



Local and National News

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Volume 14, No.19

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

August 27, 2008

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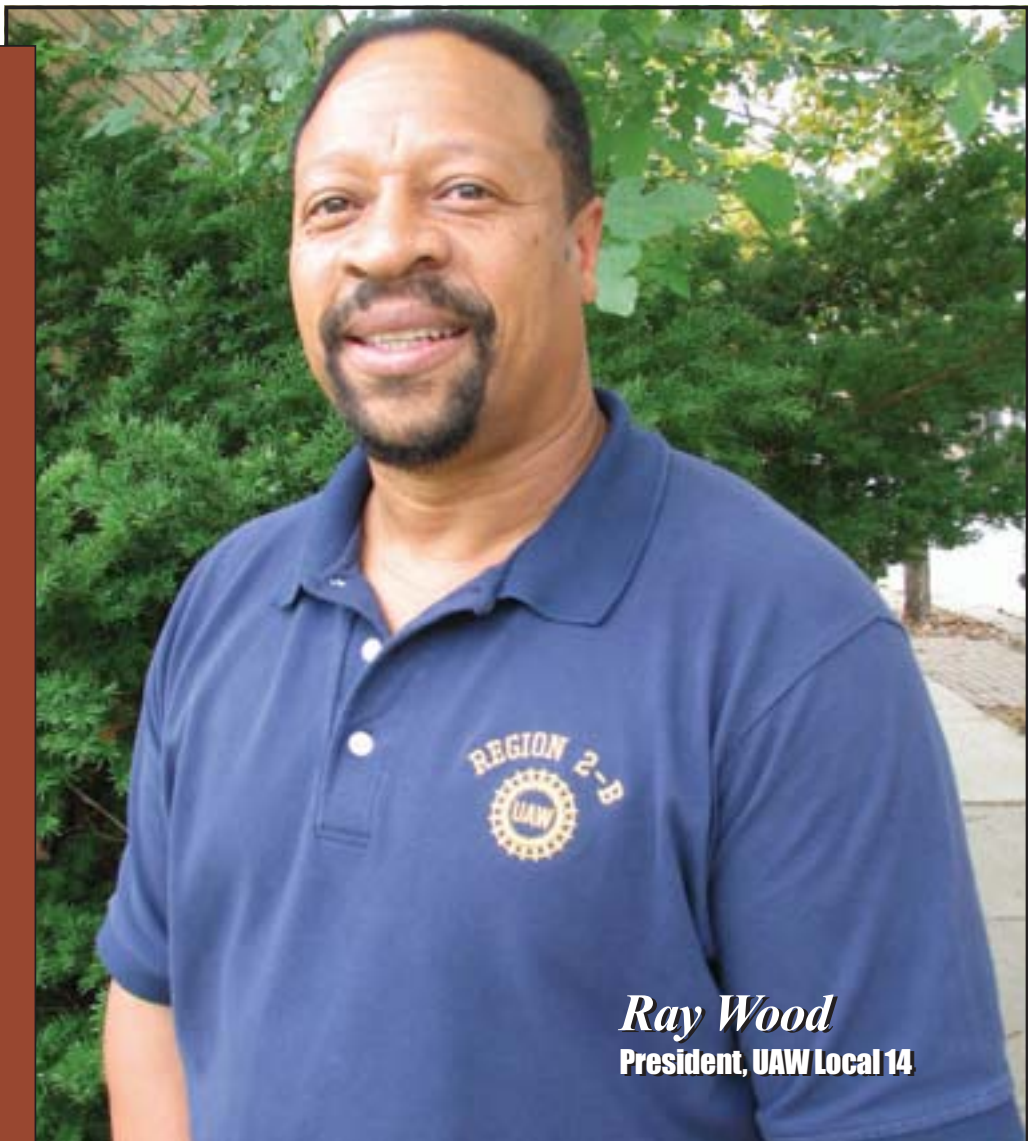
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Ray Wood
President, UAW Local 14

“My passion is here because these things – human rights, workers’ rights and civil rights – are always going to be needed ... it’s a cause and it’s a movement.”

This Strikes Us ...

The Sojourner's Truth Editorial

As the Democratic National Convention winds down, it has become crystal clear what Senator Barack Obama has to do to win the election in November ... he has to sink to the Republicans' level and engage in every possible personal, negative attack against his opponent, Senator John McCain.

The truth is - negativity works and it has been working for the Republicans since Lee Atwater fashioned the George Bush attack ads of 1988 and invoked, among other things, the name of Willie Horton and fixed that albatross around the neck of Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis.

Atwater later apologized for his actions but the success of his methods ensures that they would be used again and again by the Republican Party.

McCain knows that negativity works because it worked so well for George W. Bush when his operatives flayed and filleted McCain in a pivotal primary race in South Carolina in 2000. The Bush campaign raised, among other things, the rumor that a child of color the McCains had adopted was actually fathered by McCain himself and the fact of Cindy McCain's past troubles with prescription drugs.

And, of course, such tactics worked well in 2004 when war hero Senator John Kerry became a victim of the Swiftboat ads that he declined to respond to vigorously.

Obama has, for the most part, eschewed the use of negativity as part of his message that he will avoid politics as usual. Well, that seems to be the message of the past and we think it's wise for him to recognize that at some point he has to go after McCain if he expects to win. If winning is not important, if all he wants to do is make a point, then Obama can continue the same message of hope and change into eternity. If he wants to win, he has to get his hands dirty.

So the selection of Senator Joe Biden makes a great deal of sense from the standpoint of the campaign. We would have preferred Hillary, but that would never have worked for Obama.

Joe Biden will work. Biden is a natural on the stump and he has the experience and knowledge to attack the Republicans relentlessly. Biden himself does not have to be negative to do so. There are issues of McCain's closeness to Bush's policies, McCain's support for free trade, McCain's support for the war in Iraq, McCain's support for privatizing Social Security, McCain's support for eliminating affirmative action ... all of these issues are fair game and fair game for Biden's role as attack dog.

But the Democrats have to go further and dig deeper. McCain's allies have already aired ads about the friendship they claim that Obama has with William Ayres, a former Weatherman who has been unrepentant about his illegal activities with that fringe terrorist group. The association is tenuous at best, but the McCain folks recognize a weakness when they see one.

