



**Coach Chris Robinson**

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*"When I'm out there on a baseball diamond, it brings everything back into perspective. If you can get the kids to buy into that, it changes a young man's life forever. A lot of angry kids come to us and when you see them make progress, it makes it all worthwhile"*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

We had to sift through a week's worth of horrible decisions but the U.S. Supreme Court finally got something right ... we hope.

Last Friday, on the heels of the week's earlier disastrous rulings on the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law and the Louisville/Seattle desegregation case, the Supreme Court reversed itself on its earlier decision not to review the issue of whether detainees at Guantanamo Bay have been unjustly barred from federal courts by the Bush Administration and Congress.

It takes four justices to decide to hear a case and apparently two – it takes five to rehear a denial – joined David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer in a highly unusual reversal.

This decision did not sit well with administration members who feel that such a move means that the Court will be predisposed to rule against their position that detainees have no constitutional rights and therefore are at the mercy of military commissions.

One of the problems that the Defense Department has with trying detainees in public, for example, is that evidence against them may involve sensitive intelligence sources and thus may be classified.

And, of course, this reversal, as most certainly a subsequent ruling against the government by the Supreme Court, has conservatives seeing red. As one pundit said last week, these people are terrorists and they have no rights.

And that, of course, prompts the question: who says they are terrorists?

This is what courts are for, we thought, to determine an individual's guilt or innocence. And this is what open scrutiny of a court's proceedings are all about, to determine whether or not an individual's rights are being applied.

And this is why the presumption of innocence lies at the heart of our legal system, so that an individual may avail himself of a fair trial conducted in the light of day.

Not that we are certain that this particular Supreme Court will agree that an individual right to a fair trial makes good constitutional sense. The way things have been going, this Court may well decide to uphold the government's claim that it can conduct star chamber proceedings while the justices also avoid addressing the overriding principle of individual rights by finding a loophole favorable to the government. This would be consistent with the Court's rulings in the aforementioned cases released earlier last week.

As you will recall, the Court did not strike down McCain-Feingold or Congress's authority to limit the influence that corporations and unions may have in elections, the Court merely held that, in the event, Congress could not prevent such entities from saying what they want, when they want, to influence elections.

And as for the desegregation cases, the Court did not rule that Brown v. Board of Education was no longer applicable or that desegregation was no longer the law of the land. The Court merely held that a district could desegregate, as long as it did not take race into consideration. Yes, we recognize the irony in that position

So now what?

The detainee case will come before the Court next term, at which time some detainees will have been held for more than five years without any semblance of justice within their reach.

But these detainees are not the least fortunate of America's prisoners. These prisoners, at least, we know about. The CIA is still running secret prisons around the world where they can apply their "tougher" questioning tactics, out of sight of U.S. Courts who have become very, very picky about the use of torture as an approved interviewing technique (Justice Clarence Thomas's strict constructionist views notwithstanding).

But they are terrorists goes the cry.

Then prove it.

The constitutional issue is very clear. If the government cannot or will not bring forth the proper evidence to convict those whom they say are guilty, they should release them. We give the government no benefit of the doubt on this issue. Time and time again, especially in the wake of 9/11, this government has demonstrated that it will go to any lengths to build a case against the wrong people for the sake of political expediency.

This country hasn't made many correct moves in its war on terror: we have invaded the wrong places, passed a Patriot Act that has broadened government powers in the areas of surveillance, failed to endear ourselves to potential allies in the war and, in general, have reacted to the threat of terrorism almost exactly as the terrorists would have wanted us to react.

Perhaps the Supreme Court can correct some of those errors.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## 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

\*July 4

Independence Day!!

\*July 6

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

The Company-to-Vendor Business Networking Event: Jackson's Lounge and Grill; 5 pm; Free hors d'oeuvres; Vendor opportunities as well; 419-729-2056

\*July 7

Casting Call: Upcoming gospel stage play – "You Don't Know My Story;" Written/directed by Richita Willis; Auditions 10 am to 3 pm; By His Spirit Church; Searching for 3 males and 3 females: 419-297-2370

Butterfly Celebration: Metroparks Oak Opening Preserve; 1 to 5 pm: 419-407-9757

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 7-8

Phillips Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church: 90<sup>th</sup> 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 10

"Live Life Alive;" Presented by Diana Patton of Equilibria, Inc. and the Ben E. Williams Youth Services; Mott Branch Library; Seminar for Toledo's inner-city youth on how to live a healthy lifestyle; 4 pm: 419-450-3362

\*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

\*July 14

Majestic Praise Ministries: Salad Luncheon; Guest Speaker Cheryl Slack from Grace Temple C.O.G.I.C.; "God's Women on the Front Line;" 419-386-4174 or 419-536-7714

African-American Civil War Soldiers: Portraits by Novarro Gibson; Kent Branch Library; 2 pm; A history lesson you won't forget; The 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Troops; Special hip-hop performance by Positive Force Christian School of Dance

## The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political Columnist



Jack Ford

I gave Detective Harold Mosley \$180 for his campaign for the Toledo Board of Education. I did that because I know his views on education and I know him personally because he served as a security guy for me when I was mayor.

Mosley and Richard Brown are the two black males running for the two open seats on the board. Incumbent Larry Sykes has yet to announce if he is running for reelection.

My fear is that neither Mosley nor Brown is mounting the kind of campaign that will win. That's why I felt it was important to give Mosley the money – so he

could add to his campaign coffers. Those of you reading this column need to step up if you want either to win. Write a check for \$10, \$20 or \$1,000 or something in between, but write them a check.

If you don't, my belief is that we may end up with no African-American on a school board that oversees a district that has more than 50 percent black students in its population. Would that not be a travesty?

And both Mosley and Brown need to step up their efforts. Both are too timid and quiet in this very crucial time period. Step it up and campaign outside of the black community!

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner is correct on the emissions issue with respect to the coke plant in East Toledo. Mercury emissions – unchecked – will cause many medical problems for our citizens. And we should know who the owners are of the proposed \$800 million project.

So long to Tom Walton who retired from his post as editor of The Blade. Walton was relied upon by many politicians as a brake against excesses in editorial vituperation at The Blade. Sometimes he curbed it; sometimes he did not – or could not.

Kudos to Labib Hajjar,

owner/operator of the Beirut and Byblos restaurants. Hajjar, who also owns the two Poco Piattis, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ohio Restaurant Association. You never get a bad meal at the Beirut. If you enjoy kibbeh or fatouch or broiled chicken and rice or world class spaghetti, the Beirut is your place. The prices are reasonable and they give you more than you can eat.

Two Southerners are leaving Toledo to return home. Johnny Mickler is headed back to Greenville, SC and Pastor Gary Blaine is leaving first congregational to head to Tulsa, OK.

Pastor Blain is an erudite minister who serves up rich sermons on Sundays. He and his wife led a social ministry where they dispensed thousands of toiletry kits to the poor in the TOTCO area of the Old West End.

Speaking of leaving Toledo, I think Mayor Finkbeiner glossed over the report that Toledo lost another couple of thousand of folks in population since the last census. According to the mayor, we can go all the way down to 240,000 citizens and be a better city.

That is another 20 percent decline but what each decline

really means is that we have less of a white middle class to help pay the freight for operating the city. It means less population in our schools, fewer cops, fewer firefighters, etc.

To put a positive spin on the continued loss of population is to ignore the problem and fail to come up with a solution and, as I have said repeatedly in the column, we set up this process by our own indiscriminate sale of water to outlying areas 30 to 35 years ago.

Our people are not leaving the area, just Toledo's corporate limits. The only real answer is to move to regionalize Toledo with Lucas County.

I met Tom Morrissey (the recall organizer) last week. He is a nice fellow but very naive about recall politics. He will be lucky to get 15,000 signatures to turn in unless he steps it up dramatically. In retrospect, he probably had a different agenda in the first place. The target was not really Finkbeiner.

Last week we talked about the games played by white contractors to exploit black subcontractors out of work on public buildings. The games are varied but effective.

