



George Robinson II, MBA
Director, Minority Contractors Business Assistance Program

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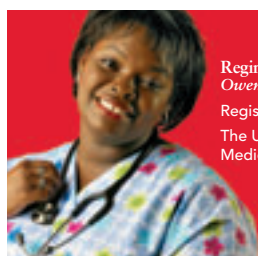
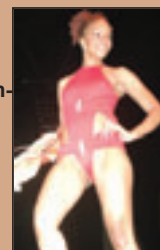
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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

One of the problems we encounter during any discussion about the value of education and the fact that the African-American community has not placed the proper emphasis on obtaining a good education is that we keep getting sidetracked.

So let's say it loud and clear and stop getting off message. The obstacles that the black community faces with respect to disparities in income, in wealth, in the criminal justice system are due to a variety of reasons and systemic, institutional racism certainly plays its part.

But we can say with equal confidence that the lack of educational attainment on the part of the black community contributes to those other disparities disproportionately. And the lack of educational attainment falls on us, falls squarely on our community.

Now, the discussion goes off track at this point when someone inevitably pipes in that we need to have the conversation about the fact that our black college graduates have a lack of access to jobs – and that's where we need to begin.

No, not so. If we buy into that scenario we are living in the world of anecdotes rather than in the world of statistics. And no one knows about the world of anecdotes like a community newspaper. We publicize the anecdotes, we trumpet individual accomplishments, particularly at the end of each school year, when we highlight the many successes – those in high school and college – of our young people.

But about half of our young people don't get to wear that cap and gown, on any level, and those are the statistics of the real world with which we need to concern ourselves. And the statistics show that the black community simply doesn't have nearly the same number of college-educated people, from a percentage standpoint, that the majority community has.

It's a college problem, to be sure. We don't send enough kids to college and those we send are so often under-prepared.

So it's a high school problem, to be sure. We don't graduate enough kids from high school and so many of those in high school are struggling to keep up with the curricula requirements.

And it's a middle school problem and an elementary school problem. And most importantly, it's a preschool problem, a problem that starts on the day that a poor, African-American child is born and finds himself, three years later, woefully behind so many others. So far behind that we, as a group, will never catch up.

And why is he so far behind? Because too often he has been born to a single mother, without a degree herself, who does not possess either the time, or the desire or the knowledge of how to instill in her son a respect for education – and the cycle repeats itself.

He will probably drop out of school prematurely, earn far less in his lifetime than those with college, or even high school, degrees, and have a much greater chance of running afoul of the law and being incarcerated.

As we noted above, it is so easy to point out kids in exactly those circumstances who have succeeded against all odds. Plenty of those around. But the numbers bear out the gravity of the situation. The reality of life is that if you graduate from high school and if you refrain from having children before you get married then your chances for success are greatly enhanced.

A number of years ago, we chided Bill Cosby in this column for what we perceived to be his rush to judgment about how the African-American community was failing itself. We were wrong to do so. Cosby was, in the main, right on target when he delivered the message that we have to start caring about our children's education and forcing the issue within the confines of our own homes. We have to do our part.

When we choose to re-focus the discussion on the side issues – the fact that Toledo, for example, does not provide those black kids with an education the opportunity to take advantage of their years of hard work – we miss the point. The lack of opportunities in Toledo covers the racial spectrum.

Moreover, we would have a realistic complaint if indeed we, as a community, were producing a highly educated workforce. As a community we are not and our complaint about lack of access to good jobs has a false ring to it.

We are also kidding ourselves if we think that kids in high school are dropping out because of what they perceive to be a lack of opportunities facing them if they earn a diploma. They are so far behind at that point that they do not have the wherewithal to make a considered decision about whether to stay or drop out. For too many of our kids, that choice was locked in years ago.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*December 5

Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls Parent Informational Night: "Legal Issues Every Parent Should Understand that Are Affecting our Children;" 5:30 to 7 pm

*December 6

An Evening with Santa: Robinson Middle School; 5 to 7 pm; Admission is donation of a non-perishable food item

*December 7

Ninth Annual Cookie Walk: Bakery opens at 10 am and closes at 3 pm; Friendship Hall at Collingwood United Methodist Church: 419-472-4322

Adult & Continuing Education Graduation: Students from ABLE-GED program, Nursing Aida program, practical nursing program and Barber Academy graduate at 5 pm; Waite-Brand Auditorium; John Foley, superintendent is the keynote speaker

*December 8

United Way Jump 'n Play: Free health screenings for area children and their families; Sports activities, inflatable fun, fitness activities, health fair, youth recreation camp, exhibits, workshops, distribution of healthy sugar-free products; 10:30 am to 4 pm; Lucas County Rec Center in Maumee: 419-254-4637

*December 9

"The Service of Celebration:" Special service to celebrate merger of Adult Fellowship and Sanctuary Choirs honoring directors Joan Bolden and Marvin Ward; 3 pm; Third Baptist Church

An Evening with First Creation and Friends: Holiday charity gospel music concert to benefit area homeless shelters; 5 pm; Indiana Ave MBC: 419-699-3039 or 419-340-4198

Night of the Arts Benefit: Grace Community Center; Hors d'oeuvres by Chef Andreas Wilson; Silent auction from 3 to 6 pm; Live auction from 6 to 6:45 pm; Featuring art by Odes Roberts, Billie Mae Adams, Alice Grace, Willie Nell Shahraki Heard, Alecia Robinson: 419-248-2467

Clarence Smith Community Chorus: Christmas concert; 6 pm; St. Martin de Porres Church: 419-471-1577

"Remembering Christmas:" Christmas celebration at the True Church of God; 7 pm; 419-380-8340

*December 19

Community Luncheon: Missionary Society of Phillips Temple CME Church; Noon to 2 pm; Free and open to public: 419-242-7906

*December 23

Third Baptist Church: Special Music of the Christmas Season rendered during the 11 am service

*December 25

Merry Christmas!!

*December 26-January 1

Kwanzaa!!

Wayman Palmer YMCA; 5 pm each day; Sponsored by the Toledo Kwanzaa House Committee

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political
Columnist



The Truth's Political Columnist

A whole bunch of good things happened to The Ohio State University this past week. Coach Jim Tressel got a nice jump in pay for winning the Big Ten and landing the top spot in the BCS.

Ohio State will garner a big pay check for playing for the national championship. And, of course, Coach Tressel will be able to recruit ball players a lot easier when he can brag on three national championship appearances in five years.

Up the road at Bowling Green State University, the trustees just announced that

the \$120 million fundraising goal had been met. Sidney Ribeau, Ph.D., has been in the saddle for nearly 13 years. And Ribeau's wife, Paula, just earned her doctorate. I hope we do not see the Ribeaus leaving any time soon.

But raising \$120 million means that Sidney Ribeau has done a lot of heavy lifting the past few years. The bulk of fundraising falls on the president's head. President Ribeau has done a fantastic job in many ways, in all seasons.

The death of William "Bill" Willis, former OSU and Cleveland Browns great is the end of the early era of blacks in the NFL. Willis was a great gentleman who touched the lives of Ohio children through his work, not in the NFL, but as the longtime executive for the Ohio Youth Commission.

Willis was appointed director under the regime of Jim Rhodes and later to deputy director under Democrat Dick Celeste. Toledoans got to know the son and namesake of Willis when Bill Willis, Jr. came up here to

run a county program a few years ago. The son did not last very long here but he had many of the same characteristics of his father — polite, humble, dapper and

Look for the County Commissioners to announce a surprise. The new arena will cost \$8 to \$10 million more than previously thought. Surprise!

old school in his demeanor.

Locally, we see a fight on the horizon as the Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez jockeys back and forth between the UAW and AFSCME over who will represent some of the workers in her office. The UAW takes representation seriously as do all of the unions but Lopez should be wary of winning a battle and losing the war.

Look for the County Commissioners to announce a surprise. The new arena will cost \$8 to \$10 million more than previously thought. Surprise! Yeah, the real surprise will be in about four years when we hear that the

new arena needs a levy to sustain its upkeep. This is the way these things work out.

Kudos to Mayor Finkbeiner in winning third

place in the "livable" cities contest. The mayor did a good job even though it ap-

pears that Toledo's presentation was not entirely accurate. Maybe that's why Carty is mayor. I vowed not to fib about what Toledo is doing.

