



Crystal Coleman

Director of Human Services
Toledo Museum of Art

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“During these five years, the Toledo Museum of Art has restructured many things. As a member of the senior management team, I’m deeply involved in strategic planning and in setting direction for the organization as well as budget planning and Museum reaccreditation.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

On this Thursday the U.S. Supreme Court will probably announce its decision in several cases involving the ability of school districts to assign students to school for the express purpose of manipulating the racial composition of those schools.

It was, of course, legal in most states to do so prior to the landmark 1954 Brown vs. Kansas Board of Education decision that struck down the "separate but equal" legal doctrine. In those times, school districts attempted to separate the races rather than promote diversity, but they ended up using many of the same tactics, such as denying access to certain schools.

In subsequent decisions, exercising the Supreme Court's words of admonition to "proceed with all deliberate speed," lower courts ordered school districts to apply remedies to correct the racial compositions of their schools. Busing proved to be one of the more onerous attempts to comply with the court orders.

Slowly, various school districts abandoned attempts as enthusiasm flagged among those who had originally supported such efforts. Some jurisdictions, however, continued to fight the good fight.

The Seattle and Louisville public school districts have through the years made an effort to maintain desegregated systems and, in the process, have denied students admission to schools they and their parents would have preferred.

That issue seemed settled, particularly when just last year, the Supreme Court declined to hear a case about a desegregation plan in Lynn, Massachusetts that is similar to the Louisville plan. Thence followed the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the naming of Justice Samuel Alito to the highest court in the land.

O'Connor's relatively moderate views were replaced by a conservative and the balance tilted in favor of the current majority with Justices Roberts (the chief justice) Scalia, Thomas (who is still in a state of denial that any aspect of his education or career was as the direct result of affirmative action) and Kennedy joining Alito in the conservative camp.

If there was any doubt about the new tilt of the Supreme Court, it was pretty much dissolved after a trio of decisions on Monday that addressed the First Amendment right of free speech. The Court struck down a previous ruling in a rather shocking departure from its usual rule of *stare decisis* ("to stand by that which is decided") and held that a portion of the McCain-Feingold Campaign finance act that prohibits the use of a candidate's name in television ads financed by corporations and unions is an unconstitutional infringement on the groups' right of free speech – the right to advocate.

The problem in this ruling is that it opened a loophole in the campaign reform arena. The Court has long held that Congress has the power to limit the ability of corporations and unions to influence elections and this ruling did not specifically overturn that concept. This ruling merely allows ads to proceed, as Justice Roberts writes, that do not directly mention an impending election, that speak to a legislative issue and that do not take a position on a candidate's "character, qualifications or fitness for office."

In other words, says the Court, yes, Congress can legislate restrictions on a corporation or union's political involvement, but such entities are now legally able to find ways to circumvent the spirit of that legislation.

Now come the school board rulings. Will they prove to be equally lacking in a common sense approach? Will they flout the rule of *stare decisis*? Will the conservative block on the Court concern itself more with modern-day right-wing sentiment rather than the tradition established by more than 50 years that has held that the separate but equal doctrine is unconstitutional?

We believe that the Louisville/Seattle plans are doomed, but doomed because of the loopholes that the justices will find to take the teeth out of the attempts by the two school districts to adhere to a half-century of rulings. We believe the Court will undermine the ability of the districts to keep their schools racially diverse without addressing the underlying core legal principles that called for the nation to desegregate its school systems in 1954.

This shortsighted approach by the Court to uncover ways to inject or restore conservative values by avoiding or skirting the rulings handed down by previous courts presents some dangerous legal issues and invites chaos.

Why not take on the rulings directly rather than chipping away at the intent of their predecessors? Is separate but equal a legal doctrine that is fated to reappear – all but in name?

Community Calendar

*June 11-August 3

Summer Feeding Program at the Holt Lifeline Center: Youths ages 5-18; Noon to 1 pm; Monday through Friday: 419-727-0820

*June 18-July 13

Artists in the Garden: An exhibit at Parkwood Gallery of 26 local artists; Presented by Metroparks and cosponsored by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo: 419-407-9720

*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 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 29

Youth Service: Speaker: Crusaders for Christ; "Are You Growing in God;" Sis. Asia Williams: 419.376.2331

*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

Sanctuary and Adult Fellowship Choirs of Third Baptist Church: Song Service; "MY Soul Is Athirst for God;" 5:30 pm; Negro spirituals from 1600-1870, Euro-American hymns of Isaac Watts, the Wesleys, Fanny Crosby from 1600-1950, Gospel songs and hymns of Tindley, Dorsey, Campbell from 1870 to 1960, contemporary gospel songs of Crouch, Hawkins Smallwood, Franklin: 419-531-9160

Women of the United Church of God: Second "Eclipse Over Africa;" Benefit for children at the Victory Academy in Mombasa, Africa; Mission project of the Bibles, Books and Shovels, Inc. Project: 419-244-1310 or 419-244-1929

*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

Summer Bazaar and Fish Dinner Sale: Beta Phi Chapter of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc.; 9 am to 4 pm; 2466 N. Detroit Ave; Men's/women's/children's clothing and household items for sale: 419-944-5912

*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

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

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political
Columnist



Jack Ford

The Wes Boykin affair might very well open a can of worms. Boykin is the African-American trucker and excavator who found out that he won the successful minority bid on a Lucas County project only by reading about it in the paper. In addition, someone allegedly forged Boykin's name onto a previous City of Toledo bidder application and the signature is not even close to Boykin's John Hancock.

What is afoot here? Nothing more than the seamy side of majority-minority contracting deals that often results in *sub rosa* activities in public contracting.

County Commissioners Pete Gerken and Tina Skeldon Wozniak ought to get to the bottom of this mess, pronto. I thought this is what Sylvester Gould and Roosevelt Gant were hired to do for the commissioners – have a smooth affirmative-action process in minority contractor hiring.

You see it is not unknown for a white contractor to pencil in the name of a minority subcontractor for affirmative action purposes and keep the money for himself. Or, sometimes, the white contractor will pay off the minority contractor by giving him a grand or two as hush money.

The net result is that black entrepreneurship does not develop. The rich (whites) get richer and the poor (blacks and Hispanics) get poorer. It happens a lot on trucking contracts and gravel, etc.

Apparently everything has been smoothed over for the moment and Boykin, the government entities and the majority contractor have been brought to the table and worked out a deal but that is not the last time we will hear of such shenanigans.

The smoothing over, frankly, is part of the problem. Whenever a complaint is raised over a phantom subcontractor and it appears that the matter will receive some legal scrutiny, it gets settled rather than revealed for what it really stands for.

The eastside "Coke Plant" is receiving a lot of press. Something is afoot here also.

The humiliation and subsequent firing of Patsy Scott by Mayor Finkbeiner is a big, big mistake.

How did the proposed deal ratchet up from \$300 million to \$800 million in just two years? Now, an alternative energy plant is definitely part of the package.

