



Keith Jordan, Vice President
J.L.I. Vision Outreach

In This Issue

The Truth Editorial
Page 2

My View
Page 3

The Obama Effect
Pages 3-4

Kwame's Problems
Page 5

Cover Story:
Keith Jordan
Page 6

The Arts Section

Consecration Service
Page 7

Stewart Academy and
Women's Day
Page 8

Artist Mack Walton
Page 9

Owens Hip Hop Explosion
Page 9

More on B.I.G.
Page 11

MyPyramid
Page 12

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

2008 Milestones
Page 16

“The mission is to redirect disadvantaged children and teens through sustainable programs that will challenge them to understand the pattern of a safe and drug-free life.”

This Strikes Us...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

The Museum of African American History in Detroit depicts, as part of its exhibit, the transition over the centuries of so many Africans from free persons to slavery – the Middle Passage, the auction block, the disciplinary measures taken by masters to force compliance. The exhibit is presented using almost life-sized statues being held on slave ships, being whipped, being chained and robbed of their humanity.

Why wouldn't you be angry, as a black person, to be reminded of such injustices?

On the other hand, if you were a middle class white parent of a college bound student who was denied her first choice of an institution of higher learning because that college had a very active policy of placing underrepresented minorities, even those with appreciably lower academic credentials than your own child, why wouldn't you be angry?

After all, those chains, as depicted in the Museum's exhibit, were not placed on those hands and feet by your child or by you, perhaps not even by your own direct ancestors. So, why wouldn't you be angry if your child had to pay the price for a centuries-old travesty?

To his credit, Senator Barack Obama tried to start a conversation about race in America with all of the complexities that such a discussion should entail. His speech, of course, was occasioned by the fact that his pastor of 20 years, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, was discovered to have said some very unflattering things about his country.

Obama was forced to address the issue in at least some manner and, as luck would have it for the rest of us, he did so in a fashion that may prove to be beneficial in the long run. But let's not count on that.

At the end of the week, former President Bill Clinton reverted to fashion – the fashion he has adopted all campaign long – and spoke of his desire to see a general election campaign involving two people “who love their country” and who could address the real issues, not that “other stuff” that tends to divert our attention.

That “other stuff” the former prez was referring to is race, of course. He doesn't consider that to be an issue in America apparently. Or maybe he, like so many other Americans, is just so uncomfortable talking about the subject. We are going to give Bill the benefit of the doubt on that matter because, as we have seen so often in this campaign, Bill just can't help himself. He just can't help opening his mouth and saying something so completely idiotic in defense of his wife's election effort that we must simply chalk it up to the fact that the so-called master politician has lost his touch rather than assuming that he has in his political dotage taken on any sort of bigotry or bias.

In fact, that's what Obama advised us to avoid in his speech – the rush to judgment on matters that are complicated enough for individuals and that much more so for the society as a whole.

He spoke of the complexities of race in America and noted that it is possible to love and fear at the same time; that it is possible to say things during an emotional tempest that intellectually you would challenge in a cooler frame of mind; that, in certain settings, people of all races sometimes vent their frustrations over racial situations in ways that would shock and upset the larger public were they privy to those moments.

In just the past few years, we have shut down discussion time after time when the painful and embarrassing subject of race has been brought to the fore. Don Imus says something stupid about another race ... fire the S.O.B.; Bill Cosby points out the failures of his own people to place a value on education ... he's moved to the fringes; young black males fall further and further behind their white and female counterparts in educational attainment ... we speak about it sporadically at a conference here and there.

Obama has offered us a challenge ... an opportunity to take advantage of his pastor's own lack of touch and discretion and the general fallout that ensued. We can meander down the same paths for the next generation or two, hoping that these racial dust-ups – the Jena Sixes, the University of Michigan-styled U.S. Supreme Court cases (Gutter v. Bollinger), for example – will just fade away.

Or we can follow Obama's example and try to engage in honest discourse and try to increase our understanding of the pain and discomfort others feel when confronted with the results of America's racial divide.

Of course, we have to reach some type of agreement about what to do with all that anger, don't we?

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

March 28-29

“Old Fashioned, Holy Ghost, God Sent, Soul Saving Devil Hatin' Evangelical Crusade.” New Beginning Community Church; Speakers Pastor Marilyn Wilson – host, Min. James Brooks, Evang. Ric Trench; 6 to 10 pm:

March 29

Style Show Luncheon: “Swing into Spring;” Upton United Methodist; 1 to 4 pm: 419-244-4420

Breakthrough Deliverance Service: Presented by Women of Virtue Ministries; The Salvation Army at 2727 Moorish St; Noon: 419-531-1862

Pew Rally Musical Explosion: Mt. Zion Church of Christ Holiness; 5 pm; Musical groups from Ohio and Indiana; Spoken word “Where Is Your Seat in the Church?” 419-389-4953

Project Excellence Mentoring Program: Prayer luncheon; “Reclaiming Our Youth ... One Child at a Time;” BGSU's BSTU Rm 228; 12:30 to 2:30 pm: 419-392-4511

The Media Mix: The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo presents the area's best party; 7 pm to 1 am; space 237: www.mediamix2008.com

March 30

Women's Day Celebration: Warren AME; 10:45 am; Speaker Monica Ways, former First Lady of Warren; “Faithful Women Loving and Serving a Faithful God.”

“Sunday Dinner;” Spirit-filled comedy play; St. Mary's MBC; 5 pm: 419-254-3467 or 419-973-4157

April 2

Program for Parents and Teachers: Learn how to spend more time praising your child's good behavior and less time correcting bad behavior; Sponsored by the American Praise Institute; Featuring educator Richard Buchholz; St. Philip Lutheran Church; 6 pm: 419-283-1434

April 4

A Night of Dance: The Jeremy Lincoln Foundation fundraiser; Sylvania Country Club; 8 pm to midnight; Music provided by D-Peeps and the Professor: 419-535-3126

April 4-6

Spring Revival: Living in Christ Ministries; 7 pm nightly; Guest speaker Apostle Barbara J. McKay: 419-464-0563

April 5

“Mother Daughter Luncheon Fashion Show;” Grace Temple COGIC; Fashions by “Elegance with Style;” Designs by “Cabe;” 11 am to 1:30 pm: 419-841-4614

Health Fair for Minority Health Month: Sponsored by Nurses Ministry of Bethlehem Baptist and the House of Bread Ministries; New Life Center; 10 am to 2 pm; Issues affecting children and youth such as obesity, dental health, teen pregnancy and STD's: 419-241-9360

Sacred Sexuality: Hosted by City of Zion, Mt. Zion Church Youth Development Ministry; 2 pm; Free and open to all young ladies ages 12-21; Facilitated by Lisa Hightower: 419-450-4108

April 6

43rd Anniversary: Rev. John and Mother Bernice Roberts of Indiana Avenue MBC; Guest speaker Rev. John Williams of Eastern Star MBC; 3:30 pm: 419-246-3850

Clarence Smith Community Chorus's *Born from the Soul*: A celebration of art music by African-American women; 6 pm; Christian Community Church: 419-534-3370

April 7

Look Good ... Feel Better: Program designed to help women overcome the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment; Noon at St. Vincent's: 888-227-6446, ext 5105

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political
Columnist



Bill Lucy is the highest ranking black man in all of organized labor. He is the International Secretary-Treasurer of the very powerful American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union.

Lucy was in town last Saturday to deliver the keynote address for the annual Black History Month dinner of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) which was held at the Clarion Westgate Hotel.

Lucy is now in his mid-60's and has slowed a pace or two but he remains sharp as a tack in his political analysis. His deep fear is that the

young and black voters supporting Senator Barack Obama's campaign will skip the general election if Senator Hillary Clinton somehow manages to snatch the nomination. Lucy is deeply concerned that Senator John McCain, or his supporters, can "Swift Boat" whomever the Dems put forward.

It seems to me that right now is a good time for a massive voter registration drive as well as an anti "Swift Boat" voter education effort. Let's get ready for the tricks before they happen.

Back to the CBTU dinner, several local folks were honored for their work on behalf of black labor in Toledo. Fred Bell from the City of Toledo and Anita Madison from the police department were honored as was Weldon Douthitt, the long-standing voice for minority contractors in Toledo.

Douthitt, who was chairman of the Jack Ford mayoral campaign and for Michael Ashford's City Council races, was honored for his political leadership. Well done, Weldon!

Last week's front page Toledo Journal story on who is the Economic Employment

Opportunity coordinator for the Toledo Public Schools was finally answered on March 18 at a board meeting. There are six coordinators with the lead person being the chief of staff, Chris Ellis. This makes little sense and helps to explain a lot of the confusion at TPS.

Furthermore, it was noted that an outside group has been monitoring TPS contracts and will soon release a report. This group is lead by Jay Black.

But the challenge remains to ensure that contracts are doled out on a level playing field. I have watched two generations of fighting over minority contracting here in Toledo. This includes the successful effort by Toledo-based contractors to kill off the State of Ohio set asides plan which greatly helped minority contractors.

We should always remember who killed black aspirations and it was right there on Collingwood Avenue. Why does anyone think things will ever get done right in the backyard of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) which led the effort to kill the set asides?

Toledo citizens are also-

lutely correct to oppose the garbage fee, I believe. It was imposed only because of some 2005 campaign prom-

ises and deals to pick up pension benefits and to hire some guys in forestry. The media has never looked at those

deals but I believe they were not morally proper inducements.

