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*“I was thinking ‘why not do this?’ Why not give back and continue to give back?” ~ Jack Ford, candidate for Toledo Board of Education*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

This past week on the national scene there surfaced two more signs that America has lost its way and that the terrorists have won the war we have been waging so vigorously, if not especially competently, against them.

Or as Pogo once said: "I have seen the enemy, and he is us."

In his Senate confirmation hearings last week, Michael Mukasey, who is the president's nominee for attorney general, denounced the use of torture, yet declined to define water boarding (that act during interrogation when the interviewee is blinded by cellophane or cloth and water is poured over his face creating the sensation of drowning) as torture.

Mukasey thereby hewed to the Bush line that denounces torture but declined to get specific about exactly what constitutes torture.

The Military Commissions Act of 2006 protects detainees from rape, torture and cruel and inhuman treatment but does not define either torture or cruel and inhuman treatment and does not guarantee counsel who might be able to give voice to the fact that interrogators may have crossed the line.

Given Bush's secret memorandum issued in 2005 authorizing the use of sleep deprivation, stress positions, attack dogs and use of hoods to intimidate, given Bush's proclivity to sign secret executive orders to undermine legislation he has approved, any sort of Bush statement disavowing torture has to be taken with a grain of salt.

Prior to the Bush administration's war on terror, we would not have had in this country the slightest doubt that such techniques constitute torture but pragmatism has replaced the ideals defined in the Constitution.

In a separate development, the nation found out last week that even though Bush had announced more than a year ago that the CIA secret overseas prisons were to be closed, many of those held captive at those sites had disappeared – bringing to mind *los desaparecidos* (the disappeared) of Argentina in the late 70's after the military coup in that country or those of Iran in 1999 after the student protests.

Did the CIA simply relocate their terrorist suspects to other more secret prisons or disperse them amongst nations who won't hold nominated cabinet members to task for not expressing the appropriate amount of squeamishness over torture ... nations somewhat less hypocritical than we are when put to the torture test.

For the CIA, these are the ghost prisoners, not yet truly disappeared. Whether they are ever to surface again, perhaps we will find out after a change in administrations. Not that there are any guarantees that such a change will mean a sea change in anti-terrorism policy.

The great Christian theologian of the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Reinhold Niebuhr, wrote in his essay titled *Moral Man and Immoral Society* that it is important that political power, which is absolutely an essential ingredient of society, should be exercised by those who possess prudence, self-knowledge, forgiveness and charity. Such leaders, wrote Niebuhr, will be better equipped to fight for justice and effect reconciliation.

It's pretty easy to see where we have gone wrong as we ponder our current crop of political leaders. It's more difficult to project any substantial change, even post election.

Niebuhr theorized that individuals frequently transcend self interest in their personal dealings (moral man) but nations dealing with nations or social classes dealing with other social classes had no such capacity (immoral society). These were the ideas that so influenced Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and inspired his *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*.

Both Niebuhr and King saw so clearly the danger presented by the overwhelming inclination of the ruling class to preserve its prerogatives. Both would be appalled by our present situation, but hardly surprised. And that situation is our inability as a nation to understand that our constitutional ideals, which we have always struggled to live up to, are now withering on the vine as our leaders decline to even give such ideals lip service.

Victory at any cost and anything to achieve victory in the war on terrorism even if we have to become terrorists to do so.

But it's not just Bush, is it?

We, the rest of the nation, have just sat by and watched the Bush fanatics respond with no sense of proportionality to the outrage of 9/11.

The media, the Democratic Party, Congress and all of the institutions we cherish. We all must share the blame that we have not spoken out with great clarity on what we do not want our country to become, on why it is important that we be able to distinguish ourselves from those who disdain democracy, those who disdain individual liberties, those who would sacrifice the innocent to achieve a fleeting victory.

## Community Calendar

\*October 29-31

Annual Fall Revival: St. Paul MBC; 7 pm nightly; Guest evangelist Pastor Timothy Brinkley of Mt. Hermon MBC of West Point, MS: 419-246-2886

\*November 1

Toledo Smiles Dental Fair: Sponsored by Junior League of Toledo; Leverette Middle School: 419-367-5456

\*November 2-4

Christ the King Redemptive Ministries: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Prophetic Destiny Conference; Speakers include Elder Joberta Patrick, Co-Pastor Sharon Fisher from PA and Prophetess Crystal McQueen; Service 7 pm nightly and 10 am Sunday: 419-917-5660

\*November 3-4

St. Philip Lutheran Church: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet on Saturday at Clarion Hotel (S. Reynolds); 6 pm; Sunday Festival Service Worship; 10:30 am: 419-475-2835

\*November 4

Grace Community Center Benefit: Rites and Bids; Silent Auction 3-5 pm; Live Auction 4-4:45 pm; Sylvania United Church of Christ: 419-248-2467

\*November 5

Look Good ... Feel Better: Program designed to help women overcome appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment; 2 pm; Hilton Toledo; Sponsored by American Cancer Society: 888-227-6446 ext 5105

Toledo Public Schools: Adult and Continuing Education: Introduction to Criminal Justice; 12 week program; Classes Monday through Thursday 5 to 9 pm: 419-671-8700 ext 3

\*November 5-7

Third Baptist Church: Fall revival; Evangelist Tiothe Clarke, pastor First Church of God, Columbus: 419-248-4623

\*November 5-9

Annual Fall Revival: Shiloh MBC; Pastor Kenneth Turner of St. James MBC-St. Louis, MO is the guest evangelist: 419-693-6698/419-535-0615

\*November 6

Election Day!!

\*November 9

Bible Trivia Game: How much do you know about the Bible?; Crusaders for Christ; 7:45 pm: 419-376-2331

\*November 9-11

"The Power of Sisterhood Conference;" Friday night speaker Shepherdess Connie Johnson-Brown of Savannah; Genesis Dreamplex: 419-255-0097

\*November 10

Introduction to Criminal Justice: Ten-week (200 hour) program sponsored by TPS; Monday through Thursday 4 to 9 pm; Laws of arrest, search & seizure, loss prevention, homeland security, domestic violence: 419-671-8700

\*November 17

Cancer Awareness Luncheon: Calvary Baptist Church; 11 am; Presented by the Women's Ministry

Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord;" Senior Class Tribute; Recognizing individuals 70 years of age and older; 6 pm; Mt. Pilgrim Church: 419-241-7332

\*November 28

"What's It All About?;" Free question and answer session about diabetes and participants will receive a blood glucose meter; 10-11:30 am and 2-3:30 pm; Toledo Diabetes Care Center, Ste 200: 419-291-6767

## The Sojourner's Truth

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# We Got Issues ... Some Clearer Than Others

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Confused about the issues on the general election ballot on November 6? Relax.

There are only five issues of importance to Toledoans – tax levies for TARTA, COSI, Metroparks and the Toledo-Lucas County Library and a balanced budget amendment to the city charter.

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is seeking a replacement tax of 1.5 mills for each dollar of valuation in Issue 13. This levy will last for 10 years starting in 2007.

The TARTA levy is for transportation operations and is estimated to cost \$49.94 per year to the owner of a house valued at \$100,000.

The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) is seeking an additional tax levy – Issue 14 – the only additional tax request on this year's ballot. COSI needs a .17 mill, five-year levy to raise about 1.5 million for operations. Such a tax, says board chairman David Waterman, will eliminate the need to keep raising admission prices.

Waterman, who is against raising taxes in general, notes

that the tax, which will cost the owner of a house valued at \$100,000 only \$5.21 per year. "That's not a tax," Waterman says. "It's a cup of coffee."

Metroparks is seeking a replacement tax – Issue 15 – for the maintenance of its operations at 1.4 mills per year – just slightly less than the TARTA tax. This would be a 10-year tax as well, starting in 2008.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is requesting a replacement levy – Issue 16 – of 2.0 mills for 10 years starting in 2007. That equates to \$61.25 a year for a home valued at \$100,000.

The Library tax would increase the book budget, continue staffing levels, maintain upkeep of facilities and buildings, replace and increase computer technology and maintain Sunday hours at five locations.

"We would not come to our loyal patrons for assistance in passing this 2-mill replacement levy, unless it was absolutely necessary to continue the library service the residents of Lucas County have long enjoyed," says Library Director Clyde Scoles.

One of the reasons for the

tax request is the impact that state funding freezes, initiated in 2002, have had upon Library operations.

COSI and the Library are both operating active campaigns in support of their requests for these tax levies. Both organizations are under threat of drastic cut-backs in service if such funds are not forthcoming from Toledo-area taxpayers.

For TARTA and Metroparks the message is not quite as clear as to the impact of the passage, or failure of passage, of the replacement tax levies. There simply has been a lack of information.

And then there is that balanced budget city charter amendment. The purpose of this amendment is to prod the mayor to produce a balanced budget by November 15 for the following fiscal year rather than waiting until months later and presenting City Council with spending options that still need to be trimmed.

When this proposal was put forth by City Council, the administration suggested that they merely needed to go to a line item, such as the police, and cut 100 officers, for example, in order to comply with the amendment. Then, of

course, Council would scoff at such a suggestion and the two branches of government would commence serious discussions of how to balance

the budget as they always had in the past.

Still, the timing of this proposal, November, makes a lot of sense to us.

Vote for COSI and the Library, these are really easy calls. Vote for the balanced budget – it can't hurt the process.

## Ashford The Right Choice

I would like to comment on the recent article regarding District Four Councilman Michael Ashford's work especially in the Warehouse District. What makes this country great is that different political views can be expressed free from ridicule and persecution. I am a registered voter and warehouse business owner in District Four.

I have observed Council President Ashford's work in District Four and especially the warehouse area. My observations are as follows:

- He initiated the first entertainment district in Toledo, (includes the warehouse area) where restaurants can purchase a State Liquor License at a reduced rate. This resulted in four new restaurants opening in the Warehouse District.
- Since 2002 he helped allocate over 1 million in repaving streets, curbs, and sidewalks in the Warehouse District.
- Just this past spring he worked closely with Chief Navarre and Warehouse District residents to address recent break-ins.
- This summer he led the way for a charter school in need of expansion to acquire a Special Use Permit, which allowed it to move into an empty building on Monroe Street.
- As for residents in District Four, he has consistently worked on their behalf, whether during the floods this year or organizing and attending numerous block watches. He just received an award from the Old West End residents where he worked on their behalf to secure funds, which renovated the beautiful Old West End Commons.

The choice is clear, based on experience, leadership, and accomplishments in District Four including the Warehouse District. My vote is for Council President Michael Ashford.

Sincerely

George Yakumithis

## Beware The Naked Man

By Jan K. M. Scotland  
Guest Columnist

Beware the naked man who offers you his shirt. This is the title of Harvey MacKay's book on how to avoid the pitfalls of business. It also has great meaning for life in general. Naked men offering their shirts are prevalent in our society. Identifying them

and destroying the impact they have on our lives is not as easy as one might think.

Just last week police arrested two 16-year old boys who apparently were planning another Columbine High School type massacre in Boston. They had compiled guns and a list of victims. They are the latest in a long list of youth who fantasize these

types of killings for imagined or real injustices.