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner might want to look at the deal I signed with Oregon to split the income 50/50. I think the deal has materially changed in amount and in scope too much and no longer resembles the facts as agreed upon by Major Marge Brown and myself in 2004.

The plant will be on To-

ledo land ... maybe you can get the whole hog, Carty.

His honor, by the way, came down on the right side of the mercury level fight. Carty went against Gov. Ted Strickland on this fact but Carty is right. Relaxing the air emission rules on mercury is wrong.

Look for FirstEnergy to fight Gerken and Finkbeiner's

initiative on the steam-generated power plant. This has the potential, along with the co-generator from the Stickney land fill to cut a large swath into FirstEnergy's northwest Ohio electric customer base. FirstEnergy will fight them tooth and nail all the way down to the ground. Gerken is just being consistent – you remember Toledo Edison? Gerken earned his early political spurs by selling it to FirstEnergy. Same Pete. And, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur likes this

kind of initiative too.

Jan Scotland's long article on this page last week was accurate for the most part. Scotland did not recount that he urged me not to go into legislature in the first place. At the time, he thought I could do more as president of City Council.

As to running for mayor in 2001, having an easy time is not and should not be a prerequisite for running. I ran for mayor in 2001 because I had long experience in managing a non profit (SASI), I had contacts in the legislature which I did call upon and I did not want Ray Kest to become mayor of Toledo. Wouldn't that have been a travesty given the subsequent actions by Kest leading to his downfall?

As for the school board, the simple truth is that we see many entrenched interests on the part of the administrators, the union, the critics and others who all seem to look out for number one first. For real change to happen in the Toledo Public Schools there will need to be a sea change in attitudes on a lot of fronts.

The humiliation and subsequent firing of Patsy Scott by Mayor Finkbeiner is a big, big mistake. She and Councilwoman Betty Shultz have jointly led the city and council out of the dark ages with respect to information services. Patsy Scott was arguably one of the best appointments I made. This firing is inexcusable and jeopardizes millions of IT dollars. Simply inexcusable!

Just because The Blade says it, doesn't make it so. The Blade's call for Gov. Strickland not to consider diversity in the upcoming University of Toledo Board of Trustees' appointment is wrong. Diversity on the new board is paramount.

Of course we need fair representation on this board of trustees. And wasn't it The Blade a few years ago that took Gov. Bob Taft to task because he did not have enough diversity on university boards throughout Ohio? Be consistent!

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

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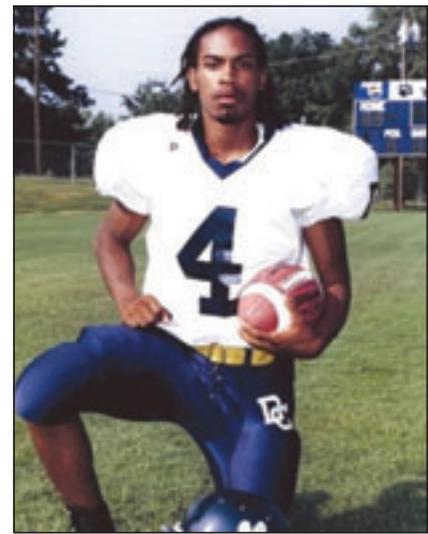
Justice in a Fair and Equal Manner?

At a New Year's Eve party in 2003, a 17 year honor student, and star high school football player named Genarlow Wilson, had consensual oral sex with a 15 year old girl, for which he was sentenced to a mandatory 10 years in prison, and required to register as a sex offender following his release. Under Georgia's antiquated law, if Wilson had had intercourse with the same girl, it would have been a misdemeanor under an "exemption for contact between two minors."

No one from the teen "victim" to the jurors at his trial, wanted the 17 year old to go to prison, but at every turn the Georgia Justice system failed the teenager, convicting him of an archaic Georgia law.

In overturning the 17 year old's conviction, Superior Court Judge, Thomas Wilson, said, "Any court that cannot recognize the injustice of what has taken place here, then that court has lost sight on the goal our judicial system has striven to accomplish: Justice in a fair and equal manner."

Even though the 17 year old has spent two and half years in prison, when Judge Wilson ordered his release, the African-American Attor-



ney General, Thurbert Baker, decided to appeal the judge's decision, and Genarlow remains in prison, despite pleas for an end to this miscarriage of justice from civil and human rights organizations, and thousands of people, including President Jimmy Carter.

What is even more interesting, about the same time that Genarlow Wilson was being sentenced, a white female teacher who was convicted of having intercourse with a student, was given

only 90 days in jail, in the same court.

If there is any case that qualifies as "cruel and unusual" punishment in the constitutional sense of disproportionality, it seems to me that the Genarlow Wilson case is it.

Floyd Rose
President
Valdosta-Lowndes
County chapter
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Business as Usual or Has a Minority Contractor Been Ill-Used?

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Last Friday, at a meeting attended by a local minority-owned contracting trucking firm, a majority-owned contractor from Cleveland and government representatives from both Lucas County and the City of Toledo, a dispute was resolved, after three days of haggling, that had threatened to embroil all of the parties in protracted litigation.

The controversy began on Tuesday morning when a news item appeared in The Blade announcing the impending hiring, by the Lucas County Board of Commissioners, of a Cleveland firm to demolish the Sports Arena on Toledo's east side and seven buildings in downtown Toledo to make way for the new multipurpose arena.

The \$448,700 demolition and abatement contract was awarded to low-bidder B&B Wrecking & Excavating, Inc. in a commissioners' meeting that morning. Included in the B&B proposal was their commitment that 15 percent of the contracted and hourly work would go to minorities. To fulfill at least part of their intent, B&B announced that they would be working with a local minority-owned company, Wes Boykin Trucking Excavating.

At the same time, on the city side of One Government Center, the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC) had just completed a letter, after several days of investigation, recommending the cancellation of a contract with B&B because the company had falsely claimed to have a working relationship with the aforementioned Boykin Trucking.

"It is our belief that B&B Wrecking has misrepresented itself and attempted to mislead the City of Toledo regarding its efforts to secure MBE participation for this project," wrote Calvin Brown, interim commissioner of the AA/CC office, to Adia Boston, commissioner of purchasing.

For his part, Wes Boykin, owner of the minority firm, was completely unaware of B&B's intent to use his company for the county project much as he had been unaware that the majority-owned firm had signed him up for the previously bid city job. Boykin had worked with B&B once back in 2004 but since then, he recalled, the company had placed his firm's name as a subcontractor for their projects on previous occasions without his knowledge.

"The first time I heard about it, I was told it was a misprint," he said. "Then a

couple of weeks ago, the same company had me down for 1515 Bancroft [the city demolition project]. I called B&B about it and they never returned my phone call."