At some point, Obama allies must respond in kind to keep McCain off balance and off message. They have to make mention, for example, of McCain's involvement with the Keating Five - five senators who were accused of accepting financial backing from Charles Keating during the savings and loan crisis of the late 1980's. McCain was criticized by his fellow senators for his "poor judgment" in interceding with federal regulators in Keating's favor.

Obama's allies have to make a point of McCain's many gaffes such as not understanding Iran's relationship with Al Qaeda, not knowing there is no Iraq/Afghanistan border, not knowing how many houses he and his wife own. They must hammer these points home if Obama is going to have any chance to win this election.

And if there is an opportunity to point out the fact that McCain is older than any president we have ever elected before, then somehow the Obama folks will have to raise that issue also. We were quite amused by the way Paris Hilton worked that into her message in response to the McCain attack on Obama using Britney Spears and Hilton.

We would like to think that this type of campaigning would not be necessary but unfortunately we have seen so often how successful negativity is and we have seen already how eager the McCain camp is to make use of such methods. McCain will say publicly that the Hilton/Spears spot is not negative just an effort to draw a distinction between the candidates.

Well, it's time that Obama's people started drawing such distinctions themselves. It's time for Democrats not to act as victims once again as they witness their presidential candidates get Willie Horton and Swiftboated to defeat.

Community Calendar

August 27

Registration for Race for the Cure: UT Student Union; 10 am to 2 pm: 419-297-8766 or 419-356-8761

August 28

Board of Community Relations: Public Board Meeting; Div of Environmental Services Bldg; 5:30 pm: 419-245-1565

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

Fish Fry and Rummage Sale: St. Mark MBC; Sponsored by the Building Fund Committee; 10 am to 6 pm: 419-241-1726

Libbey High School Classes of 1960's and 1970's Reunion: Genesis Dreamplex; Social Hour from 3 to 6 pm; Dinner at 6:30: Tickets on sale at Esther's Alterations 419-381-7701, Powells 419-243-7731 or House of Day 419-534-2550

August 31

First Annual Youth Service ASAH Praise & Worship Center; "Determined to Go Forth;" Speakers are Min. Kristian Hall from Cleveland and Min. Drew Collins of Toledo; 3 pm

UT Black Greek Reunion Fundraiser: Six Pack on the River (formerly the Lighthouse); 9 pm

September 6

Yard Sale/Flea Market: Mildred Gibson Center of Zion Lutheran Church; 9 am to 4 pm

September 12

UT Black Greek Fundraiser: The Peacock; 9 pm

September 7, 14, 28

3rd Pastoral Anniversary: First MBC; For Pastor Donald Murray; Guests Rev. W.L. Perryman of Jerusalem Baptist, Rev. John Roberts of Indiana Avenue MBC and Supt Hobbs of Greater St. John COGIC

September 21

Indiana Avenue MBC Women's Day: 10:50 am and 4 pm; "Christian Women Being Kept in Perfect Peace Because They Trust in the Lord:" 419-720-2602

September 27

"Our Social Innovations Project #1.:" Arts-based marketing event sponsored by law offices of Ciolek and Wicklund; Visual artworks by local artists and performance; Truth Art Gallery: 419-345-7839

September 28

15th Annual Susan G. Komen NW Ohio Race for the Cure: Downtown Toledo; 5k run/walk ends with celebration at 5/3 Field; Also a one-mile family fun walk; Early registration on August 23; Registration at UT Student Union on August 27

October 18

African American Legacy Project's Annual Legends Luncheon: Crowne Plaza Hotel; 1 pm

The Sojourner's Truth

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Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones Dies of Cerebral Aneurysm

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Democratic Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Cleveland died last week after being found unconscious in her car on August 19. She had suffered a cerebral aneurysm. She died the following day in an East Cleveland hospital.

Tubbs Jones represented the Ohio 11th District which encompasses most of downtown and the east side of Cleveland, some of the eastern suburbs of Cuyahoga County, including Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights and Euclid. She was the first African-American woman elected to Congress from Ohio.

Tubbs Jones, a Cleveland native, graduated from the city's public schools and earned her undergraduate degree in social from Case Western Reserve University. She received her law degree from Case Western also.

She was elected a judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1981 and served on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas from 1983 to 1991. In 1990, Tubbs Jones ran unsuccessfully for the Ohio Supreme Court.

She served as Cuyahoga County Prosecutor from 1991 to 1999 when she resigned to take her seat in Congress replacing 30-year incumbent Louis Stokes. She was reelected four times against token opposition.

Tubbs Jones was co-chairman of the Democratic National Committee and during the primary season was a vocal supporter of Senator Hillary Clinton's campaign for president.

In the House of Representatives, Tubbs Jones was chairman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Toledo Public Schools Back in Continuous Improvement Category

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The latest State of Ohio report card was released earlier this week and the Toledo Public Schools are back in the continuous improvement category after a year in academic watch. In school report card terms, the district moved from a D to a C.

In order to reach the continuous improvement category a district has to pass between 50 and 74.9 percent of indicators, earn a performance index of 80 to 89 percent, achieve adequate yearly progress or value added growth. TPS achieved a performance index of 80.1 percent – the second highest in the district's history. During the previous school year

the district's performance index was 79.1, just barely missing the C grade.

The district, however, passed only five of 30 indicators – 10th and 11 grade reading and writing and school attendance.

Among the schools that ended up in the continuous improvement category, or higher, were the district's non-traditional schools such as the Old West End and Grove Patterson Academies; the single gender elementary schools – Lincoln Academy for Boys and Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls; Toledo Technology Academy (TTA) and Toledo Early College High School (TECHS).

TECHS registered 100 percent proficient scores in read-

ing, writing and mathematics for the 10th and 11th grades, met AYP, had a performance index of 110.8 and met 11 of 11 indicators. That performance, said TPS Superintendent John Foley on Tuesday, was better than that of Ottawa Hills High School. The Ottawa Hills district was the top rated district in the state.

TTA did almost as well earning a ranking of excellent for the fifth year in a row and a performance index of 106.0.