A 14-year old in Cleveland, a freshman student at Delaware State University, a 23-year old at Virginia Tech, an 18-year old in Tacoma Washington ... the list goes on and on of young people who have taken to violence as a worthy approach to their grievances.

What are the proposed solutions? Well "we need to counsel our students on the evils of bullying." "We need to prepare our counselors to recognize the signs." "We need to beef up the security on our school campuses." Oh yeah, don't forget gun control. "We must have more gun control." I am sure that our more liberal partners will find a way of blaming this on global warming.

Well at the risk of sounding like an old guy, bullying has always been a part of school culture and, when I was in school, I don't remember it resulting in a school massacre. Counseling was almost always limited to how you could pass your classes and what you wanted to do for your career. Security, short of police officers and metal detectors, is useless as a deterrent and gun control does nothing to prevent illegal access to guns. Global warming? Well I'll leave that to Al Gore to explain.

All of those things are red herrings to the main problem, naked men offering you their shirts. Video game companies who will tell you those violent video games have no impact



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(Continued on Page 16)

## Rictor International Takes a Hit in the Media, Do They Deserve That?

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

An agreement signed this past winter between Lucas County and Rictor International, a local African-American-owned consulting firm, has been assailed for any number of reasons over the past several weeks.

It has been called a sweet-heart deal, a political pay off, unproductive, the reason for the demise of the director of the Lucas County Improvement Corporation (LCIC) and an agreement with individuals who do not have a background in foreign trade issues.

So which of the above accusations rings true?

According to information provided to The Truth by Rictor International principals, by their associate, by Lucas County Commissioners and by companies Rictor does business with, absolutely none of the above is accurate.

The principals in Rictor are Jeff Roberts and Richard "Ricardo" Kahr. Both are former, and founding, members of First Creation who managed to develop, Roberts told us, extensive contacts, in business and entertainment, nationally and internationally, during their days in that musical group.

Roberts, as has been widely reported, does indeed not have a business background. However, Kahr does. Kahr, who grew up in Cincinnati, was brought up in the business world, he says. He arrived in Toledo in 1985 to

work in the financial services field and spent years with Primerica Financial Services, Excel Communication and L'Arone International.

Then there is Lee Russell, chairman of KPGL Innovation, LLC, and a partner for the purposes of various specific projects with Rictor. Russell, a Toledo resident, has a business background

LCIC, and Commissioner Pete Gerken. According to Gerken, since he was unfamiliar with the track record of Rictor, he entered a "pre-trial" agreement with the trio—Roberts, Russell and Kahr.

'Show me something,' Gerken essentially told the group. And as he related last week, they indeed did show him something. Rictor and

process. "We have access to financial institutions and developers—both commercial and residential. We have access to different people on the entertainment field. We tried to do everything we could to assist [the county]. But we can only do what we are asked to do."

Gerken agrees.

He says now of the pro-

dishwasher," says Gerken of Roberts' background. "I was a Jeep assembler a couple of years ago. I'm not ashamed of that contract."

As Gerken explains, part of his rationale for letting the contract to Rictor was to give minority businessmen an opportunity to get into a game from which they have long been excluded. Another was the fact that the relatively inexpensive contract came about at a time when the LCIC office was drastically understaffed. The contract was perhaps a third of what it would have cost for one full time staffer's salary and benefits over a comparable amount of time, says Gerken.

One of those contacts that Rictor has access to is Ascot Chase, Inc. of Scottsdale AZ. According to President Martha Kreider, Ascot's CEO Lee ShROUT was one of the first individuals to be granted an export license to China after the U.S. and the Asian nation was in the process of normalizing relations in 1978. Ascot is an international business consulting company representing eight Chinese Trade Zones and maintains offices and staff in Shanghai.

"We are the only company assigned to putting on shows and seminars [about China] for Forbes Magazine," explains Kreider about the company. Of the company's relationship with Rictor, Kreider says: "I've known them for about three or four years and we have many things in the works, three deals completed and maybe six or seven others pending. I have never known them to falsify or misrepresent about anything."

Other such laudatory comments come from such far-flung places and companies as Hector Sectzer, CEO of BCC News in Los Angeles and Dwayne Goldsmith of EVP Marketing in New Jersey.

Tellingly, in spite of the adverse publicity over Rictor and its \$18,000 contract, Gerken not only has not disavowed the deal, he still believes that if the county and the LCIC get their respective acts together, there still will be opportunities for Rictor to work with the government entities again.

It's not what you did sometime ago, he says of Roberts' background: "It's what you deliver today."

**"I don't care if he was a dishwasher," says Gerken of Roberts' background. "I was a Jeep assembler a couple of years ago. I'm not ashamed of that contract."**

that goes back to 1977 with General Mills, among other companies. He has been a senior financial management consultant for the Warren Sherman National Equity Fund, he has done curriculum development for The University of Toledo in organization management and has been an advising consultant for Youth/Sports and Activities for the National Transitional Legislative Assembly of Liberia.

Russell manages contractual relationships with Shanghai NianKai International Trading Ltd., Shanghai Medical Instrument Co., Ltd. and Shanghai Gammastar Technology, Ltd.

So how did the relationship between Lucas County and Rictor International develop?

In early 2007, Roberts and Kahr approached the County and spoke with Shawn Ferguson, then director of

Russell, said Gerken brought three important contacts to the table that the county would not have been able to develop themselves.

Len Blum, the managing partner of Westwood Capital, LLC, a Las Vegas investment and development group, came to Toledo, at his expense, and ultimately produced extensive proposals for both the City of Toledo and Lucas County.

The Bells of Memphis, who own the Peabody Hotel chain, also were brought to the table as was a Disney subsidiary

Nothing has yet happened with any of these contacts, according to both Rictor and Gerken, but not through any fault of Roberts, Russell and Kahr.

"We match up contacts with each other, let them negotiate their deals and get a finder's fee if they come to a deal," said Roberts of the

### Lisa Canales Continues Re-Election Campaign for W.L.S.

The Campaign Committee to Re-Elect Lisa Canales, president of the Washington Local Board of Education, is back for another run.

Canales has an extensive history in the Washington Local Area. Canales is up for re-election on November 6, 2007—She has eight years of service as a board member for Washington Local Schools.

In 1995, she was the lead reporter for the Point and Shoreland Journal. In 1998, Canales was the first Latina elected as the president of the Point Place Business Association.

She continues to serve as the chairman of the Civilian Police Review Board working with the chief of police and the Internal Affairs Department.

In 1999, Canales was elected to the Board of Education for Washington Local Schools. She was re-elected to the board in 2003, doubling her vote total and retaining

her position as vice president of the board. She is currently serving as the president of the Board of Education.

Canales joined Mayor Jack Ford's administration in 2001 and served as the mayor's assistant and a public information officer for Toledo City Council. She is currently employed with Lucas County Jobs and Family Services.

The signature lighthouse on North Summit Street is a

project that is dear to Canales' heart. As the founder and chairman of the Gateway Project, it was an idea, combined with a dream that led her and the community to embrace the 35 foot lighthouse and make it a reality. The Lighthouse project has been recognized as one of the most "Outstanding Gateway Projects" in Ohio.



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# Ronnell Traynum: District 4 Candidate Takes One of the City's Top Politicians

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Ronnell Traynum, Democratic candidate for the District 4 Toledo City Council seat currently held by incumbent Council President Michael Ashford, attended Devilbiss High School, but as she reflects on where she spends and has spent her life, that may have been the only substantial period of time she has spent outside of District 4.

"I do everything in District 4," says the Old West End resident who is making her first run for elective office. "I live in District 4, I work in District 4, I go to church in District 4, I shop for groceries in District 4, my kids go to school there, my doctor is there, even my hairdresser is in District 4."

And now the District 4 resident labors mightily to bring her message of change to the voters. Traynum, a licensed practicing nurse, and former hair stylist herself, is facing a daunting challenge as she attempts to unseat one of Toledo's political powerhouses.

She finished second in a field of four during September's primary and won the right to carry on with her crusade. With her second-place victory came

the opportunity to continue to shape her message and become more specific about that message's details.

"I have learned what the residents are saying," says Traynum. "They are saying we want our streets to be clean, we want our neighborhood to be safer. I've had to expand on the jobs situation, for example."

And with her growing experience in the political arena has come a dose of reality about what she can and cannot promise. She has realized that it's much easier to give lip service to the concept of economic development and jobs creation than it is to effect change in these difficult times for Toledo, particular inner-city Toledo.

"It's not as easy as one would think," says Traynum. "Business owners, for example, will say they need more foot traffic. It's a vicious economic circle, if we had [in District 4] an improved economy, economic development would be a lot easier. Businesses have to know that they are going to make money by relocating."

Nevertheless, Traynum is committed to the difficult process of focusing on economic development and has thrown her support behind the fledgling efforts of the Dorr Street

Coalition, a group of businesses and community leaders who are attempting to turn around what was once one of the premiere corridors in Toledo.

"We have to band together," says Traynum of the Coalition. "We have to band together as a community in order to move forward. I believe this is going to happen and it really starts with neighborhood pride."

Neighborhood unity is a recurrent theme in the challenger's message that she has taken from door to door in the district. And it is her mission, if elected, to start the process of representing her community, a representation, she says, that is missing in the incumbent's day-to-day routine.

"The first thing I would do is set up meetings in the various sectors and uncover what the residents want me to work on first," says Traynum. "I could say I want the north end to be cleaner, but I need to hear that from the residents."

Traynum is the founder of GirlsSense, a non-profit organization she started in her home about four years ago. The group's mission is to provide support, guidance and education while continually devel-

oping new and innovative approaches to addressing the obstacles that impede young girl's journey to success. There are about 40 active members of the group.

"Education is the key to success," says Traynum. "And with that I would say that self-development is the key to community development. What can [elected officials] do to help you as an individual?"

We asked Traynum, as she surveys District 4 and brings her message of change to the voters, what she feels is missing in the area? What needs to be delivered?

"Clearly we need more small businesses," she starts her list. "And not more convenience stores, we have enough of those."

"We have virtually no laundromats on the north side," she notes. "Or delis."

She also points out the lack of activities available to residents, particularly young residents.

"We need more afterschool activities," she says, "and we have to be more realistic these days since parents are keeping longer work hours. There are, for example, no outside basketball courts. We have to think of things for our young



boys to do besides hang out."

What has been the best part of this campaign for the neophyte politician?

"All of the people I have met whom I otherwise would not have," she responds, "and the knowledge that has come with that."

And the worst part of this first campaign?

"That it is my first time and I did not expect such a lack of acknowledgment from the incumbent... he won't speak or acknowledge me," says Traynum of her interactions,

or lack of them, with her opponent. "That may be a bit of me to expect him to just say hello when I say hello to him but it's just common courtesy."

Traynum is obviously facing an uphill battle against an opponent who swamped her in the primary, but she is confident of the outcome as she still relishes the second place finish in September. "The anticipation was difficult... definitely. But I did expect it."

This time around, her expectations are even higher.