And, yes, some black contractors take what charitably can be called pay offs to keep quiet. We need someone like Attorney General Marc Dann to get to the bottom of this. You can call him at 614-466-4320 to tell your story if a white contractor has screwed you out of work. Use the same number to report a black contractor who has colluded with a white contractor to facilitate such deals.

Finally, some promising news for Barack Obama. Last week thousands of money givers across America were solicited by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle on behalf of Obama. Daschle is the consummate Beltway insider and for Daschle to ask for money for Obama may be a big signal that Hillary Clinton does not have the nomination locked up.

I will be the Men's Day speaker at the Center of Hope Church (1656 Dorr) on the second Sunday in August at 11 a.m. I hope my friends can attend

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com.

Justice or Just-Us?

Your article regarding B&B and Wes Boykin Trucking was interesting but not surprising. However, I would like to know what would happen if an MBE falsified (forged) the signature of a majority contractor on a legal document submitted to a government entity with the intent of securing a contract? Your article seems to have brushed aside the blatant illegal actions of the majority contractor. The city's seeming complacency, regarding the forgery, reads as an endorsement to falsifying government documents. Again, what would the consequences be for an MBE committing such an act? Justice or Just-Us?

Sincerely,

Annette Wright

America Votes For Re-Segregation

I will give good and proper notice to all people of color that America is dreaming of the days of yore and they want to see black people return to legally-enforced educational ghettos

The U.S. Supreme Court, by a divided vote of 5-4 and in its arcane logic, believes that the time has come to give the famed case of *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* a sound spanking and send its myriad progeny home with multiple bruises and open wounds.

For those who don't get the drift of what I am stating, the Supreme

Court wants to retrench on the promising mandate of *Brown* and stop hundreds of school districts from using diversity (a/k/a: race) as a factor in mixing up their school population.

The Supreme fathers want to gently tell their Negro charges that the time for all of this integration mess is over and you are to fend for yourself.

The quote might as well have been this:

A spokesman for the Supreme Court has issued the following statement:

"Today the US Supreme Court by a narrow 5-4 decision (including our beloved Negro jurist Clarence Thomas) voted today that white parents are tired of the races mixing in the public schools.

Today, we heard the voices of those parents and agree with them that this integration experiment has tried our patience and we are ready to stop it right now.

We believe that it is best

that colored kids learn and stay around with other colored kids and that it is best for white children to be around their own kind.

So, for now on, public schools do not have to use race as a factor in making sure that the classrooms of America reflect the true population. Being white is sufficient good reason and cause to avoid mixing the races.

People of color are going to have to quit whining and crying about wanting to live around us white people and sending their kids to our nicely kept schools. We have done all we can for them and now we are tired of trying to raise them up to our standards.

Since they do not want to learn anyway, why should we spend the time and expense on bussing them to our schools.

There is no evidence (at not least the type we will recognize) that shows that people of color (except for our beloved Clarence Thomas) benefit from being around white kids in schools."

As stated by this writer before, white America is extremely generous with themselves when it comes to dishing out affirmative action. See the landmark book, *When Affirmative Action was White* by Ira Katznelson.

They can, with a straight face, justify unequal treatment of people of color but when the tables are turned and those mistreated people seek redress, the Supreme Court goes into spastic overdrive to present legal driv-

el that justifies their arcane nonsense.

The supreme court jurists practically fell over themselves in convoluted logic in trying to eviscerate *Brown* but at the same time paid homage to its principles.

You wonder if these nine white jurists ever read *Brown* or the cases flowing directing from it. *Brown* made America what it is today and now the law of the land is enough of *Brown*...give us white!

So, black America, in the years to come, be prepared to see a worsening of the educational picture for people of color which has a direct corollary to employment, housing and health benefits. All negative. If white America is hell bent on returning to a dual system of education and with the best dollar going to the white educational system, marvel not that economic penalty is upon us in spades.

What will result from this myopic decision is that we will accelerate the situation wherein public schools are synonymous with those "poor black kids" who can't pass an OGT versus the white schools wherein advance placements and college scholarships abound and wherein your college choices are in bunches.

The highest court in the land has said that it is satisfied to see an unequal two-tier educational system wherein if you are black and poor ... so sorry and so sad but if you are white ... so happy and so glad.

Lafe Tolliver, Atty.

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It's time for a Quiet Conversation.™

## Large Scale Action Shall Been Taken: The Revitalization of Dorr Street

By Mario L. Harris-Rosser  
Special to The Truth

Reflecting the weather conditions outside, great lightning bolts and thunder-claps of long-needed action and progressive change filled the inside of Mt. Pilgrim Church last week on Wednesday June 27.

"We were looking for a new day and the new day has

begun, we were tired of waiting," said Charles Welch, president of Welch Communications/WJUC-FM.



Charles Welch

A new day indeed is what the Dorr Street Coalition is all about. The group, organized by Rev. Raymond Bishop, pastor of Mt. Pilgrim; Suzette Cowell, president and CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and Welch, among others, is seeking to develop strategic plans to revitalize the Dorr Street corridor.

Among those present at last week's town hall meeting, presented by the Coalition, were many of Toledo's prominent political, religious and social figures as well as realtors, economic developers, business persons and financial advisers.

Perhaps more significantly, inner city residents, whom the project is meant to serve, filled the majority of the seats. Bishop verbalized one of the main principles of the Dorr Street Coalition's leadership when he said: "without a constituency you do not have legitimacy."

And according to the 500 or so present to support the cause, the project is as legitimate and real as was the heavy rain that poured down outside as the meeting took place.

The topics discussed at the gathering included an explanation of the project's course up to that point; the assurance of support from the three Lucas county commissioners, Pete Gerken, Ben Konop, Tina Skeldon Wozniak, and other city offi-

cials, including Mayor Carty Finkbeiner who was not present; various business possibilities; several projects that comprise the rejuvenation of Dorr Street and an explanation of the next steps to be taken.

Konop recounted a story of Bishop sitting across from

him in his office while the pastor explained to him that Dorr Street is positioned in the middle of two major upcoming economic developments—the downtown sports arena and the student village additions to The University of Toledo. Yet, as Bishop noted, there had been no plans to develop this now-deprived, once-bustling section of the corridor in the middle of those projects.

"It's Dorr Street's turn," Bishop told the commissioner. "You're right," Konop replied.

Konop and the other commissioners expressed their intent to remain in support of the coalition regardless of the rocky paths that may lie ahead.

"We're committed," said Gerken. "We have got some



Suzette Cowell

seed money to start and in 2009, [Dorr Street] is going to look like something."

The commissioners shared that the county has committed \$25,000 dollars in seed money to get the project off the ground, a series of brain storming sessions in the community will be held to develop proposals for the economic revival of Dorr Street.

Edwin Mabrey, business owner and member of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's Board of Directors, spoke about the potential business opportunities that the project could bring. He stressed that black entrepreneurs must combine and collaborate in order to grow and survive. "You can't do it alone," he told small black business owners. "We've got to unify, we want to use Dorr Street as more than just a corridor into downtown and out to the university."

E. Michelle Mickens, the executive director of the Toledo Community Development Corporation (TCDC), addressed the issue of large-scale residential development that could parallel the economic development on Dorr Street.

"We have our 40 acres here on Dorr Street," said Jimmy Gaines, interim executive director of the Organized Neighbors Yielding Excellence CDC. "We are the mule. We have more than enough information and ability right here."

Councilwoman Wilma Brown introduced her pet project—the Brownstone Townhouses on the corner of Smead and Dorr two of which must be sold sight-unseen before banks will finance the construction.

Throughout the program the leaders of the coalition stressed the importance of



Pastor Raymond Bishop

community involvement with the project. To demonstrate that they are both serious and sincere about actions backing up their words, towards the end of the meeting cards were passed down the aisles and through the pews on which people were able to put their contact information

and to check off an area to which they might be able to contribute.

The category choices included recreational, educational, healthcare, entrepreneurial, and residential services. Cowell said that those interested would be contacted within seven days and

that there would be sub-category meetings started shortly thereafter.

"Our people are perishing," said Bishop. "We need a strategic plan and adequate resources to secure your liberation."