Of Churches, Politics and Vietnam

Detroit's Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick taped a press conference in his church-home violating the church-state separation and White America's television and radio media pundits acted as if Chicago's Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright was Kilpatrick's pastor. America seeks to have its biracial presidential candidate, Barack Obama denounce his black pastor, and in effect, denounce the black church.

Additionally, the haters - such as Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh, Lou Dobbs, along with Bill O'Reilly ranted and raved - as they always wrestle against flesh and blood. Yet, these haters never seem to be cognizant of the drive-by shootings that take so many lives of young African-Americans.

I challenge many of White America's spiritual leaders in positional authority to speak out against Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's eliminating the cultural and political separa-

tion that an elected political representative must maintain between his political persona and aspirations and his spiritual life. Clearly, Kilpatrick should be taken to task by white and black members of the clergy - by those who "talk the talk" of being spiritual leaders in either white or black America.

As a fellow Vietnam veteran, like former US Marine Wright and Republican presidential nominee John McCain, neither McCain nor I can denounce a fellow Vietnam veteran for expressing his opinion in the pulpit in what is probably America's most political, racially polarized city.

Chicago is the personification of a racial "Baghdad by the Lake." This city has produced many of the psychopathic, racial personalities that enslaved African-Americans, approved the Tuskegee syphilis experiment by the United States government and dropped nuclear bombs on the non-white popula-

tions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

My vision for our next presidential administration and Congress is that the draft will be re-instituted and pastors, preachers, along with Vietnam veterans like myself would have shed the spiritual incarceration mentality and will take action. Our faith will compel us to assist those who have enough faith in God to become conscientious objectors. We shall ask not what our country can do for us, rather what we can do for our country - to quote President John F. Kennedy.

Since the Sunday 11 a.m. church service time in America remains the most racially segregated hour in America, let the white media terrorists have their alleged spiritual leaders find the following scripture for them: "God will grant you that your enemies will come at you from one direction, and flee you in seven."

Sincerely,
Clarence Gafaney, Jr.



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Our Visit to The African American Legacy Project

We, The Robinson-Smith Family, really enjoyed our visit to The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio museum in February of 2008. My wife and I and our older sons are not originally from the Ohio area. My twin daughters were born here in August of 1997. So, for us to get first hand information on this area's African-American history and legacy was a real gem to us, one that we intend to cherish for the rest of our lives.

We were very overwhelmed by the vast amount of material and information that is gathered in this well organized cozy place. The staff there is most honored by us for the professional image portrayed and excitement of interest and knowledge in the subject matter displayed there. Any person/s who wishes to understand the contributions of African Americans and their importance in northwest Ohio must truly experience this worthwhile visit for him/herself. So, please visit and find out for yourselves what a precious place this African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio museum really is.

We gathered much information while we were there. But, at the conclusion of our visit, a few key points of interest stood out. There was, is, and still to come; a lot of amazing African-American people from this Northwest Ohio community who have pioneered and achieved in their individual interest and status-quo. Through hard work, great will, determination, and talent; our people have taught us how proud it is to be an African American. We have overcome many obstacles and still have many more to hurdle over. But, in the end, we do win. The African-American way is to work hard and do our best to achieve anything that we put our minds to it.

The Legacy Project has really opened our eyes to the African-American history that ran and still is running through these parts of the United States of America. Our children have really enjoyed their visit. It was fun and very interesting to see our children take interest and view the material and information compiled by and on display at The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio. It was really a learning experience for us and an interesting one to know that African-Americans have come a long way.

So, in closing, On behalf of The Robinson-Smith Family, we would like to thank Mr. Robert Smith, founder of The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio along with his staff and its many contributors for a place and museum we all can come to experience and enjoy first handed information.

Again, I speak for all who have taken and who will take this precious opportunity to visit, to offer a hearty 'THANK YOU' Mr. Smith for your dream, endeavors, and reality to make this project happen. We are looking forward to many years of visiting this great place. You have our blessings.

Sincerely,
The Robinson-Smith Family
Toledo, OH. March 2008

COLLATERAL DAMAGE OR DIRECT HIT?

By Dr. Donald L. Perryman
Guest Column



One of the major problems that has plagued the African-American community for several decades is the lack of co-operation and coordination by black religious leaders and the diverse institutions that they lead in the war against the common enemy of racism and the devastating resultant effects of poverty in America.

At first glance the recent attacks on Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright and Trinity United Church of Christ appear as collateral damage in the political battle between presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. However, a deeper look may

reveal a direct hit against the one African-American institution that, when true to its historic mission, has been most crucial in helping the race survive the viciousness of white oppression and liberating the race from second-class citizenship, economic exploitation, and inequality.

First of all, the claims of anti-patriotism and calls for Obama to disassociate himself from his longtime church and pastor were not directed at the stereotypical image of the preacher as a fried chicken-guzzling, flashy Cadillac-driving, womanizing buffoon that we see characterized in the media as the brunt of jokes.

The assaults were made upon a renowned African-American biblical scholar who does not act like a slave and whose church functions as a champion in the fight against racism and injustice, a center for learning, political education and mobilization, a fosterer of psychological freedom and self-es-

teem, and a political, economic, and spiritual difference-maker in the lives of black people and the black community.

The fact that the front runner in the democratic party candidacy for the presidency of the United States was spiritually nurtured and shaped by the black church is problematic for those who still have not accepted the fact that the black church has been a feeder institution to America providing quality leaders with both the courage and integrity to challenge America to align its walk with its talk in regards to its lofty promises and ideals.

In addition to the assault upon the black church because of its historic role against racism and the questioning of its ability to shape a black leader that mainstream white America can follow, a further detonation against the black church came via the claim that the liberation theology espoused in many contempo-

rary and progressive black churches is outrageous and incomprehensible. It is ironic that nonblack ministers and pastors who studied and passed examinations on liberation theology in seminary have been rarely heard from in the Jeremiah Wright matter.

The Jesus of the black church will be unrecognizable if you are expecting to find a theologically blonde, blue-eyed, meek, lowly, soft, effeminate, nice Jesus and a nice, soft-spoken preacher—talking to nice prim and proper people, telling them how to be even more nice, prim, and proper. The black church has always taken seriously what the Bible describes as Christ's expressed mission to the poor and marginalized as the first and foremost way of expressing faith in the context of widespread poverty and injustice in the world today.

The Jesus the black church knows, the Jesus in liberation theology and the Jesus in the Bible—is one we can identify with because Jesus was despised and re-

jected, did not help the big fish swallow up the little fish, and did not side with the power structure but was committed to changing it.

The Jesus WE know—got into trouble with the government, and was arrested without being told the nature of the charges, what law he had broken, or what crime he had committed. Like Rodney King, Jesus also was a victim of racial profiling and police brutality and the bible declares was whipped and billy-clubbed all night long.

African-Americans can identify with this Jesus and the deliverance from slavery and Pharaoh as a black experience because we too, are a suffering people, an oppressed people, and know something about the miscarriage of justice that works for anybody who has enough money to buy it.

What's so hard to understand—about the Jesus that the black church sees and the Jesus that the right wing media sees when just a few weeks ago, the United Nations criticized the United States for failing to address

the issues dealing with the rights of the Hurricane Katrina survivors when half of the working poor, elderly, and disabled of New Orleans have not been able to return and the U.N. called on the United States to immediately end the demolition of public housing in New Orleans and

—When African Americans are just 12 percent of the population but 50 percent of the homeless?

—When it will, according to the United for a Fair Economy Commission, take 1,664 years to close the racial gap in home ownership.

—When the disparities in infant mortality between blacks and others are worse now than when Dr. King was assassinated 40 years ago.

—When black and Latino lives are shattered as unemployment, income, home ownership, business ownership, and stock ownership went down the drain all the while the Administration was bragging on the phenomenal "growth" of the U.S. economy as a result of their policies.

(Continued on Page 6)

Obama Can Help Us Form a More Perfect Union

Born the son of a black man from Kenya, and a white woman from Kansas, Barack Obama challenged the sons and daughters of slave owners who benefited from slavery to understand the resentment of the sons and daughters of slaves, who have suffered from its legacy for more than 350 years.

In his appeal to America to continue to "form a more perfect union," Barack Obama noted that slavery is an irreversible reality of history. We cannot unslave slavery. The memories of humiliation and fear have not gone away, nor the anger that is its lingering legacy. However, the sons and daughters of slave masters must acknowledge that they have benefited from what has caused so much pain and suffering to the sons and daughters of slaves. And the sons and daughters of slaves must, however difficult, forgive if we are going to continue to form a more perfect union.

The Constitution was written to protect the rights that its authors acknowledged were neither derived from nor granted by the State, but given to us by our Creator. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are inherent rights. The Constitution, however, is a living document which was always inter-

preted in relation to the facts at the time that it was being interpreted. When it was written, its most famous author, Thomas Jefferson, was himself a slave owner.

In the mid-1800's a slave named Dred Scott escaped from his master's plantation, much like Onesimus in the Bible, and ran away to freedom in the North. He was



captured and returned to his former master. On March 6, 1857 The Supreme Court looked at the Constitution and concluded that, "No black man had any rights that any white man was bound to respect."

In 1896 in the Homer vs Plessy decision the Supreme Court looked at the Constitution and concluded that "Separate but equal was the law of the land." And as Dr. Martin Luther King so rightly observed, "the emphasis was

always on the separate and never the equal."