At that point, according to documents released by AA/CC, Brown called Boykin on June 1 to verify that he had submitted a quote to B&B. When he did not reply in the affirmative, Brown asked him to stop by One Government Center "to review the particulars of the proposal submitted by B&B."

Boykin went to the AA/CC office on June 8, reviewed the B&B proposal and filed an affidavit denying that the signature was his on the subcontractor form that B&B had filed with their proposal stating that Boykin was to receive 12.3 percent of the contract.

"To my knowledge, I have not been contacted to be a Sub-Contractor on this contract and I did not authorize any documents pertaining to this contract," wrote Boykin in his affidavit.

Then followed the letter by Brown to the purchasing division recommending that B&B not be awarded the contract for the city project. Hours later he would see the news report on the Sports Arena demolition project and call Boykin to congratulate him. That was the first, said Boykin, he had heard of his inclusion by B&B on the

Boykin is not interested, B&B has a number of minority contractors who will be interested. Our goals are going to be satisfied whether B&B uses Wes or some other contractor."

That goal of reaching 15 percent — by state law a local government entity cannot demand such a commitment — was iterated in a conversation with Commissioner Pete Gerken when he was asked about the controversy swirling around the awarding of the contract.

"We are attempting to get Wes Boykin back to the table to talk but this doesn't change our commitment or goals," said Gerken. "We expect to do everything we can to hit our 15 percent and we are going to do everything we can to hit it."

Boykin went back to the table on Friday as he was represented by his son, Jeff Morrison, at the meeting set up by the county commissioners to avert a complete melt down. According to Gerken, a deal was struck on both contracts. Boykin will be one of the subcontractors on the Sports Arena project and B&B and Boykin have reached an agreement that will give Boykin 45 percent of the 198,000 1515 Bancroft city contract.

That development was lauded by Gerken on Friday as evidence that the commissioners' commitment to en-

"It is our belief that B&B Wrecking has misrepresented itself and attempted to mislead the City of Toledo regarding its efforts to secure MBE participation for this project,"

county project.

Roosevelt Gant, a project manager contracted by Lucas County to oversee the Sports Arena project, tried to schedule a meeting with Boykin on June 20. His attempt proved to be unsuccessful. Gant, however, was unfazed by Boykin's reluctance. He also said when contacted by this newspaper that he saw nothing untoward in B&B's handling of the situation.

"[A general contractor] may not have determined, at the time of bidding, who they would use for subcontractors," said Gant. "In the case of B&B, they did indicate they had worked with [Boykin] in the past and would sit down with him for a determination. At the end of the day, as far as the Arena project, if Wes

ensuring that minority contractors will receive 15 percent of the awarded contracts for the Arena project is on track. That sentiment was echoed by Sylvester Gould, one of the project managers along with Gant.

"That's the kind of scrutiny we have to have in order to reach the goals of the county commissioners," said Gould applauding Friday's agreement.

Not everyone was convinced.

"It's a little weak," said The City of Toledo's Brown of the 11th hour agreement. "I'm very concerned about the integrity of B&B trucking."

B&B Trucking did not return calls to The Truth seeking comment on the matter.

Commissioner Konop Creates "Lucas County Art Assist"

Special to The Truth



At a news conference on Friday, June 22, Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop introduced a new program that will offer county residents low-interest loans to purchase local artwork and allow greater local investments in small businesses.

The announcement occurred at the opening of the *Politiko Artisto* art show in the Lucas County Commissioners' office, featuring several local artists including: Kerry Know, Terry Burton, Angelo "One Sketch" Bullano, Nate Mastermack, Michael McWhorter and Amy Bullano.

Lucas County Art Assist is a public-private partnership between the Commissioners, KeyBank and Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz and is modeled after the Own Art program in Manchester, England. It is believed to be the first public-private program of its kind in the United States.

Lucas County residents who qualify for the loan, administered by KeyBank, can receive a loan at one percent interest starting at \$500 up to a maximum of \$2,500 to assist them in the purchase of a piece of local artwork.

The county has agreed to invest \$250,000 in a one-year certificate of deposit with KeyBank. "There is a cost to taxpayers," said Konop, "But it's a good value and it's economic development that also helps small business."

Konop estimates that the program will generate between 30 to 40 loans during the first phase of the funding.

The Art Assist program was cobbled together with the input of numerous local artists. "This is the way to do it," said Tina Skeldon Wozniak, president of the Lucas County Board of Commissioners. "In the past community leaders have tried [implement] such programs. Here the members of the community have taken the lead."

The KeyBank branches that will be a part of the program are those downtown and at Westgate. Residents interested in applying should contact the Lucas County Commissioners' office at 419-213-2155.

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Crystal Y. Coleman: Helping to Bring Diversity to Toledo's Cultural Icon

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

If you and your family enjoyed the third annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Toledo Museum of Art earlier this month, you can thank Crystal Coleman, human resources director of the Toledo Museum of Art and ex-officio officer of the Museum's Board Committee for Cultural Diversity.

Coleman and the Museum are committed to expanding the horizons of Toledo's cultural jewel through expansion of the Committee. "We would love to continue to diversify," says Coleman. "We need people in the community with different backgrounds and with import and influence to be part of the Committee for Cultural Diversity.

make it happen. I am helping to decide what is the right program relative to our diverse community and which encompasses ethnic, cultural, and religious and age diversity. I want to see us be able to reach youth – and I define youth as 35 on down,"

Museum of Art is a rich community asset. They have used those riches to understand that the community could be involved in here.

"I try to recruit the best people for the job," says Coleman. "My life has



"We will be taking many innovative steps in the very near future. One of these is providing scholarship funds for minority youth. The funding is there. We just need to partner with organizations to

explains Coleman.

Her goal is to apply those same principles to staffing the Museum. "The Committee is redesigning our recruitment efforts. The Toledo

changed and I've grown in the five years I've been here. Since I came to Toledo, I've been able to do more with opportunities than I ever had before.

"I had an early start when I came here in 2002. The Museum had to make cutbacks and there were 15 staff layoffs. I made sure that every one of those employees walked away from here feeling they still had a sense of dignity and pride.

"Within my five years here, my work in human resources has expanded, and I love it. I'm now in charge of volunteer services, human resources and payroll. My department provides internal support services, we are the administrative support team for the entire organization," explains Coleman.

who both live in Detroit. "My father was named Nine because he was the ninth child in his family," she explains.

She lived on the East Side of Detroit and graduated from Cass Technical High School. Her older sister Carrol and younger brother Rico also live in the Motor City.

Coleman earned her Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and her Master's Degree in Science Administration – Human Resources Administration at Central Michigan University in Mt.

tor at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, and five years with the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village managing staffing and training.

She recently renewed her affiliation with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in Detroit.

"I like to work in all areas of community focus," says Coleman. "I am active in opportunities to develop youth as well as supporting the elderly. My activism started in college, which I think explains how I wound up working in the field of human relations.