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# Toledo Bids a Fond Farewell to Urban League's Johnny Mickler

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Johnny Mickler

As roasts go, last Thursday's farewell to the Greater Toledo Urban League's former President/CEO Johnny Mickler was something less than the usual pointed, humorous gibes one might expect.

Until Deborah Barnett arrived at the podium, that is.

Ten "roasters" took their turns applauding the accomplishments of the man who has served as the 10-year-old GTUL's one and only leader and who, last month, headed south to take over the Greater Greenville Urban League and return to his native South Carolina.

"I called Johnny Mickler on a regular basis when he arrived in town," recalled Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford, who also heads a non-profit social service agency - the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Ashford, who got the roasting rolling, recounted that about once a week, he would call the GTUL offices well after business hours to see if his counterpart was really as dedicated to the job as he had hoped. Every time, Mickler would answer the telephone in his office.

Finally, after a number of such calls, Mickler picked up the phone and asked, "Ashford, have I gained your respect yet?"

He had indeed.

And as story teller after story teller would attest, Mickler has gained the respect of most of Toledo.

"A good man, a good friend, a good brother," said Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church. "He was my mentor," continued Brock. "He

had a habit of fussing at me, he was so honest. We're losing a jewel."

But after a number of such accolades, with just a few references to Mickler's renowned stinginess ("he continues to be tight," said Ashford), Barnett had the audience howling.



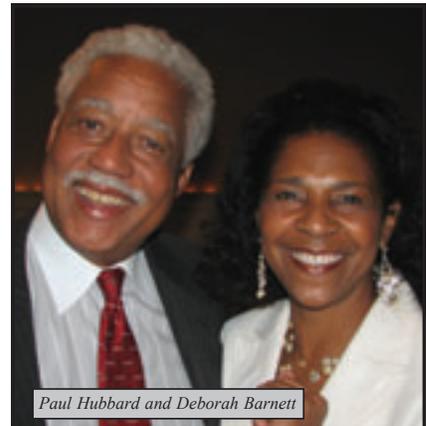
Janis Foley, Rep. Edna Brown and Deborah Barnett

She donned the Mickler standard winter garb - earmuffs, scarf draped over the head, covered with a hat. "You won't need any of this where you're going" she told him over the laughter.

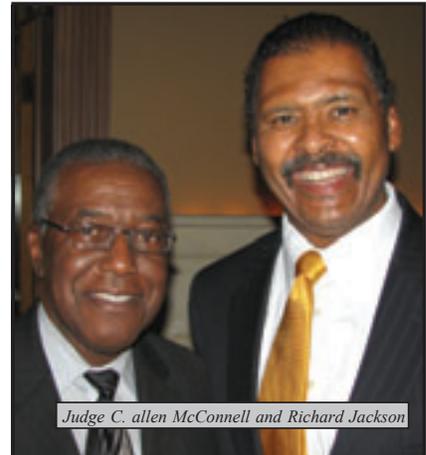
As with the other roasts, however, Barnett's tribute also contained more than a dollop of gratitude for

Mickler's years of service. "Thank you for the years we have spent together in building the Urban League," she told him.

About 150 people attended the Mickler roast at the Clarion Hotel in a ceremony to celebrate his tenure in Toledo. Along with



Paul Hubbard and Deborah Barnett



Judge C. allen McConnell and Richard Jackson



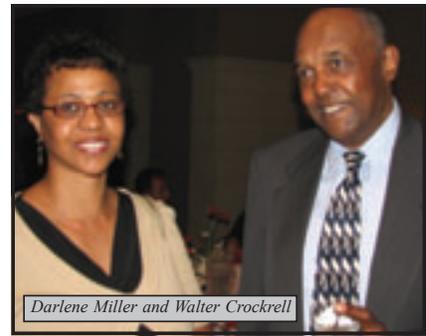
Roosevelt Gant and Bruce Rumpf

GTUL Board Chairman.

The roasters included: Ashford, Barnett, Valerie Penn, Paul Hubbard (who will serve as interim CEO while a replacement for Mickler is sought), GTUL staffer Diane Labiche, Brock, Marie Shaw and Phillip Chapman from Greenville.

As part of the commemoration, Murray announced that the GTUL would be establishing a scholarship in Mickler's name.

"Thank you for giving me the chance to serve," Mickler told the gathered colleagues, associates, staffers - friends all - in his closing remarks.



Darlene Miller and Walter Crockrell

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**Date: Sunday, July 8th**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

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*Don't miss this monumental moment!*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Interpretation Translation and Sign Language Services.

The goal of the RFP is to provide families and children who have an open referral or case with LCCS with services that will:

- Eliminate communication barriers;
- Provide equal access and opportunity to benefit from our agency's services.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental units, private for-profit entities/agencies and non-profit entities/agencies. Agencies should have unique information, education, knowledge and experience related to the RFP. RFP materials will be available from July 2, 2007 to July 10, 2007 at LCCS, 705 Adams Street, Toledo, OH. To make arrangements to pick a RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session regarding the Interpretation/Translation and Sign Language RFP will be held at LCCS on July 10, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in Room #913.

The deadline for completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on August 3, 2007. No proposal will be accepted after the deadline.

By Dean Sparks, Executive Director  
Lucas County Children Services

## "Let Us Help You Out"

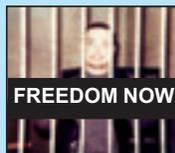


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# BCR Presents 2007 Youth Empowerment Awards

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"There is no higher calling than volunteering to help children," said Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner as he opened the ceremony for the presentation of the 2007 Youth empowerment Awards on Friday morning in the lobby of One Government Center.

The awards, presented by the Board of Community Relations (BCR), were established in 2002 to recognize individuals or groups who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication in working on a volunteer basis with and on behalf of youth.

"With the guidance of the Board of Community Relations we were able to give youth representatives a voice to say who had been important to them," said Ravi Perry, a Ph.D. candidate at Brown University in Providence RI and a former youth representative on the BCR who conceived the idea of the Youth Empowerment Awards and still serves on the awards committee.

This year's honorees were Charles Brown, Karen Cassaubon, Audrey Johnson

and Andreanna Rivera-Perez. Brown, a faculty member at Maumee Valley Country Day School, was honored for his decision to become the club advisor to the school's Afro-Am Society and plan the Bi-Annual Cultural Symposium.

Johnson, a community development specialist for the Girl Scouts of Maumee Valley Council, is responsible for organizing Camp Libbey Weekends and events for Black History Month, Cinco de Mayo and Women's His-



Charles Brown, Audrey Johnson, Karen Cassaubon, Andreanna Rivera-Perez

tory Month. Cassaubon, youth enrichment coordinator for the East Toledo Family Center since 2001, has coordinated a summer adventure trip of canoeing, camping and backpacking in West Virginia, Maine, Colorado and the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. She also managed a special volunteer trip to Perlington, MS to assist Hurricane Katrina victims.

Rivera-Perez, youth program manager and youth program coordinator for Adelante, Inc., has facilitated programs for junior and senior high school students and has maintained outreach with schools and agencies. She serves on the City of Toledo's Youth Advisory Council and The University of Toledo's Latino Youth and Parent Council.

## The Revival of the Ohio Young Black Democrats

Special to The Truth

We are pleased to announce the creation and in essence, revitalization, of the Ohio Young Black Democrats (OYBD). OYBD is an inclusive, statewide organization that exists to:

- 1) Excite, engage and involve young Black people in Ohio's political community
- 2) Mentor, recruit and empower a new generation of Black Leaders
- 3) Advance progressive ideals and values
- 4) Help to elect young Black Democrats



The foundation of this progressive organization was formed in the late 70's by a group of self-motivated young blacks in Franklin County, Ohio. The founders of this initiative included Cathy Mock, James Evans, Dannette Palmore, Bill Anthony, Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Judge Patsy Thomas and a host of other Columbus leaders.

In November 2006 Franklin County Democratic Party Chairman Bill Anthony met with a small group of individuals in the hopes that the group could re-emerge and significantly contribute to the gubernatorial race as well as the other statewide and local races. A group of approximately 15 young people assembled to take on that challenge. They organized a African-American beauty and barbershop initiative, in which they canvassed local shops and salons distributing political literature while talking with the patrons about voting.