Look for an angel to come to the rescue of COSI. Something is afoot and we hope that someone indeed comes to the rescue. My compliments to BGSU for taking on sponsorship of the arts school in Toledo. That took courage and not every trustee believes that a college should be helping a charter school.

Starting December 18, my wife Cynthia and I will be

doing a 30-minute show on Channel 13, early on Sunday mornings. We are going to concentrate on the arts, health and social services. Very little will be on politics.

Looking at the new Toledo City Council, the big question is whether D. Michael Collins gets to head up the Safety Committee and will Wilma Brown or Frank Szollosi take over the Finance Committee.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Domestic Registry in Toledo — Declaration of Marriage

By: Bishop Stephen Ward,
Remix Ministries



porate benefits for same-sex couples. The recent measure passed in Toledo will allow same-sex couples to obtain "domestic partnership" from the clerk of council and create official recognition of the relationships. This "domestic partnership" agenda threatens to throw wide open the door to full legal and moral affirmation of homosexual marriages.

members. In fact, some of the pastors may have not spoken up because they didn't want to lose members, or perhaps they are homosexuals themselves. Yes, it does exist in Toledo ... down-low pastors in the pulpit.

Nevertheless I affirm that God established the moral definition of marriage, and that it should not be changed according to the dictates of culture, tradition, or personal preference. I deny that the morality of marriage is a matter of mere custom, or that it should be allowed to shift with the tide of cultural opinion or social practice.

I reject the claim that homosexual (domestic partnership) unions should be granted equivalent moral status to heterosexual monogamous marriage, regardless of the terminology used to describe those unions. I affirm the biblical model of marriage, the union of one man and one woman as the only appropriate model for uniting people in marriage. I strongly deny that this conviction is incompatible with redemptive ministry to homosexuals. Homosexuals need the Gospel of Jesus Christ and they need the ministry of the church, just like everyone else.

Sin is sin no matter what people try to dress it up as. Domestic partnership is nothing more than sin. According to scriptures, God loves the sinner but He hates the sin. I encourage my fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord to reach out in redemptive ministry to homosexuals, while at the same time opposing the unbiblical concept of homosexual marriages and domestic partnerships.

Contact Bishop Stephen Ward at pastormward@yahoo.com



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Teachers Union Proposes Innovative Inner City School

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Francine Lawrence, president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers, has proposed that Toledo Public Schools open an innovative elementary school that will utilize research-based instruction and support strategies to reach superior academic performance.

During a Toledo Board of Education meeting last week Lawrence laid out her plan, titled GEM (Gaining Educational Mastery) Academy for the 2008-2009 school year.

The proposal is to take an inner-city, underperforming elementary school, such as Pickett Elementary, and re-tool the staff with a new leadership model—eliminating in essence the traditional administrative staff led by a principal. The faculty would be guided by a lead teacher in instruction and one for operations that would result, said Lawrence, in teacher ownership and “a willingness to assume accountability and responsibility for student achievement results.”

The school, according to the Lawrence proposal, would differ from the academies that TPS has already established, such as the Old West End Academy and Grove Patterson in that it would keep the existing student body intact rather than accept applications from all over the district. The school would offer a pre-kindergarten – open to four-year olds – as well as kindergarten.

In order to achieve the superior academic results, the teaching staff would use “proven programs that we know work in academic content areas and social emotional learning,” said Lawrence during a conversation prior to the news conference with The Truth.

The teachers would also employ “horizontal and vertical-team collaboration and peer observations” during the learning day to ensure flexible regrouping of students around grade bands based on assessments. In that way, said Lawrence, all

the student educational gap in all five assessed areas within five years of the implementation of the program.

“Students will meet the Ohio Academic Content Standards for fifth grade upon exiting the school after seven years (pre-kindergarten through fifth grade) of instruction,” said Lawrence.



Francine Lawrence

of the teachers would be committed to all of the students in the school.

Other features would include: the integration of instructional technology throughout all academic and related instruction, the teaching of Spanish from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, an extended learning year for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

Lawrence broke down the objectives of the program into short and long term goals. The short term goal is to meet or exceed, within the first academic year, the No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standard on the state of Ohio report card. Long range, Lawrence promises to close

ten through fifth grade) of instruction,” said Lawrence.

As for the selection of the staff, the school would be open to applications. “Everyone throughout the country is trying to figure out how to attract good teachers to high poverty schools,” said Lawrence. “We know how to do that.”

Teacher would be selected based upon peer ratings and an interview process. Lawrence hopes that six to eight teachers who are in the Toledo Review and Alternative Compensation System (TRACS) program will be assigned to the school. These teachers have been recognized with extra compensation for undertaking a rigorous, ongoing re-

view process.

Lawrence also said that part of the program would involve mobilizing the support of parents and the community in the school's activities. “We would want to make the school the hub for the family,” she suggested. One such way, if possible, would be to locate a health clinic in or close to the school that would provide immunizations and promote healthy life styles.

Lawrence also said that she would want to partner with existing institutions to enhance community and parental involvement such as neighborhood churches, LMHA and Lucas County Job and Family Services.

There will be enhanced costs for such a model school, Lawrence admitted. She would hope to attract additional funding from foundations and corporate sponsors.

Such a school, if successful, would be an island in a wasteland of academic underachievement, The Truth suggested to Lawrence. What would be the appropriate time to replicate such a program?

“I commit that the day this school opens, we will begin working on the next one,” said Lawrence.

All Hail Queen Fran...The Ruler Of The Schools!



By Lafe Tolliver
Guest Editorial

As some of you may know, I moonlight as an owner of a janitorial company and one of my many service contracts includes the Toledo Public Schools and their main offices at Manhattan & Elm.

On Thursday night around 9 p.m., I had to go to the headquarters of the school board and drop off a new floor polisher for my evening crew.

When I arrived on the second floor, Mason, my crew leader, was emptying out the trash can that was in Superintendent John Foley's office. I must have startled him since he was wearing those confounded headphones and could not hear me come up on him.

He practically jumped out of his skin and in doing so, he spilled the trash out of the can. I smiled and bent down to help him clean up

the paper mess.

When I was stuffing the spilt paper back into a trash bag, I was stuck by a broken paper clip that was attached to a memo entitled: **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**.

After I gave out a yelp, I pulled out the offending pointy clip from my thumb and out of curiosity, I read the memo dated: September 10, 2007. To state I was dumbfounded and shocked would be a mild statement for this is what I read:

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

To: Superintendent Foley

From: Fran Lawrence

Re: Preliminary Steps to the takeover of School System

Date: September 10, 2007

Dear John:

Thanks for the delicious lunch at Georgio's. Their blackened whitefish is

the best. To the point and just as a reminder of our plans to invigorate the school system, please memorize the below facts and then paper shred this memo beyond recognition:

[1] Now that my Jack Ford and my Lisa Sobeki

(Continued on Page 14)

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2007 Tribute to Rosa: A Community Celebration of the Spirit & Legacy of "The Mother of All Mothers"



By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Most believe that Rosa Parks is just a normal woman, who received too much recognition for refusing to give up her seat. People who say that, must not know the struggles that African-Americans went through in the segregated years. The harsh treatment they received just because of their skin color. Without Rosa Parks, who knows what the world would be like today? Rosa Parks is a smart, courageous, determined and hon-

orable woman. I believe that Rosa Parks is an American Legend. Her one single act made a major impact on history. Without her, our nation would probably still be segregated. African-Americans wouldn't be able to allow their children to get a good education, because of the fact it was against the law. This means that our entire nation would be different. We wouldn't have an African-American Secretary of State, such as official Condoleezza Rice. As an African-American, I believe that it is my duty to Rosa

Parks to show that I appreciate what she went through just for me to have a better future. I am attending a predominantly white school to challenge myself to see if I can do as well as the Caucasian children. I also hope to get a scholarship to a very high academic college. Without Rosa Parks, I wouldn't have these opportunities. Because of Rosa Parks, I am very well diverse and comfortable around any race. Rosa Parks inspires me to speak my mind and fight for my rights. I feel as if I can change the world as she did. I would consider her to be one of my heroes, knowing that she put herself in danger just to be treated fairly. Even though she was arrested, Rosa Parks didn't let that stop her from fighting. It motivated her even more to try to reach her goals. As Rosa Parks did, my family also grew up in Montgomery. It lets me know that they also went through the same struggles as she did. It definitely makes you appreciate her action even more, knowing that you could have been

abused because of your skin color. I believe we should be judged based on character, not the color of your skin. Rosa Parks changed the world as we know it; giving African-Americans the chance to show we can also accomplish great things. She gave us the opportunity to show that we are all equal and should be treated that way and no race should be given special treatment. Rosa Parks wasn't afraid to stand up for what she believe in, even knowing that she putting herself at risk. I believe that's what makes a hero and Rosa Parks is in fact an American Legend. Because of Rosa Parks' movement, it makes even more proud to say that I am an African-American" [Devyn Gray, ninth grader at St. Ursula Academy and First Place Winner of the 2007 Tribute to Rosa Award, an essay/creative writing contest for area youth aimed at recognizing the values of Rosa Parks and how her one single act changed history in American].

