



Local and National News

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Volume 14, No.17

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

August 13, 2008

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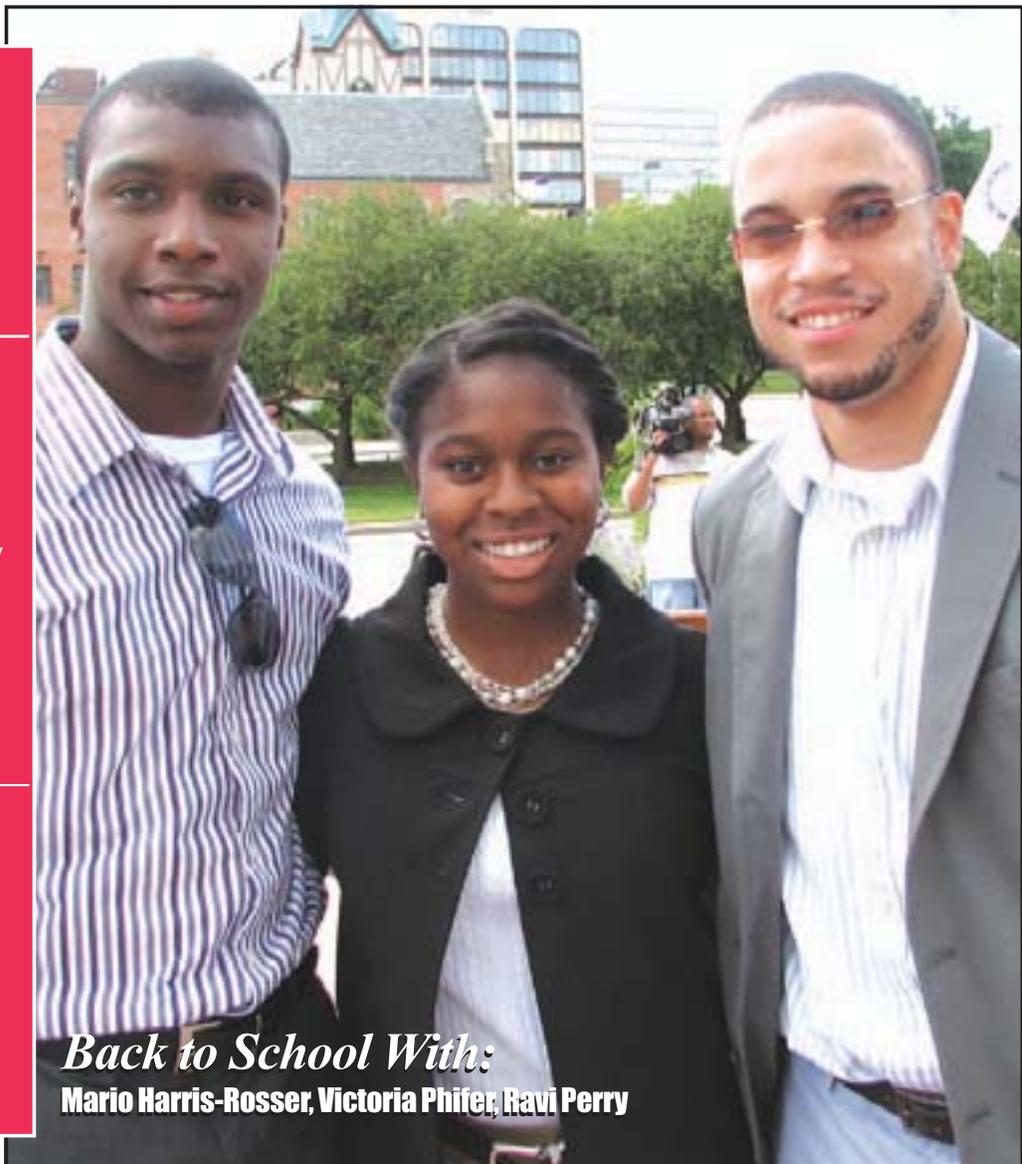
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Back to School With:
Mario Harris-Rosser, Victoria Phifer, Ravi Perry



Nicole Rice
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This Strikes Us ...

The Sojourner's Truth Editorial

If anyone had guessed that the racial tension that has defined Lima since January 8 of this year would disappear once the verdict was rendered in the criminal case against the police sergeant who shot and killed a young woman and injured the child she cradled in her arms ... guess again.

And why should it?

The Lima incident is a perfect example of government run amok—totally insensitive on virtually every level to the concerns of the citizens it purports to serve.

From the home invasion, to the false promises to keep Lima residents in the loop, to the charges filed against the police officer, to the verdict by a jury purged of blacks, this whole affair has reminded us of just how out of control our government agencies can be.

Picture this scenario if you will. The Lima Police Department makes a decision to take a SWAT team into the home of a mother of six young children in order to apprehend her boyfriend from whom the police had already made numerous drug purchases—none of them in or near his girlfriend's home.

The police are not, in fact carrying out a drug raid, they have no evidence that drugs are in the house. They are carrying out a search warrant ... at night ... without knocking ... at a house with six young children ... to enhance their case against a small time drug dealer. The police already had more than enough evidence to simply arrest the man, one Anthony Terry. They just wanted more evidence because more drugs equals more time for the suspect.

A SWAT team against six young children and their mother. Unfortunately that was not the height of absurdity in this debacle. Much more to follow.

Government types flooded Lima, such as the former Attorney General Marc Dann, who promised the community that they would know exactly what was happening in the state investigation into what happened on the fateful night.

That promise was not fulfilled. The investigation was conducted in secrecy and released without any attempt to involve those affected by its contents.

Then came the indictments—two misdemeanor charges against a police officer who fired blindly in the night at a target he could not see. That, at any rate, is the best case scenario.

And then, of course, came the trial, conducted before a jury that contained no persons of color. And this unlikely coincidence occurred in a town that is 25 percent African-American.

During the trial, Sgt. Joseph Chavalia testified that he heard shots and saw a shadowy figure. He believed the shots were being fired at him by this figure. Actually, the shots came from behind him, fired by his fellow officers to kill the dogs in the house.

The deputy coroner testified that Sgt. Chavalia would have had to have fired at a crouching figure because the bullets traveled in a downward path. Such an occurrence would have been unlikely if the officer had fired, as he testified, at a figure at the top of the stairs. The only way the bullets could have entered her body in that manner is if he was standing over the young woman as she knelt on the floor.

The jury of Sgt. Chavalia's peers would have none of this. They acquitted him of the two misdemeanor charges and the family of Tarika Wilson has hired a high-powered legal firm to represent them in the civil phase of the case.

Here's the problem with this case. One can give every government official associated with these incidents every benefit of the doubt and still one can only conclude that, conspiracy buffs aside, this is a troubled town as far as race relations are concerned.

Consider this fact. African-Americans use illegal drugs in about the same proportion as they are represented in the general population—this from statistics provided by the Department of Justice.

One of the reasons for the high percentage of drug arrests in the black population is the fact that drugs are often sold so openly in the central city, not that they are sold more frequently. It's easy for the police to pad their statistics by focusing on drug arrests in the central city.

In the case of Anthony Terry, they were handed everything they really needed by Terry himself and the way he conducted his business.

If the police really wanted to put a dent in drug trafficking they could focus on the homes in white neighborhoods where drugs are being used with every bit of the frequency that they are in black neighborhoods.

What they would need to do, if they were really serious about slowing drug trafficking, is to get warrants for homes in white neighborhoods. When do you think the Lima SWAT team last knocked down a door at night in a white neighborhood and terrorized a house where a bunch of young children resided?

