



Christina Hicks
Executive Director, Mom's House

In This Issue

Kidnapped??



McConnell Hancock Returns To Toledo
Page 3

Health Fair
Page 5

Legislators Support Sykes
Page 6

The Truth Education Pickett Elementary
Page 7

ASSETS Toledo
Page 8

Cover Story:
Mom's house
Page 9

Minister's Movies
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

Ashford Christmas Party
Page 16

“Eighty percent of teenage mothers are on the welfare system within two years. Our goal is to give single mothers the confidence and boost they need to continue their education.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

All right, let's put the satire aside ... at least for the moment. Satire, in case you didn't recognize it, and a number of our readers apparently did not, is what one of our guest commentators used last week to assail the concept that Toledo Federation of Teachers President Francine Lawrence put forth in her Gaining Educational Mastery (GEM) Academy proposal.

The GEM Academy plan proposes a take over of a failing central city elementary school, such as Pickett Elementary, in order to put in a select staff and initiate teaching methods that have been proven to work in other locales.

There are certain aspects of the TFT proposal that have great appeal for the community and reflect things we have been speaking about in this column for years – ramping up parental involvement and the introduction of a pre-kindergarten in order to reach youngsters who have fallen behind even by the age of three.

The most interesting part of the plan involves implementing it at a typical inner-city school while keeping the student body intact rather than establishing yet another magnet-type of academy such as Old West End or Grove Patterson.

We're intrigued by the fact that the plan will deal with the existing student body because whenever schools that are selective are established, they tend to appeal to parents and guardians who are already going the extra mile for their children – that is, they draw in families who are probably the ones who need such selectivity the least.

In fact, it has already been established by the state courts that parents cannot be forced to participate in their children's public education, but the TFT GEM plan places a good deal of attention of appealing to parents to do just that.

Recently we have become excited by such possibilities – enhancing voluntary involvement in school areas that have been noticeably lacking in such. Ironically, Pickett Elementary – see our article on page 7 – has made strides in increasing parental involvement over the past several years.

The aspect of the TFT proposal that has garnered the most attention, however, is that which calls for the school to be led by teachers rather than traditional administrators. We certainly think that segment of the plan is unnecessary.

The plan actually presents two proposals: one that addresses the academic component of the GEM Academy and one that deals with the administrative side of how the school is to function. The two proposals are not interdependent. They can and should be addressed separately and opposition to the revamping of the administrative aspects should not mean that the academic proposals should be dismissed out of hand.

The fact is, every organization needs capable administrators. There are management functions that don't disappear simply because the managers do. In the GEM Academy plan, TFT has stated that administrators are unnecessary because the lead teachers can perform administrative functions. We don't doubt that there are many teachers out there who can do so. We don't doubt that the union can successfully find such teachers and slide them into administrative roles. We only wonder why it would be necessary to do so.

With the exception of this one issue, we think that the Lawrence proposal should be given every possible opportunity for discussion and implementation after everyone is exhausted by the interminable discussion that must ensue.

We want change in our school system. Everyone insists that things must change in the way we address our children's academic needs. Some will object because when push comes to shove, they don't really want change, they want control and they confuse the issue of who is in control with real change for our kids.

We have to work hard to realize that in this educational landscape, feelings are easily hurt, egos bruised. We have a variety of people involved with the school system – officially or otherwise – who want to contribute, who want to be taken seriously, who want to have an impact. At some point we all have to look at such proposals without getting bent out of shape because we don't often share the same viewpoints as those who have put forth such ideas.

Many of the concepts addressed in the TFT GEM Academy plan have been proposed by various parties over the years, but TFT has put it all together in a nice, neat package with specifics, with teacher incentives, with clearly defined goals and objectives.

Let's give it an honest look.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*December 13

UT Minority Alumni Affiliate Luncheon: Lunch for senior citizens – free of charge; Rosa Morgan Adult Day Care Service; Noon to 2 pm: 419-530-5378

*December 14

Touch of Red Holiday Affair: An evening of music and dancing with the Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc; 8 pm to 2 am; Jackson's Lounge and Grill

*December 15

Indoor/Outdoor Nativity Drama: St. John's Lutheran Church; 5 to 9 pm; Free to public, bring a canned good as a donation: 734-539-3218

*December 16

Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church: 54 Anniversary program; 10:30 am; Featuring guest speaker Toledo City Council President Michael Ashford and Toledo gospel recording artist Debra Brock; Anniversary dinner to follow

*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 24

The Living Light: A moving Christmas Eve experience; Collingwood United Methodist Church; Music, drama and scripture; 7 pm: 419-476-8034

*December 25

Merry Christmas!!

*December 26-January 1

Kwanzaa!!
Kwanzaa celebration at the Wayman Palmer YMCA; 5 pm each afternoon; Sponsored by the Toledo Kwanzaa House Committee

*January 1

Happy New Year!!

*January 21

Northwest Ohio Black Media Association presents the **Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Classic**. Owens Community College, Student Health Activities Center. 1:00 p.m. Scott Bulldogs vs. East Chicago Central HS (Defending Indiana Class 4A State Champs.) 3 p.m. Libby Cowboys (Defending Toledo City league Champs.) vs. Saginaw HS (Defending Michigan Class A State Champions.) 1-419-215-1087

The Sojourner's Truth

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Karyn McConnell Hancock Returns Home to a Thankful Family

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Karyn McConnell Hancock returned home on Saturday evening to the relief of many in the Toledo community after a journey that took the attorney and former city councilwoman all the way to Atlanta, GA.

But on Monday, after approximately seven to seven and a half hours of interrogation by both detectives from the Toledo Police Department and a special agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, McConnell Hancock finally revealed what they had suspected for several days, she was not abducted and she had made the journey to Atlanta on her own.

As a result of those actions, McConnell Hancock will in all probability face criminal charges although it is yet undetermined by city prosecutors whether those charges will be of a felony magnitude.

"The investigation has conclusively shown that Ms. McConnell Hancock was not kidnapped as she reported to her husband on Thursday,



December 6, and again to the Cobb county Police on the morning of December 8," said Police Chief Michael J. Navarre during a news conference on Tuesday morning in the Safety Building. "Further, the investigation has shown that Ms. McConnell

Hancock traveled to Georgia alone and by her own free will."

Until authorities outside of Atlanta notified the Toledo Police Department early Saturday morning that they had located McConnell Hancock, her whereabouts

were unknown to those closest to her, particularly her husband, Lawrence Hancock, and her parents, Municipal Court Judge C. Allen McConnell and Tempie McConnell.

McConnell Hancock's trek began on Wednesday morning when she was last seen leaving her law office for court. Lawrence Hancock became concerned when their son's day care called him at about 6:15 that evening to tell him that his wife had not picked up the boy. After repeatedly trying her cell phone and attempting to locate her car in her downtown office area, Hancock contacted the Toledo Police Department later that evening.

On Thursday afternoon, Hancock received a call from his wife informing him that she had been kidnapped by two men and a woman near the Lucas County Juvenile Justice Center. That call lasted only a few minutes before being terminated. The police were unable to trace the origin of the call.

Early Friday afternoon, the police department sent out a nationwide alert to law enforcement agencies. That procedure usually is not done until 72 hours have lapsed but because of the circumstances of the case, according to Police Chief Mike Navarre, an exception was made.