"As a journalist who sees the other side of teenage life, it is so wonderful to bring you that news of the brilliant young people we have right here in our community," said Master of Ceremony for the "Tribute to Rosa 2007 Celebration," Efreem Graham, weekend morning news anchor for 13ABC.

"Her one single solitary act of courage changed forever the direction of American history," he continued, reading from the front of the program for the annual event. "That one quote alone sums up the life of Rosa Parks."

The life and the legacy of

the woman considered the mother of the Civil Rights Movement was celebrated this year at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church.

"It is a delight to have all of you as we come to celebrate the life of Rosa Parks," said Pastor Raymond Bishop, welcoming a couple of hundred people to his church, Saturday, December 1, the anniversary of Parks' 'one single solitary act of courage.' "We welcome a generation of people to take in the life of Rosa Parks and we hope some of them will grow up to be like her."

Greetings were also extended from a number of public officials who attended the event, including State Representative Edna Brown, Toledo Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner, Toledo City Councilman Phillip Copeland and President of the Toledo Board of Education, Dr. Steven Steel.

Copeland captured the spirit of Rosa Parks' life work in his brief words. "The number of African-American people voting in a recent election is a downright embarrassment, especially when you consider the struggle," he said. "Friends, do not become complacent. Do not sit back and complain. Get involved in the process."

Copeland ended his brief but poignant words by reminding those attending the event that they elected the officials present, "Either by your vote or our failure to vote."

Graham followed Copeland with a challenge to the audience. "Ponder that," he said. "What are you doing to make a difference?" The emcee was further moved by

a selection by the Clarence Smith Community Chorus, "I Will Never Turn Back No More." CSCC sang spirituals throughout the event.

"Just hearing that," said Graham, "I can imagine Rosa Parks on the bus saying, 'I will never turn back no more; I'm tired and I will never turn back no more!' Sit down, take a stand."

"When you're sitting or standing or working next to someone of another race...Don't forget me. When you're sure you are right and the rest of the world is against you...Don't forget me. When you know that God created us all as equals...Don't forget me. I wasn't rich. I wasn't from a famous place...I was a seamstress by trade and went unnoticed...In 1955, I stood my ground against racial prejudice that was all around...I was arrested, convicted and fined and later lost my job...I began a movement that resulted in a year long boycott...I cracked open the door for racial equality...I became the Mother of the modern day Civil Rights Movement...When you wonder if one person can make a difference...Don't forget me. When you're afraid to speak out or stand up or stay seated as the case was on that bus...Don't forget me. When you wonder how you'll be remembered after you're gone...Don't forget me. Carry on and make my fight to open the eyes of all mankind to the goodness in each of us live on through your day to day actions...Don't forget me" [Tyler Johnson, a sophomore honor student at St. Francis de Sales High School and First Runner-Up for the Tribute To Rosa Awards].

Finkbeiner lauded the efforts of Bishop to lead a renaissance in the Dorr Street Corridor. "I am grateful to Pastor Bishop for leading the way," he said. The mayor also praised the efforts of women, particularly the executive director of the Board of Community Relations, which co-sponsored the event, along with Save Our Children.

"We have several historic women who live in our midst every day," said the mayor. "One of them is Juanita Green. She will go down in history as a giant, although she is diminutive in size, she is a giant."

The mayor also acknowledge the founder of Save Our Children, Rev. Floyd Rose, who conceived the annual celebration in honor of Rosa Parks, which acknowledges her historic life and the con-

(Continued on Page 10)

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George Robinson: Helping Minority-Owned Business to Bridge the Gap



By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

George Robinson, director of the Minority Contractors Business Assistance Program (MCBAP) of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce has been in his position for just over a year and he can readily tick off the successes the program has experienced in that time.

However, Robinson suffers from no illusion about what he and the Chamber have to overcome with respect to the minority community ... widespread skepticism about just what the Chamber can and will offer.

"We were going into an environment where there were a lot of myths and we have to overcome the reluctance of the African-American community to take advantage of what we have to offer," says Robinson to a visitor in the Chamber offices recently.

"We have gotten a lot accomplished in a year," he continues, "and we have a lot to look forward to in helping the minority community."

MCBAP, which just celebrated its 30th year in existence, is jointly funded by the

State of Ohio's Department of Development and the Chamber—approximately 60 percent of the funds come from the state. But the Chamber has ultimate control over the program. The goal of MCBAP is to provide outreach, management and technical assistance to minority-owned and small businesses located throughout Ohio. There are offices in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron, Portsmouth and Youngstown, in addition to the Toledo office.

In the last year, according to Robinson, MCBAP has conducted a FastTrac New Venture with 16 participants—25 percent of whom moved into their own offices within 30 days of the close of the program; secured private contracts worth upwards of \$16,000 for small, minority-owned businesses; held a number of seminars on bonding issues for contractors; teamed up with local general contractors such as Lathrop to start a school for construction management—a 12-week program that brought in 22 participants; conducted a FastTrac "Listening to You" business seminar during which existing businesses were able to enhance their business

skills by reviewing their original business plans and held a town hall meeting by partnering with the State of Ohio Department of Development that enabled minority-owned businesses to voice their concerns to Governor Ted Strickland and his representatives.

That last item, the town hall meeting, will provide fodder for a "white paper" by Lt. Governor Lee Fisher—the administration's economic development leader—to help rewrite, says Robinson, "the ills of the past 16 years of leadership" at the state level and provide increased assistance for entrepreneurs.

And Robinson himself has been busy not just putting all of these events in place but also taking on such responsibilities as addressing the American Chamber of Commerce Executives National Convention on developing minority entrepreneurship financing strategies and the Ohio Department of Development's Division of Minority Business Affairs Strategies for Growth—Unlocking Business Opportunities" conference.

Robinson also serves on the Northern Ohio Minority Business Council's planning committee and the Lucas County Arena Minority Contractor Oversight committee which was implemented to enhance minority participation on the downtown multipurpose arena.

And just how does Robinson gauge the success of these many far-flung programs? He tracks it, of course. MCBAP is not quite at the halfway point of its present fiscal year (which runs from August 1 to July 31) and has already reached more than 50 percent of the benchmarks established for the program in the critical area of loans awarded to clients.

In the previous full year, says Robinson, his office counseled 173 minority clients, extended more than 1,500 hours of business assistance, assisted with 65 minority-oriented certifications, assisted

with \$1.2 million in contracts awarded and assisted in securing \$950,000 of approved loans for clients.

But Robinson expects even more in the future. "We're heading into the stratosphere in 2008," he says. Plans are being laid to partner with the Regional Growth Partnership to offer assistance to their constituents, to partner with The Source for the convenience of metro-based clients and strike up a deal with The University of Toledo's Health Science Campus to provide a business education course for the school's pharmacy and medical students in an effort to assist with the retention of those graduates in northwest Ohio.

Robinson also is about to start a mentoring program with will partner small minority-owned contractors with their much larger majority counterparts.

That's a busy schedule, indeed. Especially for such a small office.

Robinson is assisted in his efforts to bridge the gap between the minority/small business communities and the public/private sector by Erika Harris, coordinator of MCBAP, and

David Wood, a part-time counselor.

But it's a venture Robinson did not undertake casually.

A Toledo native and graduate of St. Francis de Sales, Robinson earned his undergraduate degree from UT's College of Engineering in 2002 and a masters degree in business administration in 2006. "I saw an opportunity to link engineering with an MBA," he says. He and wife Vandra, parents of George III, are expecting their second son in early 2008.

Robinson worked for the City of Toledo as an economic business associate with the wastewater treatment program trying to procure contractors. During a meeting with Mayor Carty Finkbeiner about the city's ability to attract minority contractors, he recalls being told that the city needs local contractors, minority contractors and ones who had the capacity to handle such public projects.