Community Calendar

August 10-17

St Paul A.M.E. Zion 91st Anniversary Celebration Week: "We're Still Here;" Sunday at 11 am—Friends and Family Day; Friday at 7 pm—pre-anniversary musical special with guest pastor Rev. George Maize and Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion of Wilmington NC; Saturday at 11 am to 3 pm—BBQ dinners and clothing giveaway; Sunday at 11 am—91st church anniversary celebration service: 419-243-1065

August 12-14

2nd Annual Revival: New Hope MBC; 7 pm nightly; Guest Pastor Benjamin Stanley Baker of Southfield MI: 419-244-2964 or 419-349-2323

August 13-16

UMADAOPS of Ohio 19th Annual Conference: "Rebuilding the Fallen Bridge;" Hilton Hotel; Featuring CNN's Roland Martin, the Rance Allen Group; Dr. Stephen Perry, Kelly Williams, David Miller, Coach Powell and Dr. Jorge China: 419-255-4444 or www.regionline.com

11th Annual Holy Convocation: Interfaith Fellowship of Churches; The Clarion Hotel on Reynolds: 419-944-0984

August 16

Good & Plenty Party: Peacock Café; Proceeds to benefit Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure: 419-241-8004

Third Baptist Church of Holland Men's Musical: Featuring the Sons of Union of Romulus, MI; 6 pm

Women of V.I.R.T.U.E. One Year Anniversary Luncheon: "Virtuous Woman, What's in Your Hand?" Canaan MBC; 11 am to 1 pm; Guest Min. Lady Angela McCraney: 419-244-5700 or 419-902-2882

19th Annual Toledo Neighborhood Block Watch Family Picnic: Liz Pierson Shelter houses in Ottawa Park; 9:30 am to 3:30 pm; Open to the public; Speakers include city officials; Lunch at 11 am: 419-261-1721

5th Annual Summer Festival: Yummies Too; Talent show, food, entertainment, speakers; Amateur boxing show; Noon to 4 pm: 419-242-0338 or 419-810-0958

August 16-17

2nd Annual Uptown Family Festival: St. Paul's United Methodist Church; Noon to 8 pm on Saturday, Noon to 6 pm on Sunday; Entertainment, crafts, vendors, food, kids' rides: 419-243-8284

Gospel All-Stars 20th Anniversary: Saturday at Solomon Temple Church at 6:00 pm; Sunday at Spiritual Harvest Church at 5 pm

August 18

Spencer Township Community Fun Day: Third Baptist Church of Holland; Noon to 3 pm; Food, clothes, games, health checks, free school supplies: 419-242-7515

August 22

Aurora Project's 15th Annual Golf Scramble: Presented by National City and Cousino Harris; Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green: 419-244-3200

August 23

5th Annual Showcase of the Arts: Owens CC; 1 to 4 pm; Sponsored by AKA; Participants include visual and performing artists: 419-450-9552 or 419-973-8525

Alpha Phi Alpha 14th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament: Eagles Landing Golf Course; 4 pm

Abundant Joy Ministry's "A Night to Praise & Worship;" New Kingdom MBC; 6 pm; Voices of New Kingdom, Positive Force Christian Dance, Apphia & Heart Musick, COGIC Prime Ministry and more: 419-787-3732 or 419-699-0586

August 30

M.T.A.N. Foundation Back to School Community Festival: Bethlehem Baptist Church Life Center; 11 am to 3 pm; Family program agencies and services, school wear fashion show, giveaways, snacks, entertainment: 419-346-5275

Gospel Musical: Ebenezer MBC; Dec. Millard Catchings and The Voices of Zion; 6 pm Golf Outing for Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission: Heatherdowns CC; 8 am: 419-250-0009



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My View



By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Much is written about Scott High School and its renovation. Conspiracy theories abound but as with JFK's assassination, it is just talk and speculation.

The truth is that Toledo Public School chiefs do not have a crystal ball and have no way of knowing just how many students will be on hand in 2012 or who they will be. The Scott feeder district has many precincts that are losing housing units due to building decline, arson and/or "other" removals."

In addition, the private schools are becoming more and more aggressive in recruitment. All these things combined make for a smaller

school district, including fewer students at Scott. As I said last week, Toledo needs to place some BIG ideas on the drawing board for Scott High School.

Jan Scotland stated earlier that he expected many traditional black Democrats to buck the Donkey and ride with the Elephant on his behalf. It doesn't look that way based on the big yard signs I see going up. Scotland's home turf is Ward Six (Richards/Dorr) which is also the base for George Hillard of Torrington, arguably the hardest-working yard sign man in Democratic ranks these days. George can make or break an election.

Right next to Hillard is Weldon Douthitt, the best "street guy" in Ohio politics today. Weldon's sway goes far beyond yard signs to include fundraising, parade development and strategy. Weldon is also lined up with Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Scotland's opponent.

State Representative Edna Brown is in line to run for state senator to replace term-limited Teresa Fedor. But Fedor may want to return to the House where Peter Ujvagi holds her old seat. Something

will have to give but remember that Brown has the seniority factor in her favor. As senator, Edna Brown would be historic as the first black to crack the Senate ranks from the Toledo area.

The decision to tear down the United Way building will cost employees of the various agencies presently housed in the One Stranahan Square. Their employees park for free in a secure lot. If the new proposed plan has no other agencies on site, there will be a mad scramble for agency housing in Class B and Class C rental units downtown. There is very little free parking left. So agency staff essentially will have to pick up a new cost.

As to getting out of the present site, the building is too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter ... or vice versa depending on which side of the building you are located in.

It seems to me that everyone in Detroit is trying to take a slice out of the mayor. There is almost a frenzy going on to see who can do the most damage and how he can be brought down. I am not sure Detroit will recover anytime soon, whatever happens in the short run.

Four Thoughts That Grieve Me ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Commentary



(1) The total lackluster performance of the general Lima black population regarding the death of the young mother Tarika Wilson who was "negligently" gunned down while protecting her child(ren) from the unwarranted and repeated gunshots of Sgt. J. Chavalia.

Besides the usual and non effective marching and vapid speeches, I did not hear of any sustained fundraising activities (especially by the lame Negro ministers) to assist in hiring a top notch lawyer to do battle with the city over this heinous crime.

Why is it that when there is real grit work to be done, it invariably involves raising funds and when that happens, members of the "darker nation" tends to whistle and walk away?

Note: since this article, the mother of the deceased has hired a top drawer "legal eagle" law firm out of NYC. The fight is on! The case has been filed in the Toledo federal court. If this case goes to trial, make plans to attend.

(2) Lima. In a city that is 25 percent black, there were no blacks on the jury. There was an alternate black juror...big deal! A part of the dearth of blacks in a jury pool can be somewhat attributed to the Lima African-Americans not registering to vote since most jury selections are made from voter registration rolls. So...if you do not register to vote, please do me a big favor and shut up when it comes to mouthing off about injustices being done; and which can be partly remedied by you being available to serve on a jury.

(3) The Lima police did not have to be at that death house on that fateful night. Why? They had bought controlled drug buys from the named drug dealer before and could have arrested him several times before this needless shooting and thus they would have had no legitimate reason to go to the house at night and with a no knock search warrant! This was woefully shoddy police work and the police created the hostile environment that caused this senseless death. The mom did not even have a chance to answer the door! The City of Lima needs a multi-million judgment against it for this shooting death. You will be amazed how quickly policy and procedures change when an insurance company has to pay millions for the buffoonery and negligence of their insured parties.

(4) The deceased mother was bending over protecting her child when the police officer shot down at her since the bullets entered her spine/neck area. The mother was in a protective stance...not a belligerent stance and the shooter/officer was not able to identify his target. The flimsy excuse that he heard gunshots were not gunshots from the area of the crouching terrified mother but were coming from behind the shooter and where other officers were killing the barking dogs purportedly found in the kitchen area.

In nutshell, the police had no business at that residence when they knew the suspect had a residence of his own and he could have been arrested numerous times without going to the deceased's home. What a travesty of justice. In Lima on that date, the value of the lives of black folks did not amount to a thimble of warm spit.

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Board of Community Relations' 2008 Youth Empowerment Awards

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Board of Community Relations (BCR) recognized three individuals and one community organization last Friday, August 8, 2008, at a ceremony unveiling its 2008 Youth Empowerment Awards recipients. This year's honorees were Greg Braylock, David Bush, Joel Todd and Adelante, Inc. the Latino Resource Center.

The Youth Empowerment Awards were established in 2002—the inspiration of Ravi Perry, who was at the time one of the youth representatives of the BCR—in recognition of individuals or groups “who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication in working with and on behalf of youth,” according to the awards’ purpose statement. “Those who have helped in... the development of Toledo’s youth,” said Perry, a doctoral candidate at Brown University in Providence, RI, at last week’s ceremony.

Braylock, a Cleveland native who graduated from The University of Toledo, founded and coordinates the United Way of Greater

Bush accepting his award. “Live to dream ... dream to live and help make our city great.”

Todd, also a graduate of UT, where he was Braylock’s classmate in the class of 2007, is a counselor in the university’s Upward Bound Program. He is a volunteer at the Homer Hanham Boys and Girls Club, active in many departments there including tutoring and mentoring. He is also active in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc and vol-

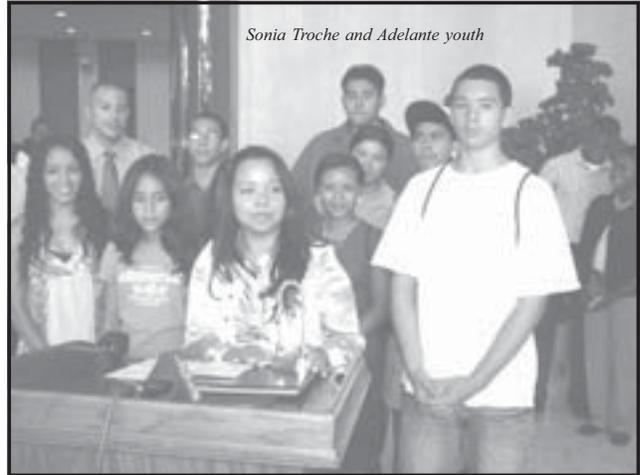
unteers at his church as well. “Those who invested in me inspired me to give back,” said Todd.