"While I was at EMU, I was a member of the student staff and I developed programs for the residence hall that eventually expanded beyond just the students. Those from all over the campus attended the programs," recalls Coleman.

"In 2005 I had the opportunity to be a presenter at T.D. Jakes' MegaFest in Atlanta. It was one of the most memorable occasions in my life," says Coleman.

"I always look for an opportunity to give back and enhance somebody else's life. I enjoy it."

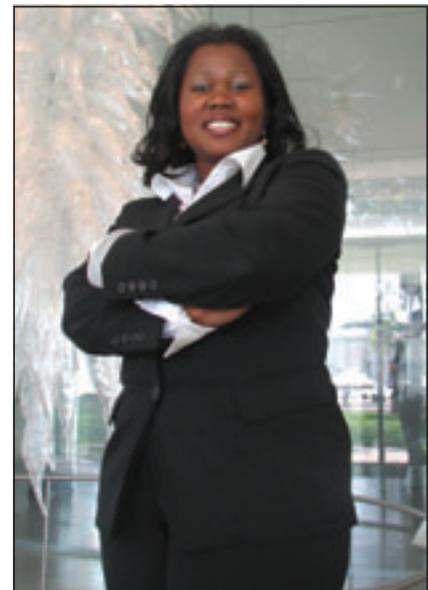
"During these five years, the Museum has restructured many things. As a member of the senior management team, I'm deeply involved in strategic planning and in setting direction for the organization as well as budget planning and Museum reaccréditation.

"I am also the chief negotiator for the union contract with our employees. I use this opportunity to show what can be a positive outcome for the employees and the Museum," adds Coleman,

The Museum is currently in contract negotiations. There are 280 employees of which 100 are contract teachers/instructors. Coleman's responsibilities also include the Museum's 500 volunteers.

Coleman commutes to and from her home in the Detroit suburb of West Bloomfield, where she lives with her son, Kenneth Christian. He turns 15 in July.

Coleman is the daughter of Nine and Daisy Reaser,



Pleasant.

She received her Organization Development (OD) certification from Linkage, Inc. in cooperation with DePaul University.

Before Coleman came to Toledo, she spent four years as Human Resources Direc-

"I always look for an opportunity to give back and enhance somebody else's life. I enjoy it. Since I've been in Toledo, I've become a board member of the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio," she adds.

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Old West End Daycare Center: First Annual Preschool Graduation

By Alexis Randles
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that "Every great institution is the lengthened shadow of a single man and it is his character that determines the character of the organization." However, those in attendance at the Old West End Daycare Center's first annual preschool graduation would have perhaps tweaked Emerson's quote slightly.

To the contrary they would have insisted that it is not merely a single man but a community of parents, teacher and volunteers who have determined the highly respected character of the institution.

This past Saturday, the Center held its first annual preschool graduation at the Nitschke Auditorium on the University of Toledo campus. Eleven preschoolers were awarded a certificate of completion as they prepared for their transition to kindergarten. Patricia A. Dumbuya, executive director of the Old West End Daycare Center,

welcomed the audience and reminded the students of the important role they will play in the future. "The class of 2007 is beginning a journey into the world of higher education and it is fitting that we



2007 Graduating Class

have chosen the campus of the University of Toledo as our graduation venue," said Dumbuya.

"I chose this setting for two main reasons: first, to send a direct message to our parents about the importance of education and, secondly, to send the message that

higher education is accessible to all of us including inner city children," she added. Dumbuya concluded by saying that coming to the University of Toledo, helps us demystify the journey that

our children can not succeed. The center takes a certain amount of pride in falling for the typical academic approach but utilizing one that has been proven successful. Dumbuya, along with her staff, focuses on combining academics and social skills to provide their children with a

well rounded environment.

"My wife makes sure to have ongoing program training for the staff so that they can provide supplemental social activities besides the usual academic programming," said Francis Dumbuya, Ph.D., Patricia's husband and dedicated supporter of the school.

"I believe thus far it has been a phenomenal ride, because whenever you meet the academic and social needs of the child as an early-childhood center you are in essence preparing them for success," added Francis Dumbuya.

Many people would argue that if there is no structure there is little room left for creativity. The center has disproven that notion by providing a stable environment that allows for academic advancement and development of character by combining activities that allows their children to be inquisitive problem-solvers.

Guestspeaker Perlean Griffin

who has worked for the city of Toledo for 29 years, most recently as the director of Affirmative Action/Contract Appliance highlighted some of the center's accomplishments throughout their 11 year tenure.

"I admire the school because they take a four-pronged approach by including all the necessary tools a child needs," said Griffin. "They connect with the child's emotional, educational and spiritual development all while giving them a sense of community pride."

She said that she hopes that all the children will come to understand the importance of education and furthermore that their parents will continue to insist for quality schools and teachers.

Following Griffin's keynote address was the presentation of certificates and their class gift of photos. Two parents were also recognized with roses for their involvement throughout the school year.

"I was referred to the daycare by a relative and every since we have had three kids go through the program," said Desleyna Galloway, one of the recognized parents. "I like it because most daycare centers are by the book but they [Old West End Daycare Center] still let the kids be kids by helping them make the right decisions." added Galloway.

Immediately following the graduation program was a reception that included a balloonist for the kids and cake and ice cream for all attendees.



Essence Simmons receives her diploma

They're Off and Running



City Councilman Joe McNamara and Richard Brown



Harold Mosley with family and supporters



Art Jones, Harold Mosely and Jack Ford



Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English and Brown



City Councilwoman Wilma Brown and Richard Brown

Candidates for the Toledo Board of Education, Harold Mosley and Richard Brown, started their engines and kicked their campaigns into gear over the past week.

Mosley, a detective with Toledo Police Department, held his fundraiser on Friday at the Policemen's Hall on Franklin Street.

Brown, an auditor for the city of Toledo, held his on Monday at Jackson's

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Positive Force Annual Dance Recital Wows Enthusiastic Audience

By Ashlee Austin
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Saturday night was a night to remember for the Positive Force Christian School of Dance as a handful of beautiful young dancers welcomed the gift of dancing and the thrill of experiencing their first dance recital into their lives. Other more experienced dancers continued to serve the Lord through their passion for dance, and one special young lady said farewell to four years of dedication to Positive Force.

Positive Force Christian School of Dance presented their annual dance recital this past Saturday at the Owens Community College Center for Fine Arts at 6 p.m.

The brilliantly arranged production, "Redeemed," was produced, directed and choreographed by Positive Force Owner and Artistic Director Sheila G. Gibson. Gibson's hard work was beautifully portrayed through her students' performances.

The spacious auditorium was packed to capacity with proud parents and supportive friends and family of Positive Force. As soon as the lights dimmed, before the curtain eased its way open, over 500 Positive Force fans and supporters immediately started to applaud and scream at the top of their lungs in anticipation of seeing their favorite dancers and ballerinas reveal what they had been working so hard and long for.