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## Jack Ford: "Why Wouldn't I Do This?"

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The first question we put to Jack Ford, of course, is the same one he gets all over town as he pursues his quest to return to public life after what has already been a lifetime of public service. Why run for the school board?

Why, after all, would the former city councilman, the former president of city council, the former state representative, the former minority leader of the state House of Representatives and the former mayor of a city of the size of Toledo want to take on the seemingly thankless job of being on the Toledo Board of Education?

"I was thinking 'why wouldn't I do this?'" replies Ford as he sat down with The Truth last week. "Why not give back and continue to give back?"

"I've been in a variety of public roles for 38 years," he continues. "At the end of the mayor's job, I thought I had done my thing in public life, but why wouldn't I do this?"

As Ford explains his transition from public life to the private sector – he is now on the faculty of Bowling Green State University – he notes that it would be impossible not to follow events he had been a part of for so many years.

"I started seeing the impotence of the school board and realized 'no wonder we are in this mess,'" he says. "There are two or three things I can help with. First, I personally handled a \$350 million budget when I was mayor and no one here has that type of experience. Second, I know how to put together campaigns and levy campaigns. Third, I have the experience and know what the big picture looks like." That experience, he says, comes from having been involved at the state level with so many issues that the school district is still coping with these days.

"I was part and parcel of all of the certification fights, the school rebuilding program, the discussions on core competencies – no one else in the [candidates] field has that kind

of knowledge," says Ford. "In addition, I'm not concerned with the unions and their support nor the party and its support."

True to his word, Ford, a Democratic stalwart, did not seek the endorsement of the Lucas County Democratic Party for his current campaign. And he is conducting this race with a modicum of assistance from others, compared to previous campaigns.

Recently, Ford released a 10-point platform that urged, among other matters, a sharper focus on the underachieving inner-city schools, a commitment to complete a four-year term on the board and to run for a second such term and a campaign by the board to "loudly urge our children to excel and focus on school."

The Truth asked Ford discuss the four topics we have put, or will put, to all of the major school board candidates – teacher competence/diversity, student achievement, charter schools/vouchers and the Intern Program.

"Actually, Toledo teachers are rated a little better in their core competencies than in other Ohio urban areas," says Ford referencing a recent magazine article rating state teachers.

"We need to continue to recruit the best we can and I would like to reward teachers for achieving certain benchmarks. I'd like to see a 'master' status which would bring a teacher further rewards."

Teachers may find such regulation "onerous," admits Ford as he adds that with the recent friction among the board members, "teachers have been lost sight of ... but it all starts with teachers and parents."

As to the issue of teacher diversity, says Ford: "The numbers of [minority teachers] are dwindling. It's getting harder and harder to recruit black male teachers – I see that at BGSU. But I've never been one to feel that you only need black teachers to teach black kids or that white teachers cannot teach black kids. But I would like to see us going back to historically black colleges to recruit more [minorities]."

"Some modification is needed for recruitment priorities, not just to get black teachers, but to get the best, be they black, white or Hispanic," says Ford.

"Obviously there is an achievement gap," says Ford on the subject of student achievement. "The good sign is that it has narrowed recently. We were lulled into complacency when we moved into continuous improvement when we were really just treading water. It may have been a good thing when we slipped back."

"That second school system that I talk about is producing students who won't be able to compete. I've talked with [Superintendent John] Foley about a new structure to deal with underperforming schools."

"We need new schools ... not new buildings but the Grove Patterson and Old West End type of arrangement with all of the inner city schools."

Ford calls for a campaign, generated by the board, to rally parental involvement.

"But kids can still learn, even with minimal parental involvement," he adds. "We can do better with parental involvement but at the end of the day, they can still learn."

As before, Ford calls for a campaign to instill a sense of pride in learning.

"Whoever gets on the school board, I hope they focus on getting kids to understand that it's okay, and the objective is, to do well. Again, we will need to have rewards in place."

When Ford was in the legislature, he says, he was one of those who wanted to have a moratorium on granting permits for new charter schools. "Now I have a different view," he says.

"I don't think public schools have to fear charter schools," says Ford. "If you look at our buildings, if you look at our teachers ... they are better trained. Our kids are a very strong group for the most part. If we do what we want do, the market will look at TPS as the better choice."

"Now I don't think that the



public knows our schools are better but study after study shows that kids score higher [in TPS]. TP must do a better job of addressing needs but the arrogance and non-transparency cause problems.

"The Intern Program has been lauded nationally because it has been seen as professionalizing teachers,"

says Ford. "In its application, if it results in minority teachers not being able to move into teacher after another career and if you cannot recruit the finest youngest talent, then something is wrong with the system and it needs to be changed."

And with that, Ford is off and running, having already conducted more campaigns

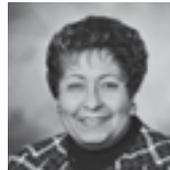
than all of his six opponents combined. But this will undoubtedly not be the last such race. He has promised to not only serve out his full four years ... if he wins, but also to run again in 2011 for another four-year term.

Why wouldn't he do that?

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# Michael Ashford: Campaigning as a Strong, Independent Voice

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

In the September primary, Toledo City Council President, and District 4 representative, Michael Ashford did more than just hold his own against his three challengers. Ashford finished with more than 60 percent of the vote.

That vote was reflective of the hold Ashford has on his district, a hold strengthened by the veteran politician's ability to raise money, his capacity for forming alliances and his accumulated knowledge of grassroots campaigning.

We ran into Ashford a month or two ago at a candidates' forum in Wilson Park. He had not been scheduled to participate but he dropped by for a minute or two during a busy Saturday of shaking hands, knocking on doors and dropping in on community functions.

The candidates, school board hopefuls for the most part, were wasting their time here, Ashford whispered to an onlooker. They should be out doing more useful things

rather than talking to themselves.

It would have been hard to miss the councilman's point. There was no audience for the campaigners' comments save a few event organizers and one or two journalists.

Ashford made a few comments at the podium, primarily to chastise the other, neophyte candidates, and scooted off to pursue other, more purposeful activities.

Weran into Ashford again a few weeks later during at the Lucas County Executive Committee's vote on whether to issue him an official endorsement. The party's screening committee had opted to grant the endorsement to his opponent. That recommendation would be overridden.

But did he need it? The reason he ultimately received the endorsement, as some speakers that evening would suggest, is that the party needed him more than he needed it. The Democratic organization did not want to be stuck "with egg on its face," remarked Executive Director Yvonne Harper,

when Ashford rolled on to victory in the November election without the endorsement.

And why would he have needed it?

Ashford has his own campaign headquarters on Collingwood. He has more money than he needs and more than enough to spread around to his political allies running for office. And he has the power of the incumbency, which he knows how to use. That power grew by leaps and bounds in August when Ashford and his colleagues on City Council staged a coup and overthrew then President Rob Ludeman, a Republican, and installed Ashford in his place.

That move, says Ashford, will help to bring into focus certain policy initiatives the Democrats plan on council, such as opposition to increased taxes – for example the mayor's monthly trash fee.

Ashford has voiced his support recently for the land contract inspection proposal, maintaining the current structure of City Council – six district seats and six at large and

having the mayor submit a balanced budget in a timely fashion – as called for in Issue 22 on November's ballot.

But he also has continually expressed his pride at his accomplishments in his district – his focus on safety, the paving of the district's streets, the repair of curbs and sidewalks. And through it all, he assails his opponent for her failure to bring a detailed plan on such issues to the table.

Ashford has also touted his support for the TUSA proposal to ensure that companies that gain tax abatements from the city pledge to hire Toledoans for the bulk of the created jobs.

Ashford is more than just the councilman for District 4, he is also part of the community as the executive director of the Wayman Palmer YMCA.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Ashford has spent most of his adult life working with youth in a non-profit setting.

He entered politics as a campaign worker for candidates such as Jack Ford and learned the business, in the background, over the years. He put his political acumen to work during the last campaign for governor when he gained high marks from the Ted Strickland folks and the Ohio Democratic Party for his or-

ganizing efforts starting in the early stages of the gubernatorial campaign.

For Ashford, who was so dominating in the primary election, the question seems to be not so much what will happen in a week's time as what will happen in two or three years time.

Is he destined to finish his four-year term of office as the District 4 representative? Or does he have his vision set on something a little grander, such as the state slot when Representative Edna Brown is term limited out of office in several years?

Or is a run for mayor in his political future?



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## Local African-American Ministers Show Their Support For Issue 16

*Special to The Truth*

A group of local ministers, who represent predominately African-American Toledo churches, have pulled together to show support for Issue 16, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's 2-mill, 5-year replacement levy on the November 6 ballot.

The ministers held a press conference with Library officials at on Monday, October 29 in the Pine/Willow Room at the Toledo Hilton Hotel, 3100

Adopt-A-Haircut, a free haircut one time each month for all youth who brought a Library book to the barbershop.

Brock said programs like Adopt-A-Haircut educates youth about the importance of reading and becoming regular Library patrons.

"That's why we are urging and pleading with our community to support Issue 16 for the sake of our children's future—reading is power," added Brock. "Many of our youth and our senior citizens do not

"This replacement levy must pass in order for the Library to continue to offer the services that the community has come to expect. We don't want to let the community down, and these ministers and their parishioners, have demonstrated that they will not let that happen. We are proud of their support," he added.

Faith Hairston, manager of the Kent Branch Library, said the support of local black clergy underscores the importance of the levy for African Americans, who have traditionally supported their Library at the polls.

"Our African-American clergy represents the heartbeat of the black community. Their support of the library's levy helps us to convey the importance of this issue,

Issue 16, on November 6," said Hairston, whose branch at 3101 Collingwood Ave., houses the Art Tatum African American Resource Center.

Dorcel Dowdell, manager of the system's Main Library, said that it means a great deal to Library officials like her to have the ministers demonstrate their support of the Library's replacement levy.

"African-Americans have great respect for their ministers, and many ministers are politically active and aware of the needs of the people in the community," said Dowdell. "The Library has offered numerous services that the African-American community has



*Rev. Cedric Brock*

Glendale Ave., to announce their reasoning for supporting Issue 16.

Press conference organizer Cedric Brock, a local pastor

have access to computers in their homes, but the Library offers free access which is very important for the 21<sup>st</sup> century citizen."

**"Many of our youth and our senior citizens do not have access to computers in their homes, but the Library offers free access which is very important for the 21<sup>st</sup> century citizen."~ Cedric Brock**

and president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, said, as with the history of the black church in America, the Library has traditionally been a stronghold in the African-American community.

"From the bookmobile to Saturday afternoons with my family, the Library has been important in my life as well as the community," said Brock, ombudsman for Toledo Public Schools and pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

"The ministers want to continue to push and support the Library for its bright future and importance in our community," said Brock, who partnered this year with the Mott Branch Library, 1085 Dorr Street, and Clark's Barber & Beauty Shop, 1723 N. Detroit Ave., to offer a service titled

Clyde Scoles, Library Director, said he is grateful for the ministers' dedication and support of Issue 16 and the Library system.