Adelante, Inc.’s mission is to provide programs that service Latino individuals and families. Over 300 youth have been impacted by programs such as Ganas (“will to succeed”) and the Youth Pre-

“Let’s make sure we think of young people on another level, as active participants in our society,” ~Greg Braylock

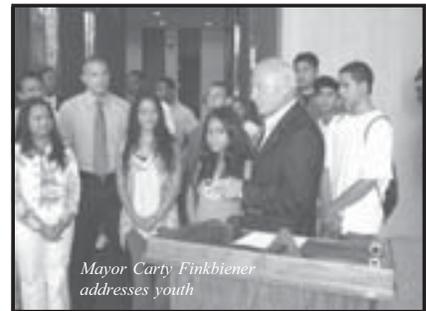
vention Program (YPP). Ganas focuses on youth development by empowering teens to set personal goals that will point them to a productive future. YPP provides support for youngsters aged six to 12 through holistic and culturally sensitive means.

Last week’s awards were presented by Mario Harris-Rosser, youth representative of the BCR, and Victoria Phifer, former youth representative and an intern with the Toledo Youth Commis-



Sonia Troche and Adelante youth

fall and Phifer will be a sophomore at Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Mayor Carty Finkbiener addresses youth



Greg Braylock



Juanita Greene and David Bush



Joel Todd

Toledo’s Youth United Way (YUW). YUW is a program that helps youth develop a platform to advocate for issues and to build the tools necessary to take action and change their communities.

“Let’s make sure we think of young people on another level, as active participants in our society,” said Braylock

Bush is the founder and executive director of Making a Direct Difference (MADD) Poets Society, a literary arts organization dedicated to making a difference in the community through poetry and lyrical self-expression.

Bush is himself a poet and performer who was named the Toledo Lucas County Public Library’s “Poet in Residence” in 2004. His students credit him with showing them that creative writing can be therapeutic.

“I would like to be a mirror-like image to inspire youth to achieve their greatness,” said

Hospice helped our family reach a final goal.



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“My husband, Willie, found out nothing more could be done for his cancer. He still had one last goal: to see our daughter, Joya, graduate from nursing school — which was nearly a year away.

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Laura, Willie's Wife

“Whenever we had questions, Hospice explained every answer. They knew what to provide even before we knew what to ask for. And the staff connected on a personal level, too. My dad’s nurse was like part of our family.

“Hospice made all the arrangements to get dad to my graduation, including the wheelchair and portable oxygen. Having dad see me cross that stage meant the world to me. Now that I’m an RN, I know great care when I see it. My dad had the best.”

Joya, Willie's Daughter



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Fannie M. Lewis: Cleveland's Legacy to Public Service

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Fannie M. Lewis died earlier this week at the age of 82. Lewis, who had once been a welfare recipient and had served on Cleveland City Council since 1980, was opinionated, outspoken and fiercely loyal to the neighborhood she represented on council.

Her constituency – Ward 7 – which included the historic Hough neighborhood benefited greatly from her service. Over the years the residents of Hough witnessed the construction of Lexington Village; hundreds of town houses on Hough Avenue; Crawford Estates, a cul-de-sac of homes on Crawford Avenue; the renovation of the Eliza Bryant Center – a nursing home – and the construction of expensive new homes in the area.

Lewis's achievements were never without controversy. The Bible-quoting advocate and legislature was famed for her propensity to speak the truth – no matter the circumstances.

Lewis moved to Cleveland's Hough neighborhood in 1951 to escape the discrimination and segregation of the South, particularly that of south Memphis, her hometown.

She became increasingly

active in the neighborhood after the riots of 1966 when four people were killed, 46 were injured and millions of damage was done to property along Hough Avenue. She became a recruiter for the Neighborhood Youth Corps, a city project that assisted people on finding work and, in 1972, was named director of the citizens' component of the Model Cities program, a national program aimed at developing grassroots initiatives to improve neighborhoods.

The Bible-quoting advocate and legislature was famed for her propensity to speak the truth

Lewis first ran for City Council in 1971. She lost that

race and the next four, finishing second each time. But by 1979, Lewis had become much more politically savvy. She told voters she would always be available to them. She won her seat in 1980 and never lost again. And she was indeed

always available to her constituents. She entertained the thought of running for governor in 1994 but eventually decided against it.

In 1996, Lewis was inducted into the Ohio Women Hall of Fame in Columbus. And in 2002 Lewis secured a notable triumph when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Cleveland school voucher program – a program Lewis had embraced with fervor.

Lewis had been battling rheumatoid arthritis for several years. She died early Monday morning.



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BACK to SCHOOL



Special Issue

Back to School Issue*Back to School Issue

Sticking to the Plan: Seeking Calm in the Eye of The Storm

By Mario Harris-Rosser, St. John's Jesuit
Special to the Truth



As I trekked between the tall, green trees and on the eroded cobblestone pathways, an anticipation of inevitable loss soon-to-come filled my thoughts. I slowed down my stride in order to fully appreciate the beauty of the violet and golden sky, and the radiant sun setting over the high arches of an ominous gothic cathedral.

I had spent the past 10 days on this university campus studying with the Princeton University Summer Journalism Program. Throughout that time I had built relationships with 20

or so other students – who came from all around the nation – engaged in discussion with eminent public intellectuals and scholars, and learned from and chatted with brilliant and renowned journalists and writers.

At this time in my life, being intellectually hungry and, frankly, in love with ideas and concepts for their own sakes, I had experienced a sense of fulfillment and had tasted the intellectual stimulation that would

I was to depart and return to my home – left with a feeling of nostalgia and loss and a remembrance of things past.

And I have returned understanding that a university such as Princeton could not sustain such a reputation of distinction without being truly distinct and that, it has proven to me, to truly be. The intense concentration of intellectual engagement and the never-ending questions and discussions about the

just as I had knew that I would have to leave Princeton which I had become so sentimentally attached to.

In addition, I am bracing for the unnecessarily stressful and menacing process of applying to college while, simultaneously, managing a full load of advanced course work. Perhaps I run the risk of over dramatizing these circumstances, the very same ones that so many others will surely experience. Furthermore, a shamefully debilitating sensation of uncertainty lingers in the back of my mind, leaving me unsure of my future ... mostly, what universities will ac-

cept me and what are the ramifications of such a rejection or acceptance.

As a result of these painstaking convergences and the anticipation of impending doom, I am constantly seeking out some sense of balance or calm. Regrettably, I must say that most of the time I do not find any such peace, because I know that I am subjecting myself willfully to this holistic ordeal only in the societal context within which I live.

In short, I go along with "the plan" and, ironically, any peace that I achieve stems from my awareness of the fallibility of this "plan" because a "plan"

can easily go wrong and because decisions are made by people who, undoubtedly, are given to moments of ridiculous behavior. So I realize that if things don't go according to "plans" my life isn't going to halt. I have ceased to be validated by "the plan."

But yes, I will apply to all the esteemed colleges and universities and possibly return to Princeton, or somewhere like it. And one day that will, at least partly, fulfill my hunger for knowledge and understanding. And I will go on attempting to make my mother and father "proud" accomplishing things and formulating "plans" of my own.

...what universities will accept me and what are the ramifications of such a rejection or acceptance.

surely come if I would ever have the opportunity to study as a full-time student at an institution such as Princeton. But the next day,

world that we live in have ceased to occur on the level that they had during my time at Princeton – at least around me – but, perhaps more importantly, this conversation has continued in my own mind, and I have tried to articulate my own mere ruminations through my writing and interactions with others.

With a rapidly approaching school year, this one in particular being my last at St. John's Jesuit, an anticipation of inevitably greater loss is filling my thoughts,



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Back to School Issue*Back to School Issue

Ever Learning, Ever Growing, Ever Thankful

By Victoria Phifer, HU Bison
Special to The Truth



"Reared against the eastern sky, proudly there on hilltop high. Far above the lake so blue, stands old Howard firm and true!"

The first stanza of Howard University's alma mater depicts an image of strength, legacy and pride. The alma mater rings clearly across the historic campus each day at noon as the bell tolls. Main campus, referred to students of today as "The Yard," has its own energy, and everyone is aware of the "rules" that govern the hallowed ground. Students traverse the intricately-patterned

walks to their classes; some greet friends when they have a free moment; others elect to sit and read a current issue of The Hilltop, enjoying the almost picture-perfect view. Grounds keepers water the shrubbery, while the geese feed on the grass. The students are focused, friendly and motivated – true Howardites. I'm glad to be amongst this group of scholars.