Elmhurst Elementary, TTA and TECHS were rated as excellent; Arlington, Beverly, Bowsher, Crossgates, Grove Patterson, Old West End, Harvard and Oatta River were rated effective.

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Presidential Politics: Michelle Obama Does What She Needs to Do

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Michelle Obama took to the podium on opening night of the Democratic National Convention and delivered an impassioned speech designed to re-introduce the nation to her and her husband, Democratic nominee Senator Barack Obama (IL).

Her task was no simple matter. After several months of leading his Republican opponent, Senator John McCain (AZ) in the polls, Obama has slipped into a virtual tie. At least part of the reason for the slippage can be attributed to doubts on the part of likely voters about the Obamas. On Monday, the candidate's wife urged the American people "to stop doubting and start dreaming."

Her pitch was that of shared values as she described her family struggling economically during her childhood on the South Side of Chicago but very much believing in the virtue of hard work and the promise of the American dream.

She also reassured the

cheering delegates, many of whom were waving "Michelle" placards, that her husband was instilled with those same American values. "And Barack and I were raised with so many of the same values: that you work hard for what you want in life; that your word is your bond and you do what you say you're going to do; that you treat people with dignity and respect, even if you don't know them, and even if you disagree with them."

Michelle Obama's speech was received with enthusiasm by the party faithful and even many of Hillary Clinton's delegates, who are viewed as the wild card in the upcoming general election, appeared moved by the American story.

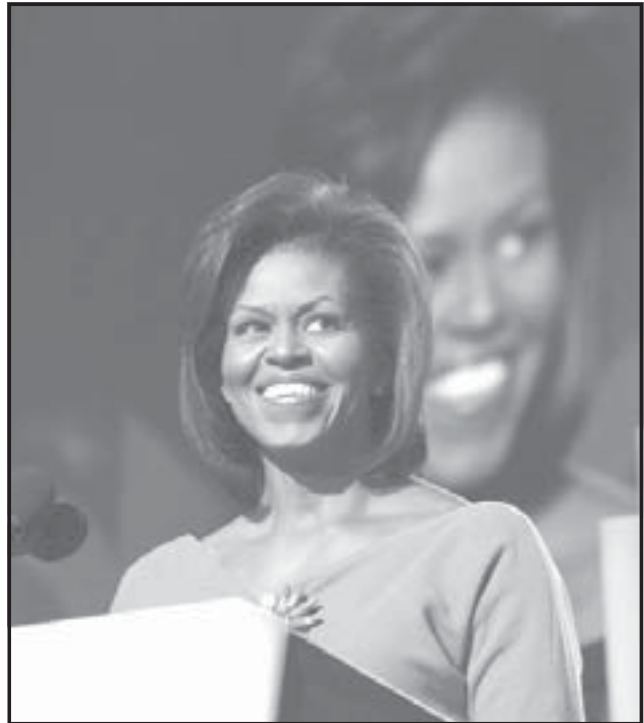
That empathy from the audience was just what just what Michelle Obama needed to accomplish since she and her husband have been frequently attacked as being elitist. By all accounts she succeeded in her mission, even as some Democrats criti-

cized their own party for not attacking the Republicans with any sort of fervor on the opening night.

Michelle Obama had the added chore of following the conscience of the Democratic Party, Senator Edward Kennedy (MA), who made a surprise visit to the convention and delivered an emotional speech. Kennedy has been diagnosed with a particularly virulent form of brain cancer and his appearance was anything but guaranteed.

While Michelle Obama did not discuss the Republicans, she did reach out to those Clinton supporters and celebrated the former First Lady's campaign as one that would help young girls, and boys to "dream a little bigger and aim a little higher."

Michelle Obama was introduced by her brother Craig Robinson, the head coach of the Oregon State University's men's basketball team.



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Ray Wood: UAW Is a Cause and a Movement

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Ray Wood, president of United Auto Workers Local 14, does not exactly bristle at the suggestions that his union's organizing efforts have been something less than above board. He tends to simply express his disappointment that anyone would believe that the old, violent days of union organizing are still a way of life today.

For several months, Local 14 had been negotiating with Lucas County Juvenile Court personnel in order to reach an agreement to represent the employees of that office. The local had responded to a request from the employees.

Negotiations were abruptly called off when Judge Denise Cubbon rescinded the right of the employees to organize – judges have that discretion – and in doing so cited stalled negotiations, added expenses of organization that could not be budgeted for and an incident in which her family cars were damaged.

It's the citing of that incident which particularly disappointed Wood. After all, he insists, this is not your grandfather's union.

"It's unfortunate the judge took the position she did," says Wood. "We would not stoop to some of the things she suggested as an issue. We wouldn't do that – that's the old stereotypical things that people associate with unions."

As for the perception that negotiations were hopelessly stalled, Wood notes that negotiations are by nature a process of "give and take."

"We believe we were dealing with people who could negotiate. All the non-economic issues were resolved in a way in which everyone would be satisfied," says Wood.

As for the economic issues, Cubbon has suggested that employees would have to be laid off if the union had had its way with the compensation packages. Again, says Wood, the UAW is not interested in reaching an agreement that causes people to lose their jobs. "The commissioners make those determinations about money and all three of the commissioners were at the press conference with us," he says of the support the union has received

from the three members of the Lucas County Board of Commissioner in a rare show of unanimity.

The decision by Cubbon to rescind union approval may have repercussions in the state capital. Legislators are working on a bill to ensure that county employees have

the right to organize. Such a bill would foreclose preemptive action on the part of judges in the future. Local representatives Edna Brown, Peter Ujvagi and Matt Szollosi are supporting the effort along with about 30 other representatives so far.

For Wood, who is in his

and GM Powertrain as an example of how these things can work."

In July, Ray Wood and Local 14, which represents about 1,600 active employees at Powertrain and another 3,000 or so retirees in addition to those at Juvenile Court and Matthews Ford, were

court – [Judge Cubbon] doesn't understand what we can bring to the table."

And while the union no longer operates in the old-fashioned way of legend, the union, says Wood, is anything but out of style.

"Some things about life won't change – the need [to press for] human rights, worker rights and civil rights," he says. Evoking the name of Walter Reuther, the iconic labor figure who shaped the UAW into such a powerful force on the American landscape, Wood explains where his own labor fire originated.