"We are proud of our system, for it is the people's Library, and what a statement this makes to the community, to have these important men and women to rally their support for Issue 16," said Scoles.

benefited from, such as computers, reference services, children's programs and homework helpers. Therefore, the ministers have a great opportunity to pass their positive influence for this levy on to their parishioners."

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## Wilma Brown and Vallie Bowman English Are Also Running

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

They may be unopposed, but they are still running for re-election

Councilwoman Wilma Brown of District 1, a Democrat, is making her last campaign for elective office after a dozen years on the Toledo Board of Education and two-plus terms on City



Council.

Brown, whose passion is the re-development of the Dorr Street corridor, wants to ensure that her work in that area is carried on to completion.

Municipal Clerk of Court Bowman English, also a Democrat, is running for a second term of office. Four years ago she beat Republican incumbent Theresa M. Gabriel in a clash of African-American women. This time she is also unopposed.

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# Cheryl Catlin: Calling for Quality Education – Every School – Every Child



By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Cheryl Catlin, graphic/web designer, is running for the Toledo Board of Education. A member of the Urban Coalition, a Toledo Public Schools' watchdog group, Catlin has surfaced over the last year or so as a vocal TPS critic and an dedicated assembler of data and statistics compiled to emphasize the woes and ills that have befallen the Toledo public school student.

She has worked with community groups and made any number of presentations in an effort, she says, "to communicate the importance of quality education and the need for curriculum reform."

As a part of her campaign, Catlin has released an eight-point platform that calls for providing quality education, eliminating excessive disciplinary measures, developing a highly qualified teaching and administrative staff, developing two-way communication models, adopting cutting-edge academic technology, insuring safe and

nurturing school environments, developing transparent and accountable fiscal management and maintaining responsible and ethical school administration.

As part of our ongoing conversations with all of the major candidates for the school board, we asked Catlin to comment on four issues that have dominated school-related discussions over the past several years: teacher competence/diversity, student achievement, charter schools/voucher programs and the Toledo Plan (Intern Program).

"As enrollment drops, due to underperforming schools, teacher jobs decrease," says Catlin. "This district needs to get serious about improving their services – and student achievement – which is what TPS employees are paid to provide. TPS should conduct yearly performance evaluations for all teachers and administrators and along with district-wide professional development, individual improvement plans should be created and monitored on a continuous basis."

Catlin notes that the local teaching scene is "dominated by white, female teachers." Teachers should be able "to understand the different cultures of a diverse student population and understand a variety of learning styles." She calls for a "healthy balance of male/female teachers, older/younger teachers and teachers from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds."

Is she saying that white, female teachers cannot understand different cultures or a variety of learning styles? No, Catlin replies. And the imbalance or predominance of white female teachers is not a problem in and of itself, she tells us.

But she does recommend

recruitment of minorities by providing local students with opportunities to see the benefits and value of a teaching career, by partnering with local universities to encourage minority education majors and by reaching out beyond the local universities to seek additional minority recruits.

Part of Catlin's platform is geared to "comprehensive education reform" in order to improve student achievement. She calls for standards-based education, district wide, "that focuses on academic skill mastery, not proficiency test results."

Standards-based education, of course, has long been adopted by the State of Ohio. Catlin calls for TPS to establish a more comprehensive utilization of the concept, along with individualized education plans "that personalize instruction."

Catlin also is promoting additional concepts such as implementing "best practices of TPS academies, following recommendations outlined by the Ohio Department of Education's Schools of Promise and developing Yearly Improvement Plans for schools.

Parental involvement, says Catlin, "is critical to student achievement" and she is asking TPS to adopt and mandate district-wide communication tools to improve communication such as daily planners that parents sign each night, weekly folders, monthly newsletters and contracts between the parent, teachers and schools.

Catlin says that the Parent Involvement Policy which was adopted by TPS in 1994 and revised in 2001 has not been fully enforced.

As for charter schools, Catlin calls for TPS to "get on the offense instead of the defense."

Students who leave TPS

for charter, voucher and out-of-district schools "are leaving schools that are underperforming, with F and D ratings."

She calls for TPS to improve educational services and athletic facilities "instead of blaming others for making and providing alternative choices."

Catlin has called for the Toledo Plan to be eliminated and recommends that a first-year mentoring program – a part of the Toledo Plan along with the evaluation process – be established "with reference to how other Ohio public schools conduct their mentoring programs.

She also believes that merit-based salary increases should be implemented "with well-defined, monitored yearly evaluations and improvement plans" for each teacher and administrator.

Catlin, a graduate of Scott High School (she advocates remodeling rather than rebuilding) and resident of the Old West End, earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati and a masters' degree from the Art Institute of Chicago. She attended college on a military scholarship and has served in the Ohio Air Force National Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

She is the mother of a St. John's Jesuit High School student even though she has written that all professionals receiving money from TPS and who live outside the district should "sign a pledge to sell their homes and enroll their children into the Toledo Public Schools for the next school year."

She has even gone so far – perhaps tongue in cheek – to suggest that such employees should be required to enroll their children in those schools on academic watch or emergency. Perhaps not.

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# Jon Hendricks Remembers Art Tatum At Kent Branch Birthday Bash for Legendary Toledo-Born Jazz Pianist

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

A small electronic piano sat on one side of the stage in the Kent Branch Library's multi-purpose room in silent tribute to the master of this and every 88-keyed piano ever made.

Festive balloons and streamers flanked both sides of the stage, framing a three-dimensional mural featuring posturing jazz musicians in silhouette playing sax and trombone.

The mural seemed to dance along the brick back wall in rhythm with the gigantic notes scattered around the musical duo. One knew they were jazz musicians because the nearly life-size figures convulsed and gyrated their bodies while colorful sounds streamed from their instruments in a chaotic confusion of 16 notes and spiraling riffs that can only be created by one sound: jazz.

The occasion was a birthday celebration for jazz great and Toledo native, Art Tatum, born October 13, 1909 (approximately a year after wunderkind "Blind Tom," the slave pianist, died).

Held Saturday, October 27, 2007, under the auspices of the Art Tatum African-American Resources Center, the event was no ordinary birthday celebration, but rather an historic event. One that photographer Thomas Vines stated – and rightly so – should have been recorded and archived for posterity's sake.

Vines, along with African-American Legacy Project founder and CEO, Robert Smith, did their best to capture the moment in a photo session following the "program" portion of the celebration, but no one was there to record a musical performance that you had to be there to really appreciate – more about that later.

Melissa Jeter, director of the Art Tatum Center, looking appropriately elegant in her formal black gown presided over the ceremony while Kent Branch Manager Faith Hairston assisted behind the scenes, so to speak.

Art Tatum Center's board president, Joan Harris, who along with several board members planned the celebration, seemed pleased with the turnout and the event.

"This afternoon, it seemed like I was sitting among royalty," said Harris. The royalty she referred to was none other than another Toledo jazz great, Jon Hendricks, the jazz lyricist and singer renowned for originating vocalese and as one of the best scat singers ever paid tribute to his friend and mentor.

Strolling down memory lane in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century version of a zoot suit, Hendricks looked dapper as usual and was as sharp-witted as ever. He recalled Tatum getting him his first gig at the age of 14. "So, here I am, I'm 14 years old and I'm working in a nightclub," said Hendricks. "I never

learned to read [music] because my pianist was Art Tatum and he was blind and I was dumb. I never had to learn to read because I could hear and if you can hear it, you can sing it. And if you can sing it, you can play it. Every song that I sang, I would learn the chord structure. I couldn't read the chord, but I could hear it. And when I heard the chord, I would scat." Hendricks extolled Tatum's contribution to jazz. "If anyone wants to know who's the father of bebop, it's Art Tatum," he said. "He is the greatest soloist in the history of this music. He stands there today as he did when I was 14 years old. He'll never move. He is the inspiration for every jazz musician in the world. This man is known wherever there's music."

Hendricks said Tatum's appeal went beyond jazz to all forms of music, including classical music. He shared a story about Russian composer/pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff, a big fan of Art Tatum. "He was doing a concert at Carnegie Hall Sunday at eight pm," said Hendricks. "The authorities at Carnegie Hall at 7:30 could not find Rachmaninoff."

Hendricks laughed with his signature mischievousness as he continued his reminiscence. He said somebody at Carnegie Hall finally remembered that Art Tatum was playing at the Vanguard and that Rachmaninoff was a big fan of the jazz pianist.

"When they got there, he was leaning on the piano listening to Art Tatum." According to Wikipedia, Rachmaninoff, "after hearing Tatum play, claimed he was the greatest piano player in any style. Other luminaries of the day such as Vladimir Horowitz, Artur Schnabel and George Gershwin marveled at Tatum's genius."

A documentary by another Toledo jazz musician, John Cleveland, was shown during the celebration and featured violinist Itzhak Perlman commenting on Tatum's unique musical gifts.

However, Hendricks maintains that it was his fellow jazz

musicians who were Tatum's most ardent fans. Hendricks recalled another story about Tatum's effect on his peers. Columbus, Ohio-born jazz trumpeter Sweets Edison once tricked Hendricks into asking Oscar Peterson to play "Little Man, You've Had a Busy Day."

Tatum had played that number at a concert that featured Peterson who, up until Tatum played, was the star of the show. "Everybody felt that way about this man's musical contribution," said Hendricks, adding that there was even some speculation that Tatum was the reincarnation of "Blind Tom" (Thomas Greene Bethune), a slave born in 1849, and sold to Colonel James N. Bethune in Columbus, Georgia, in 1950.

Able to perfectly reproduce music he heard, Tom reportedly played the piano at the age of four before he learned to speak. Lauded by the likes of writer Mark Twain, "Blind Tom" performed in concerts, earning over \$750,000 for the Bethune family before he died in 1908.

As part of his performance, he would play "Yankee Doodle" in B flat with his right hand, "Fisher's Hornpipe" in

C with his left hand and at the same time sing "Early in the Morning."

Hendricks said Tatum could also play one song with his right hand and another with his left. But Hendricks did all the singing. Hendricks said Tatum had mastered all of the left-hand techniques – slide, walking bass and chording – only he played them faster than anyone ever had.

Tatum was so legendary in his speed, according to Wikipedia "In 1993, an MIT student invented a term that is now in common usage in the field of computational musicology: The Tatum. It means 'the smallest perceptual time unit in music.'"

Hendricks revealed a surprising little known fact about Tatum. "He started on the violin," he said. "His mother scrubbed floors to get him a baby grand piano that would help him with the violin. He sat down at the piano and he hasn't gotten up yet. Everything I know about music, I owe to Art Tatum."

Cleveland, who started playing jazz piano in 1960, four years after Tatum's death, made a documentary featuring friends, family and musical peers and admirers of the

piano virtuoso, who also loved classical music, especially Chopin and Bach.

After viewing Cleveland's excellent documentary, the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions. Gerald Owens asked what Harlem was like when Tatum went there.

Hendricks, who shared earlier that Duke Ellington and Count Basie had both tried to get Tatum to go to New York much earlier than he did, answered the question by recounting more stories about that time in his and Tatum's life.