In 1954 in the Brown vs the Topeka Board of Education decision, the Supreme Court looked at the same Constitution and concluded that "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," and demanded that segregation in public education must end with all deliberate speed.

As I listened to Barack Obama, a man who carries in his genes the blood of a black father, and a white mother, I remembered how Jesus was a son given by divinity and a child born of humanity—Emanuel, meaning "God with us," because he was a product of both worlds, he could reconcile man with God, and man with his brother.

On March 19, 2008 in his speech on race, Barack Obama offered America a way out of a long and desolate night of fear and ignorance. He asked whites to acknowledge their sins and asked blacks to forgive them, and both to recognize that we are all things human before we are anything racial—white or black. After all, we may be in different racial boats, but we are all sailing in the same human ocean.

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Detroit's Kwame Kilpatrick Indicted on Eight Felony Counts

By Annette Wright
Special to The Truth

"Even children know that lying is wrong," said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy in announcing her 12-count felony indictment against the mayor of Detroit, Kwame M. Kilpatrick, and his former chief of staff, Christine Beatty.

The charges, which include eight counts against Kilpatrick and seven against Beatty, are the result of a 59-day probe into allegations of perjury, misuse of public funds, obstruction of justice and misconduct in public office.

The charges arose after the release of text messages by the Detroit Free Press which revealed that the mayor and Beatty had an extramarital affair, lied about that affair under oath and, most importantly, conspired to fire two Detroit police officers, members of the Mayor's Executive Protection Unit.

"Let me be very clear," said Worthy on Monday. "This was not an investigation focused on lying about sex. [Officers] Gary Brown's,



Harold Nelthorpe's and Walter Harris's lives and careers were forever changed. They were ruined financially and their reputations were completely destroyed because they chose to be duti-

ful police officers. The public trust was violated. This investigation is about whether public dollars were used unlawfully—and more."

The officers successfully sued the city during a whistle-

blower lawsuit and were offered an \$8.4 million settlement in taxpayers' money. Part of the agreement compelled the officers not to release the text messages between Kilpatrick and Beatty.

More charges are very likely to be filed, Worthy indicated. And she has turned over information to the U.S. Attorney's office which may be looking into federal charges against the mayor and his former aide. The U.S. Attorney's office declined to comment. This may be the beginning of the end of the "Kilpatrick Empire," a term the mayor used some years ago on a local television station. And despite the earnest assertion by Kilpatrick, it is doubtful that business will go on as usual in the City of Detroit.

There is a beginning to this rather amazing public fiasco, however, one would be hard pressed to find or explain it at this point. It is a "you had to be there" type of thing, if you will. This ongoing saga is the stuff that great novels are made of. Many remember the (Lincoln) Navigator scandal, then there was the alleged misuse of the city credit card, next - the now quite famous Manoogian Mansion party - which allegedly resulted in an assault on Tamara Green, a stripper known as "Strawberry," committed by the mayor's wife who made a surprise appearance at the party.

Attorney General Mike Cox, who is reported to have his sights set on becoming the state's next governor, called the party an "urban legend," and is accused of initially halting the investigation into Strawberry's murder.

That so-called "urban legend" is now set to cost the cash-strapped municipality about \$50 million, the amount being sought on behalf of Strawberry's now 14-year old son for the city's failure to investigate the murder of his mom. That may make the \$8.4 Million dollars that the city paid to settle the whistleblower lawsuit, which resulted in the disclosure of the text messages seem like small change.

The entire matter has helped to make Detroit the object of late night talk show jokes and basically a city some would say is now coated in shame and embarrassment.

This reporter was the first one escorted into the mayor's press conference on Monday after the indictments were handed down. Thus,

The Truth had a front row seat.

Scanning the room, we recognized reporters and cameras from CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News, local radio stations and many others. The atmosphere was a bit charged as we all anxiously awaited the first sight and statement from the naturally charismatic and persuasive Kilpatrick.

Although all of the reporters had been screened and signed into the conference room by the mayor's security team, there was an obvious misunderstanding between them and a Detroit Free Press reporter, who is credited with exposing the text messages to the public. The reporter invoked his right to be present at the press conference to no avail. He was escorted out of the conference room by a number of security personnel, his verbal objections continuing into the hallway. That incident only served to fuel the air of anxiety in the room. Again, all eyes returned to the podium.

Within minutes the mayor's legal team entered the conference room, followed by the towering figure of the mayor. He didn't seem to make eye contact with any-

Malice Green trial. Green was beaten to death by two Detroit Police Officers, Walter Budzyn and Larry Nevers, whose trial was carried on Court TV. The two seasoned police officers were convicted during that trial and sent to prison. This was no small feat for the prosecutor's office.

During Monday's press conference, Kilpatrick appeared visibly shaken. He was breathing heavily and his eyes no longer had the glow of confidence and promise that had become a trade mark of his public demeanor.

But the mayor's problems may only increase with the possibility that Worthy is examining financial issues and that the U.S. Attorney's office will be taking a close look at the administration's activities. The question has also been raised of where the funds are coming from to pay the mayor's legal team.

Kilpatrick was charged with a count of conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice, obstruction of justice, two counts of misconduct in office, two counts of perjury in court proceedings and two counts of perjury in non-court proceedings.

Beatty was charged with



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The conference was short and to the point. The mayor has some heavy legal hitters on his team, which seemingly continues to grow in number every day. Daniel Webb is perhaps the most notable and he opened the press conference with all of the confidence that a \$700 per-hour lawyer ought to exude under the circumstances.

However, Webb is probably in for quite a legal battle in dueling with Worthy. She is credited, as an assistant prosecutor, with "bringing down the Detroit Police Department" during the 1993

conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice, obstruction of justice, misconduct in office, two counts of perjury in court proceedings and two counts of perjury in non-court proceedings. The perjury charges are the most serious and carry a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Worthy spoke to the issue of the quality of the mayor's legal team and insisted that her own team was just as highly qualified. Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Lindsey, who has been trying criminal cases for 21 years, will be the lead attorney.

(Continued on Page 12)

Keith Jordan: Striving to Help Youngsters Succeed

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"I have been a poster child for trouble and, for that reason, I feel I can give back," says Keith Jordan, vice president and director of development for J.L.J. Vision Outreach, a non-profit outreach organization that works with young students.

J.L.J. Outreach began as a vision shared by Jordan and his father in June 2003 as the two men were on a lunch break ruminating about how they could introduce youth, particularly disadvantaged youth, to the ingredients of success.

"The mission is to redirect disadvantaged children and teens through sustainable programs that will challenge them to understand the pattern of a safe and drug-free life," says Jordan. "The vision is that each child will be equipped with the necessary tools to succeed, not just survive, but to succeed in today's society."

For Jordan, this was a very personal journey. His own youth was anything but trouble free, he admits.

"The kids that I work with I see reflected in myself," he says in testament to that troubled time. "But I found a way to get redirected because I had a strong background and mentors ... I woke up."

Jordan admits that he was fortunate to have as mentors both of his parents, Rev. J.L. Jordan, Jr. and Rosie E. Jordan, and Bill Watson from the North Toledo Community House (now the James Caldwell Community Center).

"But a lot of these kids are losing out on the main components for success," he says of those youngsters who have not had such strong adults to fall back on that he had.

Jordan calls these components the organization's building blocks and they have guided the organization's volunteers' interaction with their charges – character building, positive attitudes, financial stability and academic achievement.

Now three years active, J.L.J. Vision Outreach is providing in-school services for students of six Toledo Public Schools – Scott, Libbey and Woodward high schools, and Robinson, Jones and Leverette middle schools. Jordan and his team of six volunteers – four males and two females – work with about 15 kids at each school

"We go into classrooms and take kids who have been identified as at-risk – with academic or behavioral problems," says Jordan. "We try



to help them adopt the model – "If I strive to succeed, I succeed as I strive."

Jordan developed his program based upon the four building blocks of success that he and his father, who serves as the agency's CEO, felt were necessary for every child to have at his or her disposal. But he also recognized the fact, he says, that today's classroom teachers are faced with certain limitations.

"A lot of times, a teacher can't teach, nurture and discipline all at the same time," says Jordan. "The significance of the program is that I can take these problem kids and re-acclimate them to the classroom. They've shown improvement academically and behaviorally."

Jordan includes exercises and skits in his program to hone in on the ways in which individuals can learn how to effectively participate in school activities with their peers ... become "team players" to use the football vernacular that Jordan grew up around.

At the end of each 12-week

session, each graduate of the J.L. Jordan Vision Outreach program receives a \$50 incentive check – those are funds that Jordan and his father have reached into their own pockets to donate, he says.

Jordan, who took early retirement from Ford Motor Co. after 12 years, has used his retirement funds to help kick start the agency.

But now that the program has started to attract a little attention and he has started the collaborative process with other organizations – Harbor Behavioral, Adelante, Inc., the Board of Community Relations, United Way, for example – he has started reaching out for other sources of funding such as donations and grants.

"The real reward is making sure that this kid is making something of himself," he says. And given his own early brushes with trouble, Jordan feels he has an advantage in reaching out to help others. "I know where you are going and I can stop you."

As for the future of the organization, Jordan plans to

reach out to a number of other communities. "I'm trying to start chapters in other cities. There's a need for mentoring but it's about being sustainable. It takes nothing to volunteer your time. There's a gift that everyone can give and that's their time."