Anticipation finally subsided as the curtains opened the stage to the first act, a performance featuring the entire Positive Force dance team. The opening act, "Sing," was POWERFUL to say the least. In fact, it was so powerful that it was enough to leave the audience content if it had been the only act in the show.

"Wow" was all one audience member could say after the performance.

Then, the most adorable little ballerina princesses stole the show in the second act, "I Love the Lord." As they gracefully glided across the stage in perfectly selected teal and white ball gowns, you could clearly see the joy on their faces and the passion pouring out of their hearts. Overwhelmed with the excitement of experiencing their first dance recital, they looked into the audiences to find familiar faces smiling back at them.

Gibson followed the lovely ballerinas with a fabulous solo act, "Mamas Choice," capturing the audience's undivided attention and showing them that practice really does make perfect.

After four consecutive years with the group, this was an incredibly special recital for Positive Force graduate, Cierra Drake, as she performed in her last show as a Positive Force dancer. Drake plans to attend Bowling Green State University as a nursing major in the fall.

As the show progressed, each act was consistent in impressing the entire audience. The Positive Force "Redeemed" Recital presented dancers of all ages, preschool through high school and offered something for everyone's enjoyment. From classical ballet to hip-hop performances, 23 remarkable acts kept the audience on the edge of their seats, with their eyes glued to the stage for over two hours.

Other acts included "No Weapon," "I Told The Storm To Pass," "You Are The Living Word," "Alabaster Box," and many other powerful spiritual compositions, which all led to a PowerPoint showcasing a collage of miscellaneous photos of Positive Force dancers.

As Master of Ceremony William Dunn brought the show to a close, he respectfully complimented the talented dancers on a job well done.

"Not all of Toledo's children are gang banging and running the streets. Some of our children have a positive force behind them," said Dunn.

Sheila Gibson's Vision Fulfilled Through Positive Force

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

As Sheila Gibson approached Positive Force Christian School of Dance's fifth annual dance program, she reflected on the significance of the show's title - "Redeemed."

"It came to me that it means a fresh new start, a renewal or a restoration," she said. "Both for the dance studio and from a personal standpoint. We've crossed over to a certain extent as far as enrollment. And I think the parents and the board see my vision."

"I've always had the vision for Positive Force to grow and, finally, it's growing to fit that vision."

The numbers certainly don't dispute that analysis. This year's program involved all of Gibson's students - 106 of them - ranging in ages from five to 18 years. In the past, the extravaganza has had a cast of around 60 to 70 dancers.

But that vision that Gibson has nurtured so carefully over the past five years is not limited to numbers. Her artistic vision surfaces in every aspect of her endeavors as a dance instructor and as a choreographer. "I feel that it is the purpose of dance, to give praise to God. I've always tried to walk the Christian walk," she said.

That part of her vision is reflected in the way she choreographs and in the very musical selections of the program. It is all Christian gospel music. "Most of the songs have something to do with the title," she said - "No Weapon" by Fred Hammond and "Only Imagine" by Antoine Stanley, for example.

And while Gibson is the director, producer and principal choreographer of "Redeemed," this year's show features a second choreographer, Gibson's daughter Giselle Hunt. Hunt, an outstanding dancer who studied under her mother for 15 years, teaches hip-hop dance at Positive Force and choreographed that portion of this year's program using music by Tye Tribbett.



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Don't miss this monumental moment!

Circle of Friends Book Club Hosts 8th Annual Meeting

Sojourner's Truth Staff

A nationally-acclaimed author, local published authors, local authors seeking publication, and a roomful of avid readers spent last Saturday at the Toledo Hilton sharing information about how to tell stories and how to get those stories to a reading audience. "Bridging the Gap" was

afternoon sessions, authors Cherlyn Michaels, Lawrence Christopher, Andrea Toadvin-Moore, Keith Lee Johnson, Madeline Hampton and Andre Dex Moore spoke to the audience of their own works and the inspirations which drove their creations. Hampton, a Toledo native and Rogers High School

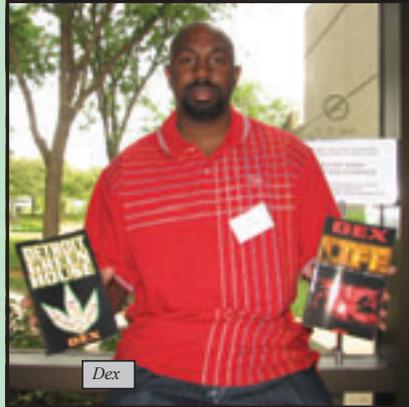


Andrea Toadvin Moore

the theme of the Circle of Friends Book Club's Eighth Annual Book Club Meeting. Victoria Christopher Murray, author of novels such as *Grown Folks Business*, *Joy and Temptation* was the guest and keynote speaker at the event's dinner banquet.

During the morning and

graduate, was one of the youngest authors in attendance. Hampton's first novel, a romance title *Behind Closed Doors*, has been recently released. She has completed work on her second novel, *Skye's The Limit*, also a romance and is busily writing her third - *Mr. and Mrs. Love Jones*.



Dex

Johnson, who has been featured on several occasions in this newspaper, is the author of eight books including *Pretenses*, *Fate and Redemption*, *Sugar and Spice*, *Little Black Girl Lost (1, 2 and 3)* and his latest work *The Honeymoon Is Over*.

During his afternoon talk, Johnson spoke of how he started writing after returning to college. "I was challenged to write a short story at Owens and that turned into a 500-page novel," he recounted.

Johnson spoke to the audience of their obligation in the world of art. "What is really important to me, and to all of these authors, it's important that you support the

writers with your money," he said. "This is a business and if you can't make money for the publishers, they are not going to stick with you."

"If you love an author's work, you need to buy all of his works, we can't do it without you," he said. "Some people say 'shouldn't you write for the love of it?' Well [publishers] aren't paying for the love."

During the question and answer period of Johnson's

session, several audience members marveled at his ability to create female lead characters.

"I do it but I don't know how I do it," he replied. "Honestly I don't think that I do it all that well." Johnson mentioned noted male author Eric Jerome Dickey (*Chasing Destiny*, *Genevieve*) as the author he admires for his portrayal of female characters.

"In the *Honeymoon Is Over*, it's the first time I write in a first person male voice and show the readers what

it's like for him to lose the woman he loves," said Johnson of his latest work that was released last fall. Johnson's *Hell Hath No Fury* will be released this upcoming fall.

Circle of Friends Book club is a national organization with 14 chapters. The organization was founded in 1994, the Toledo chapter began in 2001. Lauren Snyder is president of the Toledo chapter and Monica Johnson-Williams is vice president.



Keith Lee Johnson



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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• Arts Section •

Why The Veterans Glass City Skyway Is Important To YOU!

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Let me guess, you're thinking "what does bridge have to do with me?"

Or even worse, you might be one of the few who might not even know that new bridge across the Maumee River was being built.