While he was talking, the mic started to make a popping noise and Hendricks looked over at the nearby speaker where the noise was coming from. "I work alone," said the quick-witted octogenarian without missing a beat.

"I forget what I was asked to talk about," he said 15 minutes later. "I asked about New York, but you gave me that and more," said Owens.

Jeter then made a request

that made the moment and the event historic and worthy of note. She asked Cleveland and Hendricks to perform. However, Hairston asked if they'd first sing "Happy Birthday" in honor of the occasion.

"Hum a few bars and I'll see if I can play it," said Cleveland. After an enthusiastic rendition of the birthday song, Hendricks sang a jazz standard in his inimitable voice while Cleveland played keyboard.

Hendricks ended the 'session' by making a pitch for Issue 16, the replaceable library levy. "Whatever else you vote for, vote for Issue 16," he said. "I'm going to vote for it myself."

Forty-plus Tatum aficionados enjoyed a special cake made by Jeanette Mueller, along with ice cream and punch, bringing the birthday tribute to Art Tatum to a festive and tasty end.

Contact Geneva Chapman at [geneva@thetruthtoledo.com](mailto:geneva@thetruthtoledo.com)



John Cleveland



Melissa Jeter



Jon Hendricks



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## Lincoln Academy for Boys Holds Year's First All-Pro Dads' ... And Mothers' Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Lincoln Academy for Boys usually hosts an All Pro Dads' Day breakfast once a month during the academic year. This year's first breakfast was held at the all boys' public school academy last Thursday but with one major change ... from now on the breakfasts are not just for dads.

Mark Robinson, organizer of the three-year old breakfasts, said there are lots of single mothers out there and the school wants to emphasize "how important it is for both parents to be involved."

So moms, dads and students turned out last week for the Gordon-catered breakfast to hear keynote speaker Eric Rocker bring a message of "perseverance" to his audience of about 100.

Rocker, the father of four girls who have all graduated from Toledo public high schools and moved on to higher education with great success, emphasized his offspring's stellar grade point averages with a purpose. "It's not good enough simply to



Eric Rocker receives gift from Mark Robinson

[earn a high school degree] or get your G.E.D.," said Rocker, a lineman with Detroit Edison for 22 years. "Jobs come and jobs go, your education stays with you forever."

Rocker recalled his own childhood after his parents' divorce when he was quite young. "Don't be so quick to give up and throw in the towel when things get tough," he told the parents in the audience. "We pass that on to our children and it becomes a generational curse."

The role of a father in the life of his children, said Rocker, is to bring a balance into the home, and that fa-

ther, he added, needs to be an authority figure not just a friend to his children.

"Time is of the essence," cautioned Rocker. "We cannot recoup time, so it's important that we spend quality time with our kids and build these relationships. Don't quit, don't give up. We need to validate our kids, we need to encourage them as well."

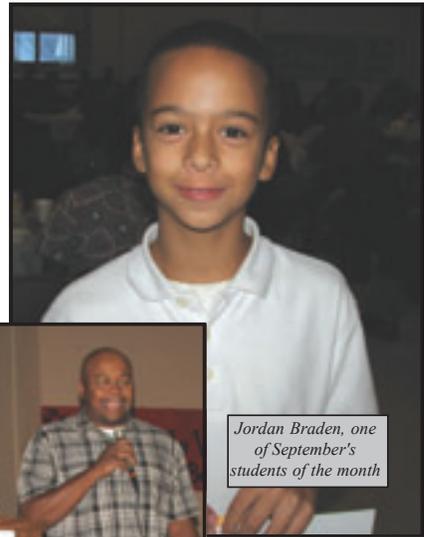
Rocker, who has returned to college in order to complete his education, advised fathers not to end their own efforts to educate themselves, no matter the age.

"Fathers, if you have not got the tools that it takes, go back [to school] and get

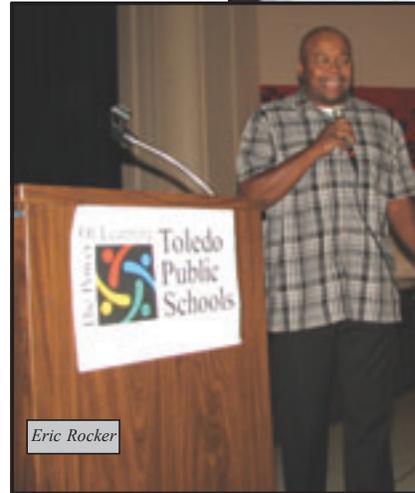
them," said Rocker. "If you don't stand for something, your children will fall for anything."

Teresa Quinn, first-year principal at Lincoln, took the occasion of the monthly breakfast to acknowledge the school's September Students of the Month.

September's young scholars were: Russell Chapman and LaDarius Jackson (kindergarten); De'Ondre Shaw (first grade); Aaron Hubbard



Jordan Braden, one of September's students of the month



Eric Rocker

(second grade); Daron Helm (third grade); Knowledge Lacy and Darius Harold (fourth grade); Jordan Braden and Tevin Berringer (fifth grade) and Trevon Harvill (sixth grade).

For more information on the All Pro Dads movement, go to the Internet under [www.allprodad.com](http://www.allprodad.com). There is a link to the Toledo chapter on the website.

**Church's Chicken**  
Tuesday Special



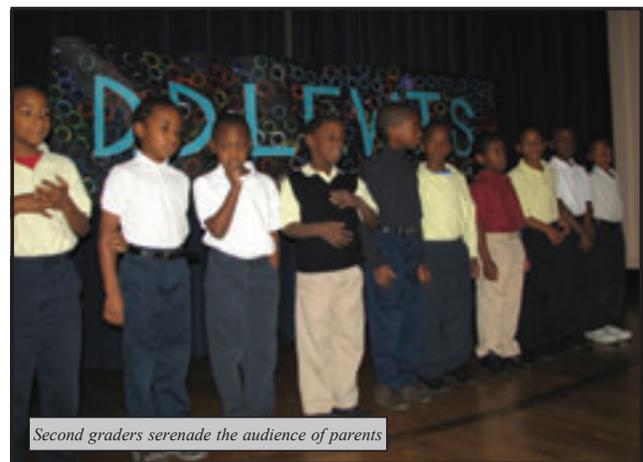
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Lincoln Teacher Su Breymaier and TheBoule's Derrick Gant serve breakfast

## The Fifth Third Foundation Awards \$3,500 Grant to the YWCA of Greater Toledo

*Special to The Truth*

The Fifth Third Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, is creating a brighter future for the women in the YWCA Newton Residency program through a \$3,500 grant to the YWCA.

Housing women since 1908, the Newton Residency program is designed to bridge the gap from shelter to permanent housing for homeless women 18 and older with no children in their care. "The need for our Newton Residency program is unfortunately very high in Northwest Ohio. We offer our residents an opportunity to develop at comfortable paces, develop skills for coping with life stresses, solving everyday problems and accessing resources in the community with staff supported case management," comments Lisa McDuffie, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Greater Toledo. The money will be used to replace two commercial freezers at the facility.

"We are fortunate to enjoy the resources of the Fifth Third Foundation to assist organizations that are providing valuable services in our community," said Robert W. LaClair, President and CEO, Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio). Says McDuffie, "Each year about 100



Left to right: Valerie Turner, YWCA Director of Newton Residency; Linda Ewing, Fifth Third Bank V.P. of Community Affairs; Karen Fraker, Senior V.P., Marketing; Lisa McDuffie, YWCA CEO.

women will call Newton Residency their home. We assist all of these women on a limited budget, so when we receive a donation like the \$3,500 grant from the Fifth Third Foundation, it warms our hearts to know organizations like them in the community embrace the cause of giving.

They are a critical part of our success."

Fifth Third Bank was the first financial institution in the United States to establish a charitable foundation and is committed to building a better tomorrow in the communities it serves. The Fifth Third Foundation was created in

1948 with a mission to make strategic grants in the communities where Fifth Third Bank operates.

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## United Way Women's Initiative Receives Award

*Special to The Truth*

United Way Women's Initiative has received the Innovation in Partnering award given by Partners In Education of Toledo. The award was given at the Partners In Education of Toledo annual awards celebration which took place Wednesday, October 10, at Roger's High School.

Nominated by East Side Central Elementary School Principal Elaine Burton and Assistant Principal Tony Speaks, the award recognizes United Way Women's Initiative for its partnership with East Side Central and its successful implementation of Successful Children, Successful Schools: Social and Emotional Learning in Toledo.

Implemented at East Side Central Elementary in the fall of 2006, Successful Children, Successful Schools: Social and Emotional Learning in Toledo is a partnership of United Way Women's Initiative, Toledo Public Schools, Toledo Federation of Teachers, and Toledo Association

of Administrative Personnel. Together, the partners have worked to bring social and emotional learning to the classroom.

Social and emotional learning is a school-wide change initiative designed to boost academic success and reduce risky behavior. When applied in a school setting, social and emotional learning creates an environment conducive to learning. It equips children with the skills needed to increase self-confidence, empathize with others, make responsible decisions, cope with emotions, and manage relationships.

Accepting the award on behalf of United Way Women's Initiative, Bill Kitson, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Toledo said, "We are both excited and honored our Women's Initiative's hard work in leading this collaborative effort has been recognized by Partners In Education. It is a testament to the importance of social and emotional learning in today's schools."

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## Breakfast on Broadway Star-studded Fundraiser for Mott Branch

Lights! Camera! Action! There's no need to travel all the way to mid-Manhattan for a touch of the Broadway theatrical experience. Instead, join the Mott Branch Library along with the Mott Friends of the Library as they host a star-studded, elegant fundraiser titled, *Breakfast on Broadway* scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 3.

The event will take place at the Mott Branch Library, at 1085 Dorr Street.

A catered breakfast will set the tone for this unique benefit for Mott Branch Library, which will include dancing, song, skits and theatrical performances. Charles Walker, who played the unforgettable character "Horse" from The Toledo Repertoire Theatre's production of "The Full Monty" is scheduled to sing, along with Christian/Reggaeton/R&B singer Angelica, and vocalist Joyce "Priscilla" Rush.

So "give your regards" to those Broadway tickets for *Porgy and Bess*, *The King and I*, and *A Chorus Line*, and instead plan to attend Mott Branch's *Breakfast on Broadway*. The cost of a seat for this event is \$35 per person, which includes a buffet catered breakfast and complimentary mimosas.

For more details and for tickets, please call 419.259.5230.

## Owens Community College Dedicates Learning Center at The Source

*Special to The Truth*

Owens Community College representatives joined community leaders and elected officials to officially open the doors to the new Learning Center at The Source, Lucas County's One-Stop Employment Center, in downtown Toledo on Friday, Oct. 26. The formal dedication took place in conjunction with the College's annual Community Appreciation event.

Owens continues to invest in the future of higher education within the Northwest Ohio region by officially dedicating and showcasing the new Learning Center at The Source. The recently renovated location enables Owens Community College to expand access to higher educational opportunities within Lucas County. The Learning Center at The Source is specifically designed to connect education and training to employment.