And a number of people have given of their time to help Jordan with J.L.J. Vision Outreach. In addition to his father and those six volunteers, Jordan is assisted by Stayce J. Fowler, the program director, and Cecilia Adams. There is also a host of Toledoans who Jordan thanks for encouraging him to pursue this dream.

Jordan, a Toledo native and graduate of Start High School, has attended both Grand Rapids Community College in Grand Rapids, MI, and The University of Toledo studying early childhood development and secondary education.

He has three children, Keyanna, Keith, Jr. and Chyna Nicole.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

(Continued from Page 4)

-When the inaction of the government before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina where something as simple as car ownership and the relationship between having a car and race literally meant the difference between losing or saving one's life. And when the Democrats re-took Congress in 2007 they didn't even mention Katrina in their agenda.

A foundation study on white attitudes about race found that white folks have so little appreciation for the reality of black life in America from police harassment and intimidation, to imprisonment, to family income, unemployment, housing, and health care and the disparities in education, income, wealth, jobs, government services, imprisonment, and opportunity.

But the God of the poor and the disenfranchised that the bible speaks of and we worship every week – goes unrecognized by most of America except those who want to use the tool of racism to divide us and blunt the effectiveness of the black church in its role in the fight against injustice.

The recent attacks on the black church have taught us that in fighting for something as radical as change, even for the better, that race is still an issue and needs to be part of the national dialogue. But also, if the politics of change are to prevail over the unrelenting smear attacks against the black church, that black church leaders and their churches, backed by the power of its collective economics, i.e. weekly cash flows and properties, must put aside its differences and find ways to collaborate without sacrificing its diversity in the subtle but devastating war against racism and poverty.

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at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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Consecration Service of the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"We know what consecration means – setting yourself apart," said Rev. Matthew Allen, worship leader for the consecration service of the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir at Calvary Bible Chapel, Sunday, March 16, 2008. "We ought to be different than the world so that they might see Jesus Christ."

Allen's comments followed a spirited musical prelude by Brian Thomas and Pastor Christopher McQueen, which was prolonged as they awaited Allen's arrival from another service. However, Allen made up for being late by leading a praise and worship service that left everyone eagerly anticipating the rest of the service.

"Choir, tonight we not only welcome you to Calvary Bible Chapel, we welcome you to the Potter's House," said Rev. Andy J. Hill, senior pastor, who shared that in preparation for the evening service, his congregation was consecrated during morning worship, rededicating themselves to God. "He's the one that has all the power and he chooses who He uses. And He chooses who He anoints."

The choir, dressed in pristine white and led by their nattily dressed director, Derrick Roberts, filled the choir stand as the congregation sang the consecration hymn, "Pass Me Not."

Taking a moment to stand before his choir in solemn re-

flection, Roberts cued them to sing their first selection, "The Lord's Prayer." Roberts paused several times during the 'prayer,' as if meditating on the words. Each prayer caused an eruption of praise and worship from choir and congregation alike as the Holy Spirit descended on the service, making His presence known.

Each successive selection fanned the spiritual flames, until the congregation was afire with the Spirit.

There was no sitting down after that. Anyone who did just found him or herself jumping right back up again.

Roberts gave a personal testimony, which he admitted he had not planned to give. "I wasn't going to say nothing," he said. "I was just going to direct. I wasn't going to touch a microphone." But he just couldn't help himself.

Roberts recounted how he'd been paralyzed in pain for 48 hours. "I had just gotten out of a concert and I said, 'Take me to St. V's,'" he said, adding that he was told he would not direct again. He gave a similar testimony about his mother who faced a very dangerous back surgery, but had faith in God to bring her through.

Roberts shared that he was also a victim of a fire at the La Salle Building where he had a loft. "I've been homeless for several weeks," he said. "God put me in a beautiful, fabulous

place."

The singing continued and so did the praise. The choir ended their part of the program with a chorus of "Total Praise" as they left the choir stand to hear the message.

However, they reassembled to sing with Calvary's choir. Choir member Justin Blackshear introduced the speaker, his pastor, Rev. Robert Bass of United Missionary Baptist Church.

"He's the kind of man, if you catch him on the wrong day, will preach you under the pew," said Blackshear.

Towana Johnson sang the sermonic solo, her strong, powerful voice seeming to lift the cathedral ceiling of Calvary's magnificent sanctuary heavenward just so the heavenly hosts could listen.

"I'm a short preacher and I promise I won't be long," said Bass. "My message will be shorter than I am." Bass kept his word. His message was short, but as powerful as Senator Barack Obama's speech in Philadelphia a few days later.

Preaching about Jacob, Bass talked about consecration in terms of change. "Not only do we resent change because it requires us to come out of our comfort zone, but because we fear the unknown," he began. "Nothing can survive staying the same all the time. The world is constantly changing."

Reciting a litany of natural changes from bodily changes

to the changes in the environment, the minister proved his point. "How many know that God can change your situation and make everything all right?"

Preaching about the well-known biblical account of Jacob's transformation, Bass used contemporary references to bring his point home. "He had to sneak out his two wives, his two women and a whole lot of Baby Mama Drama," he said, "and still he has to deal with his brother Esau who is home and the last time he saw

him, wanted to kill him."

Bass continued to hammer home his point. "How many will be honest to admit that sometimes it's not your co-workers, sometimes it's not your family, sometimes it's not your favorite five in your circle, that sometimes it's you that needs to forgive you?" he asked. "Some changes take time."

Bass continued in this vein. "Jacob couldn't get the kind of change he needed by calling Miss Cleo. He couldn't get the kind of change he

needed on the internet. He couldn't get the kind of change needed by calling his prayer partner. He could only get the kind of change he needed by spending time with the Lord."

Following the brief oratory, Larry Jones, TIMC's business manager had remarks. "I'm tired in my body, but I'm so peaceful in my spirit because I know we've turned the corner," he said, thanking the host church for the hospitality and fellowship. "I think we're almost ready to adopt Calvary as our second home."

#1 Essence Teen Fiction Authors Appear At Mott Branch Library

Special to The Truth

Wildly popular teen fiction authors **Victoria Christopher Murray** and **ReShonda Tate Billingsley** are bringing their "Good Girlz" and "The Divas" book series to Toledo.

On Friday, March 28, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Mott Branch Library, 1085 Dorr St., the two authors will excite and entertain the crowd as they discuss their books and their lives at this free, family-oriented event.

Adult and teen fiction writers Murray and Billingsley will kick off the 2008 Teen Series at Mott as they help young adults rediscover the importance of a good book.

Murray will discuss her "Divas" series, which is her first teen book series. The series follows four best friends living in Los Angeles, trying to make it as a gospel group. The series follows each of the girls in their quest for gospel success on their way to individual success.

Billingsley will discuss her "Good Girlz" series, which follows a group of girls as they struggle with life, school, boys, and each other. The series follows the four girls through their trials while they manage to remain best friends and honor their parents.

Murray and Billingsley are

both #1 *Essence* magazine best-selling authors, and their popularity has been credited with a rise in teenage readership during the last few years. Critics state that these two authors are helping to revive reading among young adults everywhere.

The two women will discuss their books, talk with local students, and even speak to young people about social issues and other youth concerns. This free program is open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

For more details, please call 419.259.5230.

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University of Toledo presents unCUT Film Festival April 6

Special to The Truth

Take a stroll down the red carpet and attend the third annual unCUT First-Year iMovie Film Festival Sunday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Doermann Theater.

Filmmakers have been working for weeks to write, shoot and edit movies that capture the experience of college freshmen.

"Students have documented the trials and tribulations of finding their way as first-year students," said Jennifer Rockwood, Director of the First Year Experience Office, which is sponsoring the event.

The festival, a UT version of the Academy Awards, will be emceed this year by students.

"We're encouraging people to come see and be seen as they walk down the red carpet," Rockwood said.

The films will be shown and a panel of judges will select the winning team. Prizes this year include Apple iPod shuffles. Judges for the event include: Dr. Carol Bresnahan, vice provost for academic affairs; John Adams, senior director of University Mar-

keting; Charlene Gilbert, director of the Eberly Center for Women; Ryan Bunch, entertainment editor of The City Paper; and Andrew Rome, OCC AmeriCorps*VISTA.

Attendees will be eligible for door prizes, such as tickets to Toledo Mud Hens games and gift certificates to restaurants, businesses and hotels.

For more information on the free, public event, contact the First Year Experience Office at 419.530.2330.

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Stewart Academy Celebrates Women's History Month

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha/Reading is Fundamental, Inc. program and students in Jackie Houston's fifth grade class at Stewart Academy for Girls celebrated Women's History Month last week with a tribute to a number of notable women.

The program was performed in the format of an Oprah Winfrey show with fifth grader Janell Wright in the part of Winfrey and the rest of the students appearing as guests on an "Oprah" show.

A song started the pro-

gram and, fittingly enough, a dance number was the conclusion.

Among the participants were Adriana Simmons (Queen Latifah), Sarah Temple (Connie Porter), Precious Tate (Mae Jemison), Teanna Smith (Faye Wattleton),



Jacqueline Johnson (Ella P. Stewart), Jasmine Tuggle (Debbie Allen), Keniesha Hil (Ruby Bridges), Kayla Collins (Faith Ringgold), Keasia Reynolds (Condoleezza Rice), Brieah Rayford (Ethel Hedgeman Lyle), DeAndrea McKinley

(Venus Williams), Tadiaunna Williams (Serene Williams), Emauny Green (Rosa Parks) and Chytana Jordan (Michelle Obama).