It was almost a natural that he would eventually end up at a location where he can enhance the ability of minority contractors to bid and perform such contracts. Now he can

address the relevant issues directly. "Do you know how to bid? Are you receiving sound advice? What did you do to position yourself to be competitive in the market? Are you equipped to perform?"

"In Toledo there are a lot of people starting businesses without doing the market research," laments Robinson. And, of course, that's where MCBAP comes in.

And keeps coming.

On January 12, the Lathrop School of Construction Management begins—that's a free, 12-week course; on January 22, a half day seminar will be held at The Source from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to deal with the issue of minority business enterprise (MBE) and women business enterprise (WBE) certification (a \$10 fee is required; on February 17 a seminar titled "Doing Business with the Ohio Department of Transportation" will be conducted—that will also require a \$10 fee.

To contact MCBAP or the Chamber about any of these programs, call 419-243-8191, ext 223 or email george@robinson@toledochamber.com

Contact Fletcher Word at fletcher@thetruthtoledo.com

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First Creation wants to give back to the community that has supported them for 19 years strong.

<http://www.myspace.com/firstcreationmusic>

Top Ladies of Distinction Bring Holiday Spirit to Seniors



Denise Black Poon and Kalvin Hughes entertain seniors

As is their custom, the Top Ladies of Distinction held their annual Christmas party for senior residents of the John McKissick center on Saturday afternoon. The annual celebration brings about a dozen Top Ladies, 10 or so senior citizens and, of course, a special visitor from the North Pole.

Fortunately, Santa did not forget to bring the gifts with him ... or her as the case may be.



REFINERY PROCESS OPERATORS (Entry Level)

Sunoco, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of petroleum and petrochemical products, committed to operating our facilities in a Safe, Reliable, and Environmentally Sound manner. The Toledo refinery has a limited number of positions available to work on rotating shifts. Successful candidates will be selected for entry into a formal 36-month apprenticeship program.

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MOSES AT GETHSEMANE A One-Act Drama

By G.J. Chapman

Ed. Note: We ran the first two scenes of this play two weeks ago in our November 21 issue. That issue can be seen online at www.thetruthtoledo.com

[The play is set in Memphis, March 28, 1968, the day of a march there that ended in looting and violence; April 3, 1968, the day Dr. King gave his "mountaintop" speech; and April 4, 1968, the day of his assassination. The actors are MARTIN and a four-member Chorus.]

SCENE 3:

[All but one member of Chorus leaves; he speaks, then exits]

-Dr. King, you sure you don't want to go to the church with us?

MARTIN

Y'all go on. I need some time. [He hums "In the Garden" as he prepares to pray]

Moses couldn't come to the garden because his death had no agony. It was a peaceful passing. Were mine to be, I would not know Gethsemane. But its trees call me to pray under their branches, sit in their shade amid the cool breezes rustling through their leaves. There to make a solitary pilgrimage to my God's throne.

[He kneels to pray.] Moses, I join you on Ararat. Now, I know your exultation and your terror. God, how cruel to bring us to the top but not to the other side. Only such a God would let your humble servant see the fruit of all his labor, knowing he will never taste it. I thank you for this view [stands] standing on the mountaintop. I can see the future of my people, much like Moses seeing Israel with its own state. I see my people

in places of power, ruling this land; making laws and enforcing them; building banks and running them; teaching in ivy league schools; managing Fortune 500 companies; owning, managing, and coaching major sports franchises; dominating the armed forces as generals and admirals; filling the House and the Senate and even the White House – my people in high places – higher than any mountain ever scaled by man. Lord, let me rest on the mountaintop for all eternity, like Moses, watching my dream unfold into full-fledged reality. It was not one man's dream, but the dream of all humankind. You gave me the vision, now they will have the reality – those future generations who come after me and live the dream. Mountaintop, I must leave you and your forward vision. I return to Gethsemane to pray [kneels] and I will leave there in peace – ready to face the fate that awaits me. [Chorus member who spoke previously walks over to MARTIN]

- Dr. King! They're asking for you at the church. They want you to speak! Come on, I'll take you! [Two of them rush out.]

SCENE 4:

MARTIN

[Pacing back and forth; one member of the chorus walks over to MARTIN.]

Where have you been all day, Andrew?

- You know I was in court all day.

You're supposed to be where I can reach you! [Laughs and picks up pillow and hits him with it.]

- Hey, don't hit me with that pillow! [Other Chorus members come in and grab pillows and hit him.]

Y'all stop! [One member of the Chorus turns to MARTIN.]

- Dr. King, we've got to get ready to go.

All right, go on outside so I can get dressed. [Puts on his tie and jacket.] Lord, I feel like getting dressed for battle! I know we're just going out for dinner, but I feel good – better than I've felt in a month. I feel so good, I hate to see the sun go down. I want that sun to keep shining and the moon to just keep still tonight. This should be a night without darkness – one that shines for all eternity. God bless this day as it turns toward twilight and let it end in peace. I know this day is a special day and will be remembered as will this great city for its part in today's history. It was one single day that brought infamy to Memphis, so let this day bring it glory. Let this day be a day of rejoicing and recompense forevermore. No more weeping and wailing in Memphis! Oh, they're still singing the blues on Beale Street and its distortion in Graceland, but tonight we'll be singing hymns of joy in this beautiful city where poor people stand united. Memphis, the bell of the South, God gave you this day to make history. Historical times are not new to you. You've had your place in the history books, but you are about to write a new chapter in those same books whose pages are smeared with the blood of those whose history they record. Let this latest chapter be bloodless, oh great city. And if blood must be spilled to provide ink to write your story, let it only be a drop. Lord, I feel like marching to Zion! [He exits; after 10 second pause, gunshot is heard offstage.]

-fin-



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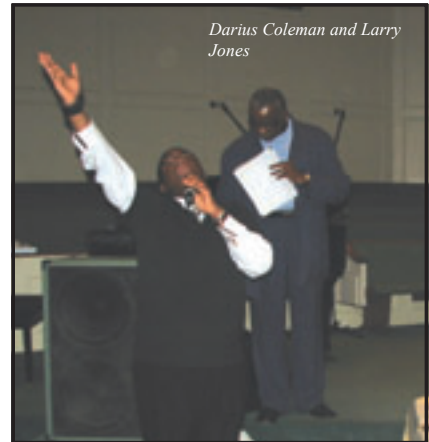
Vince Davis Agency 419-244-2904



A Journey Through Healing – A Celebration of Remembrance



Bea Daniels



Darius Coleman and Larry Jones

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Bea Daniels started A Journey Through Healing, her non-profit grief counseling group, after the death of her mother.

"I wanted her to live on," Daniels told the assembled audience at Mt. Pilgrim's Baptist Church last Saturday who had gathered for Daniels' annual holiday healing celebration. Nearly 100 people led by Master of

Ceremonies Larry Jones and special guests, the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir, participated in the candle lighting ceremony.

"The candles are in different shapes and sizes to represent the grief we are feeling," said Daniels.

And in the background of the ceremony was saxophonist C.J. Mannings setting the mood for the "happy, sad time" of missing loved ones during the

holidays.

"Light means life," said Daniels. "It's all a part of our memories that are growing inside of us."

Saturday's ceremony also included a closing prayer by Rev. William Lucas, who serves on the board of A Journey Through Healing, and solos by young Darius Coleman, who seems to get better every time one hears him sing.

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thetruthtoledo.com

Hospice of Northwest Ohio Hosts Tea for First Ladies of the Church

Special to The Truth

The African American Advisory Committee for Hospice of Northwest Ohio hosted a tea for the First Ladies of various black churches in November at its Toledo Hospice Center. A program, Caring for the Caregiver: Finding the Blessings, was presented with the goal of helping attendees better understand how to make the most of the care giving experience while tending to the needs of family and friends who are ill or aging.

The advisory committee, comprised of Mary Gregory, Virginia Pettaway and Janice McWilliams, chose this topic because of the large number of people—particularly women—who are faced with the challenges of care giving.

"We are all caregivers to some degree," explains Hospice Community Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Joseph. "More than 45 million Americans are now 'caregivers' who provide physical, emotional or logistical support to assure that someone they know is safe, comfortable and cared for in their final years of life. We want our local women of the church to be aware of the support and education that is available to them and their congregants through the Caring for the Caregiver program offered free of charge by Hospice."