I've said it once, and I'll say it for life: Toledo is not the problem, TOLEDOANS are the problem.

It's not too often that you get to see a landmark being erected in your lifetime.

When I was born, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Twin Towers, the Sears Tower and all that stuff were already in existence. Our city just got one hell of a makeover, not complete – but a new symbol of pride nonetheless.

I know, we still have plenty of things that aren't going so well.

The challenge of revitalizing downtown, the challenge of dealing with those pesky suburbs, the challenge of an emotionally-challenged mayor.

Then there's the messed up sewer system, the crazy-ass school system and shrinking employment opportunities.

But guess what?

Every mid-sized or big city has many of those same problems.

Except for perhaps Columbus, Phoenix and ... I don't know, maybe 10 other places in the U.S. – all major cities are having many of the same problems.

So I don't wanna hear that "Woe is me, I live in Toledo" mess.

Now I understand, it's just a bridge to some but if you've been looking around for a little inspiration lately... if you don't have that low-self esteem most Toledoans seemed plagued with... I'm sure you can appreciate the beauty in The Glass City Skyway.

No doubt, many of you reading this will just be using it to make your long-awaited exit from

our humble town. I fought it as long as I could, but I understand.

But on your way out, just recognize that Toledo now has a globally recognizable symbol that was a once in a lifetime achievement for a city that needs any achievement we can find.

I've been called dorky for being so into this bridge thing – LOL, and it might be a little true.

I was attending the meetings on Summit St. when they were deciding what to name the bridge and if there were gonna be basketball courts or bike trails underneath.

I'm not fanatical, but I'm



passionate about my city – even as I prepare for my own exodus.

But I'm not asking you to have the zeal I have, I'm just asking the Glass City haters to fall back and appreciate this moment.

Take a drive on that thing yo. It will give you a new perspective on things, I'm sure of it.

Driving underneath it for the last few years, it looked like it was so impossibly high that it may have scared a few people. But there's no reason to be foolish. When you're up there rolling along everything about it is peaceful. What? Peaceful tranquility on an expressway?

Yes.

All I'm saying is, take some time while you're driving around the city this summer and just venture over towards the north end (not river north, the real north end by Alexis) and hop on 75 South and take the 280 exit.

You will look at your city in a different light, at least for a few moments.

Then it will be right back to hating for some of you, while others may see how things are turning around.

No doubt, I may be enthusiastic but I'm not jaded.

This bridge was built to keep commerce in place, it's not just some gift from on high.

The Craig St. bridge created too many problems for Toledo's freight traffic on the water

and for this region's truck traffic on the Interstate so building the Glass City Skyway had to be done.

I was at the opening ceremony among all the political glad-handing and I found much of it unnecessary.

But for the thousands of people there, it was important to honor those who lost their lives when the crane collapsed a few years ago.

The ceremony was also a treat to the public in general.

Since it's an expressway, this past weekend was the first and last chance for people to walk on the bridge.

It was a beautiful day and the view is amazing.

You can see Toledo Hos-

pital, David Besse and Lake Erie from on top of that thing.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (which is the most efficient and considerate government agency I've ever witnessed) took special care in introducing Toledoans to their new landmark by providing free shuttle service from nearby parking lots which carried people up to the bridge for the ceremony.

Federal politicians, Governor Ted Strickland, iron workers – everyone was there.

Okay, not everyone – because I was one of maybe three young black males there.

I didn't understand why Oregon's mayor was there seeing as how the span is entirely in our city.

Oh yeah, speaking of 'our city' – Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner made a few comments about operating as a region instead of local municipalities. Some cheerleader for Toledo, huh?

He rattled off more than a few ridiculous comments that even made one of the politicians turn red because he seemed to be implicating someone up there as somewhat of a mob boss...but anyway.

Marcy Kaptur... man ooohhhh man.

Where would we be without this woman?

Hands down the only politician I trust and believe in.

She had her say and everyone else kinda went overboard.

But the occasion was memorable to say the least. So look, here's what I want you to keep in mind.

It's just a bridge to some, but it actually will serve as a landmark for generations to come.

The name, the design and even the upcoming landscaping all have taken shape thanks to Toledo residents input.

It took about 20-years and it's the most expensive construction project in the history of Ohio, but it got done – so remember that you now have proof that our city can achieve a goal.

Regular readers already

know that I could care less about Bowling Green, Sylvania, Oregon and all the other surrounding suburbs, but for TOLEDO – there was a significant economic impact as a result of this construction. Nearly \$100 million in wages were paid to local workers (some local, others less so). That money flows into nearby businesses and the Craig St. Bridge being converted into a local traffic option creates opportunities for the Birmingham and River North neighborhoods to benefit.

If you've been complaining about our skyline, a 403-

feet-tall structure that changes to 16 million colors might give you a little less to complain about. The Glass City Skyway is the second tallest structure in the area after One Seagate (former Owens Illinois headquarters).

When you travel and people ask you where you're from, have a little more pride.

This bridge is internationally known already and there will be more media attention as documentaries begin to surface. So say you're from The Glass City, birthplace of the SUV, home of world-renowned museums, base-

ball teams and bridges.

We've got more going on than just Jamie Farr golf classics and coin scandals.

So it is what it is, people. Take a break from your obligatory Toledo doldrums and take a drive on I-280.

Don't be so shocked when you notice your head being held somewhat higher.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

UPCOMING SHOWS:

For those who may not know, I serve as co-producer of a small music company – U.G.E.

One of our artists, singer/songwriter Aye Dee will be headlining First Friday at Jacksons Lounge and Grille July 6th 2007.

We will also make an appearance July 3rd at Ce Ce's open mic spot with One Tyme

at The Peacock Café Tuesday July 3rd 2007 to bless the spot, pass out mixtapes and

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C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

to these Toledo Public School seniors for graduating at the top of their class.

WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 Kaitlynn Huff
- 2 Krista LaLonde
- 3 Krista Langlois
- 4 Alicia Monday
- 5 Ryan Archer
- 6 Nicole Floyd
- 7 Keiara Furr
- 8 Mesherry Cooks
- 9 Lisa Rowlett
- 10 Makonnen Rice



SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL



- 1 Kristen Johnson
- 2 Asia Greer
- 3 Jessica Awls
- 4 Kiara McGlown
- 5 Bianca Harthorne
- 6 Christina Hanserd
- 7 Annesha Ali
- 8 Jasmine Sherer
- 9 Tashana Myers
- 10 Brittany Pendleton

LIBBEY HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 Briana Funches
- 2 Brittany Funches
- 3 Richard Darnell
- 4 Peggy Moore
- 5 Patrick Casey
- 6 Henry Maldonado
- 7 Ariel Warren
- 8 Brian Collins
- 9 Krystn Davis
- 10 Sonya Fincher