Howard University (HU) is a historically black university founded in 1867. The school bears the name of General Oliver O. Howard, the third president of the university and former commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau. It is located in northwest Washington D.C., and shares in the culture of the historic Shaw District. Although HU has a predominantly African-American student population, students learn from and value other cultures. My peers as well as my professors hail from nations in all corners of the globe. Because the university is located in

Washington, D.C., we have the added benefit of participating in several cultural festivities. Howard is wonderful because the entire cultural spectrum is reflected.

Many ask "Why, Howard?" or "Doesn't attending an HBCU limit you?" I am proud of my university, and often have trouble providing a brief response to these questions. Many factors were involved in my decision. I could mention the fact that Howard ranks 96th on the 2008 U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges" ranking; but that would not do the professors justice. I could note that we are the number-one producer of African-American Ph.D.s in the nation, but that would not give alumni due credit. I could even remind those in question that we placed fourth on a listing of the "Top 50 Colleges for Black Students," but even that would not completely honor the strength of the institution—often referred to as the *Black Harvard*.

Luminary figures frequent

"The Mecca." In my first year, I was able to hear addresses from **Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, Bishop Vashti McKenzie Murphy, Angela Davis, Rev. Michael Louis Pfleger, Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D. and Senator Barack Obama. I was able to meet and speak with leaders such as Benjamin Carson, Ph.D., Congressman Charlie Rangel, Cornel West, Ph.D. and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and this was just the first year! These are opportunities one must experience for themselves to truly understand what makes Howard unique.**

In short, Howard encompasses everything I hoped for in a college experience: strong academic character, exposure to culture, and social diversity. Most importantly, it has a rich history that all can be proud of. Sometimes, while walking the campus, I can't help but smile. Anyone would develop this feeling if they knew the history of the university.

Our buildings are named after many revered African-Americans whose legacy we benefit from today. Whether Fredrick Douglass, Alain Locke, E.E. Just, Charles Drew, Sojourner Truth, Moredcai Watt Johnson or John H. Johnson, each contributed something special to Howard. I smile even wider when I realize that my peers will be the new leaders, artists, scientists, philosophers, the new George Washington Carver, Marian Anderson, Paul Robeson, Thurgood Marshall, or W.E.B Du Bois! This is an encouraging feeling. It also sets the standard for the academic precision to be expected from each individual student. I want to be

my best because my peers are at their best.

Academically, I was encouraged, challenged and nourished by my professors and peers who are Ph.D.'s, published authors and Gates Millennium Scholars. This fall I will be a sophomore in the College of Pharmacy Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (CPNAHS), majoring in the study of Health Management and minoring in Community Health. As a freshman, I made sure to develop a close relationship with my professors by attending class every day, sending emails, just to let them know I enjoyed the class discussion; attending tutoring sessions and speaking to them after class.

Socially, I made many new acquaintances; I was truly blessed. A great deal of the student body hails from regions of the country far from Toledo. Many travel a far distance as international students, but it's always nice to find others from the Midwest. I also have a classmate from Toledo and we are great friends! The sights and sounds of the city can overwhelm the senses. Everything is an adventure. New to me was the go-go music and culture of the city. It is a musical genre I learned to appreciate, and even missed this summer here in Toledo.

Also, one can look forward to a fashion show everyday; our capital has a distinctive style. Of course, Washington D.C is known for the sights, and I look forward to seeing many more this year, such as the National Zoo. Nonetheless, my friends and I enjoyed the accessibility of the arts and culture around our campus as freshmen. We frequented Sankofa, an artsy and welcoming coffee shop, managed

by Howardalum. Each week, they feature "Sankofa Under the Stars," a local poetry exhibition in the summer and fall months. The National Mall, China Town, U Street, Adams Morgan, and much more are all a ride away – through the efficient Metro system!

A cornerstone of the university's mission is to provide leadership for America and the global community. Most recently, Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., former President of Bowling Green State University, was selected as Howard University's 16th president. During his tenure at BGSU, The President's Leadership Academy and BGEExperience were instituted. These are examples of his commitment to leadership, a skill that is expected of all students at Howard.

A range of courses and organizations offer students an opportunity to develop their leadership potential; the options are infinite. Early in the fall semester, I plunged into campus life by campaigning for a position on Dorm Council. Despite a very limited budget, I managed to secure the position of Dorm Council Vice President of the historic Harriet Tubman Quadrangle.

Ironically, I resided in the same building and hall that my mother entered in the fall of 1967. Dorm Council gave me a chance to serve my fellow residents and meet more of my peers. During the spring semester, I was able to work as a dorm captain on a student government campaign. This position taught me a great deal about organizing, time management and how to motivate others. Additionally, it exposed me to the Howard University Student *(Continued on Next Page)*

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A Home-Schooling Lesson in the Mirror:

Why Obtaining an Advanced Degree is No Longer a Luxury but a Requirement

By Ravi Perry, Brown University
Special to The Truth



Once upon a time in cities such as Toledo, high school graduates were assured a position at a local facility whose concentration was on international distribution –

steel, glass, automobiles, art. That was then! This is now!

No longer is only a bachelor's degree a guaranteed ticket to upward mobility. No longer does a bachelor's degree ensure one of the ability to buy a home or condo, to allow sufficient \$\$ for entertainment, to provide sufficient coverage through health insurance or to stave off the threat of unemployment. That threat of unemployment tends to be in indirect proportion to the level of education.

Menial, servile labor positions are just that – jobs and/or skills that will not afford a lifestyle much above the pov-

erty line, perpetuate a 'hand-out' culture, all while providing little recourse for the homeless and while encouraging unhealthy modes of life.

Too many of us are in those situations in which we think a 'right now' culture benefits us. Whether it is the growing number of young women who are 'tickled pink' about having a baby when, in actuality, they are merely expecting a monthly child support payment – or the many males and females who resort to petty crimes such as theft and peddling drugs for a quick buck – a 'right now' culture is severely damaging to the status of African American life.

What I really am venting about is the severe neglect by too many of us who

family have about an equal shot at either moving up on the economic ladder or mov-

current socioeconomic and political environment will unveil a roadmap to your admirable tomorrows. If I were a gambler, I'd bet that part of the decision making will include the completion of an advanced degree.

A guy named, John Dewey once said, "Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself!" To become educated is to *lead yourself* to higher ground, year in and year out. Why do you think folks want higher degrees, like a master's or a doctorate? How long does it take for a person to become a M.D., a gymnast, a photographer, a painter, an owner of a car dealership, etc.? The beauty of following a self-determined roadmap is that it's good for you, likely – forever. Those goals and dreams, once achieved and personally rewarding, will definitely allow you (that person in the mirror) to compete effectively in a global society.

And, in reality, to compete most effectively in a global society in today's era, a

haven't looked in the mirror. My suggestion is to talk to that person in the mirror! Ask that person what he/she plans to be doing in the next five years and consult with knowledgeable 'others' on how to make that a reality.

Make a liar out of the discouraging statistics about us, such as Toledo having the third highest black unemployment in the country. Help change some of the negative images in books and articles.

For example, in a Brookings Institution report entitled, *Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in America*, by Senior Fellows Ron Haskins, Julia Isaacs and Isabel Sawhill, the authors state that, "people who are born, for example, into a middle income

ing down. We have a lot less mobility at the top and the bottom of the ladder. If you're born into a poor family, it's very hard to escape and similarly, if you're born into a rich family, you're likely to stay there: we call that stickiness at the ends of the distribution."

For these authors, the conditions under which one is likely to change his or her economic circumstances will go unchanged if the status quo is the modus operandi. However, what this quote does not explain is what might occur if one refuses to accept his economic status quo and pursues an advanced education as a springboard.

Perhaps a look in the mirror with a keen eye toward the

Too many of us are in those situations in which we think a 'right now' culture benefits us.

Thankful

(Continued from Page 7)

Association (HUSA) political process and the many opportunities available to serve the student body. I hope this year to continue to be a servant leader as the newly elected financial secretary of the CPNAHS Student Council.

Students at Howard are very civically and socially driven; opportunities for community service are endless. My two greatest experiences freshman year were traveling to South Carolina to help Senator Obama's campaign and volunteering in New Orleans during Spring Break.

I was fortunate to travel on one of two charter buses of undergraduate and graduate HBCU students. We traveled to Florence, South Carolina in Febru-

ary to volunteer for Barack Obama's campaign. We were involved in phone banking, canvassing, and attending area churches. We were truly a part of history, and helped pave the way for a win during the SC primary.