Then on Saturday morn-

ing came the news her family and friends had been hoping for. McConnell Hancock was found on foot near an amusement park about 14 miles northwest of Atlanta by a security guard who called 911. She told law enforcement officials that she had been abducted by two white men and a black woman and they had released her in that vicinity. Her car, a black 2005 Chrysler 300, was found later that afternoon in the same area by a friend of the family, and a groomsman at the McConnell/Hancock wedding, who lives in the Atlanta area.

The Cobb County law enforcement officials, after ques-

(Continued on Page 4)

DEAR JACK

*By Warren Woodberry
Guest Contributor*



Dear Jack,

I have often been accused of not knowing my place and even my grandmother, rest her soul, told me that I should not question those in authority. Of course I paid little attention to her and this letter is proof that I still can't hold my questions to those with perceived knowledge or positions of power.

We are in a major, major crisis in education, youth dropouts and jobs. But in reading your political column I see that there is very little, and I mean very little emphasis on these three subjects.

When you were not elected again as mayor, I wrote an article asking that at least you share with the African-American community and the people in position to change the status quo, the play book of politics in the city of Toledo. I believed that no one could be better placed to inform us of the stacked desk that is used to bludgeon us into submission on education, jobs, equal treatment in the courts and in society.

I hope that my views are all wrong and that you are meeting secretly behind closed doors with community leaders to assist in planning our future. When you began your

column, I read every word hoping that you would reveal the "plan." And then when you were elected to the school board I waited with bated breath for you to strike out at the apathy concerning issues that affect our urban schools and take the lead in not only asking the hard questions but in joining with those that have for years begged for someone to aid them in addressing the poor performance in our urban schools.

And while many of us in the 'hood feel that more African-Americans role models should be in the schools, especially principals, we hear of a plan, which some say is just the first step by The Toledo Federation of Teachers, to remove an African-American principal!

I hope you meant what you said when in your latest article you stated that "we must get the school board in control of policy," as my PollNobma showed that most people believe that TFT has more power than the TPS board, and that even when we had a majority of minorities on the board, two blacks, one Latino and a black super, we still got the short end of the stick.

But maybe you work better alone like the Terminator and have no need for advocacy groups, alumni associations, parents groups or others that have been at the forefront in the fight for better urban education. But maybe I am misinformed and without my knowing it you have compiled a strong group of concerned citizens and organizations and are fighting the battle behind closed doors.

If so please accept my apology. In reading recent articles I resisted rumors that you were

in the corner of the TFT and that with you and the other new board member it would be business as usual. Every week I ran to the news stand to study your plan for a turn around in education or inspiring words that would give us all hope that JACK IS BACK.

But on Nov. 21 in your weekly column it was Carty, Jobe and OSU football. The only reference to education was a few lines on the cost of campaigning for the board. Nov. 28 it was EOPA, Dillin/Dillard's, and the Lucas County Improvement Corp. and 12 lines about the need to get the school board in control of policy.

In the December 5 issue it was OSU football, Bowling Green and Carty, with the announcement that you would be doing a TV program on CH. 13 covering arts, social services and health.

Oh, by the way, did I congratulate you on being elected to Toledo Public School Board! Hope you can fit this topic in on your TV show.

Ed. Note: While we certainly anticipate that Jack Ford, both a school board member and The Truth's political columnist, will occasionally comment on issues facing the school board, we do not feel that it is appropriate that he use his column to advocate for educational issues he feels strongly about or for those that are before the school board. He is after all the political columnist not the educational columnist

We think it is more appropriate for Mr. Woodberry to continue with his own insightful comments and advocacy on educational issues.



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Karyn McConnell Hancock Returns Home

(Continued from Page 3)

tioning her for several hours, gave no credence to her story about a kidnapping and the FBI, which had been consulting with the TPD since shortly after the investigation began, started to disengage themselves from the case.

Of chief interest now, at least to the community if not to law enforcement officials, is why McConnell Hancock took such action.

"She indicated she was tired and wanted to get away," responded Detective Vince Maura, point man for

hers held after that of law enforcement officials.

"Karyn had a meltdown," said Hancock, "and she felt she was unable to continue."

Hancock both apologized to the community for the deception and thanked supporters for their help over the previous several days. He also noted that he continues to be a source of support and love for his wife.

"Yes, I was angry," he stated when asked about his initial reaction to her news that she had not been kidnapped. "She apologized for

his family had been harassed over the years by threatening telephone calls and he indicated that perhaps he had been the target of the alleged abductors. He repeated the fact that such calls had and are occurring. "These threatening calls have invaded the McConnell household and the Hancock household more than once and have been very unsettling to us," said McConnell. "We hope that they will cease." The calls, said McConnell began sometime in 2004.

McConnell Hancock, it was reported, has been under a therapist's care and will continue to seek such professional help. The 35-year-old lawyer has been in private practice for a number of years, having taken over her father's practice after he ascended to the bench.

In 2003, McConnell Hancock won appointment to Toledo City Council to fill a vacancy. She won an at-large seat in the November election of that year. She was defeated in her re-election bid in 2005 after being caught up in a scandal involving a traffic ticket and a downtown flare up with members of the police department. She also was reported, during the run up to that election, to have fallen far behind in her law firm's federal income taxes.

McConnell Hancock was not present at either Tuesday news conference and her whereabouts were not disclosed by her family. However, there will be a prayer



the TPD investigation. McConnell Hancock did not indicate that Atlanta had been a destination point, according to Maura. The TPD conclusion is that she was simply wandering to no place in particular.

And, there were also concerns raised about when her family found out about her deception. Her husband and father, it has been confirmed, both directly and by Detective Maura, knew nothing of McConnell Hancock's decision or movements until she had confessed the truth to the law enforcement interrogators well into her Monday session.

"It is with deep regret that we come to you to make a statement that the alleged

her actions and I forgave her and I restored her. It's my responsibility to forgive her."

On a very personal note, Hancock acknowledged that such a course of action could destroy a marriage but would not in this case. "I've given



her a lot of reassurance that I still love her and I'm not go-

ing anywhere," he said. "We can deal with the truth and will deal with the truth," said Lawrence Hancock. When asked how the family will go forward, Hancock responded simply: "One day at a time."

Both Judge McConnell and Lawrence Hancock emphasized that the family will survive this difficult situation.

"She is my child and we love her," said the judge. "Her mother and I will always love her."

"We can deal with the truth and will deal with the truth," said Lawrence Hancock. When asked how the family will go forward, Hancock responded simply: "One day at a time."



abduction of Karyn McConnell Hancock over the last few days is not true and did not in fact happen," said Lawrence Hancock at a news conference the family mem-

bering anywhere," he said. Judge McConnell also addressed the media on Tuesday. During the days in which his daughter had been missing, the judge reported that



Toledo Museum of Arts Needs Quilters

The Toledo Museum of Arts is seeking quilts to display during this year's Juneteenth celebration. If you or a relative or friend would like to be part of this upcoming year's Juneteenth celebration, contact The Sojourner's Truth at 419-243-0007 or email thetruth@thetruth Toledo.com.

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Hundreds Attend Community Health, Wellness, and Weight Loss Challenge Health Fair

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In hopes of galvanizing African-Americans to take control of their health and thereby increase their life expectancy, more than half a dozen organizations came together at the Cordelia Martin Health Center to provide vital information and health screenings on Sat, Dec. 1.

Hundreds were able to take advantage of the various health screenings and workshops offered includ-

colorectal cancer, high blood pressure and HIV.