In addition to the care giving presentation, there was a discussion about concerns in the African American community related to end-of-life care.

Everyone agreed that there is confusion regarding what hospice care entails and how affordable it is. African Americans, in general, are not availing themselves of this very beneficial form of care as often as they could.

The African American Advisory Committee plans to organize other events of this type in hopes of educating the community about the many resources available to them from Hospice. In the meantime, anyone interested in learning more about the Caring for the Caregiver program should contact Pat Hanusz, RN BSN, caregiver trainer for Hospice, at 419-661-4001.

Church's Chicken Tuesday Special



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& Thigh ★
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12 tender strips & 4 biscuits
and choice of any large side order
\$12.99



50 pieces of dark (original or spicy)
only \$35.00

Offer good for Church's Chicken locations at
2124 Franklin Avenue, Toledo and
Byrne & Glendale, Toledo

River East Community Health Clinic – Back in Action

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Neighborhood Health Association's (NHA) River East Community Health Clinic has reopened after having been closed since February 2007 due to a problem with the building's fire system.

A luncheon last week at the facility provided staffers with an opportunity for "outreach to members of the community to let them know we have re-opened," said Outreach Coordinator Melissa Baker.

The building has actually been open for business since September but this was the first event designed to bring in media and community groups for a tour of the clinic.

The River East Community Health Clinic is one of nine clinic sites in the NHA system and provides medical care in a number of specialties along with pre-natal care, pharmacy services, vision services, dental care, social work services, among others.

Site translation is available for Spanish-speaking



NHA staffers Donice Hicks and Julie Woodard with Alex Pickett of Kalaya Alexander Therapeutic Community



NHA staffers Melissa Baker and Althea Coleman

patients as is transportation when necessary.

NHA is the largest federally qualified community health center system in

northwest Ohio. Fees are based on the ability to pay and no one is turned away for an inability to pay.

Salimah's Closet Opens on North Michigan Street



Monique Ward

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Monique Ward, a certified health counselor, has broadened her horizons. Last week, Ward oversaw the grand opening of Salimah's Closet, a wellness specialty shop in at 316 N. Michigan – across from the Toledo Lucas County Main Branch Library.

Salimah's Closet features products such as Noni juice, fragrance oils, soaps, candles, lotions, colon cleansers, mangosteen juice, books and CD's, among other health-oriented offerings.

The shop is located on the fourth floor of the office building and Ward can be reached at 419-243-5977 to set up an appointment.

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The Clarence Smith Community Chorus

Christmas Concert

Date: Sunday, December 9, 2007

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: Freewill Offering

Where: St. Martin de Porres Church
 1119 W. Bancroft Street
 Toledo, OH 43606

For more information, please contact (419) 534-3370

2007 Tribute to Rosa

(Continued from Page 5)

tributions of local women of merit. "This is a very distinguished class that we have," the mayor said of this year's six recipients. "God-speed as you continue to do good work for your community."

The mayor ended his comments on a hopeful note, recalling that in 2006, at the inaugural celebration everyone vowed to fill the building in 2007. He looked around noting that it was two-thirds full, but Trina McCluney, a member of Mt. Pilgrim who attended the event with a teenage daughter and goddaughter was not satisfied with the attendance. "Where is everybody?" she asked at the start of the event. "This place should be full!"

Finkbeiner hid any disappointment he may have had at the fair turnout, considering the cold weather and winter storm watch. "Next year," he said, "let's make sure that this church is filled up." Those who did not attend missed a chance to see a beautiful new school named in honor of the civil rights pioneer shown on a screen during brief remarks by Steel.

"As I speak, projected images of the brand new Rosa Parks School are behind me,"



Doni Miller

said Steel. "It was built in the location of the former Cherry Street School. She is a hero for all of us and what better tribute not to celebrate the past; not to celebrate something that happened 52 years ago; not to celebrate one person's life, but to celebrate that vision of a just society."

"Silently you watched as African-Americans were treated like second-class citizens. It made you angry. But the fear of what may happen kept you silent for so long. Different schools, different jobs, different neighborhoods. It seemed like things would never change. No one stood up. No one spoke out. Until one day, a tired young black woman sat in the front of the bus. The whites told her to move to the back with all the other blacks. She refused to move. For this she was arrested; but because of her courage, blacks and whites have come together. We have come a long way. Now things are they way

there were meant to be" [Allison Eppard, an eighth-grader at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns and Second Place winner of the Tribute to Rosa Awards].

The presentation of this year's honorees recognized a virtual Who's Who among African-American women and African-American leaders in Toledo's community. Those honored included: Doni Miller, CEO of Neighborhood Health Association and chairman of the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority (Business); Theresa Gabriel, director of the City



Theresa Gabriel

of Toledo's Department of Human Resources (Civil Rights); LaRouth Perry, Ph.D., a retired Toledo Public teacher, presently teaching composition and African-American Studies at The University of Toledo (Education); Marjorie Holt, Ph.D., bishop of the InterFaith Fellowship of Churches, International and Pastor of Bethesda Christian Center (Religion); Yvonne Harper, executive director of the Lucas County Democratic Party (Politics) and Jean Overton, journalist, community activist and former executive director of the Model Cities Program (Community Service). "Rosa Parks had a lot of faith. Rosa Parks

believe in her race. Rosa Parks didn't let anyone push her in the face because of her race. Rosa Parks had a lot of faith in her race. Rosa Parks believed in people to make hast to help her race. Rosa Parks helped a lot of people to make a choice to help the world. Rosa Parks is alive in my heart today because of her faith in her race. Rosa Parks was a person I believe in to make a difference in our ways today. This is Rosa Parks and her faith to me" [Camry Bartel, a freshman at Waite High School and Third Place winner of the Tribute to Rosa Awards].

"I've never met him, but I've heard his voice countless times," Graham said, introducing the speaker for the event, U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich), who he said gives the best 'media sound bytes.' "The man who helped to bring Rosa Parks closer to our home."

Conyers began his short speech by again acknowledging four members of the Parks family who attended the event. Graham had previously acknowledged them. "This is a special occasion," he said. "And it is a tribute to the City of Toledo."

Conyers talked about how impressed he was with the people he'd met here, but he was especially impressed with the young contest winners and their writing. "We talk with a lot of young people who think things were always this way," he said. "This review in honor of Rosa Parks gives a lot of us the opportunity to examine what the past has to do with the present and what the present has to do with the future."

Conyers talk included his memories of the Civil Rights Movement, Parks and the young leader who emerged from the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Much of my political philosophy derives from a religious leader - Martin Luther King: jobs, justice and peace."

He also talked about presidential politics. "For those of you who tell Senator Obama he needs more experience, I ran for Congress with no experience," he said, adding that he is good friends with the Clintons but that he supports Obama's candidacy.

"They understand why I'm supporting Obama first." Conyers also talked about the universal health care program he's been fighting to institute for three Congresses. "There is a candidate that is supporting universal health care," he said. "His name is Dennis Kucinich."

Conyers brought the topic back to the subject at hand when he commended women in Congress for their work, specifically Representatives



Juanita Greene

Marci Kaptur and Stephanie Tubbs-Jones. However, his most solemn tribute was for his long-time friend and employee. "The only woman in American history whose body has laid in state at the U.S. capital - Rosa Louise Parks."

Conyers pointed out that like Dr. King, Parks was hon-

ored more after her death. "Everybody was with King," he scoffed. "Everybody was with King. King caught the devil when he was alive, frequently from his own people; frequently from religious people; frequently from Civil Rights leaders."

Again returning to Parks, Conyers spoke of her single-mindedness and humility. "She had a world view. Her modesty was unmatched," he said, revealing that Parks once asked him to cut her



U.S. Rep. John Conyers

salary because she was traveling so much, she did not come in to work every day.

"I said 'Rosa Parks, if you never came back to that office again, you'd still be on

the payroll because you honor me.' That's the kind of character she had: the kind of character that is what you do when no one is looking."

Conyers talked about the courage Parks exhibited with her 'one single solitary act of courage.' "They had just killed a black soldier in uniform because he said the same thing," he said. "Rosa, we will always remember you."

"The mother of all people around the world. Someone who changed life for many people today. Someone who refused to give a seat up and was arrested for this action that led to a march for everyone to be equal. The one lady that I am proud to know has helped in so many ways. We should appreciate her courage. That is why I am writing to the mother of all mothers, Rosa Parks" [Keyanna Jordan, eighth-grader at Byrnedale Jr. High School and Fourth Place winner of the Tribute to Rosa Awards].