Another eye-opening experience was my Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans, LA. Over 500 Howard students worked for the third year in a row to rebuild and revitalize the city. In particular, I volunteered through Mayor Ray Nagin's office.

Our group canvassed several parishes with pens and clip boards and spoke with residents. In sharing their personal testimonies about surviving the flooding, I gained a better understanding of the ground struggle residents continue to face

and appreciation for the history and culture of the region! I am so glad that I could take part in these rewarding experiences, and hope the occasion presents itself again.

This is my first week back in Washington, D.C., and the second leg of the journey – my sophomore year – will begin shortly. I am grateful for all that I accomplished in my first two semesters, and I hope to achieve much more. I'm ever learning, ever growing, ever thankful. Without the encouragement and support of family, friends, church family and mentors here in Toledo, my experience would mean nothing.

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Prince Hall Scholarship Foundation Presents Scholarships

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Prince Hall Scholarship Foundation awarded 47 scholarships to students who are starting and continuing their college education, on Saturday, August 2 at the Park Inn Hotel.

"It's an honor to be here for this occasion. Helping a child is a terrible thing not to do. I'm excited to have Sister Phifer here to speak; we encourage students to give us a progress reporter. We still have to reach our goal of one million dollars. Appreciate my brothers in their faithful giving," said Rev. James H. Willis, Sr., pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and a foundation

trustee. Victoria Phifer, a 2007 graduate of Maumee Valley Country Day School and current student at historic black college Howard University in Washington, D.C., spoke about how Moses and the Israelites survived their oppressors. She encouraged the recipients to overcome their oppressors and enjoy their experience.

"Please take these words as words of experience only," said Phifer. "In Moses' final days he encouraged his people, his message was to be strong in times of confusion."

In 1981, the Prince Hall

Scholarship Foundation began its quest to finance deserving young people who wish to move onto higher education. Throughout the year the foundation accepts donations from individuals and businesses, and also sponsors a raffle ticket drive to raise the remaining funds. Then a 16-member panel narrows down the applicants to the recipients, based on grade-point-average and volunteerism.

"We applaud Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio for their donations which allow us to support these students. Tonight is not about us, or the foundation, or Masons, but about the people we support," said Ronald Ogletree, executive director of Prince Hall Scholarship Foundation.

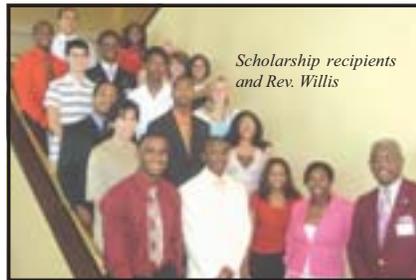
The 2008 scholarship recipients were: Francosca Adams, James Baker, Adam Chow, Allison Glanzman, Dominique Hopkins, Adam McCabe, Samantha Meacham, Lauren Pever, Holly Steiner, Tiffany Akpan, Brittany Greenwood, Nicholas Hastings, Victoria Phifer, and Martina Turner of Toledo; Robert Smith and Aaron Thompkins of Can-

ton, Ohio; Jaymon Ballew, Keenan Maul, Jerelle Prather, Jessica Byrd, and Olivia Moragne of Cincinnati; Kylee Barnett of New Albany, Ohio; Makia Brown, Ashley Allen, Michael Davis, Gabrielle Jackson, and Julian Strother of Warren, Ohio; Michael Cooper of Springfield, Ohio; Michael Daniels and Gabriel Washington of Lorain, Ohio; Hude Dupart, Aziza Macklin, Angela Christie, and Janielle Hairston of Columbus; Adrienne Fairbanks, Mycal Carr, and Damian Walker of Dayton; Jeremy Frazer of Youngstown, Ohio; Eric Kidd of Akron; Michael Martinez of Ottawa Lake, Michigan; Monique McMillan of Cleveland; Eric Thompson of Sylvania, Ohio; Chelsea Watkins and Maureen Cadogan of Portsmouth, Ohio; Jessica Addai and LaShonda C. Jones of Mansfield, Ohio; also Theodore McCloe of Middletown, Ohio.

Prince Hall Scholarship Foundation donations can be mailed to: Prince Hall Scholarship Foundation; 50 Hamilton Park; Columbus, Ohio 43203.



Gabriel Washington, Ashley Allen and Jessica Byrd



Scholarship recipients and Rev. Willis



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Lesson

(Continued from Page 8)

bachelor's degree is no longer sufficient. In fact, in a growing number of industries a bachelor's degree is equivalent to a high school diploma and minimal experience. It follows, then, that attaining an advanced degree (i.e., master's, J.D., Ph.D., etc) is a necessary condition to compete effectively in a global society. An advanced degree, for many, is no longer a luxury or a salary bonus. For many attractive and lucrative positions that are also personally rewarding, it is a requirement.

Forgive me if I sound elitist. However, I chose to write of the facts. And no matter what those in our cliques may discourage us from doing, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan once famously said, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts."

The fact is an advanced degree is a necessary condition for many people in

order to achieve their goal of socioeconomic upward mobility.

This week I'll be looking in the mirror and conducting my periodic evaluation.

I strongly encourage the process of self analysis and goal-setting in the mirror.

I don't think you'll be surprised by the results. However, you might be surprised by the path chosen to reach the defined goals.

That path most likely includes completion of an advanced degree.

Go for it and let me know about the new you!

Editor's Note: Ravi Kumar Perry is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Brown University and currently is the Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of African American Politics at the University of Rochester. He may be reached at ravi_perry@brown.edu.

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Back to School Issue*Back to School Issue

Affordable & Free Tutoring In Your Home Available in Toledo

By Donna Sharper
Special to The Truth



Progress" or AYP are mandated to offer free tutoring services through the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

2) To receive these free services, a student must be on free or reduced lunch.

3) Parents of eligible students can choose which company they want to have work with their child. There are 229 tutoring companies who claim to provide services in Toledo. (See the Ohio Department of Education list for Lucas County at <http://dnet01.ode.state.oh.us/ses/ProviderLookup.aspx>.) Not all providers can serve every area around Toledo, so it is a good idea to call a provider before selecting one for your child.

4) We encourage parents to speak with representatives of several companies before deciding whom they would like to contract to tutor their child. Important questions to ask a provider include: "How many hours of tutoring will my child receive with your service?" "Is the tutoring one-on-one or in groups?" "Where does the tutoring take place?" and, finally, "What is your company's effectiveness rating as determined by the Ohio Department of Education?"

5) Your school must furnish you with a "Supple-

mental Educational Services Provider Selection Form" on which you officially declare with which company you want to work. You may call (419) 708-0447 to speak with me, Donna Sharper, and I will be happy to help you get a hold of and fill out this form regardless of whether or not you choose Tutoring In Your Home, LLC as your provider.

6) After handing this form to your school, you should hear from your provider and/or your school within two to three weeks. If you have not heard from your provider, call both the provider and school to ask when your child can begin tutoring.

If your child attends a school that is not required to offer free tutoring, there are still many companies who are competing for your attention. To any parents interested in receiving tutoring for their child, there are some useful facts parents should know when looking for the right tutor:

When should I look for a tutor?

It is common for parents to contact us not only because their child is struggling with a certain concept at school but also because homework and studying have become points of stress and contention in their home. Many students struggle far

more with their parents during a tutoring session than they do with more neutral figures, such as outside tutors. As one parent put it: "Our child went from a C/D student to an A/B student. Anxiety over schoolwork has greatly decreased and she will even do her homework without being prodded." - Sherri S.

What questions do I need to ask to find the right tutor?

The single most important trait held by a quality tutor is the unshakeable belief that every child can learn. We have had extraordinary success with some tutors who are professionals in fields outside of education because their faith in their students is contagious. Therefore, when looking for a tutor, keep in mind that a degree in education is helpful but a degree only does not necessarily guarantee an ideal tutor. Additionally, you will want to find a tutor who fits your academic and scheduling needs. Lastly, you want to do your

best to make sure the tutor is as good a fit for your child personally as well as academically.

Where should my child be tutored?

A child should be tutored in a quiet and comfortable environment. For many families, this means clearing a table or desk in the home where a student is able to work with his or her tutor. For others, this may mean meeting a tutor at a local library, which we can also accommodate. Most importantly, the tutoring space should be as free from distractions as possible, encouraging the student to focus on the task of learning with their tutor.

We typically recommend sessions lasting one hour, and most of our families choose to receive tutoring twice per week. Two to three hours per week is a good schedule to get a student ahead in his or her courses, while parents typically choose one hour of tutoring per week to main-

tain the progress a student has made in prior sessions.