In February 2007 the following individuals were elected to lead the organization: Crystal M. Cook, president; Samantha Simpson, vice president; Clifton Williams III, treasurer and Sydney Saffold, secretary.

"I am honored to serve as president of this dynamic organization. The Ohio Young Black Democrats strives to empower African American communities through education. We are charged with carrying on the legacy of voter education/ outreach, political awareness and community service as set forth by our founders," said Cook.

Annual membership dues are \$20 and can be sent to The Ohio Young Black Democrats at 271 E. State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please email to ohioybd@gmail.com.

###  
(614)341-6912

# Big Shoes To Fill

By Warren Woodberry

Clyde Hughes, Blade writer for over 17 years, will be moving on.

There is no good time to receive bad news, but the announcement that Clyde Hughes of The Blade and president of the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association (NOBMA) is leaving Toledo, comes at one of the low points for me as a member of NOBMA. In a farewell message, Clyde dropped the following bomb.

*"I'm leaving The Blade after 17 1/2 years to become a writer and media specialist for the Purdue News Service at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana starting July 9. I will continue as president of NOBMA until a new president is chosen and I moved at the last meeting to open up positions ASAP, tentatively scheduled for SATURDAY, JULY 14, at 1 p.m. I will be in town earlier that day to Judge a 4-H writing contest. I am committed to several projects, including the Toledo Newspaper Guild/Chet Sullwold Cross Country Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 1 at the Ottawa Park Golf Course (ironically, Purdue's foot-*

*ball team is in town playing UT the same day) and the MLK Classic, so I will still be town a lot on the weekends, and I promised Sena [Mourad] I will rally people together and plan the nuts and bolts for next year's Impact Newsmaker Awards, but those should be my last acts as a member of NOBMA. I have all the confidence in the world that new leadership will emerge and keep the organization running as strong as ever. I've done all I could and hope that showed over the 17-plus years. The future of this organization is now on your shoulders. Thank you all for taking apart and I'm looking forward to playing a part of seeing the new leadership take over until next year."*

It appears that it has become so common to see great African-American talent vacate the city of Toledo for greener pastures that it is almost what we expect such talent to do.

Many do not leave for larger salaries or higher profile positions, but many leave muttering that something is just not right in Toledo, and maybe it is something in the water, (even though the city is getting recognition for having premium water) and that the blame lies not only with

the powers that be, but particularly with those who are elected to promote ebony interest.

The networking system in Toledo is broken, but the city and state powers know this and they capitalize on this broken network and sit back and watch us fight among ourselves, be it politicians, religious leaders, school administrators, the affluent or those simply in the know. And while we have a brain drain of talent that is leaving Toledo, the brain dead stay in control.

It will take some time to find someone that can fill the shoes of Clyde Hughes, but I hope that we find that person like yesterday. The City of Toledo should not just let him ride into the sunset without the accolades that he deserves.

I hope that those in the media and those who have benefited from the recognition that he has bestowed on others through the hundreds of Toledo stories that he has written that has tugged at our hearts and our conscious, will come together to honor Clyde Hughes and his contributions.

How could we sleep at night if we did not?

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# Chris Robinson: A Man for All Seasons Molds the Boys of Summer

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

*Be a mental giant, not a mental midget*

The exhortations flow from the coach uninterrupted by the action in the field or the chatter in the stands. On a humid, dusty afternoon on a baseball diamond in the far reaches of the City of Oregon, a group of central city youth – the White Sox – find themselves peppered with an on-going stream of instruction, praise and criticism.

*I don't expect you to let anyone get on base, but if a runner gets on I want a pitchout ... you gotta hold 'em close.*

"If you are involved in a kid's life for six years, and in many cases, in more than just baseball, that lad should take on a good portion of your character and at least some of your nature," says Coach Chris Robinson. "That's the greatest part, seeing the kids develop and move on to college."

On this afternoon, however, Coach is coaching his

Oregon Recreation League Mid-City team – 12 and under – as if all he has are these brief six innings to make his impression, not six years.

*Get it back in quick, get it back in quick. Don't give him the opportunity to come down the lane. Is that your best effort? I want your best effort.*

Nothing that happens on the field passes unnoticed by Coach and everything draws a remark: move faster, think smarter ... more effort, more effort, more effort.

It's a coaching style, we remark, that resembles a Vince Lombardi more than a Tony Dungy. And it's a comparison that discomfits the Coach not at all.

"I'm brash and in your face," he readily admits. "As a youth, I was troubled, did a little gang banging and so forth. At the age of 14 I realized we make choices. I believe in accountability. I walk to the plate, I talk to them. I tell them 'I want you to go up to



the plate, believe in yourself and take your shot.' If you don't take your shot or you give up, I tell them, 'you'll be

the guy standing in front of the carryout years from now talking about what you used to do.'"

*That was a wave, you're waving at the pitch ... you're better than that, son. See*

the world – the South Central neighborhood of Los Angeles. His mother, a longtime diabetic, took a turn for the worse when Robinson was 13. She was eventually diagnosed as being bipolar and

ledo by his grandparents when he was 16 – Harriet E. and Charles Banks. The youngest of the family, brother Patrick, was left behind with a godmother and the siblings were separated for three years.

After finishing his high school work at Start, Robinson entered The University of Toledo, majoring in law enforcement. He worked for Columbia Gas for a period before joining Lucas County 10 years ago. Robinson is the maintenance supervisor for all of the county's facilities.

*Watch the ball, watch the ball. You're looking down there somewhere ... you gotta watch the ball.*

Robinson married Diane, an insurance and risk auditor who also works for Lucas County. Three children: Breanna, 21 and a senior at the Miami University, Cameron, eight, a third grader at the Old West End Academy and a boy, Ryne, who just finished Miami this past year and was drafted into the National Football League. He certainly kept his eye on the ball during those formative years.

Baseball, says Coach, was Ryne's favorite sport. He played the game for three years at Miami and quite obviously his father's passion for the game had its effect on him.

"Baseball is the best-kept secret in the inner city," says Robinson who, being a man of more than just one season, also involves himself with youth football as the commissioner of Mid-City Football – nine to 14 year olds in an eight-team league.

(Continued on Page 8)

**"When I'm out there on a baseball diamond, it brings everything back into perspective. If you can get the kids to buy into that, it changes a young man's life forever."**

*everything, see everything. Is that what we teach? Let him bring it into your wheelchair.*

Young Robinson did his own gang banging in one of the gang banging capitals of

shortly after the family moved to San Bernadino, child welfare services knocked at the door.

Robinson, his two sisters and one brother had the good fortune to be brought to To-

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### Special Notice

#### RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted July 16-20, 2007 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over.
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/ industrial electrical construction industry.
4. Twenty dollars (\$20) must accompany application.

# Coach Robinson

(Continued from Page 7)

He's also a freshman football coach at Central Catholic High School where Ryne spent his prep years.

"It's the number one misconception that blacks have abandoned baseball," says Coach, "baseball has abandoned us. Baseball has found a way around black America."

*Come on... think. In that situation, you don't want to pitch out way over there when the runner is going to third ... wake up, wake up and get in the game, you're moving a little slow.*

So why is Coach so enamored of America's pastime?

"Baseball teaches a kid the spirit of true competition," he says. "It's a team game but just about everything you do, you do one on one. The confidence level of a baseball player is probably a little higher than for a football player. Baseball affords kids the leeway of being able to look into a mirror and saying 'I did that.'"

In most other team sports, explains Coach, a player who achieves success on a play or a series of plays depends so much for that success on the effort of his teammates that he cannot take the full credit.

*Slow down, see the ball and hit it. Slow down and hit the ball. Go up there, don't swing for the fences, just put it in play.*

This is Coach's 14<sup>th</sup> season at the helm. Long time friend and mentor, Al Greene, started the inner-city project with two teams. Now there are six that have sprung from those humble beginnings. During virtually all of that time he has had the same folks helping him: Kenneth Davis, Patrick Wimberly, Herman



Scott, Jack Dickerson, James Starks, Johnny Packer, Greg Wimberly and, until recently, Al Greene. Everyone of them on message.