"There are already about 100 students at Owens who would not have been there otherwise," said Eric Walker, director of The Source.

"This symbolizes the very initiatives that the State of Ohio

is focusing on ... providing opportunities for education by partnering," said Christa Adams, Ph.D., president of Owens.

"We were meant to be," said Tina Skeldon Wozniak, president of the Lucas County Board of Commissioners. "It was meant that Owens Community College and The Source would be together."

"Owens is coming to downtown Toledo and will help to revive the entire downtown," said Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop. "Creating minds and growing people" is the mission of both Owens and The Source. We share the notion that our best days in this community are ahead of us."

Owens' new 11,367 square-foot Learning Center is located within The Source complex and is intended to provide the region with expanded choices in educational training opportunities. Highlighted features include five academic classrooms, two computer laboratories and a nursing laboratory, all with state-of-the-art technology and academic resources designed to enhance learning through hands-on instruction and exercises.

Each academic classroom



Christa Adams, Ph.D., Eric Walker, Paul Unger, Ph.D.

is equipped with innovative computer and multimedia capability, as well as network and Internet access, while the two computer laboratories feature the latest in computing resources for educational training instruction. The nursing laboratory houses state-of-the-art technology and academic resources that prepare students for entry into the nursing practice. The laboratory includes six beds to enhance academic opportunities for students pursuing careers within the growing nursing profession. Additionally, individuals are able to use an array of software applications and programming languages within the laboratories, as well as high-speed Internet access.

Over 300 Owens students are attending classes during

this initial Fall Semester at the College's Learning Center. Academic courses options available to students include astronomy, business professionalism, composition, the writing process, introduction to college algebra/trigonometry, principles of mathematics, electrical prints, fundamentals of computing, introductory to financial accounting and public speaking, among many others. Additionally, the Learning Center offers students the opportunity to pursue academic coursework toward certification in nurse assistant training. Owens' new facility also offers goal setting, academic and career development advising, as well as support services related to the enrollment and financial aid process.

## Register Now For YMCA/JCC Youth Super Sports Volleyball Program

The South is now accepting registrations for its Volleyball for children ages 8 to 13. Games will be held on Saturdays from November 17 to January 19, 2007 (No games November, 24 & December, 22). All families will be invited to attend a special program orientation where they'll meet the team coach as well as other team members.

Register by November 2, 2007 to guarantee your spot! A \$5 Late Fee will be added for registrations after November 5, 2007  
Fees: \$27/Max Members, \$54/Associate Members (Fee for Associate Membership is \$25/youth or \$50 for a family) Thanks to the YMCA's base of member-

ship and contributed support, financial assistance is available. Subject to available resources. For more information on financial assistance, please contact Lisa Loar, Program Coordinator.

Parents/Meet the team is Thursday, November 8, 6:30 pm at South YMCA

YMCA/JCC Youth Super Sports programs focus on the fundamentals while incorporating the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. They are progressive programs with multiple age-specific levels. Every child gets to play and the games are safe, exciting and fun. The YMCA/JCC encourages fair play, positive competition, family involvement and matches children of similar abilities.

The South YMCA needs volunteer coaches who can help kids become not only better players, but better people. If you are interested, please contact the Sports Director at the South YMCA.

YMCA/JCC Youth Super Sports offer a variety of different sports each year at many convenient locations in the area. For more information or to register, visit [www.ymcatoledo.org](http://www.ymcatoledo.org) or call the South YMCA at 419-385-9622

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## Matters of the Mind: The Mental Health Board Has Reason to Celebrate

By Vickie Shurelds  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Edgar Allen Poe. Vincent Van Gogh. Albert Einstein. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Genius? Or maybe something else?

For centuries humans have tried to single out the thin line walked by some of our most inspired artists. Many seem to struggle with inner 'demons' that we would now refer to as "issues" that give them a slight edge ... a perspective that

is way outside the box and that makes them both compelling and a little frightening.

Readers of Dr. Oliver Sachs' acclaimed book of case studies, "The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat" are treated to a wide range of variances on the theme of genius. A drummer whose Tourette's Syndrome makes him a superb musician with dazzling riffs and runs that delight the audience and those on the dance floor at his band's performances. A woman

whose beautiful rhythms are heard by her alone, yet when placed on paper become the sweetest sounds of jazz music written, all in spite of, or because of, her brain's deterioration due to syphilis. And in our own town there are those whom the average citizen might consider "afflicted" with mental illness, yet they display phenomenal talents in music, poetry, dance and the visual arts.

Don't make the mistake of discounting them as 'burdens on society' or assume they have nothing of value to contribute. The creative expression eases its way into the body and mind, offering a level of understanding and communication you need only experience to be enlightened.

Organizers of the "Prayer Vigil for Mental Illness" presented a program that was versatile, moving and informative. Phil Atkins is the director of communications for the Mental Health and Recovery Service Board and he says perceptions are changing. He's seen a direct link to their outreach programs and the reports his clients are delivering in regards to their treatment in social situations.

"Some people tend to think of people with mental illness as having little to give, but when you look at the beauty they can create you see they have way too much to give us," says Atkins. "It's a wonderful thing to see how people are open to celebrate the contributions they make to our community every single day."

After the program, the audience of more than one hundred was invited to walk up the beautiful marble staircase at Memorial Hall to take in the visual art display revealing the exceptional talent of some of Lima's hidden resources. The pictures you see here are just a sampling of the incredible canvas work. Atkins says this is just one way to relieve the stigma of mental illness.

"People want to believe this, everyone has someone they know that is dealing with mental illness, they want to embrace the fact that the person can still be productive; they connect

with this and it resonates, they think: well I know this person paints, or sings, or writes, or even hums beautifully, and that's their contribution!"

For seven days their celebration allowed Lima to provide a framework for their mission to "reach out and provide vital prevention and treatment services to every resident."

"We believe that reaching out requires us to look for new partnerships, imaginative approaches, and a commitment to more holistic and integrated care," says Atkins. Their demonstration of the unbridled creativity was well represented.

They provide support services for Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties. Their services include Crisis Intervention, Alcohol Anonymous, after hours care for individuals or families in crisis and a host of other services. They have also developed partnerships with programs like Family Resource Center, Lima UMADAOP (Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Program) and Lutheran Social Services.

Their goal is to become a one-stop shop for fami-

lies who are hurting. They are determined to live up to their tagline "We Care People" and they are available 24/7 at 1-800-567-HOPE (4673) and want the community to know they are ready, willing and able to be that safety net and a springboard onto the next positive stage of your life.

"People are getting it. Just look at the way they've pulled together for our Mental Illness Awareness Week and in particular the Prayer Vigil, for that event alone, there were over 50 volunteers," says Atkins. "Performers, artists, families and community members, pulling together to celebrate beauty we can all create."

In fiscal year 2006, Ohio's 50 treatment centers database recorded 90,850 cases of clients 18 years or older, 57.8 percent of those were female.

Twenty two percent were African-American, 68 percent were Caucasian and 25.4 percent were in the age range of 45-54. Fifty five and a half percent were receiving treatment for mood disorders like depression or bi-polarity, and 25.7 percent had psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia.

Additional statistics revealed 35.9 percent had never been married. The goal of all treatment centers is to improve the quality of life for all the clients they serve.

Nurturing the creative outlet has come to be an accepted method for increasing the value or "quality" of life. Expressions of anxiety, guilt, sadness, loneliness or even joy, friendship or love may be more easily presented through the arts, allowing a free flowing of understanding between those who may have difficulty translating those feelings to others. As in the visual arts you see here, there are many layers, shadows, crevices, and nuances. The colors, strokes and subjects themselves open up an onslaught of provocative inquiries; the artist revealed through the art.

Poet, painter, musician, mathematician teetering on the edge of the power of the mind that still allows itself to celebrate expressive thoughts from deep within.

Contact Vickie Shurelds at [vickie@sojournerstruth.com](mailto:vickie@sojournerstruth.com)

### Lima's Churches

\*Rev. Earnest Stephens, Jr. 4<sup>th</sup> St. MBC122 West 4<sup>th</sup> St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-224-1501  
Rev. Robert Tony 11<sup>th</sup> St. MB Church 108 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-227-8083 Rev. Robert Curtis, Jr. Mt. Olive MB Church 1406 St. Johns Avenue Lima, Ohio 45804419-228-1584

\*Rev. David Kelley New Hope MB Church 328 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street Lima, Ohio 45804 Rev. B. Lamont Monford Philipian MB Church 190 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street Lima, Ohio 45804 Rev. Fayne Wise Shiloh MB Church 110 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-223-7606

\*Rev. Frank H. Taylor Tabernacle MB Church 1501 Lakewood Avenue Lima, Ohio 4580419-222-7779 Pastor Michael Cooper Christ Temple Church 511 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-227-6743 Rev. Edward Butler St. Paul AME Church 1103 West Spring St. Lima, Ohio 45804

\*Pastor Lawrence Bobo St. James CME 800 E. Franklin Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-222-2845 Rev. FR Dunlap Friendship Baptist Church 349 E. Wayne St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-224-2727 Rev. King Beverly New Greater Grace Baptist 422 E. 8th Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-224-4463

\*Rev. C.M. Manley New Morning Star 1904 S. Main Street 419-227-1825 Rev. Arnold Manley Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church 1251 Union Street 419-224-6006 Rev. Dennis Ward Second Baptist Church 520 West Spring Street 419-229-6666

\*Rev. Melvin Woodard, II Lima Community Baptist Church 550 S. Collett Street Rev. David Roberts Cornerstone Harvest Church 2000 N. Cole Street 419-228-3007 Rev. Ronald Falls Grace Church World Wide Ministries 2945 Wells Drive 419-228-0618

\*Elder Ed Tibbs New Life Christian Center 202 W. Kibby St. 419-227-3997 John Barcus, Minister Kibby Street Church of Christ 428 E. Kibby St. 419-224-1251 Minister Robert Horton Southeast Church of Christ 1830 Reese Ave. 419-229-3590

\*Elder Clarence McGriff Mt. Olive Church of God in Christ 705 E. Catalpa 419-223-1451 Rev. Darnell Williams New Life Church Intnat'l 1180 West High St 419-999-1615 Rev. Phillip Battle, Jr. Bethel F.B.H. Church 1312 Norval Ave 419-227-6133

\*Rev. Kenny Dennard New Beginning MBC 562 Spring St Pastor Dianna Shurelds Church of the Living God 130 N. Elizabeth St. 419-225-8288 Bishop Jimmy C. Clark Wings of Deliverance Tabernacle Holiness 400 S. Scott St.

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## The Controversial Use of the N-word, Will It Ever End?

Commentary By Sharon Guice  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Some call it grave robbing, freedom of speech, I'm grown and I can say what I want to say, when I wanted to say and to whom I want to say it to, sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me, I call them like I see them, and the now generation terminology of the n-word, **Never Ignorant Getting Goals Accomplished.**

This summer the NAACP buried the N-Word on July 7, 2007 in Detroit, Michigan. Is the n-word dead to you? Do you know the definition of the n-word? Do you know how and why the n-word originated? Do you know why the n-word was buried? Do you still use the word after knowing it was symbolically buried? Do you care that it was buried? Are you willing to change what words come out of your mouth? Do you know that death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof? (Proverbs 18:21) Are you ready to renew your mind about the n-word? Are you a Christian and have ever read Ephesians 4:29 that states let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers?