WAITE HIGH SCHOOL



- 1 Ashley Hartford
- 2 Coleeta Watkins
- 3 Jessalyn Mowery
- 4 Kary Brister
- 5 Kristyn Fisher
- 6 Candace Roper
- 7 Jessica Blossom
- 8 Manuel Martinez
- 9 Jeremy Ballew
- 10 Kayla Everhardt

START HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 Emily Avery
- 2 Rachael Lautzenheiser
- 3 Andrew Wettle
- 4 Christopher Gerity
- 5 Kristen Sanders
- 6 Janell Braxton
- 7 Natalie Farell
- 8 Stacy Haskins
- 9 Carolyn Zielinski
- 10 James Basel



BOWSER HIGH SCHOOL



- 1 Rachel Momenee
- 2 Lori Ashford
- 3 Renee LeGendre
- 4 Savun Phommalee
- 5 Jessica Kraus
- 6 Sophia Lucarelli
- 7 Shane Jeffers
- 8 Kaitlin Lemon
- 9 Aaron Walsh
- 10 Alyssa Jaeck

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 Andrea Hill
- 2 Amir Abed
- 3 Anna-Stacia Allen
- 4 Toby Bishop
- 5 Enjoli Henry
- 6 Lakeysha Ransey
- 7 Heather Jagodzinski
- 8 Geordriane Thinker
- 9 Mark Dusseau
- 10 Paris Sutherland



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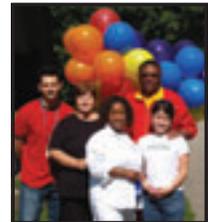
- 1 Michael Orzechowski
- 2 Zachary Morris

Stepping in the Name of Health at Grace Temple

Special to the Truth

Grace Temple Church and Toledo-Lucas County Health Department started this year off with a committed to taking control of their health by walking for their hearts.

Reverend Chester Trail



and First Lady Donna Trail started this church project by participating in a church health survey. Based on the results of the survey and along with assistance of the Lucas County Health Department, their church became a walking center for their con-



gregation. Each member participating in the walking program entitled "Step In The Name of Health" received a walking log and pedometer. The overall goal for the parishioners was 30,000 steps per week for four weeks (this equals approximately 60 miles).



On Saturday, June 9th at 10:00 a.m., the Grace Temple walkers met at the Metroparks Wildwood Park to celebrate their walking project.

The Highlight of the day was a picnic and awards presented by health educator Tony Maziarz from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and Grace Temple Health Committee Chairman Susan Craig for the top three walkers. There was also be a walking race, which resulted in prizes awarded to the top three finishers in other categories.

Correction

Last week in the Juneteenth article we incorrectly identified the winner of the sweet potato pie contest. Maudie Rixey won for her entry in that division of the baked goods contest.



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Board of Education: Dr. Steven C. Steel, President Robert Torres, Vice President Darlene K. Fisher Jack Ford Larry Sykes

Predators Devour the American Dream: Ohio Civil Rights Commission Targets Fair Housing

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to The Truth

In 1965, Ohio became one of the first states to enact legislation for Fair Housing. In 1968, the Fair Housing Act was amended to spell out those who were to be considered as protected by its creation. The law clearly states no one can be denied fair housing – not for race, creed, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability.

The law is extremely clear on those who meet the criteria for protection under its statutes but because many of those who fall under its protection are the very ones that don't understand their rights, they continually find themselves on the losing end of housing issues such as location, borrowing, interest rates and lending practices.

At the encouragement of Governor Ted Strickland and under the scrutiny of Executive Director Michael Peyton, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission has taken a very aggressive approach to the recent increase of predatory lending.

The predatory lending industry hit a surge of productivity during 2002-2005 when the housing price boom cut the risk of lending to people with damaged credit. The industry focused on minority families who have a strong desire to live the American Dream, especially when it's offered with low

down payments and little worry about questionable credit.

Industry representatives spoke in terms foreign to minorities who had little experience with finance brokers offering "great deals" like balloon mortgages and adjustable rate mortgages. Most banks do not set up branches in low-income areas, leaving the landscape wide open for those finance companies that benefit from predatory lending.

Inexperienced borrowers, often African-American or Latin-American, are assured that they will easily be in a position to re-mortgage their homes to keep up with payments. But because the market peaked in 2005, the climbing rates are tossing them into foreclosure situations faster than they can understand what's happening or obtain information on how to save their homes.

According to Marilyn Logan, also known as the "Money Lady," a foreclosure broker and author of the book, *I Can't Afford to Marry You*, most people simply have "too much house." They are caught up in the "American Dream" and have placed themselves in financial jeopardy in order to live a life that is not a reality for them.

In Lima, City Councilman Derry Glenn is trying to piece together a task force to look

in to fair lending practices in his ward. He announced at a recent news conference that there are 85 abandoned homes in the 6th Ward alone, and 52 percent of those are owned by finance or mortgage companies outside the state of Ohio who are ignoring the problem and more accurately the effect of these homes on neighborhoods.

In an area already fighting for recognition and acceptance by the rest of the city, these homes are having a devastating affect on property values and community pride. In addition, these homes place an added burden on local government that is forced to bring the houses up to code, because to ignore the overgrown foliage and neglected buildings could mean disease-laden animals coming into the neighborhoods. There is also the risk of arson and of the properties being used for illegal activities. The problem is multilayered with numerous long term issues.

Ronnell Tomlinson, housing enforcement coordinator for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, is conducting several 'town meetings' of sorts with the mission of educating Ohioans on the legal conundrum surrounding predatory lending. He says the commission has used its preconceived division of the state as a means of making

sure everyone gets the information on this critical topic.

Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron and Cleveland areas are targeted – the governor and newly appointed chairman Jeanine Donaldson see this as a top priority in light of Ohio's designation of ranking eighth in the nation for home foreclosures.

Thankfully, Lima has been placed on the radar as a city in need of attention. On Thursday, July 19, there will be an open community forum, led by a team trained to hear a variety of concerns and prepared to direct community members in the correct line to questions they may have about civil rights in Ohio.

Tomlinson is especially eager to explain Ohio's position on foreclosures and predatory lending. He is concerned that too many homeowners are operating under a false sense of security – acting as though "it can't happen to me" can lead to disaster.

He is adamant in getting the word out to consumers

that there are ways to protect themselves, or at least prepare their families for the possibility of negative impact from small print on contracts.

He will conduct a workshop on filing at the commission, giving guidance and plain-talk information. For instance, he says, you can file as a third party with the commission if you believe someone close to you has been a victim of predatory lending – "your child, your parent, your grandparent; you do not have to idly stand by wringing your hands praying that the other shoe never drops – you can take an active role in having the situation brought to light."

One other bright light has appeared on this issue with the appointment of Representative Barney Frank (Dem – Ma) as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee replacing Ohio Republican Michael Oxley. Frank has made it clear on more than one occasion that his goal is to ensure economic benefits are more evenly distributed in Ohio.