"My passion is here because these things – human rights, workers' rights and civil rights – are always going to be needed ... it's a cause and it's a movement," he says. In fact, Wood notes that the UAW Constitution mirrors what the NAACP has to say about such rights.

Wood, a Toledo native, graduated from Macomber. He attended The University of Toledo and also served a four-year stint in the U.S. Air Force. He joined Powertrain 23 years ago and first became a union representative about 15 years ago. He eventually served on the shop committee, became sergeant-at-arms and vice president before being elected to take the place of long-time president Oscar Bunch.

Wood is a deacon at Southern Missionary Baptist Church and a father of three grown children and five grandchildren – soon to be six. His children all live in Florida.

He is especially bullish about the two new products that GM will be utilizing the Powertrain plant to build – one being a six-speed transmission. "When we get started the number [of employees] will go up and if either product takes off the sky could be the limit," says Wood.



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first term as president of Local 14, the issue of worker representation extends beyond the simple matter of lining up against management to get the highest salaries possible for the workers. If the company does not prosper, says Wood, the employees will suffer.

These days, he points out, the operation of a company should be a working partnership between management and union rather than simply an adversarial relationship.

"Governor [Ted] Strickland and Lt. Gov. [Lee] Fisher ... on that level, they understand what a partnership is," he says. "City Council has said that they used the partnership between UAW

honored by the City of Toledo in the category of business investment.

That's a result of the \$900 million GM has invested in Powertrain. "This is the only plant in the corporation with two new products," says Wood. "This is at a day and time when GM is having difficulties. It speaks volumes for our plant's and our region's membership.

"We've been the recipients of a lot of awards in the last six to eight months, such as the Joe Tomasi Award, the Best of the Best Award from the corporation and a Top Safety Award," he continues. "You get out of something what you put into it. That's why it's so funny about the



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UMADAOP's 19th Annual Conference: "Rebuilding the Fallen Bridge"

By Faith A. McGlown
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Urban Minority Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Outreach Programs of Ohio (UMADAOP) kicked off its 19th annual statewide conference on August 13 at the Toledo Hilton. This year's theme, "Rebuilding the Fallen Bridge," focused on eliminating the risk factors that produce educational achievement gaps among minority youth.

During the four-day conference, which concluded on August 16, over 30 speakers and workshops addressed key topics for youth in order to reduce risk factors that could lead to substance use and other related problems for minorities.

John L. Edwards, Sr., executive director of Toledo UMADAOP and the chairman of the 2008 Conference, said the conference was designed to help attendees increase their knowledge, educational skills, professional development, personal growth and systems of care for social issues that minority youth face today.

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, in Ohio, 23,150 students dropped out of high school during the 2005-2006 school year. Nearly 9,200 of those drop-outs were black and 902 drop-outs were Hispanic.

Terejasa Lee-Mchunganji, deputy superintendent of Programs at Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility believes that we are facing the consequences of what happens when a community's members no longer belongs to one another, especially women of color, and lacks unity.

"Others want to tell us what to do with our kids, like they have a sense of ownership," she said, referring to governmental agencies and administrations. "We [communities] know what is best; we have to find a balance."

Preventing minorities from falling through societal cracks and bureaucratic holes should be top priority. Lee-Mchunganji, who has worked with at-risk youth for 30 years, emphatically urges a common focus on youth because we have to do what is right for all kids.

"We must tell those in power what we want with one voice, we need to quit

asking, and stop accepting crumbs from the table," Lee-Mchunganji said, in order to reclaim our children. However, she is hopeful.

"A change is in the air that I haven't felt for the last 20 years and Barack

Obama has a one in three lifetime risk of going to prison, and Latino boys born in 2001 have a one in six lifetime risk, according to the *Cradle to Prison* report by the Children's Defense Fund.

In Ohio, more than 41,000

"Obama can't do it alone, only you can affect where we are going,"

Obama is riding the wave," she said.

On Wednesday, Lee-Mchunganji presented her gripping and provocative workshop, "The Power of Sisterhood in Healing Communities of Color," which centered on self-empowerment and the unifying forces of sisterhood to help heal suffering families and communities.

During her presentation, she said fairy tales like *Cinderella* teach our young girls that Prince Charming will come to the rescue and save them, which portrays women as powerless and defenseless. Our children listen to the same stories. At 20, 30, 40-years of age and even crack heads, women are still looking for Prince Charming – he's not coming. From an early age, girls need to be groomed for power.

"Wisdom is a feminine energy and makes order out of chaos. We [women] are a force that is unstoppable," Lee-Mchunganji said. "If women speak with one voice on one accord, we make things happen."

Other workshops included: "The African American Male Student Achievement Gap: Barriers and Solutions," which was presented by former State Representative William L. Mallory, Sr., Larry Sykes and James Jackson, Ph.D.

This panel-based workshop featured a thought-provoking and powerful presentation that discussed the barriers and conditions that negatively affect African-American male students.

Strategies and solutions were offered for individuals providing meaningful efforts to help close the African-American male achievement gap.

Black boys born in 2001

minority juveniles were arrested in 2005 and 4,560 minority youth, aged 10-17 years, are confined to juvenile or adult corrections facilities last year.

Currently, 580,000 black males are serving sentences in state or federal prisons, while fewer than 40,000 black males earn a bachelor's degree annually.

Roland Martin, CNN contributor and national award-winning journalist, was the keynote speaker during Wednesday's luncheon and spoke about the youth crisis.

"I have no patience for people who talk the talk but don't do the do," Martin said, regarding saving our youth.

"People are feasting off black men in jail, not graduating, HIV/AIDS, and addiction, including public and elected officials," Martin commented. "How are they voting on legislation? How are they allocating money and resources?"

He spoke about demanding accountability not only from politicians but also communities. The burden of changing our communities does not entirely fall on the shoulders of the public and elected officials but also on the communities' members to do their part.

Recognizing enemies and ill-intentions are important to closing the achievement gap, according to Martin. He remarked that as you try to make changes, everybody with you is not always 'with you.' As people try to make changes, others will attack.

"Obama can't do it alone—only you can affect where we are going," Martin said.