"So many of our young men are bred to glorify material things ... big shiny cars, diamond earrings, fancy tennis shoes," says Coach explaining the message. "When I'm out there on a baseball diamond, it brings everything back into perspective. If you can get the kids to buy into that, it changes a young man's life forever. A lot of angry kids come to us and when you see them make progress, it makes it all worthwhile"

*Throw it in, throw it in. Stop holdin' the ball, it's not*

*an ice cream cone.*

"Success is not measured in terms of wins and losses," Coach continues. "It's the love of kids and the love of the game. It can never be about you as the coach, you have to love seeing the kids succeed."

On this night the kids succeed. They dominate the opposition by a score of 15-5 behind the starting pitching of Shayne Davis who receives constant instruction on everything from how high to bend his knee to when to throw a pitchout.

*Let your pitching take over the game ... get that knee up and throw to the glove.*

But it's not just wins and losses. When Shayne lets a pitch slip and hits the opposing batter, he's given the most important lesson of the night. A lesson on what's expected on the diamond, a lesson on why baseball is so different from other team sports.

*When you hit a batter, tip your hat, son. Tip your hat.*



**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**  
**City Wide Praise and Worship Gospel Celebration**

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**Food for Thought:**

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

-Tony Brown

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# Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir's Ladies Luncheon 'Crowning Glory' of Toledo Summer Season

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner Truth Reporter

Hearing the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir sing "We Shall Wear a Crown" is a musical treat, but the women of TIMC aren't putting off wearing their crowns.

Instead of waiting until they get to heaven, the songstresses wear their crowns every year at a gala luncheon sponsored by TIMC. There are men in attendance, too; men with jobs—actually, one job: waiting on the women.

Imagine a dozen handsome men dressed in white waiters' jackets serving a roomful of women. No, this is not some Amazonian fantasy. It actually happened when over a hundred elegantly-dressed women attended this year's gala, Saturday, June 23, 2007, at the Stephenson-Roberts Hall of Indiana Avenue Baptist Church.

You see, the women get to dress up and the men get to treat them like royalty. Sounds fair, especially since all year long, the women of TIMC sing their little hearts out at some of the most spirited services and concerts in the

city, but never get to dress up and wear their hats.

The annual luncheon is a chance for the TIMC ladies to dress up in their couturier best and be treated like the queens they are.

"The choir is complaining all the time that they sing and they don't get to wear their hats," explained TIMC business manager Larry Jones. "So we decided to let the men do the cooking and let the ladies wear their hats and all their finery."

O.K., so the men got tired of the women nagging them and let them have a chance to get all dolled up; whatever the reason, the luncheon is a popular event that many folks in the community look forward to every year. It's also a fun way for the choir to raise money. Divided into seven groups representing the days of the week, the choir solicits donations from those attending the luncheon and others who can't be crowned in all their glory.

The female contingent of TIMC and their guests were

resplendent in a rainbow of pastels coordinated with tables set with yellow, green, blue, pink, peach and lavender napkins and floral centerpieces.

The ladies' matching attire coordinated with the décor and with their crowning glory, a variety of fantastic hats. Most stunning of these "crown" jewels was a purple, brimmed beauty that had a burst of matching feathers coming out of its crown and rhinestones spattered across it and the matching ensemble worn by one elegantly dressed lady who stood out in the crowd.

The luncheon is also a church service, the only one the choir attends as a group without singing. Actually, they did sing in a very spirited praise and worship center led by Nicole Ross-Byrd, harmonizing on the luncheon's theme song, "We Shall Wear a Crown." Shirley Lyons gave an invocation that surpassed obligatory 'opening prayer' and ventured into ministry as she was

(Continued on Page 16)



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## County Auditor and Area Office on Aging Unveil Plan to Assist Senior Homeowners

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On Thursday, June 28, Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez was joined by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, State Senator Teresa Fedor and State Representative Mark Waggoner as she unveiled a program designed to roll back property taxes for thousands of Lucas County

**“We were going to have a property tax cut for every senior citizen homeowner in Ohio.”**

senior citizen homeowners.

The Homestead Exemption Program, which Lopez announced at the Mayores Senior Center, is a direct result of the first Strickland budget.

“Your state government is working,” said Waggoner (R. Ottawa Hills) as he praised the spirit of “compromise and cooperation” that Strickland has fostered in the budget process. “It’s a recognition that Democrats and Republicans can work together.”

“Together we have fashioned a budget that will be good for the people of this state and we were only able to do it because we were all able to sit down together,” said the governor. “We were going to have a property tax cut for every senior citizen homeowner in Ohio.”

Beginning immediately, senior citizens can sign up for the tax relief benefits at area senior centers and township halls. The homeowner tax cuts will make exempt the first \$25,000 of property value when calculating the tax bill. That will mean savings of \$392 for the average Toledo senior citizen homeowner and as much as \$569 for a homeowner living in Ottawa Hills.

“We are ready to process those forms,” said Lopez at the press conference on Thursday where her staff was prepared to start the enrollment.

Also in attendance at the announcement was Billie Johnson, executive director of the Area Office on Aging. Johnson’s agency has partnered with the County Auditor’s office to bring the homeownership enrollment plan to Lucas County. Johnson thanked the governor and state representatives for “giving us a budget that can provide services to seniors.”

Prior to this current state budget, senior citizens could apply for such relief based solely upon income levels. Currently about 8,000 Lucas County residents are enrolled in the exemption program.

The new program offers relief based upon the homeowner’s status of being a senior citizen.

According to Lopez her office can also provide one-



Gov. Strickland and Senator Teresa Fedor

on-one assistance for those unable to attend the sign up sessions. A senior can call 419-213-4406 for such assistance.

For more information on the times and locations of the sign ups, see the schedule below.



Auditor Anita Lopez and Gov. Strickland



### CLIP & SAVE ON YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

The AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWEST OHIO, INC. and the OFFICE OF ANITA LOPEZ, LUCAS COUNTY AUDITOR



Are you over the age of 65? Do you own and reside in a home in Lucas County? If so, you are eligible for a homestead exemption. Complete a homestead application and submit it before the October 1, 2007 deadline. The Auditor’s office will be at the following locations and at the following times to assist you in completing your forms. Call to schedule an appointment today! 419.213.4406

Zip Code	Date	Location	Hours
43606	July 9—13	JFS Adult Center 2700 Pelham Rd.	8—5
43614	July 16—20	Margaret L. Hunt Senior Center 2121 Garden Lake Pkwy	8—5
43610, 43620	July 23—27	Senior Center Inc. 2308 Jefferson Ave.	8—5
43537	July 30—August 3	Maumee Senior Center 2430 S. Detroit Ave.	8—5
43602, 43604, 43624	August 6—10	J. Frank Troy Senior Center 1235 Division St.	8—5
43558	August 7	Swanton Twp. Hall 13410 Airport Highway	4—8
43566, 43571, 43522, 43547	August 9	Waterville Twp. Hall 621 Farnsworth Rd.	4—8
43607	August 13—17	Lyman Liggins Nutrition Center 1117 Oakwood Ave.	8—5
43616, 43618, 43434	August 13—17	Oregon Senior Center 5760 Bayshore Rd.	8—5
43542	August 14	Monclova Twp Hall 4335 Albon Rd.	4—8
43605	August 20—24	East Toledo Senior Center 1001 White St.	8—5
43612, 43613	August 27—31	Eleanor M. Kahle Senior Center 1315 Hillcrest Ave.	8—5
43412	August 27	Jerusalem Twp. Hall 9501 Jerusalem Rd.	4—8
43611	September 4—7	Friendship Park Senior Center 2930—131st St.	8—5
43608	September 4—7	Chester J. Zablocki Senior Center 3015 Lagrange St.	8—5
43609	September 10—14	Mayores Senior Center Two Aurora Gonzales Dr.	8—5
43566, 43571, 43522, 43547	September 13	Waterville Twp. Hall 621 Farnsworth Rd.	4—8
43528, 43615	September 17—21	CDC Senior Activities Center 330 Oak Terrace Blvd	8—5
43560, 43623, 43617, 43504	September 24—28	Sylvania Senior Center 7140 Sylvania Ave.	8—5

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### WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

#### Kaitlynn Huff

Kaitlynn excels in cheerleading, softball, orchestra and German, among many other things. A member of the National Honor Society, she volunteered for the Red Cross and in support of Point Place. She plans to attend the University of Toledo to become a licensed pharmacist.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Krista LaLonde

A member of the National Honor Society, Krista has been recognized for excelling in academics, athletics, music and scouting. She was a member of Jefferson-Madison Leadership Camp, and will attend the University of Toledo to begin a career in nursing.