The tribute is part of the ongoing series of the sorority's 100 anniversary

celebration.

The AKA/RIF program is co-ordinated for the sorority by Elinor Allen.

Julia Holt is the chapter's Centennial Celebration chairman and Lisa Dubose is the chapter's president.

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Tamika Adams

Age: 26
Hometown: Toledo, Ohio

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Mack Walton's Passion: Art as a Life's Work

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Ask a group of artists what has inspired them to create and you are very likely to be bombarded with a slew of far-ranging answers.

Artists create, it has been said, merely because that is what they do or, perhaps, it's because creating a work of art is a ritual ... almost like a religious experience.

For some, it's simply so much fun they cannot resist the temptation. For others, it's so painful a process, they cannot avoid placing themselves in harm's way.

And for some artists, their art is a way to garner the praise and admiration of their audience or viewers.

But for so many, art is simply what they feel compelled to do. For such artists, releasing their creative juices is as much a part of life as breathing.

"It's my life's work," says local artist Mack Walton. "I love this."

For Walton, that love has been anything but fleeting. It's his life, it's his passion. And it has been so for over 40 years.

Walton, a Toledo native

who attended Scott High School, started painting in 1966 when he won a contest and took a correspondence course. After that he was hooked, says the Vietnam veteran who joined Jeep in the late 1970's and remained

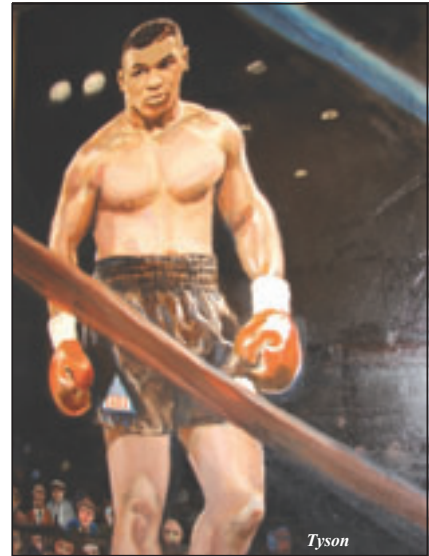
in factory work there until his retirement in 2001. During those years, Walton continued his art education ... by painting. He did read a lot on the subject of painting but there were no more art courses for him. "I just painted as often as I could," he says. "I

learned more from doing it than from anything else." Walton developed a style, and a following amongst his fellow employees at Jeep, by transferring photographs to oil canvases. He estimates that he painted over 100 portraits during his 25-year Jeep career. He would simply take home the photographs that he was presented by his colleagues and acquaintances and start to paint.

Most of his work, in other words, was commissioned.

This kept him fairly busy, he recalls, but it also limited his ability to reach for a broader audience. "I didn't have time to sell myself," says Walton. And as any successful artist will freely admit, an artist must have the ability to pay attention to the business side of the art business.

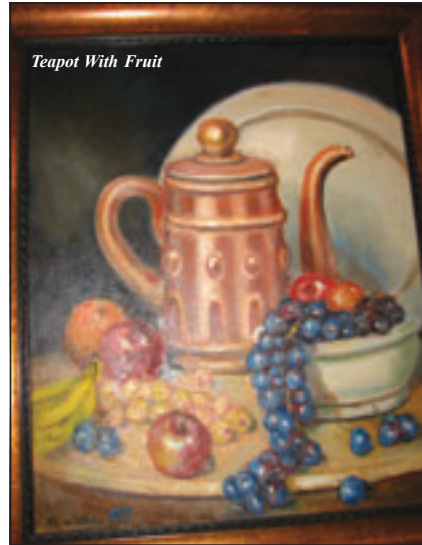
Artists have to self-promote, get their works into art exhibits and stay alert for the opportunities to have their work viewed. That's where Walton fell short of satisfying his own expectations.



Walton painted a portrait of a young Mike Tyson, for example. The Tyson portrait, a large 30" by 40" canvass, was inspired by Walton's love of boxing ("one of my favorite sports") and his admiration for the Tyson of an earlier

brief participation in an exhibit of local artists at the Toledo Museum of Art in 2000, Walton's work had never previously been seen by the public at large.

"This could possibly lead to more exhibits," says



Walton, a Toledo native

learned more from doing it than from anything else."



"Most of the time when an art exhibit was going on, it was over before I knew about it," he says.

His inability to reach an



audience was particularly discouraging after his retirement from Jeep especially since he then had time to branch out and work on subjects that caught his interest.

Walton painted a superb

day—the Tyson of pre-caricature days.

Walton also ventured into street scenes ("Party after Katrina") and still life ("Teapot with Fruit") to satisfy his own artistic curiosities.

Then, fortuitously, to hear Walton tell it, he read of the opening of The Truth Art Gallery that has been assembled by curators Warren and Yolanda Woodberry — artists themselves — in the uptown area of Toledo.

Walton packed up a half-dozen paintings and brought them down to the gallery. The result was one that benefited both Walton and the gallery ... and the viewing public. Aside from

Walton. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity."

Walton is not the only grateful art lover in Toledo. On the opening night of the gallery two weekends ago, a visitor to the new gallery purchased his "Party after Katrina." Needless to say, Walton has become newly inspired. Not that there was any danger he would have given up his pursuit. "I could never do that," he says. "As I said, it's my life's work."

A portion of Walton's life's work may be viewed at The Truth Art Gallery — Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from 3 to 7 p.m.

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Owens Community College Dance Team Presents Hip Hop Explosion Dance Convention and Competition, April 5-6

Area residents interested in expanding their knowledge about the art of hip-hop dance and showcasing their dancing skills are invited to participate in Owens Community College's first-ever Hip Hop Explosion Dance Con-

vention and Competition, April 5-6. Beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, attendees ages five and up will have the opportunity to master their dancing skills as part of an instructional program featuring nationally-acclaimed choreographers Flo Master and Dena

choreographers Matthew and William Hanson will provide expert instruction in hip-hop dancing as part of the program.

Individuals will be able to participate in one of three dance classes, which include junior (ages 5-11), senior (ages 14 and up) and teacher (adults in the dance instruction field). Participants will learn about an array of styles as part of the instruction ranging from locking to break dancing. The fee for the instructional portion of Hip Hop Explosion is \$50 for the general public and \$60 for dance teachers. Non-participants can observe the dance program for \$10.

In addition to the convention, area residents will have the opportunity to test their dancing ability against some of the best groups in Ohio as the College's Dance Express Team hosts its first-ever dance competition on Sunday, April 6.

Divisions for the competition will include junior high school, high school, and college or university. Categories within each division are Solo, Duo/Trio, Group (4-9 dancers), Line (10-20 dancers) and Production (21 or more dancers). Competition fees per person are \$40 for Solo, \$35 for Duo/Trio, \$25 for Group, \$20 for Line and \$20 for Production. Non-participants can observe the competition for \$10.

Routines performed by each individual cannot exceed two minutes and 30 seconds in length, while team routines cannot ex-

ceed five minutes in length. A panel of judges will critique all divisions with the top three teams in each category receiving awards.

The Owens Dance Express Team is comprised of seven students dedicated to promoting the College through the art of dance. The team regularly performs at halftime of Express basketball games and at various functions throughout the surrounding communities. Owens' student organization recently earned regional acclaim for its dancing, receiving a gold medal at the Co-Dance Convention in Toledo.

For more information about Owens' Hip Hop Explosion event, or to register for the convention or competition, call (567) 661-2569 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 2569. Individuals can also access information at www.owens.edu/dance.



Dena Rizzo

vention and Competition, April 5-6. The two-day event will feature hip-hop dance instruction from nationally-recognized professional choreographers Flo Master and Dena Rizzo, as well as a dancing skills talent competition.

Presented by the College's Dance Express Team student organization, the Hip Hop Dance Convention and Competition will occur from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day in the College's Student Health and Activities Center on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township.

"Owens Community College Dance Express Team is excited to bring the unique art form of hip-hop dance to northwest Ohio through instructional programming and competition opportunities," said Beth Sweny, Owens Dance Express Team Head Coach. "Hip-hop has a rich history within mainstream American culture. The Hip Hop Explosion Dance Convention and Competition provides the opportunity for individuals to not only celebrate the hip hop phenomenon, but to enhance their knowledge and skill level in an environment that promotes the positive aspects of the extremely popular dance style."

Rizzo. Flo Master serves as the lead choreographer for Usher and has appeared in films that include "You Got Served" and "Step Up 2 the Streets". Additionally, he has worked with the Monsters of Hip Hop organization and Jessica Simpson. Rizzo has collaborated with Paula Abdul and Martin Lawrence, choreographed several music videos and commercials, and worked with MTV. The renowned hip-hop choreographer was also a featured dancer in "Black Knight". In addition, local



UT Evening With The Arts to Include Music, Theatrical Performances And Food

Special to The Truth

Live music, food and beverages, an elegant setting, and exclusive performances of theatrical scenes are just some of the things guests will experience at the Visual and Performing Arts Alumni Affiliate's "Arts Night."

UT students from the Latin Jazz Group will provide background music throughout the event Saturday, April 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening begins at Calvino's in Cricket West and ends at Biggby's around the corner in Cricket West.

Tickets from favorite local arts organizations will be raffled, and attendees must be present to win.

The cost for this event is \$12 and includes light hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages. Cash bar provided.