Those in attendance were also encouraged to enroll in the 50 Million Pound Challenge, which is a challenge issued to African-Americans by Dr. Ian Smith in partnership with the State Farm Insurance Company.

According to the 50 Million Pound Challenge web site, Smith, a Dartmouth Medical School graduate and diet expert was challenged by a middle-aged women suffering from diabetes to not only talk about

sity, but to also do something about them. Thus, the 50 Million Pound Challenge was born.

However, the challenge not only seeks to help African Americans lose weight, but to also maintain healthier lifestyles by changing their eating habits and increasing their daily amount of physical activity.

According to Dana Rollerson, University of Toledo Master of Public Health student and health fair volunteer, the 50 Million Pound Challenge will go far in edu-



Delta volunteers

ing diabetes, breast cancer, the health dangers of obe-



ating the African-American community.

"Programs like this are vital [to African-Americans] because African-Americans tend to suffer from diseases [such as], diabetes, heart disease [and] high blood pressure more so than other populations," Rollerson said.

"It's important to target these diseases because our life expectancies are [lower] and bad [eating and exercise] habits are now being seen more in the younger generations, so we have



Co-Chairmen Vince Davis and Mary Gregory

younger kids coming in with the problems that adults use to only be seen with," Rollerson said.

Health fair visitors also had their Body Mass Index calculated to identify their "healthy" weight range according to their current height and weight. BMI measures are closely linked to the amount of body fat one has.

For example, an individual who is 6' tall ideally should weigh no more than 183 pounds, and no less than 137 pounds.

The health fair was organized in partnership with the State Farm Insurance Company, Toledo Council of Black Nurses, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the

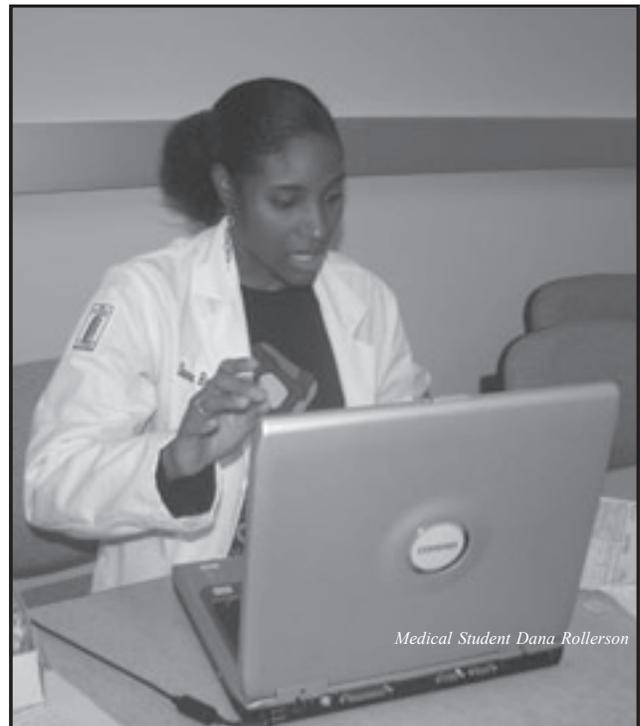


Vince Davis, Tammy Robinson and Health Fair visitors

Committee of the Whole, the Greater Toledo Urban League, Mercy Health Partners, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Toledo Club of the National Association Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and

the NAACP.

Those interested in enrolling in the 50 Million Pound Challenge may do so online at www.50millionpounds.com or by contacting Vince Davis State Farm Insurance office.



Medical Student Dana Rollerson

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Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Supports Barbara Sykes to Remain as Chairman of the Ohio Civil Rights

Special to The Truth

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) announced today that it supports former State Representative Barbara Sykes to continue as chairman of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC). Citing the recent issue concerning a new pregnancy leave rule for employees working at small businesses across Ohio, OLBC believes any move to remove Sykes because of disagreement over its implementation would be both unnecessary and provocative.

OLBC, the organization of Ohio's 17 African-American House and Senate elected legislators, also supports the OCRC in its efforts to independently fulfill its mission on behalf of Ohio citizens. OLBC believes that the pregnancy leave proposal had been in front of OCRC for many months and small business and other interested parties had opportunity to review and provide their opinions. OLBC believes any effort to remove Sykes because OCRC decided it had heard from all interested parties and was moving ahead sends a message that Ohio's boards and commission are not independent. OLBC calls such an effort unacceptable, unfair and wrong.

"We understand that the governor and others requested a delay in the implementation of the pregnancy leave rule but the decision by OCRC to move ahead after prior public hearings and public notice should be respected and supported," said Rep. Tyrone K. Yates, (D-Cincinnati), president of OLBC. "OLBC unequivocally believes in the ability of Chairwoman Barbara Sykes and OCRC to fulfill its responsibility to Ohio citizens while still respecting the concerns of state leaders."

OLBC notes its friendship and support for Governor Ted Strickland and his administration but believes that any removal of his support for Barbara Sykes as chairman of OCRC would

be a mistake. OLBC believes Sykes, the immediate past president of the organization, winner of the Ohio



Democratic Party's 2006 Gertrude W. Donahey

"OLBC unequivocally believes in the ability of Chairwoman Barbara Sykes and OCRC to fulfill its responsibility to Ohio citizens while still respecting the concerns of state leaders."

Award, and the 2006 state-wide Democratic candidate

for Auditor has more than proven her commitment for the ideas and vision of the Strickland Administration.

and sincerity for positive change in Ohio.

"I am very disappointed by what has been said and threaten to be done to Barbara Sykes. OLBC will not stand by and allow her to be sacrificed because she decided to fight for pregnant women working in small businesses across Ohio. This is not about a 30 day delay. It is about an attempt to kill the rule completely. This can be worked out but not by sacrificing Barbara and the independence of OCRC," said Senator Shirley Smith, (D-Cleveland) and First VP of OLBC

OLBC will be sending letters this week expressing its support for former Representative Sykes to be confirmed as chairman and offering its assistance to Governor Strickland, Senate President Bill M. Harris, and House Speaker Jon Husted to resolve not just this particular issue of the pregnancy leave rule, but also the future ability of OCRC to independently fulfill its mission for the citizens of Ohio.

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus is an organization founded in 1967 to recognize and address the hopes, aspirations and needs of African-Americans and other citizens in Ohio through public policy development and advocacy.

Treasurer's Small Business Loan Program Helps Boost Local Economy

110 jobs are being created or retained so far under the program; 12 businesses have received loans since August

Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz announced that 12 small businesses have been awarded a total of \$1.3 million in loans under the new linked deposit program, which his office launched in August.

Because of the program, he said, 110 jobs are being created or retained in Lucas County, with 53 being new jobs and 57 being existing ones.

"The program has exceeded our wildest expectations, and it has only been in existence for just over three months," Kapszukiewicz said. "This is a model for how a public-private partnership can help create jobs and grow the economy."

Kapszukiewicz gave an update on the linked deposit program at a news conference on Thursday, December 6, at the site of one of the program's 12 loan recipients, MoJoe's Cafe. The owner, Ed Beczynski, received a \$90,000 loan from Fifth Third Bank under the program, and as a result, he will be able to open his store in the Toledo Edison Building in downtown Toledo.

Beczynski, whose venture will create four new jobs, said the Treasurer's program is the best he has encountered as a small business person.