Ohio statistics show that an estimated 690,000 individuals had an alcohol abuse or dependence prob-

lem in the 2005, while an estimated 259,000 individuals had an illicit drug abuse,

dependence, or addiction problem.

UMADAOP's philoso-

phy states that chemical dependency is an illness of the total person, which has physiological, psychological social-cultural and spiritual components and requires a holistic approach.

UMADAOP's annual conference is one of the largest ongoing, minority-focused conventions in Ohio. Close to 300 attended the conference from UMADAOPs located in Cleveland, Lima, Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati and Toledo.

UMADAOP of Ohio have grown to become a vital force in meeting the substance abuse education, prevention and treatment needs of African and Hispanic Americans throughout the state of Ohio.

Founded by William L. Mallory, Ohio House Majority Leader emeritus, of

Cincinnati, UMADAOP was established in 1980 and funded through the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.



Roland Martin

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Internships Expose Local Students to Healthcare Careers

Special to The Truth

The Mercy Health Partners' Regional Diversity Council started its first Summer Student Learning Program this July to introduce minority high school students to careers in healthcare.

MHP selected Eric Johnson, a junior at Star High School; Sidni Slack, a junior at St. Ursula Academy; Lakalea Wilson, a junior at Maumee Valley Day School and Victor Woods, a senior at Central Catholic High

School, from a pool of 30 applicants for a four-week, paid internship.

Administrative Fellows Erin Beene and Nichelle Moses, with help from Laura Darby, regional administrative assistant, developed the program which includes departmental rotations, interviews with healthcare professionals and multiple projects.

"In designing the program, we thought about our own

experiences and what we wanted to learn," said Moses. "We are striving to provide them with a healthcare is all about from the time the patient comes through the door until discharge. We want them to walk away from this experience with as much knowledge about careers in healthcare, and about Mercy Health Partners, as possible.

Just one week into the program when they were interviewed, the students said

the experience already was making a big impression on them.

"The first week really exposed us to the true core of the hospital – and it was surprising to learn that it's not just the physicians and clinicians who make the place run," said Eric. "The administrators deal with so many issues behind the scenes and focus on keeping the hospital running so the doctors can take care of the patients. We've also seen that everything you could possibly want to do is included in the healthcare field. Whether you want to be a doctor or nurse or work in accounting or marketing – it's all here."

Exploring departments as diverse as the Mercy Cancer Centers, the Mercy Inte-

grated Lab and the Legal Department, the students are talking with executives, physicians, nurses, techs and other staff members to learn the many healthcare jobs available. In addition, they are doing a great deal of reading and research and will write a paper about healthcare disparities, comparing the status of care locally to state and nation-wide averages.

The students said the program has been an incredibly worthwhile use of their time this summer and they all are extremely interested in pursuing careers in healthcare. This is exactly what the Diversity Council hoped for when it sponsored the program, said Mercy's Chief Retention and Diversity Officer Jeanne Heintschel.

"We have made a concerted effort to make connections with the community and have focused in particular on connecting with racially diverse high school students, first by inviting their schools and now by inviting students into our facilities," she said. "We hope that we are forging relationships that will encourage these students to consider not only careers in healthcare but careers within Mercy Health Partners.

Moses said the program is a work in progress so plans are still being made for follow-up but Mercy will maintain contact with the students after their internship ends. Plans are already in the works to expand the program next summer to offer more students the opportunity to participate.



Victor Woods, Sydni Slack, Steven Mickus, President and CEO of Mercy Health Partners, Lakalea Wilson, and Eric Johnson

"To protect the workers in their inalienable rights to a higher and better life; to protect them, not only as equals before the law, but also in their health, their homes, their fire-sides, their liberties as men, as workers, and as citizens; to overcome and conquer prejudices and antagonism; to secure to them the right to life, and the opportunity to maintain that life; the right to be full sharers in the abundance which is the result of their brain and brawn, and the civilization of which they are the founders and the mainstay... The attainment of these is the glorious mission of the trade unions."

- Samuel Gompers, 1898

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Initiative Seeks to Improve African-American Marriages in Toledo

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Project manager Alan Bannister, and coordinators Avis Files and Brenda Hailey.

Married couples, people dating and singles gathered on Saturday, August 23, for a conference sponsored by the African-American Healthy Marriage Initiative's Toledo Chapter to launch their "Save Toledo's African-American Marriage" campaign.

"African-Americans in Toledo need to take the time to really think about life and their relationships. The easy thing to do in marriage is quit, but the real courage is displaying the patience and willingness to work through your differences. This conference is just a start but we believe that we can turn the tide nationally toward, healthier, stronger African-American marriage," said Brenda Hailey, project coordinator.

This first annual conference was a result of a statewide effort by the Ohio governor's office to

find ways to strengthen relationships and encourage more African-American marriages. "The goal of the initiative is to teach 20 couples the tools for a successful partnership in marriage each quarter, in eight sessions," said Hailey.

Toledo is just one of four



Brad and Michelle Higgs

other major Ohio cities that are participating in this campaign, under direction of Alan Bannister, the project manager for Ohio Governor's Office of faith-based initiatives, and local program coordinators Avis Files and Hailey.

"This is not just for African-American couples, we're open to people dating, engaged couples and singles. This grant has five churches in Toledo, Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus working on this initiative. Some of Toledo's church sponsors are First Church of God, Warren AME, New Life Church, and No Limit Ministries," said Files.

Throughout the day-long conference, couples listened to speakers and shared their marriage stories with couples who completed the program with first timers. One such session included three couple testimonies about the program's success on their marriages. Anita and Raymond Sanders gave the

first testimony on how they learned to make their marriage fun again and communicate better. "Don't take marriage too serious, have fun being married. It's wonderful. When in love comes both the good and

(Continued on Page 11)

Alpha Phi Alpha's Scholarship Golf Tournament

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo chapter, Alpha Xi Lambda, of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc, held its annual scholarship golf tournament at Eagle's Landing Golf Club and about 45 golfers turned out to help contribute to the chapter's scholarship fund.

Typically the fraternity doles out about \$4,500 in scholarships through funds raised at the tournament and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast. This past year, the fraternity surpassed that total and handed out approximately \$7,500.