Lisa Hightower, who performed a musical prelude prior to the program, sang an original song in tribute to another great woman, her

mother, during the program. "For those of you who're meandering along in life," she said, "it's time to find a purpose for being here as Rosa Parks did."

Her song, "Mattie's Song a.k.a. Make Your Life Count" received one of many standing ovations during the stellar event.

"How many of you want your life to count?" asked Graham. "We don't need big celebrations after we're gone, but we need to make a difference."


"Rosa Parks. We have many parks. Why is she different? Rosa Parks. She rode a bus. What does that do for us? Rosa Parks. She defied the rules. Now we share the same pools. Rosa Parks. She opened our eyes to the way we live our lives. Rosa Parks. We have many parks. Now we know she is different" [Kayla Cornell, eighth-grader at Byrnedale Jr. High School and Fifth Place winner of the Tribute to Rosa Awards].


Each of the winners received a laptop computer. A reception catered by Cooks Catering/Club 300 followed the event.

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open your
home

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 **Lucas County Children Services**



POLLNOBMA RESULTS FOR OCTOBER

By Warren Woodberry



In an effort to let them know what you really think, the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association (NOBMA) has introduced Pollnobma. Pollnobma will cover issues that affect how you live and will give notice of how you feel on issues that are of importance to you and your future.

The results of the October Pollnobma have revealed that most respondents are not satisfied with the direction that Toledo is taking in education, jobs, race relations or political representation. Ninety percent were not satisfied with the To-

ledo Public School system while 85 percent expressed that promises made by politicians to the urban area were not fulfilled.

The need for jobs creation garnered 50 percent of the vote while education ran second with 35 percent with the need for better race relations coming in at 15 percent. When asked whether black organizations worked well together, response was

ence in the education of students. Toledo Federation came in second with 35 percent of the vote and Toledo Public school Board came in last with a 10 percent influence on the quality of education in our school system. On the need for role models, the majority voted 90 percent for an increase in black role models.

Sixty percent of the responders were men with an

Married 95% men 100% women
Students response 0%
Living in Toledo 98%

NOVEMBER POLLNOBMA

1. What or who has the most influence with city hall?

Pastors Black Politicians Public opinion
The vote None

2. Will Dorr Street ever return as an active business area?

Yes No Possibly
Not in my life time

3. What is the status of police relations in the urban areas?

Improving Not improving Staying the same Deteriorating Not sure

4. Should more beer and wine carry-outs be allowed in the urban community?

Yes No Not sure

5. The Teachers Federa-

tion of Teachers president Fran Lawrence suggested that

the office of principal is abolished at Pickett school

Agree Disagree
Not important No opinion

6. Why are parents in the urban area accused of not being more active with the Parent Teachers Association's or their children's school?

Lack of free time Lack of interest Lack of knowledge

Schools not receptive

7. What black organization does the best job of representing the urban community?

Fill in name

8. Where do you get your news?

Internet The Blade Afro-American newspapers Toledo Free Press TV

9. What is the major cause of crime in urban Toledo?

Lack of jobs Drugs Lack of education Lack of father

Lack of mother Gangs Lack of role models

10. What business would you like to see in the Black neighborhood?

Select two options.
Major grocery store
Major restaurant chain
Soul restaurant
Skating rink Art/
Black history museum
Quality adult Nightclub
Public function facility

All we ask is that you check off the one answer that comes the closest to your personal opinion and then email your checked off form to pollnobma@yahoo.com or Mail to Truth cutout to: PO. Box 352675 Toledo, Oh 43635-2675

Results of the poll will be published in the Sojourner's Truth Newspaper.

If you would like to be selected as a member of our select polling group, please make a note of that on your returning form.

When questioned about whether there were adequate facilities for urban youth the answers were 80 percent no, 10 percent yes and 10 percent somewhat.

90 percent NO with only 10 percent voting somewhat.

When questioned about whether there were adequate facilities for urban youth the answers were 80 percent no, 10 percent yes and 10 percent somewhat. Most of the respondents attended Scott HS, while most did not have a child at Scott. Fifty-five percent of the poll said that parents had the most influ-

average age of 47, while the 40 percent that were women had an average age of 58. Most were married and lived in Toledo and most had attended Scott high School.

Male responders 60%
Female responders 40%
Average age males 41 years
Average age women 58 years



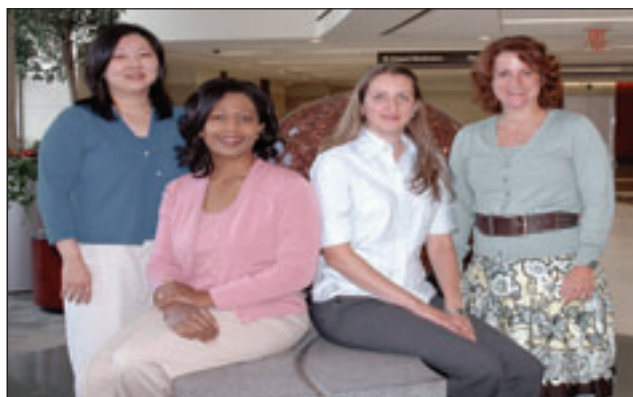
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L to R: Dr. Lisa Lee, Dr. Naktisa Rogers, Dr. Nicole Nelson, and Dr. Aimee Hawley are all Board-Certified Radiologists with Lima Radiological Associates which staff St. Rita's Imaging Services.

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* ACS recommends Breast MRI at facilities that also have Breast MRI Biopsy available, such as St. Rita's.

Area Students Explore Information Technology Careers During Statewide "We Are IT" Program at Owens

Special to The Truth

Web pages, iPods and 3-D animation are just a few of the information technology areas that over 100 girls in grades seven-10 recently explored as part of an interactive professional conference at Owens Community College. The event titled "We Are IT" was part of a statewide initiative involving 18 colleges and universities working together for the purpose of providing female students with a broad-based introduction to information technology applications and the array of rapidly-growing career opportunities.

For Lora Jefferson of Toledo, the opportunity to participate in a variety of information technology educational activities triggered thoughts of a future career within the newly discovered field. "I've really learned a lot within the last few hours about information technology and it's fun experimenting with new things on the computer," said Jefferson, an eighth grade student at Leverette Junior High School. "I'm certainly going to consider information technology as my major when I'm ready to attend college."

Throughout the event, conference attendees had the opportunity to explore a wide variety of career paths



puter forensics, computer diagnostics, and information technology products and development.

In addition to the lecture portion of each session, the students were given a project to complete in order to further learn the concepts being taught. Sessions were taught by various members of Owens' information technology and electronics faculty and staff, among others.

"Owens Community College is proud to participate in a statewide initiative which is focused on exposing area students to various career options within information technology," said Lyn Snyder, Owens Professor of Computer Programming and Chairman of the College's "We Are IT" professional conference committee. "The demand for information technology workers continues to increase and several information technology-related occupations are recognized by the U.S. De-

viduals from local businesses and ask them questions concerning their professions.

Additionally, they received information on how to go about choosing a career within information technology after completing their education.

Among the area schools that attended "We Are IT" were Perrysburg High School, Leverette Junior High School (Toledo Public Schools) and Woodward High School.

Other academic institutions that participated in the statewide initiative included Bowling Green State University Firelands College, Edison State Community College, University of Akron, Columbus State Community College, Hocking College, Lakeland Community College, North Central State College, Sinclair Community College and Youngstown State University, among others.

Owens' "We Are IT" professional conference was held in conjunction with the Ohio IT Business Advisory Network and the Office of Career-Technical and Adult Education of the Ohio Department of Education.

Owens offers a wide variety of academic programs within information technology through the College's School of Business and Information Systems, and past graduates have gone on to high paying careers as computer programmers, systems analysts, Internet support specialists, network support specialists and information systems managers throughout northwest Ohio. Information technology-specific programs offered at Owens include Computer Programming, E-Business, Information Systems, Networking and Information Systems Support, and Information Technology.



and vocations in information technology, including 3-D animation using the ALICE Programming Language ("Alice's Garden Lost"), Microsoft Office 2007 ("Lipstick and Microsoft Office 2007"), the developing classroom on an iPod ("My Class is on an iPod?"), Internet exploration ("IT Scavenger Hunt!"), personal web page design ("You on the Web"), Photoshop skills ("Your Name in Lights!"), com-

partment of Labor and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services as the fastest-growing careers in the nation."