Reservations can be made online at www.toledoalumni.org or by calling the UT Office of Alumni Relations at 419.530.2586.

INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELLA P. STEWART ACADEMY PLAYGROUND

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on April 16th, 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 **Ella P. Stewart Academy Playground**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by TCI 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 **April 2nd, 2008** which can be purchased from **Toledo Blueprint, 6964 McNERNEY 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 **April 7th, 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 Jeannene.Hill@lgb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No. 1 Site Work \$ 121,740.00

Total Estimate: \$ 121,740.00

Beta Gamma Xinos Compete at Regional Conference

By Carmen Nathaniel,
Libbey High School Student
Special to The Truth

Members of the Beta Gamma Xinos chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa national sorority will attend their Midwestern Regional Conference March 18-30 in Gary, Indiana. Xinos sorors have spearheaded and participated in a plethora of community service and educational ventures in which they will compete while at the conference. Targeted areas include educational and community service to children, cultural history events, cultural and academic activities.

Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. is an organization of teachers and education administrators. There are presently 134 chapters throughout the United States, as well as two international chapters located in the Barbados and Monrovia, Liberia. Beta Gamma is the Toledo chapter and Linda Collins is the president.

One aspect of the sorority's Youth-Education-Service (Y.E.S.) Program is youth guidance. This facet of the program is supervised by members of the sorority and its major components include leadership training, development of strategies, study methods aimed at academic achievement, conceptualization of excellence, social growth and participation in community service.

These activities culminate in a regional Xinos/Kudos (male society) conference. Members of these groups, living within the respective regions, meet in a city designated by Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. While at the conference, students lodge in a supervised environment and compete in various academic, artistic and service venues. The students also attend workshops relevant to self-improvement and academic achievement. There are ap-

proximately 300 young people in attendance at each regional conference. They return home highly motivated to further enhance their achievement levels.

Members of Beta Gamma Xinos include: President Jessica Wiggins (Scott High School), Vice President Carmen Nathaniel (Libbey High School), Pandora and Barbara Anderson (Scott High School), Ashleigh Gregory (Anthony Wayne High School), Veronica Hicks (Toledo Early College High School), Esosa Oshodin (St. Ursula Academy), Tasha Adkins (Scott High School), Rachel Walker (Rogers High School), Danielle Thomas (Start High School) and Ahren Pettaway (Rogers High School).

This society is advised by India Santos and Cathleen Smith of the Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Beta Gamma Chapter.

Classic Album Review The Notorious B.I.G. *Life After Death* DISC 2

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Such an overwhelming response from that first review, I'm thankful ya'll were with me on that one.

So crazy, music is everywhere these days but when is the last time you heard a classic hip-hop album?

Yeah, U.G.E. has stuff like "Bopperz" by Onasis (Onasis Means Money Mixtape out soon) and "Get Cool" by Aye Dee – but still... we are very much in business to bring respectable artistry back to urban music.

For all the Lil Boosie, Lil Webbie, Lil Wayne, Shawty Lo, Young Jeezy and all that – good single for a few weeks but yo – hip-hop used to move people.

And I'm not talking about "...hip-hop used to blah blah blah" like some 40 year old cat who only remembers Audio Two and Kool G. Rap (eventhough, that's true classic-ish right there).

But I'm not asking you to reach back into the 80's when most of us were still not even allowed to listen to rap music with cursing in it, I'm talking about the mid to late 90's.

Not so long ago, but things have changed so much that our music now and our music then are worlds apart.

{Side note: just had a memory, I'm like nine years old and I bought an Eazy E tape from the store and my mom made me give that joint to my older cousin because I wasn't old enough to hear all those curse words. It was YEARS before I heard that whole album}

So, once again fam...lets travel back to 1997.

Double album after double album released by rappers you never knew had so much to say.

Now the King of New York releases a double album and every word will be

measured by the masses.

Disc One, if it had been an album unto itself – would be flawless.

Even in subsequent years... Blueprint 2.0 by Jay Z and Street's Disciple by Nas – neither of them had Disc Ones that were as complete.

Some double albums make you feel like "damn, I sure hope this gets better on the next disc".

Biggie's *Life After Death* had peeps feelin like "damn, how much better can this get? I hope they don't mess it up."

And what do we find when we press play but another trend, another milestone and another hit.

"Notorious Thugs" – Biggie feat. Bone Thugz N Harmony – produced by Stevie J. and Puff.

An East Coast rapper... wait, hold up. The East Coast rapper of the day...flippin the whole speed-staccato rap style? Unfathomable at the time!

Remember, even the Jiggaman left that tongue twisting flow back in the day and let them Mid West boys from Cleveland and Chicago handle that.

So now Biggie invites Bone on his album and he keeps pace with them, single handedly setting a trend for the album feature cut where an emcee of one style adopts the style of another region.

As an A&R would put it "this a track showing his versatility."

But this started with this very song, "Notorious Thugs."

At over six minutes in length and not a 16-bar verse to be found, this song may not be Boom Bap but its lyrical assault and damn near rock production is exactly the opposite of what many thought of Bad Boy and Bone

– gimmick. This was not about a gimmick.

Hell, the song starts with a vamp that lasts over a minute, that's not formulaic – that's unheard of!

"Armed and Dangerous..." that Biggie verse cemented his G.O.A.T. status in the hearts and minds of many and although not all of Bone's verses were on par...this was one of the most potent and memorable tracks on the album.

And in a stroke of pure genius, this one song turned the King of New York into a mainstay on Midwest radio stations by reaching out to tap into a sound that would one day dominate the charts.

Next up is "Missing You" feat. 112 and production by Kay Gee (Naughty By Nature).

Keeping pace with the "one song followed by a completely and totally different type of song" steelo established on disc one, B.I.G. goes from thuggin' to the whole regretful hood sorrow joint.

That's some mess I give Mobb Deep credit for starting, East Coast hip-hop was smarter on the grimy stuff than the West Coast. The whole gangsta, criminal persona gets old after 10 songs so many albums would expose the softer side of a so-called hardcore rapper and this joint fulfilled that prerequisite.

Not a lane B.I.G. created, but certainly one he occupied well.

Then there's "Another" feat. Lil Kim, produced using one of Bad Boy's various production styles – the whole synth/hand clap steez. Verses were downright raunchy and actually when I first got this album I remember not being on this song that

(Continued on Page 13)

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Stop being so suprised!

A Close Look at MyPyramid for National Nutrition Month

By Patrice Powers-Baker,
OSU Family Nutrition Program
Special to The Truth

In 2005, the USDA unveiled the new food guidance system "MyPyramid" to replace the old food guide pyramid. One of the most noticeable differences is that instead of stacking on top of one another, each of the five food groups are now represented side-by-side as vertical bands in the pyramid. An addition to this food guidance system is the set of stairs and silhouette of a person walking up the left-hand side of the pyramid.

What does this mean? It's a reminder to balance healthy food choices with physical activity every day. This is not necessarily a diet but a recommendation about healthy lifestyle choices in regards to nutrition and exercise. Every part of this new symbol shares a healthy message.

Why the title "MyPyramid"? It's yours! And it's mine and it's the kids' down the street. The USDA's MyPyramid symbolizes a personalized approach to healthy eating and physical activity. Depending on your age, your physical activity and your gender, will determine your calorie level and then the number of servings you should choose from each of the five food groups. Online, MyPyramid.gov is the USDA website for personalized information about specific calorie levels as well as suggestions for meeting the recommendations within each food group.

Under the title is the slogan, "Steps to a Healthier You". You do not need to change everything overnight! Just start with one

new, good habit, and add new ones over time. People can benefit from taking small steps to improving their diet and lifestyle each day.

- Vary your veggies (vegetables)
- Focus on fruits (fruits)
- Get your calcium-rich foods (milk)
- Go lean with protein

Americans are urged to be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days of the week.

Five of the colored stripes, orange, green, red, blue, and purple represent the five different food groups in addition to a very small yellow line for healthy oils. This reminder is to eat food from all five food groups throughout the day. Each food group has a specific message for healthy choices:

- Make half your grains whole (grains)

(meat & beans)
Oil is not one of the five food groups but it shows up as a yellow line on MyPyramid as a reminder that we need good fats in our daily food choices. Good oils are in a variety of foods that we eat and we can make healthy choices when preparing foods. Choose olive oil or vegetable oil instead of solid fats for sautéing vegetables. Choose leaner ways of preparing meats such as grilling or baking over deep frying.

Proportionality is shown by the different sizes of the food group bands. The widths suggest how much food a person should choose from each group. The widths are a general guide, not exact proportions. Notice that the green stripe for vegetables is larger than the red stripe for fruit. This does not mean that vegetables are

more important than fruit. It reflects that we should get an average of 2.5 cups of vegetables a day and an average of 2 cups of fruit per day.

Why are the colored stripes wider at the bottom of the pyramid? There are no good foods or bad foods but there are nutrition-rich foods that people should choose to eat more often. Every food group has foods that you should eat more often than others; these foods are at the bottom, or wider part of the pyramid. The narrower top area stands for foods containing more added sugars and solid fats. For example, when choosing a breakfast item from the grain group, oatmeal, a whole-grain from the bottom of the stripe should be chosen more often than a donut, a higher-fat option from the top of the orange stripe.