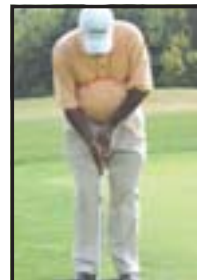
Prior to the golf tournament – on Friday – the chapter held a golf clinic for about central city children, primarily from the Englewood Peace Academy and the local Boys and Girls Club.

Alpha Phi alpha Fraternity, Inc, was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter frat-



nity established for African-Americans. Seven college men at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, "The Seven Jewels," started the fraternity in 1906.

The fraternity has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans, and people of color around the world, ever since.



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## Scott High School Reunion



The Scott High School Class of 1988 held its 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion this past weekend. The highlight of the three day event was a cabaret on Saturday night with DJ Keith Success.

### JLJ Vision Outreach Celebrates Summer Extravaganza

*Special to The Truth*



JLJ Vision Outreach, Inc (JLJO), and Bowling Green State University (BGSU) held a celebration on August 5 to mark the end of the Summer Extravaganza Elite program. In attendance were JLJO students and leaders, as well as BGSU faculty and Interim President Carol Cartwright, Ph.D.

This program was the vision of JLJ Vision Outreach, Inc. Executive Director Keith B. Jordan Sr. and was designed to expose at-risk youth to the many possibilities for their future through higher education. Included in the development of the program were the deans of four BGSU colleges: Health and Human Services, Student Affairs & Multicultural Studies, Education and University Libraries. The program began on June 23 ending with the fourth and final visit on August 5.

During the visits, the students explored many aspects of a



*Stayce Fowler, Dr Cartwright, Keith Jordan*

university experience. The students were treated to helpful hints in making this school year a success as well as fun hands-on activities which allowed the students to gain insight into their own set core of values.

Some of the exercises included a financial budgeting game, team-building activities at the Student Recreational Center, hearing tests, voice printing, tips on good study habits, demonstration of a party trick that was based in scientific theory, how to use the web for research on school projects and researching via microfilm the day they were born.

"If I weren't involved in this program, I would have been doing something I shouldn't have but instead I came here and I had a lot of fun," said JLJO student Ian Sutton.

The program ended with a celebratory lunch, farewell speeches from the college deans and Cartwright and the issuing of certificates to each student. "We are humbled by the level to which BGSU engaged this summer and we are excited about their commitment to expand the program for next summer," said Stayce Fowler, program director at JLJO. BGSU and JLJO, Inc. will continue their extraordinary relationship throughout this school year by offering tutoring sessions twice a week for students in need. For assistance and more information, contact Keith B. Jordan at (419) 242-5615.

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# The Struggle of American Unions to Confront Racism and Promote True Solidarity

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

African-American involvement in labor unions is historically, socially and economically significant. Historically black workers were often excluded from early efforts to organize labor in America due to social segregation of the races and economic constraints on newly freed slaves who were not welcomed into the work force and who often did not receive the same rate of pay as white workers. However, despite these obstacles, African-American workers still sought to organize, initially with their white co-workers and when and if those efforts failed, separately.

Among the first African-American labor union organizers was Isaac Myers. Myers was a free man, born in 1835 in Baltimore, Maryland. He apprenticed as a ship caulker and at a young age supervised one of the largest shipyards in the Baltimore harbor. However, following the Civil War, African-Americans who had been employed in the shipbuilding industry for years were pushed out of the business to make room for the growing number of white immigrant workers in the city.

Myers established the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Company, a black-owned shipyard, after raising \$10,000 from blacks in Baltimore and organized the Baltimore Caulker Trade Society. The 300 black workers he employed became respected and sought after for their excellent work and skilled craftsmanship, earning for their company numerous contracts from white ship owners. One of their clients was the U.S. government.

After a number of local white federations organized the National Labor Union in 1869, Myers, who went with eight delegates to the convention as an observer, organized the Colored National Labor Union the

same year. At that time, it would have been unheard of blacks and whites to meet together for any reason. "Slavery, or slave labor, the main cause of the degradation of white labor, is no more," he said. "And it is the proud boast of my life that the slave himself had a large share in the work of striking off the fetters that bound him by the ankle while the other end bound you by the neck."

Despite the short-lived existence of both unions, they provided the climate for the creation of the Knights of Labor, a union build on a foundation of equality. During a Knights meeting in Richmond, Virginia, a local of Knights refused to stay at segregated hotels that banned their African-American union brothers. Racially mixed picnics, dances, and parades were a common feature of the majority of Knights' locals. "I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting of the Knights of Labor," said internationally known anti-lynching lawyer Ida B. Wells in 1887. "I noticed that everyone who came was welcomed and every woman from black to white was seated with the courtesy usually extended to white ladies alone in this town. It was the first assembly of the sort in this town where color was not the criterion to recognition as ladies and gentlemen."

However, despite their groundbreaking stand against racism in the locals, it was ultimately the Knights' national leaders' unwillingness to address racism that ended the union. During a strike by sugar workers in Louisiana in 1887, then Louisiana Governor McEnery called out the militia because of the solidarity of white and black workers. "God Almighty has himself drawn the color line!" he exclaimed.

The Industrial Workers of

the World, formed early in the 20th century, attacked racism in the Deep South and led organizing drives throughout the world, including South Africa where white and black workers staged an unsuccessful strike in 1910, working together for the first time in that nation's history. Black organizer and IWW leader Benjamin Harrison Fletcher campaigned to win shorter hours, higher wages, and union recognition by the companies on the Philadelphia waterfront.

Also, thanks to the efforts of IWW, the first integrated labor meeting was held in Alexandria, Louisiana, after leader William Haywood observed that blacks and whites worked together chopping down trees, so it was ludicrous that they should not meet together. However, this anti-segregation stance caused blacks and whites standing side-by-side in their fight for better working conditions to be evicted, "blacklisted," jailed, and even murdered, and the lumber strike they organized failed.

When corporate-sponsored community groups began arming themselves and deporting workers under penalty of death, the IWW pleaded with then Louisiana Governor Hall, but he refused to come to their aid, expressing his own fears that the IWW was seeking to destroy the Southern way of life by allowing whites and blacks to meet together. Finally, the IWW was dismantled under pressure from the federal government.

