basketball coach for

Dayton View Academy.

He tells the story of a young man very gifted in basketball who very much enjoyed being on the team. During the summer, the young man was approached by the coach of a public school as were his team mates.

school where the nurturing could continue – the mentorship, and support, finally after seeing the failing grades, the truancy problems – she agreed.

Eric then had to convince the school to let him return. "I asked them, if we're not about nurturing these stu-

pionship ring as a freshman.

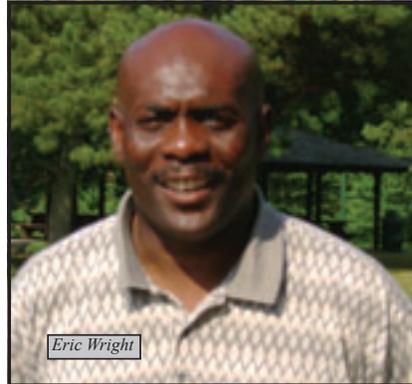
Wright believes his blessings are directly a result of doing the business God has entrusted to him. He achieves success with youth because that's what he's supposed to be doing! That and raising the level of awareness about the importance of the family.

He and his wife Donita have begun a partnership working as marriage education facilitators with adults under the heading "Marriage Works!" – 90 minute classes through a grant with Elizabeth New Life – a marriage builders program centered around Dr. John Van Epps "How to Avoid Marrying A Jerk or Jerkette." They are facilitating a group of 20 couples who are dedicated to making their marriages strong.

He smiles because he sees how far he's come – "You can have everything – but if you don't give back, what is it all for?"

If you can measure a man by the size of his giving – Eric Wright is a giant among men.

Contact
Vickie Shurelds at
vickie@thetruthledo.com



Eric Wright

One by one the team began to fall apart. Some of the young men got into academic problems and lost their eligibility, some lost the desire for school altogether because the support system was not there – Wright approached the mother explaining the need to return him to his

dents, accepting responsibility for them, and supporting them when they fall – what are we about?" The student was re-enrolled, mentorship re-established, and after completing his eighth-grade year, Darion Brandon went on to high school at Dayton Dunbar and received a cham-

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Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club Holds Annual "Tribute to Father's Day Style Show"

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Although many organizations recognize and pay tribute to mothers' for the active roles they play in raising their children, many of their male counterparts are often ignored, or looked to for financial support only.

Every year, just prior to Fathers' Day, the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club, seeks to right this wrong by paying tribute to local fathers during their annual "Tribute to Father's Day Style Show." This year's tribute was held on Saturday, June 16.

Several men from the local community took to the

Civic Center Promenade stage to model at the annual event including: Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop; Toledo Councilman Michael Ashford; Endorsed Democrat candidate for the Toledo Public School Board, Richard Brown; Fifth Third Bank financial manager, Reggie Temple, UAW Local 14 president Ray Wood and Judge Norman Zimmelman, Lucas County Council of Common Pleas Domestic Relations.

Konop was the first model to grace the stage, wearing a two-piece gray suit with a purple and gray tie. How-

ever, it was Judge Zimmelman who wowed the crowd when he took to the runway in a two-piece silver silk suit, with a matching silver hat. New York Collections provided all of the fashions for the annual event.

Prior to the start of the Style Show, the organization honored three men from the community who, according to Nichole Roberts, chairman of the event, not only exemplify what it is to be a father, but also share the same goals as the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club. "We try to select men who are Democrats," Roberts

said. This year's honorees included Alan Konop, Esq. (Ben's father), Ray Wood and Lindsey Whitehead.

The honorees respective families greeted the men on stage, while a member of the organization recited a brief biography, describing each of the men's loving and committed fathers.

As the evening progressed, several speakers struck a more serious note when they reminded attendees how important it is for them to vote in upcoming local, state, and presidential elections. "This year, we

need to sweep [the elections] like we did last year," said Yvonne Harper, president of Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club.

"In 2008, we're going to have a new president," Harper said. "And whoever you are going to support, vote!" Harper concluded.

The Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club was founded in 1942, and named after Perry Burroughs, the first black precinct chairman in the city of Toledo.

"He and his wife, and a few other ladies got together and decided to have a Demo-

cratic club for the minority," Harper said. "And we still have his daughter in [the club] who is very active."

According to Harper, the money generated from the event will be used to support all endorsed Democratic candidates for public office in the city of Toledo.

Alexis Means, award-winning journalist with 13ABC Action News Team served as the commentator for the style show and Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown, a member of Perry Burroughs was the mistress of ceremony.

St. Paul Vacation Bible Study Students Donate to Kitchen for the Poor

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"You have a challenge ahead of you," said James Willis at the end of St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church's week long Vacation Bible School on Friday, June 15 to a sanctuary full of students.



They met part of that challenge last week as they saved up \$300 in order to give that amount in donation to the Kitchen for the Poor.

"You have to always be sensitive and give back," said the grateful recipient of the donation, Juanita Savage Person, director of the Kitchen for the Poor. "When I got up in the morning, I had no idea I would be standing up here thanking you guys for this \$300.

The Kitchen for the Poor is open from Monday through Friday and serves approximately 100 children and 200 adults per day.

Dear Ryan,

I have been working out now for about three years and I want to get more results. I am a 34 year old male and I consistently train three days per week. I do total-body workouts and they last for about two hours. What could I be doing to add some more size?

Too Thin in Toledo

Dear Too Thin,

I think most people put more emphasis on the workout and not enough on nutrition. A good workout along with proper nutrition will harvest new results for your physique. You must first take a look at your eating habits. Are you getting enough protein in your diet? Are you drinking enough water? How many grams of fat and carbs are you consuming? Evaluate your diet and make changes to fit your desired results.

Protein should be at least one gram per pound of lean body tissue. This is the most important macronutrient that your body needs to produce the results that you are seeking. A good food ratio for putting on muscle mass and not gaining fat is 50 percent protein 20 percent carbs and 30 percent fats.

Two hours in the gym is a bit much unless you are doing your aerobic work too. Depending on what you are doing, you may not be giving your muscles enough time to rest between workouts. This will cause you to over train and put a halt on your gains. You should try to break up your workouts and concentrate on the large muscle groups such as: legs, back and chest.

On a three-day week program, I would work legs and shoulders one day, back and biceps another, chest and triceps for the last workout. The days and order you would choose to do them are solely up to you.

Do mass building exercise such as: squats, straight leg deadlifts, bench press, incline press, seated rows and pull-ups. Do a good warm-up set. After you warm-up then pyramid up for four to five sets. On your last two sets you should go heavy for at least five reps. Don't worry about how much weight you can lift. Make sure that the weight you are lifting is heavy but comfortable and manageable for you to lift. Five heavy reps with good strict form are what are important. You can not sacrifice proper form for heavy weights.

Remember quality not quantity along with common sense is what builds good muscle and prevents injury. Change your workouts every four to six weeks so that your muscles don't get used to the same old workout. Shocking the muscle like this will also help it to grow. Stay focused on your goal, eat well, train hard and good luck achieving your dream body.

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For an application, call 410-530-3003.

Juneteenth

(Continued from Page 11)

Blues from the Lowland.

Returning this year also as another crowd favorite was the Ohio 5th United States Colored Troops Infantry (USCT). The Civil War re-enactment group, which has been in attendance at the Juneteenth festival since its inception, has been known to bring an exciting authentic feeling to the celebration.

"I think it is good that the black community still shows that it was a struggle to get the word of their freedom across the states in the 1800s," said Clark Morgan, president of 5th USCT. Morgan and his group have traveled all across the country

for various Civil War re-enactments to demonstrate the lifestyles of African-American civilians and soldiers during the war.

Some of their duties include setting up camp, practicing military drills and in their leisure time attending church services. Their group consists of nearly 30 members.