"This program is business-friendly," Beczynski said. "The process is much easier and more effective than anything I have ever participated in before. I would encourage every business owner to take advantage of this."

Under the program, small businesses who commit to create or retain jobs in Lucas County receive low-interest loans at up to three percent below market rates. The loans range between \$25,000 and \$150,000 and target Lucas County businesses that have fewer than 150 employees and net annual sales of not more than \$5 million.

"As a group, small business is the largest single employer in Lucas County," said Kapszukiewicz, noting that about two-thirds of the new jobs created in the United States over the past three years were created by small businesses. "This program gives a boost to the small business men and women who sacrifice so much of their own time and money to grow our local economy."

(Continued on Page 14)



Janice, Hubert's Daughter

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"Hospice of Northwest Ohio turned my doubt into trust."

"I was very protective of my father, especially after his health failed. I wasn't going to allow just anybody to come in to provide care for him.

"Our family didn't have the resources to hire a private nurse. But together, we decided to contact Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

"When Hospice came into our home, I just sat back and checked them out. They always explained to us what they were going to do and how they were going to do it. And the level of care was awesome. Hospice provided nursing care, aides to help in the home, plus all the medications and equipment my dad needed.

"All the services Hospice provided were covered by Medicare.* I don't think a lot of people are aware of the excellent care available. Families in situations like ours need to call Hospice of Northwest Ohio."

To ask for our free DVD, "Hospice Answers," call 419-661-4001. Or for more information, visit hospicenwo.org.

*Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.

Answers for Living the Last Months of Life.SM

In Spite of Criticism ... Teachers, Parents and Students at Pickett Elementary Working Hard to Make Progress

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor If you work at Pickett Elementary School these days, you are bound to be shaking your head a lot.

Not because of what happens at the school necessarily, but because of all the shots that people have been taking at Pickett. One candidate for the Board of Education this past November frequently used Pickett as an example of everything that has gone wrong with the public school system in Toledo's central city. And just a few weeks ago, Toledo Federation of Teachers President Francine Lawrence proposed an experimental academic change for a central city school using as an example, where else ... Pickett.

So just how bad is the situation at Pickett? Are the teachers clamoring to get out of there? Have the administrators given up all hope of making any academic progress? And what about the parents ... are any of them involved in their children's education?

After all, this is a school that as recently as the 2002-2003 academic year had a performance index score - on the State of Ohio report card - of 49.3 percent. The state requirement is 75.

Why not just write it off and assume that progress is just not possible?

Not so fast, my friend. In spite of all of the doom and gloom prognostications from all of the naysayers, it

skewed," says Keith Scott, in his ninth year as principal of Pickett.

"We have a great dedicated teaching staff who will do a lot that they don't have to do contractually. Seventy



Assistant Principal Herneika Johnson, Principal Keith Scott

appears that the actual portrait of Pickett Elementary is not as bleak as we are so frequently told say those on the inside.

five to 80 percent have masters' degrees and they work hard at implementing things such as Thinking Math and Reading First ... research-

"Parents have heard the negative comments and they decided 'we are going to make a difference and come in,'"

"The thought that there are not positive things going on here is a little

based strategies." So how about those inner city parents who don't

get involved in their kids education? Is it possible to make any progress without the parents' involvement?

Again, says Scott and Assistant Principal Herneika Johnson, things aren't always what they seem, or what may be reported. In the last several years, parental attendance at parent/teacher conferences has risen from 52 percent to over 70 percent. And Johnson places the figure of overall involvement with school activities such as volunteering and Parent Teachers Organization at much higher than that figure, closer to 80 to 85 percent in fact.

"We decided to make an all out push [to get parents involved]," says Scott. "From PTO to clothing giveaways to raffles for turkeys and our teachers were in more communication with parents stressing how important it was to be involved."

"Parents have heard the negative comments and they decided 'we are going to make a difference and come in,'" adds Johnson. "They really stepped up and started calling each other."

And in spite of Pickett's reputation for underachievement, progress has already been made over the years. The performance index score peaked at 68.7 in the 2005-2006 school year before a little dip last year to 60.3. And the school administrators expect better things for this year. They expect to see some substantial gains, in fact.

"We see a definite increase," says Johnson who is in her fourth year at Pickett. "Our teachers are doing a phenomenal job, utilizing things they have learned in various workshops. Our kids are positive and starting to believe that they can learn."

All things are possible, say Scott and Johnson, when the parents are on board.

Library Who-ville Celebrates The Grinch's 50th Anniversary

What do Donny Osmond, the "Leave It To Beaver" sitcom and *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* book have in common? They all turned 50 this year! And just in time for the holiday season, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library invites the public to visit Main Library to pay a special tribute to The Grinch's 50th Birthday.

How The Grinch Stole Christmas! was first written in 1957 by Dr. Seuss and published by Random House in New York. Its 50-year anniversary is celebrated at Main Library, 325 Michigan St., with an enlarged display of The Grinch and *Who-ville* characters in the Wintergarden's large display window. A small encased display at the reference desk of Children's Library at Main also contains The Grinch and *Who-ville* characters. Also at the desk, librarians are giving away free 50th anniversary Grinch stickers and bookmarks (by Demco).

The Wintergarden window and Children's Library reference desk display items will only be available for viewing through the end of the year. Only nine copies of the 50th-Anniversary Retrospective copies of *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* are available for patrons to check out with their library card. The book contains 32 pages of commentary and archival images.

Just For Fun!

We've compiled some brainteasers to test your knowledge of *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* See how many you can answer, the answers are below:

1. Did The Grinch actually live in *Who-ville*?
2. When did The Grinch "go green?" (Not environmentally-speaking, just the color of his furry exterior)
3. What was the reason given for why The Grinch initially hated Christmas?
4. Who were the Whos?
5. Did The Grinch like to feast on *Who-pudding* and rare *Who-roast beef*?
6. How old was The Grinch in the book?
7. What was the name of The Grinch's dog that he disguised as a reindeer?
8. What was the name of the little *Who* daughter who caught The Grinch in the act of stealing her family's Christmas tree?

Answers: 1. No, The Grinch lived just north of *Who-ville*; 2. In 1966 when the book was depicted in a television special; 3. No one quite knows the reason; 4. The *Whos* were the name of the residents of *Who-ville*; 5. No, he did not like that particular feast which was a favorite meal among the *Whos*; 6. 53; 7. Max; 8. Cindy-Lou.

For more details, please call 419.259.5381.





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ASSETS Toledo Marches on in Its 24th Graduation Ceremony

Another 20 budding entrepreneurs and established business owners took the stage on Friday night, December 7, 2007, and joined the growing pool of ASSETS Toledo alumni.

This was the 24th graduating class of the 13-week, 25-session program that is designed to provide hands on training, mentoring and capital for those who wish to open their own businesses or for those who wish to enhance established entities.

"Roses that have opened up and blossomed," said Executive Director Olivia Holden of her latest group.

The graduation was held at the Family Life Center of the Bethlehem Baptist Church and Larry Sykes, a newly minted entrepreneur himself, gave the keynote address. Sykes recently retired as vice president – community affairs officer after 30 years at Fifth Third Bank. He is also retiring at the end of this year from the Toledo Board of Education.



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TOYS!