During the early part of the 20th century when many trade unions still excluded African-Americans from membership, another labor union, the AFT (American Federation of Teachers), was among the first union to extend full membership to minorities. In 1918, the AFT called for equal pay for African-American teachers,

the election of African-Americans to local school boards, and compulsory school attendance for African-American children. In 1919, the AFT demanded equal educational opportunities for African-American children, and in 1928, called for the contributions of African-Americans to be taught in the public schools.

Meanwhile, the AFL was still struggling with the race question and it was the CIO that took the lead in fighting for the rights of all workers. The latter group tried to organize the packinghouse workers in Chicago shortly after the 1919 race riots and a failed strike, both of which had aided the packing companies' efforts to eliminate unions. Despite the companies' efforts, the workers put aside their racial differences and organized.

The UPWA took groundbreaking strides to overcome racism within unions and was on the forefront of the civil rights movement in the 1960's. "It is certainly true that the forces that are anti-Negro are by and large anti-labor, and with the com-

ing together of the powerful influence of labor and all people of good will in the struggle for freedom and human dignity, I can assure you that we have a powerful instrument," stated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in an address to the UPWA Anti-Discrimination Conference held in 1957.

That same year, the AFT's fight to fully integrate its own ranks culminated in the expulsion of any local union that refused to admit African-Americans.

Another union that had to break down barriers in order to survive was the UAW. Many of the white workers in the auto plants came from the South and brought the mindset of segregation and "Jim Crow" with them. However, the UAW realized that for the union to be successful, it needed to overcome the racist thinking of the autoworkers and the UAW set out to educate black and white workers that all of their livelihoods depended on shedding their old beliefs and learning to work together to improve working

conditions. "Perhaps few people can so well understand the problems of auto workers and others in labor as Negroes themselves because we built a cotton economy for 300 years as slaves on which the nation grew powerful, and we still lack the most elementary rights of citizens and workers," said King at the 1961 UAW Convention. "We too realize that when human forces are subordinated to blind economic forces, human beings can become human scrap."

AFT members and staff helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for Justice and Jobs. In 1964, 1965 and 1966, hundreds of AFT members traveled to the south to register African-American voters and to teach in freedom schools. Like many other unions, AFT has also been actively involved in developing free trade unions abroad. Their efforts have provided assistance from Easter Europe to South and Central America to South Africa. African-American union leaders have

(Continued on Page 14)

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# Marriage

(Continued from Page 7)

bad. I'm excited for the next 110 years of our marriage," said Mr. Sanders.

A second testimonial came from Michelle and Brad Higgs who learned that God always comes first in their marriage, followed by your spouse and then children. "Children are not as important as our marriage, marriage comes first especially spending time together as a couple," said Ms. Higgs.

Shar and Mike Hansbough provided the final testimonial about listening to one another. "She can talk, talk, talk and I would just be quiet not really listening. I learned how to open up to my wife, and listen to what she said not how she

said it," said Mr. Hansbough.

The conference served as an unofficial kick-off for the new quarter of sessions. The book used the course is called *Basic Training for Couples: Future Challenges for Growth in Your Marriage* by Dr. Rozario Slack and Nisa Islam Muhammad. The book includes chapters about why you are marrying, compromise, communication, conflict mediation, intimacy, family planning, keeping the fire burning, and mission of your marriage. The book is available at [www.blackmarriage.org](http://www.blackmarriage.org).

Closing the event was a special thanks to Pastor Robert A. Culp of First Church of

God on the corner of Collingwood and Central by project manager Alan Bannister. "Thanks to special guest Pastor Culp for hosting this event. Also my father told me that he helped start this program back in the 1970s at First Church of God," said Bannister.

The sessions continue on September 13 at Genesis Dreamplex from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for couples over the age of 50, and September 27 at Genesis Dreamplex from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for all ranges of relationships. Childcare is available and registration is requested by calling 419-255-0097, ext. 103.

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# Take Back Your Family

by Rev Run and Justine Simmons (with Chris Morrow)

c.2008, Gotham Books \$25.00 / \$27.50

Canada 273 pages

By Terry Schlichenmeyer

Last week, you got exactly 15 words from your teenager.

Your younger children were much chattier, but you can barely keep up with everything they yammer about: school, friends, music, TV. They're growing up so fast, and it seems like they're doing it without you. Weren't they babies, like, 10 days ago?

"Take Back Your Family" say Rev Run and Justine Simmons in their new book with the same title. You didn't have kids so you could miss out on their upbringing, so put the brakes on your busy life and enjoy your family again.

If you watch MTV, you might think parent is easy. Rev look like it is. But, hey, you. Cameras can real.

But in this case, real. Rev Run says he among his fans, but to Rev's head. Run preaches and, in this too.

There are a lot of *Your Family*. Number your marriage first. you should neglect relationship you have other parent, if you're united one. As long as other half in the family, your kids will have a strong web on which to rely.

The second "first" is to always put your kids first. In light of the above paragraph, this sounds odd but it's not. Always put your family in front of work, partying, and anything that would take you away from your kids. And if you've got a job that requires a lot of traveling, Run says you should look for work closer to home, at least until your kids are grown.

Get rid of clutter, both physical and emotional. Make your kids feel "large." Treat your family like a well-run business. Make hugs imperative and openly show affection to your spouse. Know what's going on in your children's lives and at their school. Promote an "attitude of gratitude." Pull together on bad days as well as good. And be willing to let your children go when it's time.

Ahhh. In the category of family care books, this is a breath of fresh air.

Although - like most parenting books - much of *Take Back Your Family* is common sense, things like this always bear repeating and seem to mean more when you see them in print. That doesn't mean this book is boring. Authors Rev Run and Justine Simmons will also surprise you with some unconventional advice.

You will also enjoy this book because of the behind-the-scenes peeks, because it doesn't seem preachy and because this "parenting" book also includes some solid advice on relationships.

No matter what your family looks like, and no matter how well your kids behave, this is good to have on your bookshelf. *Take Back Your Family* is a book you'll take out often.