SALUTATORIAN

### SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

#### Kristen Johnson

Included among "Who's Who of American High School Students," Kristen has been honored as a student, an athlete, and a leader.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Asia Greer

An accomplished student and athlete, Asia has been on the honor roll since the third grade. She has served her community through Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and has earned a full scholarship to the University of Toledo, where she will prepare for a career in law.



SALUTATORIAN

### LIBBEY HIGH SCHOOL

#### Briana Funches

An accomplished student who was placed onto the National Honor Roll, Briana was involved in more than a dozen school activities, along with being very active in her Church. Her plans are to transform her intelligence and passion for service into a career as a social worker.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Brittany Funches

A National Honor Society member, Brittany has won numerous honors during her academic career. She also competed in softball and quiz bowl, and was a member of the Young Scholar Program and Debutante Cotillion. She is embarking on a career in education.



SALUTATORIAN

### WAITE HIGH SCHOOL

#### Ashley Hartford

Ashley has won many honors in academics, athletics, Spanish and Music. She has served East Toledo in many capacities, and is a black belt in Tae Kwan Do. She will attend the University of Cincinnati to prepare for a career in International Business.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Coleeta Watkins

As Senior Class President, Coleeta is a leader at her school. She is also in the National Honor Society, and won awards in Math and Science. The community has benefited from her volunteer work at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She plans a career as Military Police officer.



SALUTATORIAN

### START HIGH SCHOOL

#### Emily Avery

A National Merit Finalist, Emily has excelled in athletics and music. She was in the Mu Alpha Theta math honorary club, and has shared her love of the arts with children in the community. She will attend the University of Michigan to become a civil engineer.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Rachael Lautzenheiser

Secretary of the National Honor Society and two-time MVP of her cross-country team, Rachael was also active in the school orchestra. She was a member of the Russian Club, and has volunteered to help adopted children. She will study chemical engineering at the University of Toledo.



SALUTATORIAN

### BOWSER HIGH SCHOOL

#### Rachel Momenee

President of the National Honor Society, Rachel is an accomplished artist, athlete and student. She has also served her community through tutoring and mentoring. Rachel plans to study architecture at Miami University or the University of Notre Dame.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Lori Ashford

An accomplished scientist, Lori plans to earn her Ph.D and become a physicist. She has shared her love of science with others as a volunteer at COSI. She was also in the National Honor Society, on the quiz bowl team, and performed in the orchestra and school plays.



SALUTATORIAN

### ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL

#### Andrea Hill

Andrea is an accomplished student who has won many awards, including the Bausch & Lomb Science Award. She is planning to attend the University of Toledo and train to be a Pediatric Nurse. She was also Student Council President, and was active in softball and in the cast of "Fame."



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Amir Abed

A National Honor Society member, Amir combines his academic prowess with a strong commitment to community service and helping those less fortunate. He will attend The Ohio State University to study Business Finance and Automotive Engineering.



SALUTATORIAN

### TOLEDO TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

#### Michael Orzechowski

Michael has widely varied interests - from alternative fuel cars to sumobots. President of the National Honor Society, he was also a counselor at the Ottawa Park Nature Camp. He will attend Michigan Tech and study electrical engineering.



VALEDICTORIAN

#### Zachary Morris

A Habitat for Humanity volunteer and member of the Science Olympiad, Zachary was also Vice President of the National Honor Society. He is also active in the Alternative Fuel Pace Car and at his Church, and will attend the Western State University of Colorado to become a teacher.



SALUTATORIAN

## THE BIG READ Grant Awarded To The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Special to The Truth

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library a \$20,000 nationally competitive grant in support of **The Big Read**.

The Big Read was created to address the national decline in literary reading as documented in the NEA's 2004 landmark survey, *Reading At Risk* and is a partnership among the NEA, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest encouraging communities to read and discuss a single book.

The Library's major partner for The Big Read is the Toledo Community Foundation (TCF), which has contributed an additional \$20,000 for the community-based program.

The book selected for Lucas County is Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The plot centers around how children of a quiet southern town in the mid-1930s learn how adults in their community, made up of different races, classes and temperaments, interact during times of crisis.

"The Library is honored to receive both grants and will encourage all Lucas County residents to read *To Kill A Mockingbird*, a classic best-seller and Pulitzer Prize winner that addresses issues and explores values that are timely. The book is written in understandable language, provides excellent discussion topics and is readily available in virtually every paper and electronic format," said **Margaret Danziger**, Library Deputy Director. Mrs. Danziger added that the Library and TCF have partnered with schools and many other organizations to encourage the reading of this book.

"The Toledo Community Foundation saw The Big Read as an opportunity to promote literacy in our community and raise public awareness about the power of reading," said **Keith Burwell**, president of the Toledo Community Foundation.

"The Big Read is also about getting people to leave their homes and offices, unplug themselves for a few hours, and enjoy the pleasures of literature with their neighbors," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.

For a complete list of other communities participating in the Big Read, a list of the Big Read novels, program application guidelines, or more information on the program, please visit [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org)



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## What is the Complexion for Protection? Environmental Racism Revealed

By Vickie A. Shurelds  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

As community economic development boards strive to bring in industry that translates into jobs for their residents while procuring an increase in the economic base, they find themselves trading, accepting the previously unacceptable and offering abatements to businesses that have not gone through proper scrutiny for the degree of danger they may create.

Keenly focused on the benefits of an increased tax base and utility usage, such boards are either unaware of or they disregard the reoccurring dilemma of exposing community members to toxic chemicals that can sometimes find their way into the water, air and earth through the improper disposal of waste, runoff, burnoff or whatever means their engineers have deemed most economical.

An organization called CHEJ, the Center for Health, Environment and Justice has voiced a concern that many have made but have hesitated to vocalize: a disproportionate number of businesses which generate toxic waste somehow find their way into the neighborhoods populated by people of color.

Over the past 25 years there have been many "chicken or the egg" discussions, and in some cases the line is very blurry – but statistics are showing in an alarming number of communities, city or county governments are offering up tax free land to developers of chemical plants. This occurrence has now found its way into an Ohio court room. The charge? Environmental racism.

In this particular case, residents in the small town of East Liverpool, Ohio are charging that has been an impact of vapor intrusions and chemical emissions on residents who are reporting the diagnosis of specific cancers and, in fact, the highest cancer rate in Ohio. They believe they know the cause of their condition.

Ron Davis is an organizing team leader for CHEJ. He presents information at public forums in any community with a question. The first point of clarification is usually: What do we mean when we say "Environmental Justice?" Ron breaks it down using a White House executive order: the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of *all* people.

The White House order went on to say minority and low income communities have to have adequate access to public information relating to health and environmental planning regulations and enforcement. If there were still questions concerning the issues, they went on to further explain: No population, especially the elderly and children are forced to shoulder a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazard.

As Davis offers his expertise in organizing a community that has questions about its environment, he makes it clear to local businesses and government officials that his organization is not one of militant ideas aimed at shutting down production. "We just want people to know what questions to ask to make sure safeguards have been put in place that will protect the lives of their families while they work to provide for their day to day needs," says Davis.

The most recent call to question has sparked an interest in the Ohio Conference of the NAACP. President Sybil Edwards-McNabb has requested each branch to adopt Environmental Justice Guidelines. The proposal included language that spoke directly to the mission of the NAACP: "support education, litigation and advocacy to empower African Americans and poor communities to identify hazards and to zealously advocate for change in collaboration with like minded groups."