I personally interview each of our tutors, and it is a privilege to work with so many intelligent, competent, passionate and dedicated people who love to do what I do: to learn and share knowledge with others. It is even more exciting to see students improve their grades and their confidence through tutoring.

Tutoring In Your Home teaches all subjects K-College, and we will be happy to assist you in locating a tutor to fit your needs. If we are unable to find you the right tutor through our company, we will help refer you to someone who can. May this school year be your child's most successful year yet!

Your partner in education,

Ed. Note: Donna Sharper is a regional director with Tutoring In Your Home, LLC. She can be reached at (419) 708-0447 or by email sharper_d12@yahoo.com

The education of our youth is without a doubt one of the most pressing issues facing our nation, cities, and our neighborhoods today. While students often struggle or have even given up struggling for attention in the classroom, parents need to know that they have options for professional outside assistance.

Many students in Toledo are eligible for free tutoring and, each year, federal funds remain unused as some students who are eligible for this opportunity do not take advantage of it. Affordable, convenient and one-on-one tutoring services are also available to those students who do not qualify for federal funds. Listed below are the facts you need to know regarding free tutoring, followed by useful information to know should you decide to pursue private tutoring:

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Back to School Issue*Back to School Issue

Ombudsman Still Listening ...

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Rev. Cedric Brock, entering his fifth year as the ombudsman for the Toledo Public Schools, is still doing what he has done since the program's inception at the beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year.

"My job is to listen," says Brock who estimates that he handles around 1,500 inquiries over the course of the school year and averages about four hearings a week.

And just what is an ombudsman?

According to TPS literature, an ombudsman is a "person who investigates reported complaints that have not been resolved at the building level, reports findings and helps achieve equitable settlements."

Brock, who has been pastor of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church for 15 years and is president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA), is a part-time employee of TPS but he acknowledges that the hours he spends on the job are hardly limited.

He looks at all types of cases but the majority – perhaps as much as 90 percent – derive from complaints from parents who believe their child is being treated unfairly, especially when that child is a candidate for suspension or expulsion from



Rev. Cedric Brock

school.

"I can get a call from a parent at night or a parent could come to the church on a Sunday," says Brock. "Parents take these things seriously, especially when they don't get answers from the school. I act as a sounding board and a negotiator. I try to bring closure to a parent and try to mediate difficult situations."

Frequently, the resolution to such difficulties takes time, always in short supply for a part-time employee. "Proper customer service isn't easy,"

he says. "You don't want to give a decision in a rush."

Brock most difficult situations occur when the child's interest and the rulebook prescription for discipline come into conflict. He is an employee of the district and he has no problem recognizing the fact that the school system operates for the benefit of the children.

Nevertheless, circumstances do happen, says Brock, in which the administration "has followed the rules of the land rather than the rules of grace." At such times, it is Brock's obligation, he says, to point out to everyone what it is the best interest of the child.

Thursday, August 14, 2008 Toledo Early College High School - School Begins (Full Day)

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

Robinson Middle School Sixth Grade Orientation & Schedule Distribution (9:00AM) 419-671-4200 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Bowsher High School Special Orientation - Seniors & Juniors (9:00AM) Seniors: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Juniors: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - DeVeaux Middle School Sixth Grade Orientation & Schedule Distribution (9:00AM) DeVeaux Middle School 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon & 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. . .

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

DeVeaux Middle School Seventh Grade Orientation & Schedule Distribution (9:00AM) 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon & 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Robinson Middle School Eighth Grade Orientation & Schedule Distribution (9:00AM) Robinson Middle School 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Robinson Middle School Seventh Grade Orientation And Schedule Distribution (9:00AM) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. .

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Bowsher High School Special Orientation - Sophomores & Freshman (9:00AM) Sophomores: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Freshman: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - DeVeaux Middle School Eighth Grade Orientation & Schedule Distribution (9:00AM) 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. .

Monday, August 25, 2008

Teacher Work Day. Arlington Elementary Open House (6:00AM) Tour the school and meet the staff. 6 - 7:30 p.m., 419-382-2332 - Elmhurst Elementary School Dedication/Open House (5:30 PM), Westfield Elementary School Open House (5:30 PM) 617 Western Avenue .

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

School Begins (Full Day) For Middle & High Schools Toledo Early College High School will begin school on August 14 - Full Day - School Begins (Half Day) For Elementary Schools First day of school for all elementary schools except for the following schools: Old West End Academy - August 12 - Half Day Grove Patterson Academy - August 19 - Full Day ■

Thursday, August 28, 2008

DeVeaux Middle School Dedication/Open House (5:30 PM)

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The Lima Truth

August 13, 2008

The Sojourner's Truth

Page 12

Just Defied?

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



The jury of eight representing the peers of Lima Police Department Sgt. Joseph Chavalia were given last minute instructions by visiting Judge Richard Knepper. They were told they could not use hindsight as a means of viewing the evidence. That they must remember police officers must make split-second decisions, and they must remember that they now had more information than Chavalia had on the night of January 4, 2008.

The closing arguments and instructions took just over three hours, about the same amount of time the jury deliberated the case.

Chavalia's lawyer, William Kluge, told the jury the expert testimony from Ohio's Attorney General BCI&I was based upon information Chavalia didn't have.

Special Prosecutor Jeffrey Strausbaugh reminded the jury that given those same circumstances and identical information under the exact same amount of stress and adrenaline levels, the other members of the SWAT team did not discharge their weapons – they obviously did not sense the same clear and present danger Chavalia expressed feeling in his testimony. He also stated the expert from BCI&I was certain the evidence indicated Tarika Wilson was in the midst of compliance when the gun was fired.

Three hours later, the jury came back with their decision: not guilty ... on both of the two misdemeanor charges brought against him.

After the courtroom cleared, Kluge addressed the media stating that Chavalia should never have been on trial, he was obviously justified in killing Tarika Wilson and shooting her 13-month old son.

He expressed hope that the community would remain calm.

He then went on to explain that, "If we couldn't justify it based on Joe's conduct in this case, every officer on a SWAT raid, from this point on, would be thinking, 'Well, look what happened to Joe Chavalia.' I think the only reason the grand jury returned the indictment in this case, and I'll be real blunt about this, is because they thought they had to

York, he will head the team that will now guide Tarika Wilson's family through a civil law suit focused on providing a better life for her six children. A press conference was called by the family at the offices of Crime Victim Services in downtown Lima.

"We have filed a law suit today against the City of Lima and Sgt. Joseph Chavalia for the wrongful acts they have committed, and we have asked the US Attorneys Office to bring

slabs who don't know what happened to them, the only difference is, I know who did it to mine. This time it was my daughter, who knows who it will be the next time?"

"And that is why," Derek Sells continued, "we must insist the Lima Police Department change their policies, and why we must seek fair and proper compensation for the children of Tarika Wilson."

We are asking, among other things, that the Lima Police Department change their practices when executing what they call a 'high risk search warrant.'

respond to what was going on in the community. Had this case waited two or three months going to the grand jury, it might have been different."

Just a few people gathered in front of the courthouse to express their differences of opinion. The family exited the courtroom quickly, explaining they would offer statements on Tuesday.

Chief Greg Garlock told reporters: "I am glad we were able to get through this in a positive way. It's still going to be a situation, a tough situation the community is going to have to deal with."

Black ministers, leaders and family supporters all expressed the same feelings: very disappointed, but at the same time – there was no surprise here.... This is how things have always worked in Lima and Allen County, they said. This outcome has been expected since January 5, 2008.

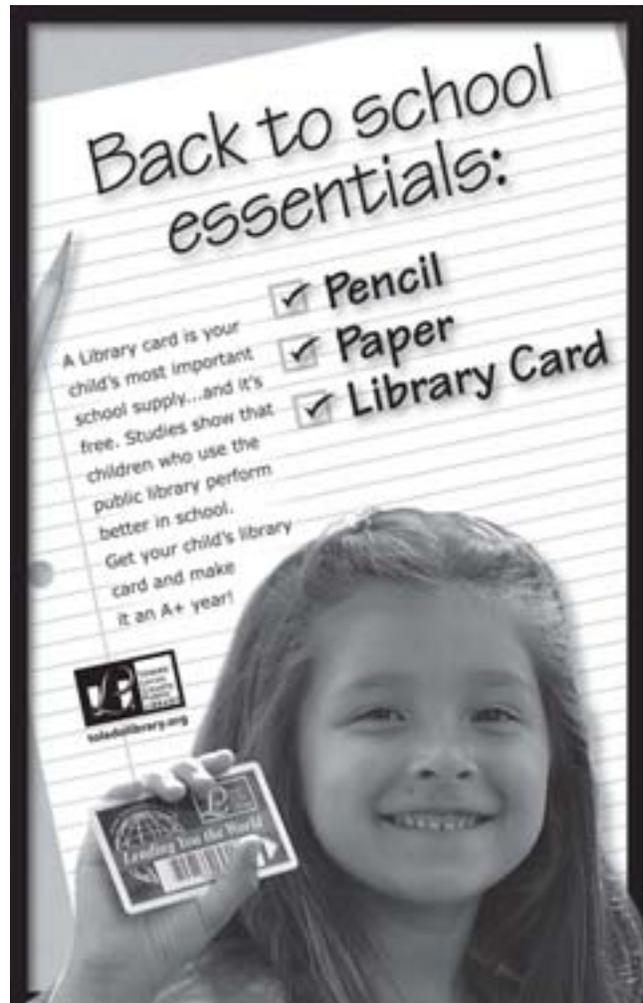
"We don't understand how a trained officer of 31 years can shoot an unarmed woman and her baby and get away with that, leave the courtroom as a free man. We don't understand that," said Derek Sells.