The Juneteenth Celebration proved to be a success as well a leading event within the community. Toledoans who were unaware before of the history or Juneteenth were able gain information about the rich history of the Emancipation Proclamation

and its effects on African-American slaves. The attendees were able educate themselves and be entertained all at the same time. And of course all of the food vendors and live entertainment made it a rather hard-to-miss event.



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Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 6/27/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (ACM-22), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234 or fax to 419-479-3230 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.
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Legal Notice

The Toledo Public Schools is taking applications from area families for **free school uniforms**. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements for assistance in obtaining uniforms.

Parents/guardians of registered Toledo Public School students in grades K-8 can apply for free uniform vouchers between June 11, 2007 and June 29, 2007. Applicants must present the following items when applying: photo identification, proof of household income for the last 30 days, custody papers; PRC applicants must provide printout indicating current date of approval. SSA/SSI applicants must present child support printout. Applicants who are employed or receiving unemployment benefits must provide check stubs (most recent 2 consecutive stubs if paid bi-weekly or most recent 4 consecutive stubs if paid weekly).

Once applications are processed, approval/denial letters will be mailed to the applicants. By applying for the free uniforms between June 11 and June 29, each student within a family will receive three tops, two bottoms, one sweater and one belt – uniform allocation after June 29 will be greatly reduced. Applications will be accepted at the following locations: Leverette Junior High School from June 11 – 29; Waite SAC Center from June 11-15; Libbey High School from June 18-29. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. For questions, please call the Toledo Public Schools, Chief of Staff's Office at 419-691-8362.

Toledo Public Schools reserves the right to reject any, part of any, or all applications.

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EOE/AA

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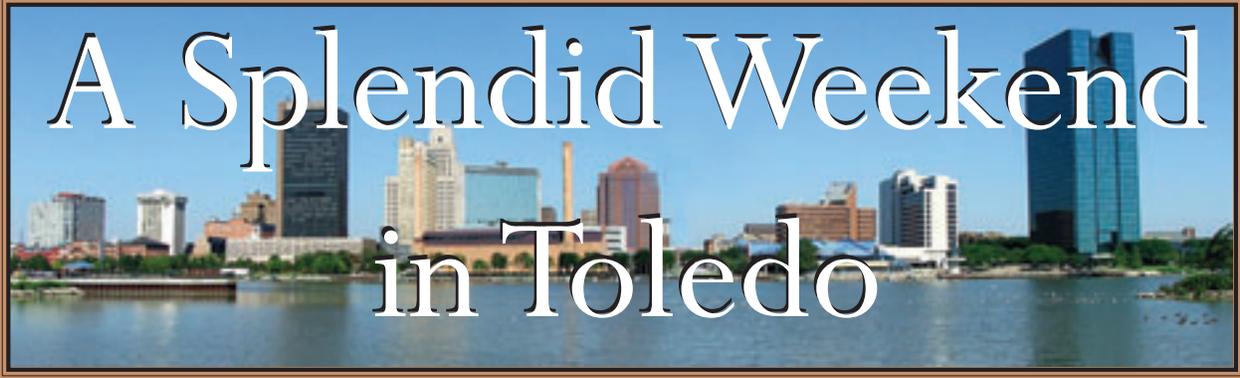
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A Splendid Weekend A Splendid Weekend

Sojourner's Truth and EWP Host Summer Fashion Show at the Peacock Café

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The Sojourner's Truth celebrated its fifth anniversary with a little help from friends on Saturday, June 18 with a gala fashion show produced by Ebony World Productions (EWP) at the Peacock Café on Monroe Street.

Marisha Austin, who oversees the fashion division of EWP, produced and directed a gala event that involved over three dozen models along with a variety of entertainers such as the Bomb Squad Dance Team, Tracy, CJ Mack and Ray Stone.

The show was staged outdoors in a lot adjacent to the Peacock during the evening hours. And an audience of over 400 filled the lounge's outdoor deck and patio to savor clothing designs by local and national artists.

Photos From Other Events Around the Glass City