Snyder added, "We Are IT" affords students with a great opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge about this ever-growing career field from northwest Ohio's premier information technology educators and working professionals."

Students also had time during lunch to meet indi-

Dear Ryan,

I really want to start working out, but to tell the truth, I'm embarrassed because I am overweight and out of shape. I would love to drop some weight before I join a gym so that I am a bit more comfortable walking into a place where everyone is in good shape. What can I do to get started?

Ready 'n Willing.

Dear Not Quite So Ready 'n Willing,

Stop making excuses and just get started. Do you stay locked in the house because you don't want people to look at you?

Probably not, so why is going to a gym to better yourself any different? Not everyone in the gym is a size three. There are plenty of overweight people in the gym trying to lose weight that feel the same way you do. Just go in and focus on you. Don't pay attention to other people and get your work done.

When I go to other gyms to train I put on my music and don't look up until I'm headed for the door. You are not there to see who is looking at you or to socialize. You are there on a mission and that mission is to get leaner, stronger, and healthier.

Now is a great time to get started especially with the holidays here and all the extra eating everyone does. You can go into any gym right now and take a tour to see if that is the place for you. It's best to go during the time of day that you think you will be training. This will give you an idea of the traffic flow and type of people that will be there when you are.

So, to get started you need to just get started!

You can drop a few pounds by eating right and drinking more water. Eat a good protein-filled breakfast with some carbs along with protein in every meal you eat. In your last meal eat only lean meat and veggies.

Get your mind right and set a realistic goal. It doesn't have to be weight oriented it can be just working out two to three times per week. That is a great goal to get started on. Consistency is crucial, which is also what you can do to get started. Set a goal and stick to it at any cost. Schedule your workouts like a doctor's appointment. You wouldn't bail on your doctor so don't bail on your workouts.

If you are still not comfortable with the gym scene you can come in and see me. I train one-on-one with you in a private setting and there is no one else in the gym. Good luck in getting started and I wish you all the luck in the world.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT 2007

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



Peace and blessings Toledo (and beyond) – no matter your religion, Happy Holidays as well. Seems a few of my readers have appreciated me clearing things up last week. The emails I get show me that y'all feel me.

Like I said, at least for right now – I'm the only person here that's writing for us from a perspective I hope most can relate to so it's all love on my end and the feedback I'm getting lately says the same for a lot of you out there.

Man, this past year has been dumb crazy. If I had to make any comments on our culture, I'd say 2007 is going to leave us that much more screwed up. The only thing that's been consistently great this year is... Timbaland's production.

What 2007 Has Taught Me About Our Society:

There is an election coming up. In 2002 I was out there doing voter registration. I was doing phone banking. When Bush "won" the White House for the second time, L.P.O.V. and I took a few cars down to Washington and protested and got pepper sprayed for being among the tens of thousands expressing our outrage.

I was at the hearings in Columbus that detailed statewide examples of various Boards of Elections allowing the oversights that led to our state being claimed by the Republican vote.

I WAS INVOLVED!

AFTER ALL OF THAT – I think I have given up.

I will no longer be participating in the political process on a national level.

Our lawmakers, our government, our political process are so corrupt and out of whack – I see no point in participating anymore.

It's one thing for the casual person to give up on voting, but I'm talking about those of us who were DEEPLY INVOLVED in the process at one point.

This administration has killed idealist dreams of wanting to at least speak up for what is right.

The presidential candidates for the upcoming election are making great strides though. I wish Hillary and Obama would run as president and vice president – maybe then I'd vote.

Even if that happened (which it most likely will not) – it's still the same old same old. There's only been one Democrat in the White House in my lifetime and I see a pattern. Republicans mess everything up and then leave Democrats to clean it up. The debt, the ravages of war, the completely ruined reputation, the broke middle class – this current administration leaves behind such a vast wasteland of problems – NO ONE

COULD hope to make a dent in all of these problems. And the jobs that have been lost, the healthcare crisis, the gas/energy cost crisis, the wars, the effed up criminal justice system... all of these things will get worse. As much as I love a lot of Hillary and Obama's ideas – even if they win, the true benefit may only be cosmetic. I'm not trying to be pessimistic. But honestly, our country... our way of life is in serious peril.

And the people who currently rule over us have made certain that the path we are on will not be easily reversed.

WORST SIGNS OF THE TIMES 2007

- The Republican Party wants to do away with the I.R.S.

Years ago Bush proclaimed that his second term ending would also mean the end of the I.R.S. Rich Republicans and business owners want to avoid taxation (even though they are can afford taxation). Instead of payroll and business tax (and estate and capital gains tax which affect the affluent) – they want to tax consumer goods more heavily.

Under their plan, something you find at your corners that now costs five bucks could possibly cost as much as 17 bucks. So all of the working poor and middle class folks who live check to check would likely be flattened by such a drastic increase in living expenses. This year, this plan has gained more supporters than ever before and it's a major cornerstone of the Republican presidential candidates debates.

- Inferior Products From China

Let's see, in addition to a failing housing market and American jobs being shipped overseas... now we are importing consumer products that are not only cheap but dangerous. The toys and electronics on our shelves are filled with poisonous paint dyes and malfunctioning moveable parts. This isn't just an issue of shoddy work ethic. Once potentially harmful products are consumed by tens of millions of people, we've got a national crisis right here at home. Not on TV – HERE.

- Jena 6

You already know the story. But the fallout is what scares me the most. In the last few months there have been dozens of instances where white folks around this "great" nation of ours have taken great fun in hanging nooses.

If you're a prominent black person in a white community,

if you are successful at your job, and of course if you are a high school/college student... you run the risk of being a target of the newest, most popular hate crime in America.

Everyone knows I've been waiting to finally move to NYC, right?

Well even though it's the home of progressives and multi-cultural people from all over the earth – that city alone has had the most widely reported incidents of noose's being used to send messages to prominent African-Americans.

And what's worse – THESE ASSHOLES don't believe it's a hate crime.

CNN has even proposed that what we perceive as hate crimes may just be innocent practical jokes.

SCANDALS OF 2007 :- The Bad, The Ugly and The W.T.F.?

MICHAEL VICK

One thing is for sure in this country, the lives of black people mean less than the lives of dogs. Michael Vick should have chosen better friends or learned to have better habits/pastimes that would've been more in tune with his elevated position.

However, all that jail time, all the media assassination and all of the hatred does not fit the crime. Dogs are loveable and should not be harmed.

But DAMN! It's not THAT serious.

Crimes are committed against us on a daily basis. And this country won't stick up for us the way they do a bunch of canines.

O.J. SIMPSON

Honestly, I think he was set up.

I think there's internet footage of the Goldman family promising a few years ago that they'd find someone to make O.J. pay.

Maybe he needs to pull a Michael Jackson and just pick a different country to reside in.

BARRY BONDS

Damn, even when we do something historical – it's tainted.

Now professional sports does seem a bit more shadier than normal this year (even Marion Jones teammates had to give back their medals recently).

But this man should be celebrated and revered throughout the ages for his achievement.

Instead he's become a polarizing figure in the news.

Honestly tho – I'd love to see everyone just give him his props.

QUICK LIST

These few words are all that need to be said, draw your own conclusions.

Sanjaya.

Iphone.

Don Imus

Britney.

Facebook

Like I said last week, so much celeb-drama and scandal occurred this year that people may have forgotten about the actual entertainment we enjoyed in 2007.

From the emails I've gotten, I see many of you want more categories.

Thanks for sending me your votes.

FAVORITE T-PAIN CAMEO OF 2007

"I'm So Hood"

D.J. Khaled w/ Plies, Rick Ross, Trick Daddy and T-Pain

"Kiss, Kiss"

Chris Brown feat. T-Pain

"Shawty"

Plies feat. T-Pain

"Good Life"

Kanye West feat. T-Pain

"Cyclone"

Baby Bash feat. T-Pain

"Low"

Flo Rida feat. T-Pain

BIGGEST HOOD SONG OF 2007

"I'm So Hood"

D.J. Khaled

"Hood Figga"

Gorilla Zoe

"Duffle Bag Boy"

Playaz Circle

"Big Things Poppin"

T.I.