More information will be distributed across the state by the NAACP and CHEJ. Davis is traveling to any community that extends an invitation to him to conduct an open forum for the discussion of possible toxic contamination. He tells participants real stories involving the lives of real people like Lois Gibbs who discovered that her neighborhood was built next to 20,000 tons of buried chemical waste.

She led her community in a huge two-year battle against a multi-billion dollar corporation, local, state and federal government agencies. She was swamped with phone calls from people across the country wanting her help with their own situations after she was successful in winning permanent relocation for 900 families.

In most cases, however, environmental problems can be solved by conversations and an agreement to be sure that every precaution is being taken to protect the lives of community members.

If you're wondering why you haven't heard of CHEJ before – well, you have. Their first corporate campaign convinced McDonalds to stop using Styrofoam sandwich boxes. Recently, they've convinced Microsoft, Johnson and Johnson, Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works to stop using PVC, "the poison plastic."

If you're not sure how to recognize PVC, look for a triangle shape at the bottom of a product with the number 3 stamped inside. It's a key element in some toys, including rubber ducks – the material emits a toxic chemical that can be ingested by children who immediately put these toys in their mouths. The resulting poisoning can have long-term damaging effects.

In nearly every case, CHEJ is an enabling agency, providing information, organization suggestions, and networking opportunities for communities that are facing environmental concerns. They offer data testing, information for clean up plans, or health studies. They serve as on-call technical advisors to organized groups. They will review and evaluate data and analyses from air, water and soil tests. They will also prepare specific guidebooks, written for the layperson on how to use technical information to win a community victory, or to support businesses in the area that are doing a good job being an economically good neighbor.

They also offer ten essentials to winning any victory:

1. Talk to your neighbors
2. Host a Meeting
3. Form a group
4. Identify your goals/targets
5. Identify your resources
6. Identify your obstacles
7. Establish a game plan
8. Plan a direct action
9. Involve the media
10. Don't play by *their* rules!

If you believe your small group in your small town cannot effect a significant change, even after reading the story of Lois Gibbs, remember this: dioxin air emissions fell 77 percent during 1987 and 1995 – not due to regulatory reform, but due to the determined efforts of grassroots groups across the county who, working in partnership with CHEJ shutting down 2,600 medial waste incinerators and garbage incinerators that were close to schools, or had numerous infractions due to non-compliance.

Environmental activist Ralph Nader has declared "CHEJ is the strongest environmental organization today – the one making the greatest impact on changing the way our society does business.

In Lima, there have been questions for years about the quality of air and water due to existing manufacturers, and with the addition of more businesses in the near future most moving into the areas of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Wards, we need to ask the questions that will assure our communities a strong, healthy and prosperous relationship. There should not be a decision made that causes us to choose between our physical health and our economic well-being.

To learn more about CHEJ visit [www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org) or call (703) 237-2249.

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Album Review

Fabulous - From Nothin To Somethin

By Michael Hayes

Minister of Culture

I'm the last of a dying breed. Damn.

Is the East Coast really this tired? Yo, I can't stand to see my favorite people struggle.

I'm like one of them 40-year-old white guys who can't believe the music he grew up listening to is now considered Classic Rock and everything that's current doesn't make sense.

I grew up on East Coast hip-hop. Damn that East Coast vs. West Coast hip-hop beef,

it was literally the Tribe Called Quest, Redman, Nas and Wu who truly helped me and my crew grow up out of that gang-related bull and get on some grown man talented B.I.

And now look at us.

Lil Wayne is blazing remixes left and right bringing back memories of how we all used to bug out when Ghostface would show up on somebody's mixtape and rearrange that whole joint with one verse. These days the East just ain't hitting like it should and it hurts.

Yo, MIMS may have had a number one hit—but I can't GIVE that CD away.

I'm not lying, y'all, I have tried several times to give that Mims CD away and no one wants it.

U.G.E. is trying to do business with Capitol, so I've talked to the A&R that handled Mims whole project and he insists that dude still has the ability to re-establish the East Coast rap scene... I respectfully disagree. Then let's look at what's up with East Coast labels.

G-Unit is becoming obsolete thanks to Fiddy's "me against everyone" mantra and it seems that Big Apple

acts sell the least on his label. Mobb Deep's, Tony Yayo's and Lloyd Banks' recent joints were all miserable when it came to moving units.

Bad Boy tried to go hard with Black Rob a couple years ago but that dude just can't stay out of prison so Puff and Harve switched the whole platform.

Now the label is full of Pop acts, Southern hip-hop acts and the three East Coast acts are among the quietest on the roster.

Roc-A-Fella—I don't care what the imprint on a CD says, this label doesn't exist anymore.

Murder Inc. — Well, I don't know... was this ever an East Coast label?

Def Jam has proven that Puff and Jay compare notes more often than we think because they have stripped down their rosters in similar fashion. You've got to go with what's working but... damn.

Even The Roots flopped under Jay's leadership.

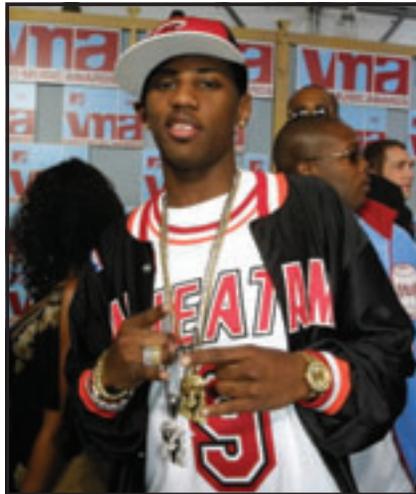
So the deal that traded Musiq to Atlantic from Def Jam and Fabo from Atlantic to Def Jam made me quite optimistic because I really dig Loso, but kinda apprehensive because of Hov's track record in that big office with East Coast acts.

I'm already kinda disappointed and I hope the deal was tighter than most with the terms because ya boy Fab might not even past recoupment off this one.

You sign a deal and when the album drops you're already on ya third video/single — you might as

well kiss them mechanicals good bye and start booking shows.

And why would it take



three singles for a platinum super star to sell anyway?

Fabulous gets a few haters, but I never understood why.

Dude's got metaphors for days.... and if you were raised on hip-hop like I was, you know that's what separates rappers from emcees.

The kids bought into his persona, the ladies loved him for his duets with Lil Mo and that Tamia joint, and real rap dudes respected him for his mixtape and album cuts.

He's not a super-super star from NY like Jigga, Nas, DMX and all of them big cats but he's like one of the last few to get them platinum plaques and rep BK.

No matter what you felt about those other joints, you had to fall back when he dropped

"Breathe"—that is a modern hip-hop masterpiece.

So it's safe to say dude was established. Two platinum and one gold album and a ton of radio hits.

When he went to Def Jam I was hoping Jay Z would bring Fabulous to a height he'd never seen.

You would think Jigga would love dude.

I've always considered Fabulous a better fit to be the heir apparent, Memphis Bleek may be lil homie but Fabo actually has the style and talent to graduate to that

Jay Z status... or at least get closer than Memphis would.

This just seemed like a golden opportunity to capitalize off the right talent on the right label at the right time.

Then that wack ass "Diamonds" came out earlier this year and I was pissed.

I mean, I know a lot of Atlanta acts are getting rich off of sounding local as hell but that song was just cheesy. Still had a few decent lines but a song totally about diamonds is just ridiculous even though Fab got international props for that white/gold piece with the spinning charm.

But who cares?

So then came the second joint, produced by Just and assisted by Swizz—you can't get more East Coast than that. "Return Of The Hustle" is kinda hot, but not exactly a hit.

Not exactly built for 106 & Park but it's got that boom bap that us late 20's/early 30's peeps grew up on way back in the late 90's when hip-hop sounded like Premo or RZA had a hand in everything.

It could've made some noise but before long the third single was on its way.

"Make Me Better" is that joint that will move some units.

Produced by Timbo, hook

by Ne-Yo.

Completely ready for that 106 & Park crowd and it's all over everyone's Myspace pages, this is single that takes Fabo back into that familiar radio-friendly territory but I wonder if it's too little too late. One thing I respect on this album is that he and Lil Mo stay committed to doing collabo's but they make a distinctly un-radio album cut which really makes their chemistry seem more artistic than industry gimmick.