Sells is an attorney with the Cochran Firm in New

Federal civil rights charges," said Sells.

"We are asking, among other things, that the Lima Police Department change their practices when executing what they call a 'high risk search warrant.' They broke into that home without a safety plan. They claimed to have had Anthony Terry under surveillance, for – in their own words – several months. There were many different choices they could have made that night. They had Anthony Terry within reach many times, why choose this night/this time/this location? They went in that house without regard for the safety of the mother and six children who lived there. For the question of why? Tarika Wilson wanted her children to have a better life than the one she had, the City of Lima and Joe Chavalia took her chance away. It is now the responsibility of all those who love her and for those of us who care about justice to see that her children have the life she wanted for them. We have filed the lawsuit to achieve fair compensation for the future of her children."

Tarika's mother, Darla Jennings then spoke to the media: "There are others with children laying on



Nas *Untitled* Album Review

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

This is one of those times that I do think about making writing a real career.

This is one of those times I think of my words could grace the pages of Vibe, XXL or whatever.

I could get in, and get out – an album review just a few paragraphs long.

You would understand more about why you need this album if I said less about the album.

Does that make sense?

No?

Okay.

Well, at the gray old age of 30 I have seen far better days in hip-hop music and black music and music in general.

In the late 90s, we were the ones blamed for making music watered down. So funny to think of people complaining about 1998 because when you think of what is on the radio right now ... maaan, we would kill for things to be like '98 all over again.

In order to understand the importance of Nas, you have to evaluate self.

So say "self, when I listen to music ... what am I looking for?"

If your self answers back

and says that all you want is a reason to shake ya ass, then stop reading.

If your self answers back and says that you want to hear music that talks about life hustling on the block, you too can just stop reading right now.

And please stop reading if deep down in your soul the only thing you wanna hear is some rapper talk about what they bought, and how everyone around them is a hater because they can't afford what they can afford.

I'm tellin' you, people, I don't know if life is imitating art or vice versa but we have become one walking, talking, breathing Boondocks episode up in this mug. And if this really were a Boondocks episode, Toledo would be full of Riley Freemans.

And while all of them are running around asking Santa for 24" chrome rims...

Me and Huey would be somewhere listening to Nas.

Not just any Nas.

THIS Nas.

Why?

Because this Nas is the Nas we've been waiting for since, hell ... since always.

The multi-syllable rhyme cadences and descriptive story telling of *It Was Written*,

matched with the thought provoking inner vision of *Illmatic* on top of the mission to resurrect "message-driven Hip Hop" just like he did on *Stillmatic*.

Even though Nas has never been the publicity magnet some of his rap peers have always been... the controversy over his last album title seems to have added a new dimension to his persona so now we can add the *Hip Hop Is Dead* Nas right on here with all the aforementioned.

This is THE PERFECT NAS ALBUM.

Front To End.

Ya'll know how us hip-hop heads are ... we converse about our art form.

So when one of those convo's includes "Ayo...that new Nas joint is amazing, son."

There's only a handful of people I trust when they give me their opinion on music...

And at the top of that list is the person I make music with... my co-producer/co-C.E.O. of the label ..Adonis

aka Lavale.

Growing up in our fam, making music was a must.

Even though we have different sensibilities to certain styles... our tastes are pretty much in tune so when he told me that this new Nas was everything we've all been waiting on, I really wanted to believe him. I mean, this is my man 50 Grand and all that but I still was hesitant like "come on maan, Nas never makes a straight through solid album... plus his word play seems to go away even when his subject matter gets deeper... blah blah." Yo, I was wrong to doubt.

This truly is the Nas album of all Nas albums.

Peeps in NYC are loving it, can't stop talking about it. Peeps in Toledo, probably didn't even realize the joint was out yet.

Do you remember the civil war that was brewing in hip-hop back in the late 90's?

Man, it was great!

Just getting out of high school and approaching adulthood as the millennium dawned... for us it was the perfect time to be alive if you wanted to find a sound that fit your identity.

Cash Money had a movement.

Ruff Ryders had a movement.

Bad Boy/Roca Fella had a movement.

Outkast had a movement. Hell... even Rakwus Records... Talib Kweli, Mos Def and Common had a movement.

And there was so much neo-soul music pouring out of Philly back then that even though it wasn't big in the media... there was a full-fledged soul movement going on.

Needless to say I was a Nas fan.

Up in U.T.'s Black Student Union... playing chess with whomever... listening to some of that hip-hop that made you and all ya dudes boycott all music coming from New Orleans.

I guess I was different than other peeps in The Glass...but, yo, there were enough dudes like me where I was at that I didn't feel different or odd.

We wanted our hip-hop to mean something.

We were sick of being iced out, we were sick of Bentleys, we were sick of poppin bottles.

By the time 2002 hit, and the South truly started to take over... those of us who wanted conscious hip-hop knew we were about to lose the battle.

Now, so many years later...yeah we might have Common, Lupe, Kanye and a few others...but it's obvious that the Soulja Boys,

Webbie's, and Gucci Maine's have won the day. Which is cool.

"I wasn't salty she was with the boys in the hood." (If you don't know where that quote is from... minus 50 points off ya Hip Hop Credit Card).

The point is... back in the early millennium was the last time we saw balance in hip-hop.

Young Jeezy is necessary but so is Outkast.

D.J. Khaled is necessary but so is D.J. Clue.

Right now everything is out of wack.

For every conscious hip-hop song...there are 500 songs about rims, shaking ass and going to da damn club... maaan. If I didn't have to get out in the clubs for U.G.E. I would boycott them too!

I mean how many times can we address the same subject?

Really!

You got a nice outfit, you came to the club, you in V.I.P., haters is hating, girls is choosing, you poppin' bottles, you parking lot pimp afterwards...I'm sayin' do!

We have summed it up... we have torn the frame out of that very concept!

It's over, can we retire club songs for the rest of 2008?

Can we?

Nope... Darron Scott just got a new beat from us and he said he takin' it to the club on that one.

So, hey - it's necessary. But so is Nas.

Nas is so important right now.

He has damn near singlehandedly restored the balance for 2008.

Jay Z is making an entire album with Timbaland.

Eminem has one album left on that contract but is taking his sweet time.

I mean ... of all the veterans that are still relevant (Outkast, Ludacris, Busta Rhymes, Lil Kim, Snoop, Jadakiss, etc.), Nas is the ONLY one bold enough to put his faith completely in his core audience and release an album that is more art than product.

And that is the difference right there.

Some of us... at least me and people I consider like minds... we want our hip-hop to stir up emotion. Make us think... make us want to take action.

Art is meant to move people.

And Nas has crafted a look, I'm just gonna put another excerpt from his lyrics in:

"You Can't Stop Us Now:

*From Willie Lynch to Willie Hutch
Right on*

*We superfly
Made Gucci this s**t,
Louie too*

*Suits and ties
Player trophies
Pray to Goldie
Picture wax museums full
of Black Pimps triple OGS
Aunt Jemima hos
Historic horse s**t
Girls from long time ago
Stagecoach with the
horse, kid*

*Witch doctors
Good old pickpockets
Sip moonshine
So-called coons, shines
and darkies*

*I love y'all
Pyramids to cotton fields
to Wrigley Fields
Forgotten men who did
get killed*

*Crispus Attacks
The first blast and peace
to the rich lady
Purse snatcher shot in the
back*

*I know your hunger, kid
I know they hung your dad
Burnt your mama crib
I know that hurt you bad
Minstrel shows*

*From gold to shackles and
back to gold
We act like we home
Matter fact, we are home
Bad attitudes
Ocaroon skin tones
Slave food turned to soul
food*

*Collar to neck bones
Betsy Ross sewed the first
American flag*

*Bet she had a nigga with
her to help her old ass
As James Baldwin says
You can only be destroyed
by believing*

*That you really are what
the white world considers
A nigger
No matter how hard you
try*

*You can't stop us now
Can't be stopped
Yo on Dateline*

*The other night they
showed hate crimes
Gave a Blood time
Cause he fought with his
caine*

*Beastiality
Humane Society
Go to China, see how they
dine*

*See what they eat
Better yet ask PETA who-
ever
Which animal makes
suede*

*If not for suede would you
have survived the Dark
Ages?*

*Cannibal ways of the an-
cient Caucasians
Still you like your steak
tartar*

*Pinot noir
David Starr on the chain
of Sammy Davis
He helped pave the way
for Southern crankers and
them Harlem shakers
Now we getting our pa-
pers
And try to censor the
words*

(Continued on Page 14)

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Help the kids in our community — become a foster or adoptive parent today!