This is one of many questions you should ask yourself when you allow words to proceed out of your mouth. Once spoken, can you take them back? Ask Don Imus, Larry King, Isaiah Washington, Damon Wayans, Eddie Griffin, yourself, or me, for

we all have had at one time or another had to apologize for our choice of words that caused pain to another person.

Even 12 years later, admission of saying the word can wreck havoc on your life. **Rich Stanek who was Minnesota's Public Safety Commissioner, admitted he used the word more than 12 years later in a court deposition. He says he didn't use the word against anybody; he merely spoke it. But the furor over his admission led to his resignation. One word uttered 12 years later. How can one word spoken have so much power to change your life?**

That brings me to another point. What gives this word the power that it has over someone's emotions is how we respond to it as a person. Educating people about the hurt words can cause and practicing what the Bible say about love your brother and pray for your enemies can keep you out of trouble.

For instance this author had to practice this very principle when called the n-word by a white co-worker. Even today remembering the experience is painful. When first hearing the word, all kind of emotions welled up inside of me, shock, anger, embarrassment, regret because I could no longer trust the person, lost of respect for the person, speechless, and so on and so.

Collecting my thoughts and asking the person did you really say what I just heard you say? He immediately began to apologize and said he didn't mean it, it slipped out. After correcting him with all the self-control

inside of me at the time and informing him the relationship will never be same, I walked away.

Emotionally drained because the person really had been kind to me and had hired me for the job, I felt so sad knowing the relationship would never be the same because of his use of a word that brought painful memories to me. In addition, there was the knowledge that I could not retaliate with violent anger because then I would be out of a job and that



would not solve the problem anyway.

Knowing some of your heritage as to who you really are spiritually and physically will keep your emotions from exploding in those hard places. This will help you to keep yourself for another place and time to address potential problems that you can not handle at that moment in time.

The use of the n-word by our people can also work against us too. As in the case of a Boulder jury convicting Phillip Martinez of beating an African-American college student but declined to find Martinez guilty of ethnic intimidation despite testimony that he had yelled the word during the altercation.

Jurors said there is a com-

mon use of the word that is meant as an insult, but not a racial one. Can the n-word be a derogatory term but not a racially derogatory term? Hmmm, do you see a difference how the word have a different meaning based on who you are?

Is the fact that the hip-hop generation uses the word so frequently bringing a different revelation of how the word should be used in today's society? Will that change how anyone born after 1965 sees how the use of

the word can still wreak havoc on young people lives. Take Jena 6, for example. Did the n-word have any influence on what when down with their experience?

Did three nooses hanging from a tree have anything to do with the n-word and the people who hung them on the tree? Then-word whether it has an "a" or an "r" at the end of it, can any good come from it? No matter whether it is said as a term of endearment or to cause pain it is still a word (or any word used) you must weigh the value of it when allowing it to proceed out of your mouth, for you will be the one to pay the cost of using such a word.

Check out this site: [www.raceandhistory.com](http://www.raceandhistory.com), **THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE "N" WORD.**

Did you read the obituary for the n-word? If not, keep reading.

**Obituary for the N-Word  
July 9, 2007  
Detroit, Michigan  
Freedom Plaza  
Written by:  
Victoria Lanier  
Erica McLaughlin  
Arielle Palmer**

Born in America over 400 years ago, birthed to the unlikely couple Language and Hate, Nigger entered society to carry out his odium of black-skinned people. Christened by colonial settlers, Nigger packed his bags to

find a comfortable, permanent home in America's deep South. Although still in his early years, Nigger obtain widespread success in portraying ignorance, incompetence, and buffoonery as a direct relation to having dark skin. Nigger redefined what it meant to be black. A nigger could act and sing, but could not speak properly or effectively. He could smoke and dance but he could not read and be educated. Nigger developed a whole line of products to market to those who practice in the profession of racial hatred. He coined the following terms: Niggerlover- one who was sensitive in any way to blacks, Niggerlipping- to wet the end of a cigarette while smoking, Nigger Milk- as advertised in a 1916 advertisement which showed a black baby drinking from a bottle of ink. Nigger produced these and countless other inventions which proved favorable among those who wished to maintain their supremacy by demeaning blacks in America.

Finally, a group of intelligent and outspoken dark-skinned brothers and sisters decided to rebel against Nigger's dominance. As they formed the Civil Rights Movement, they fought against Nigger and his army of white supporters to reform society. Although he was almost killed during this time period, Nigger survived. Realizing it was inappropriate to blatantly continue his past message of white supremacy, "Nigger" changed his name to "Nigga" and assumed a new persona. Nigga, now disguised as an ally to black youth, could go undercover and position himself as a "link" to black unity. In the 1980s, Nigga was introduced to some new powerful partners with the rise of Hip-Hop, and he gained popularity in the media, among comedians, rappers and other entertainers convincing black people that despite his hateful roots, to be the "Nigga" was to be "down for the cause", to be "cool" and was about "keeping it real". "Nigga" made it hard for young NAACP activists to fight the battle for freedom while remaining a part of the hip hop generation.

Although in now disguise, "Nigga" was recognized by those who remember his menacing consumption of the souls of their people.

Nigga began to separate black youth from their proud history, and successfully encouraged youth of other races to join his campaign for the resurgence in demeaning the African-American race. Nigger sought to secure his place forever becoming synonymous with black people, even in the dictionary. The NAACP was triumphant in prevailing over Nigger's attempt to define himself as Nigger-a black person. However, Miriam Webster's Dictionary today says that the word's usage among blacks is quote "not always intended or taken as offensive", and Dictionary.com says that Nigger is "sometimes used among African-Americans in a neutral or familiar way." Young black people claimed "Nigga" as their own, while many proud racists, once responsible for the word's popularity, and who are now banned from usage of the word, revel in the resurrection of their beloved friend.

Today, we will lay the word nigger to rest. We will no longer make "nigger" familiar or a part of our family. We will bury its offensive usage among people of all races, including African Americans. We will bury "nigger" next to his cousins, "jigaboo", "coon", "darkie", "pickanniny", "savage", "sambo", "mammy", "buckwheat", "boy" and "nappy-headed ho". We promise to be more creative in our rap lyrics, more respectful to our ancestors, more diligent in our fight for freedom. As we bury the word nigger, we are inspired by 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians chapter 4 which says: We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Therefore, we do not lose heart, though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. Nigger has terrorized us, but he has not beaten us, we have overcome him and we celebrate the end of his existence in our community. We officially declare him DEAD! We will not revive, resurrect, or recover him! We will rebuke, resist, and revoke him in the name of pride and progress.

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## Why Do You Want To Be In The Music Industry?

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

With *Soulja Boy Tell Em* coming here this weekend, it's only right to address this (oh, yeah, see the end of this article for details on our ticket giveaway contest).

Let's just look at "Crank Dat Soulja Boy" – a song many people hate.

But even many more people love. It has been atop the Hot 100 nearly two months.

As a few of you know, The Undergodz were called up to NYC again last month.

During a taped interview where we were talking about our career as producers, some of our hosts launched into a full-out tirade against *Soulja Boy's* brand of "watered down, ring tone music." And then that brings up a big question, just who really *deserves* success in this music industry?

A room full of people in a Bronx studio spent 20 minutes hating on Soulja Boy.

The very next day he just happened to be in NYC while we were still there and he was on D.J. Clue's radio show discussing how his recent success is treating him, unfazed by any haters he might have. Some people look to music for artistry, for depth, for some type of talent and meaning. Other people could give a damn.

They have a drink in their hand, some bass in their whip and they are gonna play whatever song makes them feel like the shizzle.

So since so many people love music for so many different reasons, how can we determine success?

WHAT IS SUCCESS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY?

Money! I know, I know – many of you are thinking "having some dough, that's success."

And if that's show you feel, that's cool.

But just in the same way everyone on earth has a different ideal for what will make him happy, every musical artist has a different gauge that she uses to determine if she has made it or not.

*Kindred The Family Soul* is from a husband and wife neo-soul duo signed to Hidden Beach (same mini-label that brought you Jill Scott). They have a few albums under their belt and a devoted following.

No, they aren't on the radio. No, they aren't all over TV.

But they make a living and they support their family doing what they love to do.

Since they don't have explosive album sales, I believe what I hear about them touring extensively

(them Philly acts *stay* on the road, yo) as a way to get that guap up.

The label probably keeps overhead low so they can see enough profit to keep albums coming.

Have they made it?

Or do you have to be like 50 Cent in order to feel like you've made it?

Even though this last album wasn't a breakout success, it's still platinum plus.

Add that on to the roughly 10 million units sold (domestic) from his first two albums and that's pretty damn outstanding right? Then, he has G Unit records and I would imagine their catalog sits somewhere near another five or six million units sold. He has multiple business ventures from fashion to beverages. He is routinely mentioned in Forbes List of Top Earning Entertainers.

However, his talent has always been questionable and lately his weak rhyme skills coupled with his

"me against everyone" mantra have placed his career on the downturn.

Everyone knows him, but not many people respect him as an artist.

Has he made it?

Even in my own label/crew – there are those of us who have varying examples of what can happen in our careers that will make us say "okay, I've made it."

But some things are self explanatory.

THE MONEY.

There are a few artists who just want to share their gifts and expression with the world.

They don't think about profit, they don't think about sales – they just wanna express themselves.

There are other artists who are the exact opposite.

The limelight is what they crave. Name in lights, face on TV – the whole nine.

Then there are informed artists (my artists – LOL) who are a little of both, but are learning the business side so those starry-eyed dreams of making it big don't turn to crumpled nightmares.

What do all these artists have in common?

THEY NEED TO EARN A PROFIT IF THEY WANNA CONTINUE MAKING MUSIC.

If you are looking to get signed to a major, don't get signed and say "okay, I've made it."

Remember, this business of music was born out of mafia ideals and the old school lopsided ways are evident in the standard recording contracts and practices.

You are being signed to a record company because the record company feels that

you are marketable and worth the risk of turning a profit.

That's it. That's all.

You get signed, the record company calculates how much your total budget should be and they use their muscle to get ya name out there. Then the tab starts.

All those clothes, the hotels, the videos, the posters, the web advertising – however much all that costs the label... it's coming out of YOUR royalties once your album starts moving.

So let's look at a real life situation.



The Clipse just got signed by Columbia after leaving an unhappy situation at Jive.

Previously Jive refused to let them go even though there was a huge campaign for them to be released from their contract after the whole Star Trak/Arista – Interscope thing left them stranded.

So why would Jive fight so hard to keep the Clipse against their will only to end up letting them go anyway? Perhaps Columbia bought out some of their contract, but what likely eased the deal is the fact that The Clipse's last album *Hell Hath No Fury* only sold 194,000 units.

Their first album moved 984,000 units so of course Jive fought to keep them.