Main Library Historic Exhibit of Toys from the 1930s to the 1970s

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library presents a nostalgic nod to the toys we loved as children in its current exhibit, **TOYS! From the 1930s to the 1970s**. This historic must-see exhibit is on view now through the end of January 2008 in the wall display cases located in the Central Court of Main Library, 325 Michigan St. Stop by Main Library this holiday season and take a walk down memory lane – you're sure to see some favorite toys from childhood.

The **TOYS!** exhibit contains some 60 items, including Star Wars action figures c. 1978, animal sewing cards from the 1940s, and a Lamson's Toy Book c. 1952 (Lamson's was a department store with sites located in the Toledo area for 50 years – its oldest store opened downtown in 1925). The oldest item in the **TOYS!** display is a wooden doll carriage with a baby blanket c. 1939.

Other exhibit favorites include a Battleship game from the 1960s, a Girl Scouts handbook c. 1949, a remote-control R2-D2 character from Star Wars from the 1970s, and a Yahtzee game c. 1961. GI Joe action figures, Barbie dolls and paper dolls are also amid the collection. All items in the display were donated from Library staff and supporters.

For more details, please call 419.259.5266.



Unison Behavioral Health Group Announces 2008 Professional Education Schedule

Special to The Truth

For more than 30 years, Unison Behavioral Health Group has cared for the behavioral health needs of adults and children in the Toledo area. A critical component of its mission is to provide behavioral health education for the local, professional community. Developed by Unison's licensed and seasoned clinical staff over the last several years, the agency's specialized trainings are recognized by hundreds of professionals as a trusted resource for behavioral health education.

"Unison's educational programs provide a valuable, local opportunity to learn and grow professionally," says Gloria Oliver, director of Unison's short-term service.

Oliver notes that teachers, school counselors, social workers, criminal justice professionals, nurses and long-term care staff seek training at Unison throughout the year. They're looking for a better understanding of behavioral health disorders, and guidance with the psychiatric issues that they see on the job daily."

2008 First Quarter Training Sessions:

Suicide/Homicide Risk Assessment
January 11, 2008 9-12p.m.

Batterer's & Sexual Offenders
January 16, 2008 1-4p.m.

ADHD & Disruptive Behavior Disorders in Children
January 30, 2008 2:30-3:30p.m.

Hearing Voices
February 12, 2008 1-4p.m.

Grief
February 13, 2008 1-4p.m.

Anxiety Disorders
February 14, 2008 9-12p.m.

Mental Health/Mental Illness
February 19, 2008 1:30-3:30p.m.

Pervasive Disorders in Children with a Focus on Autism
February 20, 2008 1-2p.m.

Victims of Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse
February 27, 2008 1-4p.m.

Criminal Behaviors
March 19, 2008 1-4p.m.

Psychotic Disorders in Children
March 26, 2008 2:30-3:30p.m.

Family Therapy Conference
June 4, 2008 Full day

Unison Behavioral Health Group provides State of Ohio continuing education units (CEU's) for counselors and social workers, which may also meet the credit requirements for CEU's for nurses and psychologists. A fee is charged for each training registration, and discounts are offered for groups of three or more people. All workshops are held at Unison's Starr Avenue location.

For more information and to register for an upcoming session, please call 419-936-7562 or visit the "training sessions" link via the website at www.unisonbhg.org.

Unison Behavioral Health Group is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing quality behavioral health care services that are accessible and affordable. We create a quality treatment environment where people explore their choices and develop their strengths. We value and respect diversity, community and results.



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Mom's House: A Choice for Life Should Not Be a Choice for Poverty

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The mission of Mom's House, according to the agency's literature, is to prepare young, single mothers "for the challenge of balancing educational goals with responsible parenting."

Mission accomplished, says Mom's House Executive Director Christina Hicks. "Fifty percent of teenaged mothers have a second pregnancy as a teenager, under five percent of our mothers have become pregnant again [as teenagers]," says Hicks noting one very important

aspect of how her group has positively impacted the lives of those who pass through its doors.

Hicks is just entering her second year at the head of the agency that will celebrate its 15th year of service in 2008 here in Toledo. The national organization was founded in

1983 in Johnstown, PA and there are currently 10 locations in four states with the Toledo house being the farthest west. The local agency is the largest of the 10, says Hicks, and one of the most successful based upon its retention rates.

In those almost 15 years, the Toledo Mom's House has seen more than 100 of its young women graduate from high school, college or trade school while in the program.

"Our goal is to give them the confidence and boost they need to continue their education," says Hicks. "Some come to us broken – through families, abuse, poverty – cycles that have taken over their lives. Eighty percent of teenage mothers are on the welfare system within two years."

Mom's House provides day care for 30 mothers and 30 children at any given time along with a mentoring program that includes tutoring for school, professional counseling and parenting classes. The parenting classes provide instruction on financial responsibility, discipline, fire prevention, medications and healthy relationships.

There is also a scholarship program that incorporates funds from Mom's House national headquarters, local universities and private donor and allows clients to pursue higher education.

Every day we have a set schedule. We both wake up every morning at 5:45 a.m. and leave our house by 6:20 a.m. After school, I hustle past my friends to get to Mom's House, pick her up and fulfill my responsibilities at the House, then get home in time to do homework and then do it all over again the next morning. Although at times it is not easy, my desire to beat the odds and succeed always wins out.

My education is very important to me and although I had a child very young, I chose not to quit. In a way, I believe that Alexiah has motivated me to do even better and succeed for the both of us. – Lizzy's story.

Unfortunately not every pregnant or parenting teenager who wants to get into Mom's House can do so immediately. The agency, headquartered on Franklin Avenue, has a waiting list of about 25 and the wait can be from seven to nine months. Acceptance to the program is based on a first come/first served basis. Hicks and her staff – three administrative and seven child care specialists – recommend that a young girl should call the group to go on the waiting list the moment she finds out that she is pregnant.

Clearly the 30 mothers that Mom's House serves are merely a drop in the bucket considering the vast numbers

nations and United Way. Mom's House receives no government grants or taxpayer funds.

Hicks, a native of Archbold, OH, arrived in Toledo in 1995 after attending The Ohio State University. She spent 10 years at COSI as director of Visitation Services over seeing a budget of \$800,000 and a division of about 50 people before being lured away by Mom's House.

I never imagined that I would get pregnant during my junior year of high school. It was a shock to everyone that had always praised my accomplishments. I felt as if my entire world was taken from beneath me because I made one bad decision.

I fell in love with the loving and structured environment of Mom's House. Finally, I felt a sense of belonging. I am among other moms who know the difficulties of juggling school, work and being a young, and often stigmatized, mother. The staff genuinely cares about every child and his parent in this program as if we were family. I have now been at mom's House for almost a year and my son is almost 18 months old. Over the past year I have come to think of Mom's House as an essential part of my life and I honestly do not know what I would do without this family. – Brittney's story.

This, of course, is a diffi-



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In October of 2004, my life changed forever. At 16 years old, I found out that I was pregnant. The feelings I experienced during this time are indescribable. At this point of my life, I had to make a decision that no person should have to make. My options were to have this baby, or abort it. Here I was a child myself and I had the power to choose whether a baby should live or die. I chose life.

That fall, I re-enrolled in traditional school at Northview as a senior and both Alexiah and I enrolled in

of young women who could utilize such services in Lucas County. According to the Ohio Department of Health, Lucas County has a teenage pregnancy rate (15-17 years old) of 28.6 percent, the highest rate of teenage pregnancy of metropolitan counties in Ohio. In addition, 49 percent of all infants in Lucas County are born to single mothers.