The person climbing the stairs is the reminder to do something active every day. Americans are urged to be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days of the week. Increasing the intensity and time of exercise can have great health benefits. The accumulated total is what's important so three ten-minute bouts of physi-

cal activity during the day equal a total of 30 minutes for the entire day. Being physically active is a key element in living a longer, healthier, happier life. It can relieve stress and can provide an overall feeling of well-being. Physical activity can also help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lower risk for chronic disease.

MyPyramid for Kids looks very much like the adult version although there is a young cartoon character running up the stairs and of the kids' pyramid. The other difference is found in the slogan. Instead of "Steps to a Healthier You" the kids version states, "Eat Right. Exercise. Have Fun." Isn't that a great message for youth as well as adults?

For more information, visit MyPyramid.gov, the Web site that will give more details to your personalized pyramid. The Ohio State University Extension has an office in every county to engage people to strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming. This article was provided by the Family Nutrition Program at OSU Extension, Lucas County.

Kilpatrick Indicted

(Continued from Page 5)

Lindsey specializes in high-profile cases. Also on the team are Robert Moran, the principal attorney in charge of the Homicide Unit, a 15-year veteran of the prosecutor's office; Athina Siringas, a member of the Homicide Unit who specializes in civil cases and Robert Spada, the Principal Attorney in the county's Forfeiture Unit.

"Some have suggested that the issues before us



are personal or private," said Worthy during her press conference. "Our investigation has clearly shown that public dollars were used, people's lives were ruined, the justice system was severely

mocked and the public trust trampled on. This case is about as far from being a private matter as one can get."

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Classic Album Review

(Continued from Page 11)

tough. But that Lil Kim verse is proof that she locked it down for females because I knew girls that memorized that whole thing.

But although "Another" is pretty cool, it's not a stand out track... and then when you add in the fact that the song that came before it was pretty cool, but again not a stand out track... you start to figure: "Hmm, this Biggie double album may be starting to show some weak points"

Skeptics got their horade all ready to sip proclaiming "See! Not even B.I.G. and Puff can create the perfect hip-hop double album".

But then again, this Disc 2 has a lot more room to go and you judge this overall...not only track by track. Even though "Missing You" and "Another" are not stand out tracks, neither of them are wack in any way shape form or fashion Just have to be in the right mood.

But then, just when you think the album has hit a low point...

"...Whoa, Cali?"

"Going Back to Cali."

Another stroke of genius, another region dominated, another barrier crossed, another trend started, another hit solidified. Do you know the words to this song? Sure you do!

"It's the No-to-ri-o-us ... you just lay down slow ... recognize a real don when you see one!"

Easy Mo Bee flipped the most over used west coast rap sample of all time in a way that chopped it up just enough to have some New York appeal while giving props to Cali.

And then... now that the album has your complete and undivided attention again... it jumps right back into welcome and familiar territory—true hip-hop "Its' The Ten Crack Commandments."

A classic is born. An instructional how-to joint that takes a thoughtful approach to the entry level drug dealer

lifestyle so many rappers and rap listeners are all too familiar with.

This is the first time on Disc 2 where the visual rhymes come back, the humor comes back, the wit comes back—all in one song. Truly one of the most original concepts in recent hip-hop history, and also a another notch in the D.J. Premier/Biggie collabo arena.

What comes next is even more groundbreaking.

Like, you're already riding pretty high listening to this and now...you notice that you're being taken somewhere you never expected to go—Biggie sings!

"Playa Hater" features a live band, background singers and Biggie and Puff getting their 5 Heartbeats on the whole way through (okay, not a good version of the 5 heartbeats, but you get it).

I mean, B.I.G. is all out singing on this joint. And actually...the tone of his voice isn't as irritating as you might think when he's vocalizing. But it's also another Bad Boy staple, the funny-as-hell moment on so many Bad Boy releases in the 90's (anyone remember that skit on Total's album where a certain C.E.O. was getting spanked?). So it's totally hilarious, but it's actually not a bad song.

Now you're feeling it right? So what the second disc didn't hit you with the same radio friendly hits and all about verbal onslaughts as the first disc. The second half of *Life After Death* is far more conceptual.

Each song is treated as its own statement, and they are all different.

"Nasty Boy" starts with the skit... I won't even get into it. If you know what I'm talking about, you're already laughing your ass off right now just thinking about B.I.G. saying "...so I'm supposed to hit that after that?" LMAO dude, pure comedy.

Anyway, "Nasty Boy" is a pure party starter as B.I.G. tells various freaky tales and

still keeps the humor in there somehow: "*Ladies, my Mercedes...hold four in the back, two if you fat.*"

Swag is in full swing on this one and the production is a pure example of Bad Boy's Hit Men taking direct at the dance floor. But...the party can't last forever.

And from here on out *Life After Death* takes on a much more serious tone.

"Sky's The Limit" hits a nerve with me.

This Biggie review isn't just because it's March or just because it's a classic.

When I turned 30 on February 26, for reasons still unknown, I spent the next 5 or 6 days listening to two songs in the car. No matter where I went, what time of day...two songs on constant rotation and "Sky's The Limit." The mood of this song is very powerful, because it's inspirational but nowhere near sappy. The chord structure evokes heavy subject matter and 112's vocals add a sense of longing to the scope of the song. "Ashy to Classy," that's what we all want right?

Christopher Wallace may have been a bigger than life rap personality, but he was still somehow the people's champ in a way. Regardless of what haters say, this song is pure proof that tales of Cristal and Versace never dominated Bad Boy albums or Biggie rhymes.

Telling how his early days wanting to rise out of obscurity and struggle may have included passage through the drug game, but even drug dealers have the entrepreneurial spirit to enterprise.

Hell, more than most. Never glorifying, it was Biggie and Jay Z who popularized the whole reflective hustler mentality in rap music. Where the average rapper says "I sell drugs, and I'm the man," these two dug far deeper into the psyche of someone succeeding at something that eats away at their soul. Most peeps don't know that "Sky's The Limit" has a video.

Youtube it, you won't be disappointed.

"...when the remy's in the system, ain't no tellin will I f**k em will I dis em..." — B.I.G. from

"*The World Is Filled*". Pure pimpin', and that music is so ill.

I mean, damn — I could listen to this D.Dot gem without any vocals... the music is just that ill.

Carl Thomas on the hook just adds to the Cadillac atmosphere, then you've got a decent verse from Puff, an amazing verse from Biggie capped off with a legendary verse courtesy of none other than too short! I mean, Short Dawg was never a lyricist... I used to hear his raps and although they were memorable I was always somewhat bothered by how overly-simplistic they were but he brought a higher grade of rhyme with him when did his guest spot on *Life After Death*.

Then they just let him talk at the end, and it ends with what?

"Beeyotch!" Priceless.

Okay, remember how I said when I turned 30 I spent the next week or so listening to two songs?

The other song is "My Downfall."

I don't know why. Honestly, I need hip-hop counseling maybe. This song is a masterpiece to me. I mean that, a masterpiece. I'm for real, the entire day on my born day I listened to this and every day after it for a week.

"That's not all, emcee's have the gall to pray and pray for my downfall".

When I got this CD back in 1997, this was...it was an emotional song.

Stirring and reminiscent of the same inner-reflection that made "Ready To Die" such a classic but at the same time updated with current reality. This is B.I.G. still somewhat at his wits end, but this time it's not him causing his own drama...it's him

dealing with the reality that his success has made him a target.

It's conceptual yeah—but when you think of everything B.I.G., J.M. and Bad Boy was facing then... this song has more weight to it than anything that has preceded it on either disc.

Beginning the final trifeacta, a mini theme emerges as *Life After Death* draws to a close.

Production values start to reach far out proportions.

This track and the way B.I.G. rhymes to it is a whole different time signature than most rap music typically is. DMC on the chorus, surrounded by eerie female vocals, sound effects, string and organ arrangements that create an in-escapable dark aura and then Puffy book ends the whole joint on some stressed to the limit response to the pressure type-ish that just seems too real to write off as just some Puffy adlibs. And then there are the rhymes. I mean come on, maaan, this is classic material you will remember when you're 50! "...silencers so you can't hear it".

This is not a rapper reciting lyrics. This is a man on the edge. This is a window into a mood so desperate, most of us can't even embrace the thought. For an artist to go to such a place, it speaks volumes about either what they will do to create or what they are dealing with when they are not creating.

"My Downfall"—masterpiece. Kiss Goodnight"... Produced By The RZA. This is the empire striking back. Somewhat. When you know who came out with "Hit Em Up" and took rap beef to historic levels... everybody wondered why B.I.G. didn't respond...some folks don't know that there was indeed a response.

B.I.G. held his tongue, took the higher road, Bad Boy got on some Grown Man Get Money-ish and they just took it. People thought his response would be on the second album, but he said far before its release that he hadn't planned on releasing any material to keep the beef going or answer back.

But even though it wasn't

released, something was recorded.

I had this mix tape straight from NYC back then and it contained a song...well, a battle rap by Biggie starting with the words "Diamonds On My Neck, chrome drop top, chillin on the scene smoking pounds of green." That verse was later altered and included on "Born Again" but in its original version, Biggie got open! Regardless of the mass appeal of "you know who", he never had the wit, wordplay and overall talent with rhymes that Big Poppa had. Hell, Biggie is top five emcees ever to touch a microphone if not the best in some folks minds...how could he lose a battle rap to someone with only a few words in their vocab?

But you should hear that joint. Find it.

Biggie did more damage to his opponent in a shorter song with no video just because the wordplay was far more ill.