"What Should I Do" is the roughest song on this entire disc.

The production, the vocals and FINALLY Fab uses that intellect to tackle a concept song where he battles his demons and makes some personal music — this song should've been the platform for the whole album.

It sounds like what you would expect on an album called *From Nothin To Somethin*.

But unfortunately, the majority of this album is pointless.

I still bump that *Real Talk* album to this day, the singles and the album cuts were slick.

This fourth album has a gazillion collabo's and hardly any good material to speak of.

There's a song with Akon called "Change Up," a joint with T-Pain produced by J.D. called "Baby Don't Go" and even a track with Rihanna called "Fist Time" and with all that star power none of those songs are particularly memorable.

Even the Jay Z verse on "Brooklyn" doesn't live up to expectations.

I mean, come on, an ode to BK has got to be ill — especially since my favorite track paying homage comes courtesy of Mos Def. But nope, it's nothing special.

Most of the rhymes on Fab's fourth album fail to re-establish him as a punch line heavyweight.

But he gets a few in here and there. The stand-out tracks are "What Should I Do?" feat. Lil Mo, "Jokes On You" feat.

Pusha T, and "Real Playa Like" feat. Lloyd gets a few head nods.

Overall it's just not what I hoped it would be and it looks like East Coast hip-hop is gonna have to wait on Pa-poose to save the day. No pressure, right?

The grade for Fabulous fourth album, *From Nothin To Somethin* is C-

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Aye Dee is one of the area's most well known up & coming male R&B singers.

There's a lot of talent out there, and we are just happy to be doing what we do and making moves.

Check out his info at [www.myspace.com/ayedeesings](http://www.myspace.com/ayedeesings)

U.G.E. and Darron Scott wanna thank Hutch Daddy Dollaz of 97.3 for the recent affiliation

and I wanna say what's up to D.J. Keith Success... looking forward to bigger and better thangs, fam.

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## Norman Bell Joins Webb Campaign

Special to TheTruth

Lindsay Webb, endorsed Democratic candidate for Toledo City Council

District Six, is proud to announce that long-time community leader

Norman A. Bell, Sr. has joined her campaign as an Honorary Co-Chair.

Bell joins Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz and Lucas County Recorder Jeanine Perry – both former District 6 council representatives – in this capacity.

"Toledo has benefited greatly from the lifetime of service that Norman Bell has

given us," says Webb. "I could not be more proud to have his support."

Bell spent 28 years working for the City of Toledo before retiring as interim executive director of the Board of Community Relations and Affirmative Action in 1987.

He has since served the Toledo community in many volunteer capacities including: chairman of the True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, vice president of the University of Toledo Alumni Association's Minority

Affiliate, an executive board member of the Toledo

Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, a board member of the James C. Caldwell Community Center, a member of the Ohio Consumers Council, an Ameritech Advisory Board member, and a Kepro Consumer Advisory Board member.

A long-time civil rights leader, he serves on the boards of the Greater Toledo Urban League, the Toledo NAACP and the ACLU of Northwest Ohio. An advocate for senior citizens, he serves as Chaplain of the Toledo-Lucas County chapter of the National Caucus &

Center on Black Aged, Inc., and as secretary of the State Legislative Committee of the AARP.

Bell is a graduate of Southern University A&M College, where he also earned a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant through the Army ROTC program, and of The University of Toledo.

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### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following projects:

JOB NO.	PROJECT	BIDS DUE ON OR BEFORE	WALK-THRU DATE
#27045	Renovation & Site Work at 1936 Christie	July 24, 2007 @ 11:00am	July 10, 2007 at 10:00am

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available on **Monday, July 2, 2007**, at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$20.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be due and opened per the "Invitation for Bids" in the contract documents.

Each bid will require a bid guarantee as described in the contract documents.

**The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20070028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.**

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, or ancestry.

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### Community Support Coordinator

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#27046	Carpet Installation /Replacement @ various LMHA locations	None	July 17, 2007 @ 11:00am

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### COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROVIDER-JOINT VENTURE PROGRAM

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Candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree, a minimum of one year experience working with children and families and knowledge of chemical dependency and mental health issues.

One of the following Ohio licenses are preferred: LSW, PC, LCDC II or CDCA.

Send or fax resume to:



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EOE

# Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir's Ladies Luncheon

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As if it wasn't enough to have men serve them lunch, the women attending the luncheon were serenaded by the beautiful bass voice of Rev. Gregory Meredith. Singing "I Won't Complain," he got no complaints from the women who applauded, witnessed, shouted and stood in testimony to the goodness of God.

Following a welcome by Katherine Stokes and President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Northwestern District Missionary Association W. Jean Lark's response, tenor Timothy Hayes sweetly serenaded an appreciative audience, the second gentleman that day to do so. Singing "Just Jesus," he was joined on the chorus by the multitude of singers in the

gave her a saintly appearance, let the audience know she only came at the behest of Jones.

"Larry, you're the only one I would do this for, because I'm here on vacation and about to go back to Chattanooga," said Moore. Having enjoyed the praise and worship service immensely, Moore admitted that "every song was my song," but specified one song in particular for examination at the luncheon whose theme was "No Cross - No Crown." "Most of you may not be wearing one when I finish," she said. "It sounds good to sing 'I shall wear a crown,' but it takes some work. Some of you say, 'That's holiness.' Holiness is being in the world but not of the world. For those



"No Christ, no cross, no crown," she said. "Knowing Christ is not the same as receiving Christ. God will not dwell in an unclean temple. God said, 'I'm looking for somebody to put a crown on. Revelations 22 and 12 says He's coming how? Quickly! Jesus is coming back quickly and His crown is going to be given to everyone according to his works.'" Moore related an incident that happened in Haiti last year. Having ministered in the impoverished nation for over 40 years, Moore has often spent time there. But one night while there about a year ago, in the dark of

night robbers came into her dark room armed with machetes.

She said all she said was "Jesus. Not 'Oh, Jesus. Just 'Jesus.'" She said it then occurred to her that she should speak Creole, the language spoken in that country. "I said 'Jesus' and they started saying 'Jesus' and left."

Several times during the sermon, Moore started speaking in tongues, and then translated a prophecy given to a specific individual. The least one was for a woman at a nearby table. "The Lord says, 'Just a little longer. There's a light at the end of

the tunnel and you're about to come over the finish line.' Just a little longer! Just a little longer!"

Shouts of praise and TIMC president Derrick Robert's Pentecostal piano-playing resonated throughout the large hall in response. Moore ended with what everyone thought was a joke about an old woman asked to select three hymns. Pointing to several men in the audience, Moore said, "I want him, him and him." Laughter erupted, some hysterical, while Moore stood stone-faced at the podium, and then continued in the voice of the

old lady. "I don't know why you're laughing; I said the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." Laughter turned to shouts of praise as Moore left the podium and the hall to go to another speaking engagement as she ended her 'vacation' in Toledo.

Following a delicious lunch, the three winning teams were announced. Third place went to "Friday's Child" with a total of \$315.00 raised. Second place went to "Tuesday's Child" with a total of \$410.00 raised. First place went to "Monday's Child" with a total of \$665.00 raised.

Members of the team were Laureneta Baylis, Justin Blackshear, Bolden, Freddie Bryant, Sirlerna Crowley, Bellzora Duhart, Charlisa Hutchen, Gwendolyn Jones, Marvin March, Robin, Salina and Tommie McGhee, Evelyn Mickey, Jamie Nedd, Fredia Pack, Jade Stegall, Georgia Trigg and Jennifer Wilson.

**"Imagine a dozen handsome men dressed in white waiters' jackets serving a roomful of women. No, this is not some Amazonian fantasy. It actually happened"**

audience.

Joan Bolden introduced speaker Pastor Peggy Moore from Chattanooga, Tennessee, her long-time friend and her daughter, Leslie's godmother. The 72-year old former Toledo pastor, whose humility of spirit and dress

folks who have the world in them, you're in the right place to get it out."

Moore continued her short but spirit-filled sermon saying when she saw the theme, she thought it was a good one; until the spirit told her something was left out.

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