As with any non-profit organization, the challenge to raise funds is constant for Mom's House. The annual budget is approximately \$450,000 which comes from private donors, corporate do-

cult time for just about any non-profit agency that is trying to help its clients through the holiday season and Mom's House is no exception. Hicks and her staff are focusing their attention on making the holidays as pleasant as possible for their 30 mothers and 30 children. And they can use all the help they can get.

To inquire about how to make donations, contact the staff at 419-241-5554 or email ChristinaHicks@MomsHouseToledo.org.

Education Section • Education Section

Owens Community College Students Receive Northwest Ohio Restaurant Association Scholarships

Two Owens Community College students have been chosen by the Northwest Ohio Restaurant Association (NWORA) to receive \$2,000 scholarships for excellence within the classroom and workplace. The College's

an individual's career aspirations, community involvement, goals and accomplishments. In addition, scholarship applicants must be enrolled within a higher educational institution and working toward a degree in hospi-



award recipients are Matt Gall of Sylvania and Haven Whalen of Maumee.

The NWORA was founded in 1936 as a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the restaurant industry in the Toledo area. Organizational initiatives include working with charitable community groups and providing scholarships to area students seeking careers in the food service industry.

"Owens Community College appreciates Northwest Ohio Restaurant Association's commitment and support to our students and their career aspirations within the fields of hospitality management and culinary arts," said Tekla Madaras, Owens Chair of Food, Nutrition and Hospitality. "Both Matt and Haven are exceptional students and have a bright future ahead of them. They are very deserving of this honor."

Scholarship criterion includes applicants being interviewed by a panel of NWORA representatives to determine award recipients. Interview questions focus on

tal management or culinary arts.

Gall is pursuing an



associate's degree in culinary arts at Owens and carries a 4.0 grade point average. The Northview High School graduate is an active member of Owens' Student Hospitality and Culinary Arts Club.

Gall plans to pursue a career as a chef or pastry chef and currently works at Amie's Pizza Factory in Sylvania.

Whalen is also majoring in culinary arts at Owens. Active in the community, she is involved with the March of Dimes and the NWORA. In addition, Whalen is a member of the Maumee Valley Chefs Association, which is a part of the American Culinary Federation, and is currently employed at the Toledo Country Club in Toledo. Following graduation, the Libbey High School graduate plans to continue her education at Michigan State University and pursue a bachelor's degree in food science, eventually becoming a flavor chemist.

Owens' Food, Nutrition and Hospitality programs offer students the opportunity to pursue either an associate's degree or a certificate while preparing for a variety of career options within the hospitality management, dietetics and culinary arts profession.

Owens Student Groups Participate in Worldwide Initiative To Fight Hunger and Low Literacy Rates, Dec. 14

The Owens Community College student chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and Student Government are encouraging area residents to help in the fight against hunger and low literacy rates by donating a canned good or book as part of a worldwide initiative titled "Project Graduation: Feed a Body, Feed a Mind" on Friday, Dec. 14.

Established in 2002, the civic engagement program is a global initiative collectively coordinated through more than 500 Phi Theta Kappa community college chapters located in the United States, Canada, Germany and Guam, among other countries. In 2007 alone, more than 36,700 food items and 39,600 books have been collected and presented to needy organizations.

"Such a simple gesture of donating a canned good or book can have a significant impact on improving the quality of life in our communi-

ties," said Lindsay Gregory, Owens Student Government President.

Rick Clever, Owens Phi Theta Kappa Student President added, "As student leaders within our College, we are pleased to be at the helm of this initiative."

Canned goods and books will be accepted from 5:30-8 p.m. on Dec. 14. The collection point will be located in the hallway outside the Student Health and Activities Center gymnasium, where commencement ceremonies will occur that evening. Additionally, donations are currently being accepted and can be dropped off at Owens' Center for Fine and Performing Arts Room 205 and College Hall Room 120. All donations will be used to help Mom's House of Toledo and the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank. The drive will conclude on Dec. 14.

Phi Theta Kappa was established in 1918 by the presi-

dents of eight Missouri junior colleges for women. In 1924, the international organization was expanded to include all two-year colleges. To date, more than one million individuals have been inducted into the international honor society. Owens' chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society is one of the largest in Ohio.

The College's Student Government is comprised of individuals who serve as the student body's voice on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses. Balancing their time between school and work, Student Government members are constantly initiating new projects and events that cater to the interests of Owens' student body.

For more information about project graduation, call (567) 661-7930 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7930.

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Lucas County
Children Services

Amazon Lodge Elects New Officers

Special to The Truth

Amazon Lodge No. 4, Free and Accepted Masons of Toledo, Ohio, a Prince Hall Lodge has elected officers for 2008.

The new worshipful master is Kermit E. Phillips. He will be assisted by Senior Warden David E. Lewis, Junior Warden Golden Williams, Treasurer Allan M. Roberts and Secretary Charles D. Allen.

Trustees were also elected: Jack Tisdale, E.C. Harrell and Kenneth Powell.

The name of the lodge was changed in 1864 from Ambush No. 4 to Amazon No. 4. Euclid Lodge No. 5 was consolidated with Amazon in 1900 and William A. Jones was elected worshipful master. There have been 68 since Jones.



David E. Lewis, Kermit E. Phillips, and Golden Williams

Fairview Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Announces New Community Relations Director

Special to The Truth

Darrick Beckwith has been promoted to the position of community relations director at Fairview Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Beckwith has a Bachelor's of Science degree from The University of Toledo in recreation therapy and psychology. He has also excelled on the gridiron for the Rockets and enjoyed stints with the NFL Detroit Lions and Cleveland Browns.

Beckwith came to Fairview as a recreation therapist/activities director and has completed the Ad-



NANBPWC, Inc. Stays Busy with Winter Initiatives

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc (NANBPWC) joined forces last week with the Salvation Army to bring a little Christmas cheer to those in need.

The NANBPWC met with Major L. Cynthia Foster of the Salvation Army to donate over 30 coats, hats and sweaters to help warm families during this cold weather season.

The Toledo Chapter of the NANBPWC has been very active recently. The group collaborated with several other local organizations to sponsor the Af-

rican-American Economic Empowerment Luncheons. And the Economic Devel-

opment and Employment Committee, under Chairman Yolanda Durden and

Co-Chairman Ethel Scott, are working with members to continue to patronize Af-

rican-American-owned businesses and professionals in the community. This

businesses. This upcoming spring, the NANBPWC will co-



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initiative, entitled "Power of Our Dollars," is part of the national organization's mission which runs between November 1 through December 31, 2007.

In March, the "Power of Our Dollars" initiative will focus on women-owned

sponsor a job fair with The Source.

Wanda Terrell is the group's president; Donnetta Carter is the membership chairman.

Contact Carter at donnetta_c@msn.com for membership information.

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SOULFUL SANTA COMES TO TOWN!

Special to The Truth

On Saturday December 8, 2007 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. – Soulful Santa stopped by Third Baptist church on Pinewood Ave. in Toledo, Ohio to listen to the holiday wishes and desires of community children.

The Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. has sponsored this cherished local *Breakfast with Soulful Santa* since the 1970's and has become a premier community service event. The event was open to families of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio and YWCA of Greater Toledo.