But, I digress. "Long Kiss Goodnight" is what many perceived to be the answer track, in my opinion... somewhat yes, but mostly no.

However, it is one monster of a song tho.

It's not what I first expected from a RZA/ Biggie collabo but I quickly grew to love the organs and all out stampeding production and larger than life sound that still managed to solidify one of the catchiest melodies on the entire album. Rhymes are full blast.

That's how the first two verses of this joint get me, but the third kinda didn't measure up to the first two.

Like I said, the last three songs on Disc 2 just create a mood all their own.

Not just classic material but heavy, profound and vastly unforgettable — each song leaves a mark.

"You're Nobody (til somebody kills you)" is the final song on *Life After Death*.

Do you remember? Do you remember what you thought listening to this? Thinking about B.I.G.'s passing.

Thinking about the power of words. Thinking about premonition, conspiracy and irony.

Do you remember what (Continued on Page 14)



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Classic Album Review

(Continued from Page 13)

mental space you were in digesting the very last taste of a double album that you were now sure of was the best double album hip-hop has ever seen?

When the track starts, it's obvious that this is unlike anything you've ever heard.

Simplistic and musical at once.

Every verse contains the moral resolution that backs up the point being made on

the chorus, even though the third verse gets the most attention. Yeah, "dark skinned Jermain" has been mentioned in more than a few rap records since Big first spun this tale.

But it's that chorus that gets you.

B.I.G. with Faith BOTH singing such a piercing refrain "You're noobody... til somebodyyy... kills you".

I mean damn, I love KRS One, Nas, and even later on

Common and Talib.

But B.I.G. took his own mortality and made a statement that anyone could learn from, but this album concludes with the entire *Ready To Die* and *Life After Death* theme fulfilled and satisfied.

Disc 1 was the money disc, the well thought out and successful ambush of dance floors, radio playlists and stoops in the name of establishing B.I.G. as king of all

those areas.

Disc 2 was the conceptual disc — the region jumping, risk-taking collection of original and damn near experimental hip-hop that culminates into a grand finale where the artist wrestles his demons in front of everyone.

Life After Death is the most cohesive hip-hop double album of all time.

Life After Death is the most successful hip-hop

double album of all time.

Life After Death is the most groundbreaking hip-hop of the last 10+ years.

After this release, rappers clamored to fill their slots with "the West Coast track" and also "the fast rapping track" and also "the party track" right next to the "hood anthem track" and so forth.

After this release, rappers started to attempt being all things to all people and found

themselves doing songs with people from a different corner of the United States — all so they can emulate the patterns of Big Poppa and Puff.

We may never have it this good again, fam, give props and respect to a classic.

The true grade for *Life After Death* by the Notorious B.I.G. = CLASSIC!

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 Upper Master Suite w/Sky Lights, Anderson Windows, six jet whirlpool, fireplace, hardwood floors, ceramic tile floor in kitchen, finished basement
Alma Dortch-Gilbert - 419.297.2301 adortchgilbert@sbcglobal.net

1158 Vance Street - \$34,900
 Great home for a large family, 4 bedrooms/possibly 5, has walk in closets, newer gutters, nice garage.
Call Donnette Tiggs, Welles Bowen, Realtors 419.290.4567 or 419.891.0888

1543 South Avenue - \$74,900
 Well maintained, newly remodeled with updates, 3 bd, 1 1/2 baths. Basement & 2 car garage.
Call - John F. Kevorn 419.261.1233

1319 Palmwood - \$27,627
 Two story 3 bd home, newer furnace, some updated windows, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher stays plus an extra lot.
Call Donnette Tiggs, Welles Bowen, Realtors 419.290.4567 or 419.891.0888

CLASSIFIEDS

Looking for an Exciting Summer Job Opportunity?

The Children's Defense Fund Freedom SchoolsSM is seeking teaching intern volunteers to nurture and mentor children ages 5-18 in Toledo, OH.

POSITION: **Servant Leader Intern**

DUTIES:

- Deliver the Integrated Reading Curriculum to a class of no more than ten students for 5 – 8 weeks during the summer months, according to the standards developed by the Children's Defense Fund and the local program sponsor.
- Set-up and breakdown of his/her classroom space, including securing and organizing the appropriate materials.
- Collaborate with staff to establish and maintain a supportive and structured environment for the children entrusted to their care.
- Serve as a *Harambee!* leader each day of program operation.
- Serve as a leader of afternoon activities and other special events; chaperone field trips.
- Attend mandatory National Training at Alex Haley Farms June 1-8, 2008.

STIPEND:

\$2000 for 5 Weeks in the classroom + 1Week training (travel expenses paid)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Download and complete application at www.centerofhopebaptist.org. (click on "job opportunities")
- One letter of recommendation from a faculty member, administrator, or employer
- One unofficial transcript of academic records
- A resume or CV

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tracee L. Stewart, Executive Director
 Center of Hope Family Services
 151 N. Michigan, Suite 314
 Toledo, OH 43604
 Fax: (419)-241-7990
 email: tperryman@sbcglobal.net



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Health benefits/pension program+ paid vacations

Up to \$50.00 per visit

Fax resume to 419-389-1300

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Partners In Education seeks a professional administrative assistant with strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills, proficiency in MS Word and Excel and databases and ability to work under time constraints. High School degree, at least 3 years' experience required. College degree preferred. Email resume and salary requirements to resumes@partnerstoledo.org. No phone calls, please respond by April 4th, 2008. EOE

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

**Now Accepting Applications
 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**

Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older or Mobility Impaired. Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included. Call (419) 729-7118 for details.

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY/
 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**



Looking for an Exciting Summer Job Opportunity?

The Children's Defense Fund Freedom SchoolsSM is seeking teaching intern volunteers to nurture and mentor children ages 5-18 in Toledo, OH.

POSITION: **Assistant Site Coordinator**

DUTIES:

- To greet children and parents as they arrive daily.
- To aid in setting up breakfast, lunch, and snacks for classrooms.
- To contact parents weekly to follow up on volunteer activities, and to inform them of upcoming events.
- To produce all correspondence, flyers, and other word processed materials.
- To keep all documents in an organized fashion.
- To maintain "Island of Peace."
- To assist staff in field trips and assemblies.
- To assist Site Coordinator and Project Director in any tasks designated.
- Collaborate with staff to establish and maintain a supportive and structured environment for the children entrusted to their care.
- Attend National Training in Clinton, Tennessee May 28th to June 8th, 2008.

STIPEND:

\$2000 for 5 Weeks in the classroom + 1Week training (travel expenses paid)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Download and complete application at www.centerofhopebaptist.org. (click on "job opportunities")
- One letter of recommendation from a faculty member, administrator, or employer
- One unofficial transcript of academic records
- A resume or CV

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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 Toledo, OH 43604
 Fax: (419)-241-7990
 email: tperryman@sbcglobal.net



DEADLINE:

Please arrange to have all materials sent (email and fax are fine) to Tracee L. Stewart by **April 20, 2008**.

For further information, please visit http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageNavigator/Freedom_Schools **AND** <http://centerofhopebaptist.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=40792&PID=505070&Style>

Independent Housing Facility

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is a subsidized independent housing facility for those 62 or older. We are located in a beautiful, quiet residential setting in Perrysburg. Abundant Life offers one bedroom garden apartments with private patios, indoor mailboxes, reserved parking and busing to local grocery stores. Applications are now being accepted.

Call 419-872-3510 or 419-874-4371



MISS JUNIOR TOLEDO PAGEANT

Are you interested in becoming a Contestant in the 2008 Miss Junior Toledo Pageant?

Do you possess a performing talent i.e., singing, dancing, poetry, musician, orator, acrobatics etc.? Are you between the ages of 12 & 18 years old not turning 19 before July 27, 2008?

Dare to be different and take a leap of faith! Believe in yourself and in what you can do! Fill out the following form and mail to the address below or fax to 419-531-9406.

Name: _____ Age: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Performing talent: _____

School you currently attend: _____

Present Grade Level: _____

**Mail to: Miss Junior Toledo Pageant
 2124 Calumet Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43607
 419-450-7031**

2008 YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The 13th annual YWCA Milestones Awards Luncheon was held last week at the SeaGate Convention Centre with all of the usual aplomb and efficiency that has made this event noteworthy over the years.

This year's honorees included Marie Vogt for the arts; Diane Larson for business; Joan Durgin for edu-

cation; Lucas County Board of Commissioners President Tina Skeldon Wozniak for government; Ireatha Hollie for science; Sister Dorothy Thum for social services and Marna Ramnath for volunteerism.

In a new wrinkle this year, a special tribute was paid to Ruth Oatis – the Milestones first Woman of

Distinction. Oatis was honored for her lifetime of service to the Toledo community "in a multitude of different aspects," according to information released by the YWCA.

As usual the SeaGate Centre was filled to capacity by attendees who came to honor the Milestones recipients.



Polly Fox students (l. to r.): Brittany Williams, Mychee Wright, Joan Durgin, Valerie Hedrick, Shantesta Wells, Ta'nisha Hogue



Milestones Honorees (l. to r.): Marie Vogt, Diane Larson, Joan Durgin, Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Ireatha Hollie, Sister Dorothy Thum, Marna Ramnath

Also in attendance this year were five students from the Polly Fox Academy, a school dedicated to

pregnant and parenting teenage girls. Durgin, who was honored for her work in education, is the devel-

opment coordinator for Polly Fox and has served with the Toledo Public Schools for 30 years



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