Lucas County Children Services offers **FREE** foster/adoptive parent training classes. Our *accelerated session* begins **September 6**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can complete your training in six consecutive day-long Saturday classes.

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Classes are held at the Lucas County Training Center, 705 Adams Street. Space is limited; please reserve your seat today.

Call 419-213-3336 to register today!

Nas

(Continued from Page 13)

To stop our money coming

But you can't escape us Haters

Look at that!!
Your whole entire black experience summed up in one song... like - all of it!

And that's just track number 2.

On a critical point though, Nas has hardly ever had an album where the tracks where consistently bangers.

Sometimes you just have to deal with a wack beat just to hear a Nas rhyme, but not this time.

There is no settling on this

project. I wish he would've kept the album title *Nigger* just like he planned.

If there are people who can't see the deeper meaning... the evolution in most of his album titles... the need to hold a mirror to America. The most hypocritical place in the Universe.

That is the only thing missing from the album. Having that title would've made the Cipher complete in a sense. I feel his vision would've been realized.

I do wanna tell everyone that ... just like Erykah

Badu's album which I gave a classic album review earlier this year, there is a lot of master teaching, but he takes a break and gives you just enough of joints like "Make The World Go Round" with Chris Brown and The Game.

But then again, he also has joints like "Fried Chicken" with Busta Rhymes.

Yo... the people need a hero just like his first single says.

And Nasir Jones has delivered.

This is an album you need in your life.

The production is airtight (Polow Da Don, Stic man from dead prez, Stargate, Toomp and a few new comers).

And believe me, every song is a must listen.

Every one. The true album for the Nas album is a flawless A+.

Shouts to Top Knotch Productions for the Savage Park Basketball Tournament celebrating four years of problem free, entertainment for the community - love to see that.

We will do a little picto-

rial if we get enough ... a little something to commemorate such a great and positive experience for inner city Toledo... if you have pics of the Tournament this year - email them to me.

Fa real - whoever you are... you got pics of the tournament - get at me: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com - shouts to Harold, Montrece and D.J. T.O. - Mpress and Ill Sid

D.C. - I gotchoo, fam, the readers will know you soon. Also... everyone textin', callin', emailin' etc. gave me

props on the Addressing the Haters pt 1 joint. So thankful I got sooo many of y'all rocking with me!

Had no idea. I'm grateful. And that's real. One day soon we are gonna draw a line in this city... everybody on our side is gonna be the ones sick of the lack of professionalism and back biting, everybody else is everybody else.

U.G.E. - and I'm out, y'all.

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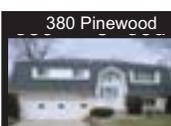


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CLASSIFIEDS

August 13, 2008

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Corrosion Inspection Engineer

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For confidential consideration, please submit your resume through our website career center at www.sunocoinc.com. EOE/M/F/D/V

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The City of Toledo Streets, Bridges and Harbor Division is interested in contracting with owners/operators of snow plow vehicles for plowing on residential streets during heavy snow conditions. Those interested in bidding should contact the following city office beginning Monday, August 11, 2008 for a copy of the bid proposals and specifications:

**Streets, Bridges and Harbor
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BAR HELP

New night club in town, Centre Stage, is now accepting applications for all BAR RELATED POSITIONS.

Apply in person at the all new Centre Stage, 1260 W. Alexis Rd., across from GM Powertrain, 1-5pm, Mon-Fri

DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION

Lucas County Board of Elections EDUCATION: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Business Administration, Public Administration, Political Science or a closely-related field is preferred; and/or a minimum of 5 years comparable management experience. GENERAL MANAGERIAL EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS Possession of effective written and interpersonal communication abilities Strong organizational skills and attention to detail Familiarity with human resources policies and practices, including familiarity with equal opportunity employment practices Familiarity with the handling of budgets and public appropriation of funds Ability to convey or exchange information including giving assignments or direction to board personnel Ability to be adaptable and to perform in stressful or emergency situations Ability to comprehend a variety of informational documents Ability to conduct self at all times in a professional and courteous manner Ability to work extended hours on a continuing basis Consideration will be given to candidates holding previous positive elections administration experience. Interested candidates should forward a cover letter and a resume to: The Lucas County Board of Elections, Suite 300 One Government Center, Toledo OH 43604-2250 BY AUGUST 18, 2008 The Lucas County Board of Elections is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PSYCHOLOGIST Counseling Center/ Student Affairs Bowling Green State University

The Counseling Center is seeking a talented, creative, and multiculturally competent colleague as a Staff Psychologist. Staff Psychologists provide psychological counseling and related services to students enrolled at BGSU and consult with faculty, staff, and other members of the University community regarding student concerns.

This staff member will also be responsible for coordinating/overseeing the Counseling Center's efforts in outreach to underserved groups on campus and members of those groups.

For a complete job description, requirements, and recruitment dates for this search (J-61216) and all current Administrative Staff vacancies please visit http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html or contact the Office of Human Resources at (419) 372-8421 or ohr@bgsu.edu. BGSU is an AA/EO employer/educator.

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For more details, please visit our website at www.co.lucas.oh.us and click on the Job Postings link to review the job description, minimum requirements, and salary.

Please submit a cover letter, employment application/resume and professional references to the Lucas County Human Resources/Personnel Department, One Government Center, Suite 450, Toledo, OH 43604 by August 15, 2008.

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Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is preparing to submit its Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2009.

The Annual Plan is available for review at LMHA's Website (www.lucasmha.org). LMHA invites you to submit comment on the Annual Plan during the next 45 days. Please provide your comments no later than September 22, 2008, to lgarrett@lucasmha.org.

You are invited to a public hearing on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in the McClinton Nunn Community Building, 425 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604. This hearing will provide interested citizens with pertinent information regarding the strategic goals, and program activities of the LMHA. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and provide additional comments on the PHA Plan.

Should any attendee require auxiliary aids due to a disability, please contact LMHA at (419) 259-9457, at least one week prior to the hearing date to ensure your needs will be accommodated.

William J. Brennan, Chairman
Linnie B. Willis, Executive Director

Local Links at National Assembly

W. Kate Jackson (4th from left) is an alumna of The Links, Inc. - Toledo Chapter and recently attended the 36th National Links Assembly in Seattle, WA accompanied by Millard Jackson, her husband.

At a White Rose banquet, approximately 100 distinguished alumnae, some seated while others joined Jackson on stage, were honored as platinum members, the highest recognition given to a member with 30 years or more of service. Each received a beautiful gold medallion. Also attending the conference was Laneta Goings, president, and Barbie Harrison, vice

president of the local Chapter.

Other honorees, although not present, include Kathryn Franklin and Ethel Walden. Nearly 3,000 attended the four day conference. The Links, Incorporated, founded in 1946, is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The Links, Incorporated has a membership of nearly 12,000 professional women of color serving in 273 chapters

in 42 states, the District of Columbia, Germany, South Africa and the Bahamas. Through its philanthropic arm, The Links Foundation, Incorporated, the organization has contributed more than 22 million dollars to charitable causes since its founding. In 2006, members contributed more than 500,000 documented hours of hands-on service hours to assist communities throughout the United States, Africa and in developing countries. Washington, DC is the site of the national headquarters. To learn more about The Links, Incorporated, visit the website at www.linksinc.org



In Loving Memory of Mary ("May") Ellen Burton 1924 - 2006



*Many, hours, many days, many months and two years have gone by
but many, many thoughts of you have been with us.
Gone but not forgotten - well loved!
We miss you*

The Ezell and Ross families

Church's Chicken



12 tender strips & 4 biscuits
and choice of any large side order

\$12.99

50 pieces of dark (original or spicy)
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Offer good for Church's Chicken at
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Good & Plenty Party!

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Party Starts 6pm-2am
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Featured drinks in the special colors will be available all night!

Door Prizes | Food | Fun | 50/50 Raffle Entertainment

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A portion of the proceeds go to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Sunday, September 28, 2008