Soulful Santa spread laughter and good cheer to all in attendance. The children enjoyed a pancake breakfast, created holiday



crafts, participated in a Christmas sing-a-long, and visited with an African-American Santa Claus. Each child received one-on-one photo with Santa to mark the occasion and a goody bag of Christmas treats.

This year marks 55 years the Toledo Chapter of Jack & Jill has served the Toledo community. The chapter's members look forward to continuing partnerships with other organizations of similar vision and bringing unique events to the community that will not only raise awareness of children's needs but to make a significant contribution in addressing them.

New Collaborative Aims to Increase Responsible Fatherhood

Special to The Truth

Where can a father go when he or his family needs assistance? The Northcoast Fatherhood Collaborative, the first of its type in Lucas County, is the coordinated effort of people and organizations willing to take action to help strengthen fathers and their families.

"In talking with fathers, one thing that is very clear is that they are in serious need of a way that makes it easy for them find the services and programs to help their families," said David Justus, Fatherhood coordinator. "Quite simply, I am a father myself and I did not know of all of the services available to help fathers, and that's why the fatherhood collaborative was created."

With the support of the Lucas County Commissioners and more than 30 community organizations, the Northcoast Fatherhood Collaborative is kicking off the New Year with a Leadership Summit on Fatherhood. The summit, January 15, 2008, will allow community leaders the opportunity to see firsthand the collaborative's partners and to hear the vision for responsible fatherhood in Lucas County.

With the Fatherhood Collaborative, fathers and community leaders will be able to quickly and easily access information on the following types of services:

- * Employment and career enhancement programs
- * Parenting classes for expecting and/or current fathers
- * Child support assistance for single/divorced fathers
- * Faith-based and community-outreach programs
- * Plus information for adoptive, stepfathers or grandfathers

According to Mark Robinson, the Fatherhood Collaborative's community organizer, "Often, the first step to solving any problem is knowledge. In many cases, fathers are looking for an answer, but they are only kept from helping their families because they do not know where to find help."

For more information on the Northcoast Fatherhood

Collaborative, visit www.northcoastfathers.org.

Councilman Ashford Hosts Annual Christmas Social

(Continued from Page 16)

residents of the central city came out strong to cast a vote for me. They've given me their vote of confidence. Our commitment is to create more jobs, fixing our roads, and hiring more police and fire for Toledo. Our commitment is to improve the quality of life."

Dozens of supporters echoed Ashford's commitment. One in particular was former mayor of Toledo Jack Ford. "We continue to expect great things from this man, and I support him. There was a time that I needed funds for my campaign, he wrote me a large check and raised the rest himself. We support each other; Ashford is a man of his word – no question."



Along with the praise from both Ashford and the community, the party became a birthday celebration for two of the councilman's personal friends. "December 13 is the birthday for Toledo's best twins, Ms. Lola and

Ms. Nola," he said referring to Lola Glover, long-time school activist, and her sister Nola Hunt.

Persons interested in renting the Park Lane Luxury Apartments located on 142 23rd Street, can call 419.255.4455.

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REEL DEAL 2007

THE OFFICIAL MOVIE TRUTH

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



This year was monumental in Hollywood.

After the past two summers failed to live up to 'blockbuster' status, 2007 was packed so full of mind-blowing films that it was a guarantee that Tinsel Town would wake up.

But there is never a guarantee as to whether or not the quality of films is high enough to coerce the average wage earner to part with a few bucks for a trip to the local Cineplex.

Okay, let's keep it all the one hundred (yeah, hundred – not hundred- LOL).

Bootlegging is becoming more than just an offshoot entertainment shortcut.

It's more than just a side hustle to the bootleg man himself.

Now if you see these dudes, they have the full set up.

I heard the bootleg man that hangs out over at Bancroft Franklin Plaza in front of that grocery store ... I heard he has an assistant, a full multimedia presentation and the whole customer service jump off. So if it's that serious to ya local hustler, it only got that way because more and more of you are patronizing these cats.

I don't condone bootleg movies.

But I do understand that paying 10 bucks a piece for movie tickets and then another 10 for popcorn and pop

can get dangerously expensive.

It's enough to ruin your previously cheerful mood. You and whoever said "hey, lets go to the movies" and it was a good idea.

But by the time you get there, your wallet has been crushed before your ticket gets torn and you find yourself cursing under your breath all the way to your seat.

THEN TO TOP IT ALL OFF... the movie ends up being wack as hell!!

Not a good look.

I know.

But that's why I'm here.

To help you all navigate the maze of what might be and what might not be worth your time and money.

Looking back, I can honestly say... this year was among the best I've seen in terms of quality. Not all year long of course, but there were a few stretches this year where there were so many good movies out it was hard to see them all at once.

So I've comprised a short little list of the illst flicks of 2007.

COMEDY

Codename: The Cleaner
Cedric The Entertainer and Lucy Liu.

PITIFUL ASS movie.

If someone gives you this DVD as a Christmas gift consider it an insult.

Norbit
Eddie Murphy & Eddie Murphy and an allstar cast
FUNNY AS HELL!

I don't get why critics slammed it. I laughed the entire way through. BUY IT!

Simpsons Movie
Probably the most satisfying comedy I've seen in years.

Even with the stakes as high as they were, this movie delivered on all levels. BUY IT!

I Think I Love My Wife
Chris Rock & Kerry Washington

It probably got lost in the shuffle of bigger releases, and it may not have been among the cream of the crop but I loved this film. Before Tyler Perry's late '07 hit, this film took a comical look at marriage in a rut.

BE ADVISED, if you watch this with the woman you love... expect to get a few sharp elbows in your side if you laugh a little too hard.

Chris Rock always getting us in trouble.

Wild Hogs

John Travolta Martin Lawrence Tim Allen

Really. A lot of you were surprised at how high of a grade this received.

So was I. But honestly, this movie was hilarious all the way through.

Definitely worth checking out.

Shrek The 3rd

Look. Don't buy this. It will just ruin your memory of how good the first two were.

The money was talking and everybody must've signed on for the final installment but no one cared to bring along the funny.

Rush Hour 3
Jackie Chan C h r i s Tucker
Wack As Hell.
Tired jokes, over-used clichés.

A complete waste of time and money

DRAMA

Daddy's Little Girls
Idris Elba Gabrielle Union

I guarantee that you have never seen a year like 2007 when it comes to drama and black drama in particular. Tyler Perry delivered his most involved and emotional masterpiece to date in this film. The acting was great but the

story was amazing.

You should OWN THIS FILM! Hell, even buy this FOR someone you love.

The Astronaut Farmer

Billy Bob Thornton
Not really a drama, sort of a family movie ... sort of an action ... naw. Billy Bob and action don't mix. But this is the first time I've checked for dude like this and this movie reminded me of being a kid. Remember when movies had that magical element?

That "anything is possible" type of feeling?

Go and watch this and feel that again. Good film.

Reign Over Me

Adam Sandler Don Cheadle Jada Pinkett

Y'all know I'm there even if Jada is in it for two minutes.

Okay, but being serious.

This was probably the best dramatic piece of cinema I've seen all year. Don Cheadle and Adam Sandler, and it's Sandler who digs deep for the emotionally charged performance (even improving from his stellar performance in *Spanglish*). If you watch this one, you will want to own this.

Hell, it's on my Christmas List.

Black Snake Moan

Samuel L. Jackson Christina Ricci J u s t i n Timberlake

In the same way *Reign Over Me* was sweet in a human spirit can be triumphant sort of way, *Black Snake Moan* was sublime in a deep, dark and disturbed sort of way.