He has asked his committee to concentrate on a key issue, "How do you do a better job promoting [economic] growth without exacerbating the widening gap between rich and poor?"

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Area Tourism is Big Business

Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting

Excel Awards Presented to Owens Corning, Toledo Express Airport

Special to The Truth

Over 100 hoteliers, restaurateurs and representatives of Toledo attractions attended the Greater Toledo Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting on Monday, June 11, held at Westfield Franklin Park Mall. Jim Donnelly, president and CEO of GTCVB and SeaGate Centre presented information on the positive impact of tourism on the local economy. "Last year our area hosted a recorded 425 conventions, meetings and sporting events," Donnelly said. "Convention and tourism business provide an economic impact of over \$1 billion dollar and 13,700 local jobs each year," he added.

Community Partnerships was the theme of this year's event. Those assembled heard about the many memorable events of the past year that resulted from businesses coming together. Excel Awards were presented to two individuals who made an impact on local tourism in 2006.

Simone Hayes, director of Community and Corporate Relations for Owens Corning initiated the idea of "do Greater Toledo Week" that took advantage of the two major sporting events hosted in the Toledo area in 2006. The Owens Corning Jamie Farr Classic Golf Tournament and the Triple-A All Star Baseball game drew tens of thousands of visitors to the Toledo area.

A nine-day extravaganza featuring both events and a host of additional activities at SeaGate Centre, in Promenade Park and across the region were cross-promoted and broadcast on cable television. "Simone Hayes provided sound leadership in this effort that was well received by all who participated," Carolyn Schermbeck, GTCVB senior vice president said. "She is well deserving of this honor," she added.

Also presented with an Excel Award was Kris Nichter, director of Marketing and Business Development for Toledo Express Airport who adopted the "do Toledo" brand theme. Through his efforts a welcoming environment was created by adding "do Toledo" banners and displays throughout the airport. He was also responsible for the Buy Local, Fly Local campaign.

The featured speakers for this year's annual meeting were 2006 Jamie Farr Tournament Champion Mi Hyun Kim, and Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken, who provided an overview of the latest progress on the Lucas County Downtown Arena Project.



Carolyn Schermbeck and Simone Hayes

Top Ladies Hold Top Teens Scholarship Awards Presentation

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Toledo Chapter held its annual Top Teens Scholarship Awards Presentation on Sunday June 24 at United Missionary Baptist Church and doled out funds to five Toledo-area young scholars.

Current college students – Domonique Glover and Heather Hagans – received book scholarships to assist with the ongoing costs of higher education. Glover, who attends Morehouse College in Atlanta, was the 2004 valedictorian of Scott High School and is an intern this summer at the University of Maryland.

Hagans is an administrative assistant to Charles McDaniel of the local musicians' union this summer.

The three college scholarships were awarded to Jessica Crawford, Raymond Scott and Jarrell Terrell.

Crawford, a graduate of Central Catholic who will be attending Kentucky State

accepted by his cousin, Teresa Webb, will be attending the University of Cincinnati,

Terrell, the son of Top

result of a meeting held by Lady Bird Johnson, the nation's first lady, at the White House. There are over 100 chapters in the U.S. and



Denise Black-Poon and Jessica Crawford

Ladies Vice President

Wanda Terrell, was voted by his classmates at St. John's Jesuit as the outstanding senior. He served as vice president of Toledo's top Teens and was a member of Toledo

Jamaica.

Top Teens of America is one of the organization's primary thrusts.

In addition to the scholarship awards, Top Ladies also honored three individuals with certificates for Life Skills – Simmie Blakeney, Ph.D., Angeline Murry and Patricia Saunders. Rev. John Roberts, pastor of Indiana Avenue Baptist Church, received a commendation for his contributions to the group over the years.

Jacquelyn Houston served as chairman of the Scholarship Committee and as mistress of ceremonies for Sunday's event.

Clara Brank is the Toledo chapter's president and Wanda Terrell is the vice president.



Seated (l. to r.): Teresa Webb, Heather Hagans, Jarrell Terrell, Jessica Crawford and Patsy Bolden
Standing (l. to r.): Denise Black-Poon, Clara Brank, Anna Marie Bolden, Pamela Wilson, Jacquelyn Houston, Delores Bates, Wanda Terrell

University in the fall, received an award of \$300 to assist her studies. Scott, whose award of \$500 was

EXCEL. He received the highest award of \$750.

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versity where she later obtained her doctorate in higher Education Administration and Counseling.

Jackson, a Libbey High School graduate, has more than 15 years of experience in career development, education, counseling and administration. She provides career and personal counseling services for business professionals and college students.

Jackson has presented numerous symposiums on workplace issues, career management, mentoring, leadership, change management, team building and stress-energy management and is an active member of a number of professional or-

ganizations.

For more information about Jackson & Associates,

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Jackson Family Reunion



Residents living near the Ottawa Park Shelter on Saturday June 16 probably regretted that their names were not included in the Feemster-Goins-Calloway-Cooper-Suddeth-Jackson family reunion, if only for the good food that was served during the festivities.

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ATTENTION

Beginning Friday, June 29, 2007, the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority will be taking applications for the conventional public housing program. Applications are taken by phone the last Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The number to call is 419-259-9411.

For individuals requiring speech and hearing assistance please call 419-259-9529.

Applications will only be accepted if you are:

- * Elderly (62 years or older)
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- * Handicapped or Disabled
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United Way of Greater Toledo

Loaned Executive

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Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to:
United Way of Greater Toledo
One Stranahan Square
Toledo, OH 43604
Attn: Human Resources
Or
Emailto: karri.anthony@unitedwaytoledo.org
Subject:Loaned Executive

DEADLINE: July 13, 2007

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Position Opening for EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Toledo Area Ministries Toledo, Ohio www.tamohio.org

An Executive Director is sought for a ministry of 125 congregations and six denominations whose mission is to *Assist Congregations and Church Leadership in Meeting Human Need, Creating Community and Working for Justice.* Applicant must possess skill to manage a large complex organization of twenty plus staff and hundreds of volunteers. Please see the Toledo Area Ministries webpage for more information: www.tamohio.org.

Resumes must be submitted by NOON, July 16, 2007 for consideration.

CASTING CALL

RSD Productions will be having a Casting Call for upcoming Gospel Stage Play "You Don't Know My Story" Written/ Directed by Richita Willis.

Auditions will be held Saturday, July 7, 2007 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at By His Spirit Church 2259 S. Byrne Rd. Searching for 3 males and 3 females; ages 18-30. All participants must perform 2 audition pieces and sing 30 seconds of a song of your choice. For additional information please

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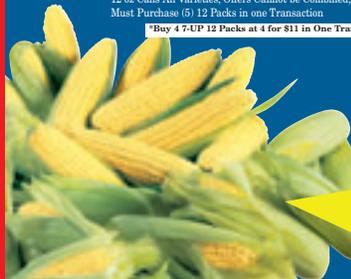
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