"Freaky Girl"

Gucci Mane

BIGGEST OVERALL URBAN HIT SONG OF 2007

"Buy U A Drink"

T. Pain w/ Yung Joc

"Same Girl"

R. Kelly w/ Usher

"Party Like A Rockstar"

Shop Boyz

"Crank Dat"

Soulja Boy Tell Em

"Bartender"

T. Pain w/ Akon

FAVORITE R&B JOINT OF 2007

"Bed"

J. Holiday

"Until The End of Time"

Justin Timberlake

"No One"

Alicia Keys

"On The Hotline"

Pretty Ricky

"I'm A Flirt"

R. Kelly

FAVORITE CRANK DAT SPIN OFF

"Crank Dat" with the

Barney video

(go to youtube.com type "crank dat barney")

"Crank Dat" with the Winnie the Pooh video

"Crank Dat" with the Lion King video

"Crank Dat Spiderman" (the infamous line "we don't superman no mo, we just spider man that hoe" – LOL)

"Crank Dat Batman"

FAVORITE REAL HIP HOP MOMENT OF 2007

The entire "Finding Forever" album by Common

Andre 3000's opening verse from U.G.K.'s "International Playas Anthem"

Kanye winning that first week sales war over 50 Cent
V.H.1 Hip Honors celebrating another great year
Beanie Sigel officially rejoining Roc A Fella

FAVORITE CLUB SONG OF 2007

"Wipe Me Down"

Lil Boosie, Webbie,

Fox A Million

"Ay Bay Bay"

Hurricane Chris

"Walk It Out Remix"

D.J. Unk, Outkast,

Jim Jones

"Cupid Shuffle"

Shuffle (yaw betta

not vote for this – LOL)

"I Get Money"

50 Cent

FAVORITE CLUB SPOT IN TOLEDO

Club Vamps

Shadow Lounge

Prestige

Club Bijou

Coyote Joes

Peacock Caf

Jacksons

(The Blue Print is making a comeback I heard, I wish them the best).

Y'all keep emailing me, and I'll keep coming up with more categories.

Keep it coming.

Be on the lookout for my R&B year end review feature on Alicia Keys and my Hollywood 2007 Review (so many movies still yet to see, so little time).

Yeah, as a matter of fact – if you made it to a movie I haven't seen yet and YOU wanna write a review – hit me up and we'll see (my paycheck is too small to share tho- LOL so it's just for the exposure of your opinion).

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com
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All Hail Queen Fran

(Continued from Page 4)

are now in place, we can finally proceed with Plan GEM.

[2] I will present to the school board Plan GEM as a way to re-energize the school system but we know that once it is adopted, I can then finally gain utter and complete control of the school board and the school system

[3] Don't worry about the principals' union. They have agreed to come out with a strong statement against this but the union president has agreed to

be on board with Plan GEM.

[4] As far as the school board, they are a bunch of wimps, so do not worry about them.

[5] My plan is to target a poorly performing central city minority school since normally the parents of those type of kids do not say anything or, if they do, they normally shout for a short time and then go home and watch reruns of Sanford and Son.

[6] Once I get into place my

plan to take out these interfering principals at these public schools, my teachers and I will run the schools the way we want and eventually with the school board vote, we hope to get to the point that every school in Toledo is staffed by teachers only.

[7] When that happens, I will appoint you, as promised, my CEO and you will resign from the superintendent job with a lot of fanfare. The parents or the public will not know

what hit them!

[8] This plan is fail safe. With Sobocki and Ford as my secret agents on the board I will finally get control of the school board and I can make the rules that I want to make with no interference from anyone. I will rule with an iron fist and show these kids what's what. Who needs principals or administrators anyway? A lot of bureaucratic nonsense if you ask me. If you can teach, you can supervise. It is that simple.

This will also stop that talk about teachers and administrators being asked to live in Toledo and having to send their kids to these schools. Why do you think I live in Sylvania? Hello!!

In closing, remember to destroy this letter because if this gets out, we are all cooked but I will deny everything in it. If there are any legal hassles, call our attorney. She knows the drill. For the big bucks we pay that law firm, they will do our

bidding.

If The Blade ever conducted an audit of the monies we have paid out for the past Sturdivant/Martinez case and the other past legal cases, we would not be seen in a favorable light and you and I would have a lot of explaining to do!

John...in future emails or contacts, please use my code name: Queen Bippy and I will use your code name: Sugar Max.

Regards Fran L.,

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Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)

The funding application for both programs will be made available on Thursday, December 13, 2007. There will be a mandatory training session on completing the application. Immediately following, applications will be distributed.

APPLICANTS MUST BE PRESENT TO APPLY.

Interested nonprofit agencies and development groups for eligible activities are welcome to make application through this competitive process.

December 13, 2007 Training Schedule
Community Development Corporations – CDBG: 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Public Service Agencies – CDBG/ESG: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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Toledo, OH 43614

* Any special needs or auxiliary aids will be provided upon request.

For additional information, contact:
The Department of Neighborhoods @ 419-245-1400

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lucas County Family Services Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 10 am in the Toledo Room on the 4th floor of the Job & Family Services Building located at 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend this meeting to: Cheryl W. at 419.213.8809 or email wawrzc@odjfs.state.oh.us

The Lucas County Services Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of Family Services Planning Committee, is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 3 pm in the Oregon Room on the 3rd floor of the Job & Family Services Building located at 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend this meeting to: Cheryl W. at 419.213.8809 or email wawrzc@odjfs.state.oh.us

ATTENTION

Dorr Street Coalition, Inc. in cooperation with Lucas County Commissioners Lucas County Treasurer's Office LCIC & The City of Toledo SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Pilgrim Church 1401 Hoag Street

Approximately \$4 Million Dollars is available to Start or Expand your small Business! Come on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:00 pm to Mount Pilgrim Church Dor and Hoag to find out how you can gain access to the \$4M to start or expand your small business. That's Tuesday, Dec. 11th at 6:00 pm Mt. Pilgrim Church Dor and Hoag.

Linkage Coordinator

Toledo Public Schools is looking to contract with three highly motivated and community-minded professionals to act as Linkage Coordinators for a state funded grant program between 2007-09. Each coordinator will work in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services and the designated staffs at one of three high schools for the purpose of helping at-risk male students succeed and graduate from high school. Primary functions include facilitating the implementation and management of the established program activities and motivating eligible students. Qualifications include bachelors degree preferred, strong community connections and knowledge, along with excellent oral and written skills. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Applicants must be able to pass a criminal records check, physical examination and drug screening. Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and resume to the Treasurers Office, Toledo Public Schools, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608 before Friday, December 14th. No phone calls please.

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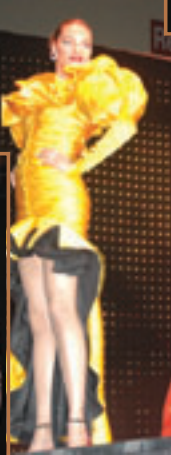
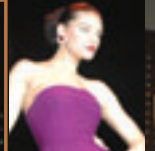
Waller Homes
601 Fassett
Kaiser Park Village
55 Poplar
Phone: 419-259-9428

East Side Open House!

Come and tour two of the BEST places you could call HOME! We have many things to offer, see for yourself! Waller Homes and Kaiser Park Village, close and convenient to everything! You really must see to appreciate.

December 6, 2007
11:00 am – 4:00 PM

(a free service available between both locations. Not by self.)

Ebony Fashion Fair's*"Glam Odyssey"**Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Zeta Alpha Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hosted, as it always does in Toledo, the Ebony Fashion Fair's "Glam Odyssey" on November 25 at the SeaGate Center.

The sorority sponsors the fashion show in order to raise scholarship funds and money for a variety of community service projects.

This year's show was significant because it was the 50th anniversary of the Ebony Fashion Fair, an idea that was conceived by Eunice Johnson, wife of Jet/Ebony publisher John Johnson, and Jessie Covington Dent, wife of the president of Dillard University Albert Dent.

Now, 4,000 shows later, the Fashion Fair has raised an estimated \$52 million in scholarship funds through appearances in the United States, England and the Caribbean.

This year's show in Toledo provided scholarships of \$1,000 for students Corey Smith of The University of Toledo, Adrielle Parker of New York University, Victoria Phiffer of Howard, Maria Garcia of Bowling Green State University and Richard Isby of Adrian College.

The grand prize of a fur coat from Toledo Furs was won by audience member Beatrice Miringu.

Julia Holt is president of the Zeta Alpha Omega chapter; Cheryl Slack was the chairman of this year's event.