This film took you somewhere. Somewhere you may not ever want to go again, but it surely took you. It was powerful on various levels.

Surely worth seeing even if you've been reluctant.

Perfect Stranger

Halle Berry B r u c e Willis

Probably another one you forgot about, but I enjoyed it.

It was long as all hell, but it was one of those heart-pounding dramas that left you in suspense at every turn. I wouldn't sweat it, but if you're in the mood to see Halle in a good role for a change, check it out.

American Gangster

Denzel Washington Russell Crowe

And already he has another movie out, this dude needs to just run Hollywood – just give dude the keys.

Historically, this film will be remembered for covering one of the most interesting stories anyone has ever heard of.

Happy Holidays!

Check Jay Z's album, see this flick and enjoy.

It's not just Denzel tugging around being hard, the movie is very classy even in what details it covers and

what it leaves to the imagination. Great movie. Long though. ACTION

Life Free Or Die Hard
Bruce Willis

Oh, how I love to see things blown up.

No super heroes. No robots. And this time, there wasn't even a ton of gunplay.

But there was so much carnage and destruction it was hard not to stand up and cheer.

Also, the storyline was among the most believable.

You will be asking yourself about how feasible it is that our country might one day be subject to a FIRE SALE.

Oh yeah, the villain was great and who knew the Mac vs. PC guy was so talented?

Spiderman 3

Tobey Maguire

Brilliant. A huge improvement on an already groundbreaking and crowd pleasing franchise. And the Venom character stole the show. He gave Peter Parker some much needed swag and he delivered some amazing fight scenes.

If you own the first two, this is a no brainer.

Transformers

Shia Lebouf

ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES I HAVE EVER SEEN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!

Okay – they say us 80's babies are pre-disposed to loving this because we were raised on Optimus Prime ... but it's not just nostalgia. This film has EVERYTHING!

Another one that's on my list of DVD's I'd be happy to get this Christmas (wonder if Santa reads my articles?). When I say everything, I mean it.

This movie was the wildest, most dazzling and awe-inspiring theatre experience in recent memory.

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

Pretty decent. I hated the first one, so sitting through this one was a pain.

Sure I missed the few and I'm sure there were some of catching up I've done with current rele... wanna get me hip... thoughts, hit me up: glasscity@yahoo.com

Still tall... for Official Mus... check the website

Happy Holidays!
From The
Sojourner's Truth

Treasurer's Small Business Loan Program Helps Boost Local Economy

(Continued from Page 6)

who have depository agreements with Lucas County are participating in the program. They are: Fifth Third, First Federal, First Merit, Huntington, KeyBank, National City, and Signature.

Kapszukiewicz praised the role being played by the financial institutions, who

have assumed the risk on the loans so there is no risk to the taxpayers.

"Our local banks have shown real leadership in making this public-private partnership a reality," Kapszukiewicz said. "As County Treasurer, the strength of our economy is of great importance to me,

and I intend to work with community and business leaders to support entrepreneurship and create good jobs in Lucas County."

Kapszukiewicz said the initiative was modeled after the state's linked deposit program, and that he initially set aside \$5 million from the county's investment portfolio

to finance the loan pool. With \$1.3 million having been loaned out during the program's first three months, there is now \$3.7 million remaining in the pool.

He said the loans will be up to two years in length and can be renewed once for a consecutive two-year time period.

"Mr. Beczynski is precisely the kind of small businessman who has benefited from this initiative," Kapszukiewicz said. "My goal as Treasurer is to safeguard taxpayer money and use the office's financial resources to help move our community forward."

"Programs like this help

ensure that our tax dollars work as hard as Lucas County citizens do," he said.

Anyone with questions about the small business loan program should call the Lucas County Treasurer's office at 419-213-4303.

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INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on January 15th, 2008**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor material and supervision necessary for the new **Spring Elementary School Bid**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger and Munger and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **December 12th, 2007** which can be purchased from **Toledo Blue Print, 6964 Mc Nerney Road, Northwood, Ohio 43619 Phone: 419-661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **January 3rd, 2008** at 2:00 p.m. at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Justin.Hammerling@igb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------|
| Bid Item No. 1 Site Work | \$ | 468,000. |
| Bid Item No. 2 General Trades | \$ | 3,867,462. |
| Bid Item No. 3 Fire Protection | \$ | 106,600. |
| Bid Item No. 4 Plumbing | \$ | 339,500. |
| Bid Item No. 5 HVAC | \$ | 1,235,200. |
| Bid Item No. 6 Electrical | \$ | 863,700. |
| Total Estimate: | \$ | 6,880,462. |

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

INVITATION FOR BIDS

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

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| JOB NO. | PROJECT | WALK-THRU DATE | BIDS OPENING DATE |
| #27075 | Renovation of 336 Ivanhill | December 18 @ 10:00am | January 15, 2008 @ 11:30am |

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available after October 31, 2007 at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$20.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be due and opened per the "Invitation for Bids" in the contract documents.

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

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

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

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Alberta Jean Reed, Claude Black, Joyce Rush, Ron Lindsay, Ramona Collins, Dorothy and Robert Gray, Debra Brock, Deborah Gardner, Charley Chuck (The Juice), Art Bishop, Susan Fitzpatrick, Johnny Love, Larry Jones, Greg Meredith, and many, many more

Councilman Ashford Hosts Annual Christmas Social

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Toledo citizens, officials and friends of Toledo City Council President Michael Ashford celebrated the

large rooms of various forms of local entertainment, catering and socializing. Upon entering the building party visitors appreciated the first room that was filled with glamorous large paintings, comfortable seating and catering

more private room for more intimate conversations over a glass of pop or wine.

Room three featured a live band that serenaded guests with soft jazz and smooth rhythm and blues music. On the opposite side of the building was room for, which included various beverages, made-to-order meals, and a deejay that mixed classic Motown music with jazz for his room.

my wife for finding this location and arranging the event, and also want to inspire people to utilize this place. People can rent the sections we used tonight, especially because we should support our small businesses here in Toledo."

After thanking his wife and the catering staff for the lovely event, he also recognized the local elected officials, community leaders,



Christmas season with a party at the historic Park Lane Luxury Apartment building on Saturday, De-

that included a wide arrangement of cheeses and meats provided by the Toledo Restaurant Training Center's



Ashford thanked his wife Ruth for this year's festivities being held at the Park Lane, which was built in 1925 and has welcomed such famous guests like singer Marilyn Monroe, Bob Hope and Ella Fitzgerald. However, now the building serves as an apartment complex and rents the lower level for such events like the Christmas party.

close friends and his mentors for where he is professionally right now. "I started out



in 1998 with Edna Brown as a campaign manager, I consider her my mentor. I was also recruited by the Democratic Party and started placing yard signs in Toledo. I have been blessed with mentors like Edna Brown, godparents like Mother Bradford from this community who have prayed for me - and I thank them for that."

Ashford, who won reelection this past November to continue as the representative for District 4, also thanked his campaign staff and supporters for standing with him, and especially the community for allowing him to continue serving the city of Toledo. "I've been blessed to have
(Continued on Page 12)



cember 8, 2007. The councilman's guests enjoyed up to four

Café in the Park. While continuing the tour, guests entered room two, which was a

The councilman encouraged party guests to use the building because it is locally owned. "I first want to thank



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