For a rap group affiliated with a superstar like Pharrell, the budget for their project might be a cool two million,

possibly even more given the success of their debut.

Even cheap videos are \$300,000 and up a piece, and an album for a group of their caliber might see two or three videos. Even if The Neptunes gave them a deal on beats, they still had to pay something for production, radio promotion, minimal tour support, per diem and an advance.

So you see how a label might have to shell out a couple million on an act like the Clipse.

Problem is, it's okay to

For example – my favorite indie artist hero, Ani DiFranco, is likely a multi-millionaire and none of her albums have ever sold more than 100,000. How?

Her operation, Righteous Babe Records, is all grassroots.

No videos. No radio airplay. She makes most of her music herself. But her CD's are at Best Buy.

You probably won't ever hear about her having T Pain's ring tone track record but she has the artistic creativity to do whatever the hell she wants and her fans are die hard and loyal and they purchase everything she's put out for over a decade because they love how real and organic her music is.

She's so bossy, she turns down the deals major labels throw her way.

So she's probably someone you could say has made it.

But even with all her anti-record business hustle, she still makes far more than she spends.

PROFIT.

For an indie label, profit margins are wider because overhead is lower.

So when Fat Joe used to move around 200,000 units on Atlantic – he likely didn't see a dime.

Even with a royalty rate that probably equated to about 80 cents per copy (which is higher than most artists), the album probably didn't make enough for him to recoup and see a profit.

But moving 200,000 on an independent label means you can expect \$2 to \$4 per copy.

You won't get those big budget videos, you may not get the coast-to-coast airplay... but if you do it right, you'll have some dough.

Look at Lil Jon and T.V.T. ... that's someone with around five million sold on an indie label, you know he's caked up.



Of course, most of the folks who I know read my article are doing what I do.

Plenty of you out there have labels, crews or whatever and you are "doing music."

So y'all are already up on how contracts go and all that, and ways outside of mechanicals that you make money in this industry.

But for everyone who may not know, please remember that the music business is just that.

BUSINESS.

If you "make beats" or spend afternoons spitting rhymes or writing hooks and you are thinking that this is the life for you, be warned that there's a lot more to it than just saying you're "hot."

Of course, it's becoming cliché.

I remember in the 90's,

(Continued on Page 17)

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## Music Industry?

(Continued from Page 16)

while we were producing and writing most of our peers were trying to become the next Kobe or the next Nino Brown.

The average dude wasn't even thinking about having a label full of artists or producing music.

Then, Master P hit. And I'm telling y'all, it

was like so clear that you could almost see the shift.

Every dude who hadn't yet decided what they were gonna do with their life just said "hey, I can do music!"

And that's when it started getting how it is right now.

But I can rock with that.

Darron Scott, Aye Dee, Mz. Johni, Onasis, The Undergodz and any new

U.G.E. acts will always be held to higher standards in writing, production and offering meaningful music to the masses.

My crew can do no less than to have the success we see for ourselves.

But even though music has changed and the business can be brutal, it's still all about making the best of the situation. For us, this is

truly who we are.

And when you have great music to inspire you, many of you will find out who you truly are even if you decide that this business is not for you.

That's the job of artists, to communicate and touch people.

If you're thinking about entering this game, first make sure you have something to



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### REMINDER!!

If you want to win 4 Free Tickets to Soulja Boy's Concert at Coyote Joe's...

If you know how to do the Soulja Boy dance and you can make up your own three to five minute routine while incorporating your own moves with your two to four person group...

If you get the point - then get at me.

Once again, my mom is celebrating her grand reopening of Hajami Fashion & Dance studio with a "Crank Dat Soulja Boy" dance contest for 10-17 year

olds.

The GRAND PRIZE will be four free tickets to Soulja Boy's concert.

Contest is Friday November 2 - doors @ 6pm - competition starts @ 8 p.m.

Hajami Fashions in Parkway Plaza across from Value City at S. Detroit and Ant Wayne Trail, in the back parking lot near the water tower. Call 419.870.6722 for details.

Entry fee is \$15. Contestants under 15 need adult present. Entry forms are available at

Dee's Printing Shop on Reynolds Rd. next to Rose City Motors.

[glasscitytruth@yahoo.com](mailto:glasscitytruth@yahoo.com) or [mercuriyuge@gmail.com](mailto:mercuriyuge@gmail.com) hit me up to support.

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## The University of Toledo Coordinator for High School Science and Mathematics Program— College of Education

Job #998708 Coordinator for High School Science and Mathematics Program, College of Education:

This part-time position is working for a grant program at The University of Toledo recruiting urban high school students to participate in a year long program to explore science and mathematics teaching. Duties include recruiting high school students, working with UT faculty and staff to plan and implement an engaging hands-on science and mathematics math on-campus summer experience and yearlong program, recruiting college students as mentors, and managing a budget for this program.

A minimum of a Bachelor's degree is required with a background in management, college admissions, and/or communications. Experience working with science or mathematics educators is desirable. The successful candidate will also be able to provide evidence of success in managing some type of program including fiscal management for at least 2 years as well as the ability to work productively both independently and in collaboration with others. Some experience working with schools in science or mathematics is recommended. Expected commitment is 20 hours per week. This is a one-year contract with the opportunity to renew for an additional year.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 998708), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email [recruit@utoledo.edu](mailto:recruit@utoledo.edu), which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, November 2, 2007.**

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids from qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following project(s):

JOB NO.	PROJECT	WALK-THRU DATE	BID OPENING DATE
#27078	Renovation at 3701 Douglas Road (4 Units to be Renovated)	November 6 @ 10:00am	November 27 @ 11:00am

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room on the dates shown above, in the Modernization Department, at 201 Belmont Street. Contract documents and technical specifications/drawings will be available from the Modernization Department (419 259-9462), after October 31, 2007, and will be provided upon request. A non-refundable fee of \$20.00 will be required for each set of documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, an approved surety company bid bond or a certified check upon a solvent bank, made payable to the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority in an amount equal to five (5) percent of the bid, tendered as a bid guarantee (if required) that the bidder will, if the award is made to him, enter into a bona fide contract with Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority for this work and furnish proper guarantee bonding as required under the specifications within a period of ten (10) days after the awarding of the contract. If for any reason whatsoever the bidder fails to enter into a proper contract and to execute the proper guarantee bonding as required by the specifications, the amount of such guarantee shall be retained by the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, as liquidated damages sustained by reason of his failure to do so.

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.

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality in the bidding. No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids.

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.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY  
MODERNIZATION DEPARTMENT

## Technical Assistance Manager (TAM)

— Primary responsibilities include: conducting assessments of potential clients, provide one-on-one mentoring to non-profit organizations, provide leadership mentoring and tailored work sessions with staff and board members of client agencies and provide intensive assistance and/or seek other resources in specific key focus areas of agency management, ie: strategic planning, board development. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in non-profit management, business or related field with a minimum of 5 years progressive responsibility in the non-profit sector. Extensive grant writing is a must.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with salary requirements along with a resume to:

United Way of Greater Toledo  
One Stranahan Square  
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Attn: Human Resources

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EOE

## Naked Men

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on our children. Hollywood execs who tell you movies glorifying violence have no lasting impression. Rappers who tell you the glorification of gang violence is just a reflection of their lives. TV execs who tell you to control your own kids while portraying violence and sex 24 hours a day under the guise of "keeping it real."

These naked men are offering you their shirts because they make money off of playing to the basic raw desires of mankind. They prey on our innocent youth so they don't need to be creative and visionary to get your money.

Violence is an easy sell in video games. Kids can kill hundreds of people without dying themselves. They feel the exhilaration of pulling the trigger in someone's face while feeling no remorse, even if the person is begging for their lives.

Hollywood execs have elevated the requirements for R-ratings so that significant sex violence and X-rated language can be delivered to your children under a PG-13 rating.

Movie theaters make it easy for your kids to get in, even if the rating is raised to R. Blood and gore rule the screens in such a way that many kids are bored when a victim just gets their head cut off.

Rappers have made millions displaying a romantic lifestyle of gang violence, drugs and sex. Many of them, including Tupac Shakur, never lived the life style they portray on CD's and videos.

And TV? These lazy, irresponsible execs put thinly veiled garbage on calling them "reality shows." They promote the sex, violence and dysfunctional family living that has basic human appeal but no substance or creativity. Some of these shows boldly put what they are about right in the title. Like "Sex in the City," "Dirty Sexy Money" and "Desperate House Wives."

Naked men who have no substance want to tell you they have no responsibility for what your kids hear or see. They make it sound reasonable that you should know what your child is doing 24 hours a day. And convince you that these games, movies, CD's and TV shows are so much a part of the norm

of life that if you do not let your child watch it you rob their ability to "keep it real" with the rest of the kids.

Not only that, these same naked men tell you the religious community, long the anchor of our youth, is trying to impose their restrictive views on you. These men with nothing to offer call us (yes, I said us) religious fanatics, over-reacting prudes, cynical alarmist, purist and dare I say it, bigots!

Does it sound like I'm angry? You're right I'm angry! I am angry that we are fool enough to let these money-hungry leeches tell us what is OK for our lives. These people with no care for the common good want to wipe their hands of the impact of their money-grabbing antics. They will tell you "it's not my responsibility to raise your kids" at the same time as they say "it takes a village to raise a child." They will lay the misery of their life on your door step and ask for your company. They are naked of the basic decency to be a part of the improvement of the community but they are offering their shirts of false realities for your children.

What do we need to do? Well first and foremost we need to get our children back

to the churches, synagogues, mosques or whatever your place of worship. Having faith and understanding basic right and wrong speaks volumes to them at a young age.

Next, we need to hold our lawmakers' feet to the fire about the content of the media our kid's access. Stores and movie theaters need to be monitored and fined heavily for slack practices. Stricter warnings about the content of all venues must be implemented.

For those that cry freedom of speech, I say you are

free to say any thing you want. If you are proud of what you say then a description of your content so the parents can do their job, should not bother you.

Last, but not least, we need to stop this crazy program of spending more on kids after they get in trouble than we do to prevent them from taking the wrong path. Millions spent on jails, drug programs, job programs, etc. — after the fact — is insane. We are filling up our youth facilities and courts at an alarming rate with no end in sight. But

try to buy uniforms or provide access for kids to a gym or field and the funds become scarce or non-existent.

It is time to throw the naked men out in the cold. It is time to make it clear that until they clothe themselves in substance, we don't want what they have to offer. We must throw their shirts back at them and chase them from our door steps. We must stand between them and our children long enough to teach our youth the values we want them to have.



Toledo School Board Candidate Lisa Sobecki discusses quality education with Clerk Vallie Bowman-English

**"As a Mom, I know that all our children deserve the best education possible. Lisa Sobecki will be a School Board member who never forgets that our children come first."**

*Vallie Bowman-English*

Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court

**Lisa Sobecki**  
Endorsed Democrat for School Board  
*A Mom On A Mission*

**Please vote for Lisa and Vallie on November 6th!**

*Vallie*  
**Bowman English**  
Democrat for Clerk