"Run's House" on that being a good Run sure makes it that's Hollywood for make anything look

"Run's House" is counts Brad Pitt stardom hasn't gone practices what he book, he teaches,

firsts in *Take Back One*, always keep That doesn't mean your kids, but that the with your spouse (or single) should be a you support your ily, your kids will

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**The van will leave the the UAW Local 14 Hall at 7:30 a.m. SHARP!**

Let's all join together and make this a day of SOLIDARITY for Labor!

**Retirees welcome too!**

*Ray Wood, UAW Local 14 President*

**children (under 16) can enter the "Buying American" poster contest**

## Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Fifth Annual Showcase of the Arts

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



The graduate chapter Alpha Kappa Alphas sure know how to throw a classy event.

From the gate, you walk in and you are greeted with warm smiles and a true sense of welcome.

The greeting I received was special for another reason.

I walked in the Performing Arts Center at Owens this past Saturday (which is still so nice that as a University of Toledo alum I get just a little jealous) and as the distinguished ladies of the sorority are milling about facilitating their event, who do I see but my former fifth grade teacher Mrs. Houston!

Back in 89/90 in her class, I was a cut up. My parents were up at the school constantly.

I'll never forget how she used to punish us. She felt writing penalties were a waste of time so she would have us copy encyclopedias or dictionaries.

Like ... entire sections of an encyclopedia or dictionary.



And look at that now, Mrs. Houston, that vocabulary serves me well to this day!

But I digress.

So after hugs and smiles from the ladies at the entrance, I got in the theater just in time to catch a stirring rendition of Mariah Carey's "Hero" but I didn't catch the name of the singer.

Whoever she was, people were still talking about that performance three hours later in the parking lot so rest assured she did her thing.

One thing was obvious at the onset, diversity and variety were going to be the themes for the day.

The show was structured so you could never predict what was next.

For example, most of the people there were my mother's age but the performers were of all ages, from elementary age kids all the way to those hovering around 50.

And the actual artistic endeavors on display were full of variety also.

Now, the first name I caught was dancer Brandie Preston.

As soon as I heard those opening guitars from Jill Scott's "I Keep" I was about to get loud in the audience like "awww, that's what's up!!" and all that but then I noticed no one else seemed to recognize the song. Her performance: way too short!

I was loving it and then it was over. The fluid motions of modern dance are meant to enthrall and entice you into seeing the body as an instrument, so you watch and notice how the movements highlight the music and ... then it was over!

Brandie, whoever you are, you got skills, tho.

Efrem Graham and Kristian Brown proved once again why they are Toledo's ultimate co-masters of ceremonies by giving all the performers their recognition as they approached and departed the stage which helped if you couldn't make out the program in the dark.

Ophelia Thompson got the audience going with Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise."

Felt good to hear that outside the month of February, great choice.

Her other piece, "Year 143" was on point tho!

A retired educator still teaching through her art, she offered a thinly-veiled call to everyone to be mindful of Barack Obama's historic run for office.

Next, the audience had their first collective "wow" moment courtesy of Lisa Johnson performing a gospel selection - "One Night With The King." Shy and nervous at first but her voice was undeniable. After the show I had to get my congratulations on, but I had to wait because other people were stopping her to tell her well she did as well.

Okay, black people you know I love y'all, right?

I even love those of you are loud as hell for no good reason.

There was a woman seated to my left about five or six rows back who had to let the whole auditorium know how much of a good time she was having.

But you know what, she actually kept it in line ... like

she knew how to yell just enough so it would be exciting instead of annoying.

Even during a piano recital by Jewell Shelmon, the loud woman in back waited until just the right time to hoot and holler and she actually got the crowd more into it.

I was sitting there like "no, she didn't!" but I was loving it though.

One minor mis-step that

also made me laugh, it was said that Katara Carter would be performing a gospel selection and then lo and behold it turned out to be Disney classic "When Will My Reflection Show" from Mulan! But it was cute.

Visibly nervous but you could tell she has confidence in her little voice.

So many of the younger performers had the normal jitters that wear off after be-

ing onstage long enough. However, there was one girl who was just amazing every time on stage - Positive Force's little sensation, Nicole Herndon (headed for Hollywood next January, by the way).

I watched my mom teach hundreds of young girls in dance troupes growing up and one rule that most of them would always forget, this little girl did it every time: smile!

If you look like you're enjoying yourself onstage, it becomes impossible for the audience to hate. Positive Force stole the show, not just due to little Nicole's perfectly on cue movements or their three times onstage but they gave me a sight I had never seen before in my life: costumed ballet choreography to a gospel song. And I mean it was expertly choreographed, it made use of all the cues from the music and the number of dancers and the strengths of each dancer. It was cute because they are such little kids, but artistically it was brilliant.

(Continued on Page 16)




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## ATTENTION : Singers, Lyricists, Poets, Artists and Bored Toledoans...

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

Big things poppin' as always. The Sojourner's Truth has been your favorite

Minority-owned/minority-focused media source since 2002 but this year we have outdone ourselves.

The Truth Art Gallery opened in Spring 2008 and it has hosted many great events so far.

Now, I have chosen this venue as home court for my return to the Open Mic Night scene.

Every Saturday night. Doors open at 8 p.m.

If you sing, you need to come down.

If you do poetry/spoken word, you need to come down.

If you rap, you need to come down.

If you complain about how Toledo has nothing interesting to do and you are tired of nightclubs...

You really need to come down.

We are just getting started but we would love to have you.

And when I say "we," I mean we as in myself and the folks standing by my side reppin U.G.E.

Under Godz Ent - just a humble gathering of some talented singers/rappers/producers etc.

This night is not only for my artists and music I've made... this is all the people I make music with joining me in welcoming YOU to come and do what you do and we can all just vibe.

My History Doing Open Mic Nights

Very long story short. Five years running, The

Renaissance was an open mic night that I facilitated every Tuesday night.

Four of those years downtown at Murphys and the final year at a coffee shop near UT.

Published books, released CD's, performed around the tri-state area, won some trophies, competed in Slams, organized slams, sat on committees, yada yada yada.

The Renaissance was not just the name of my night, but it was also the name of my crew.

Sometimes as many as 10 members but never less than five, The Renaissance was ... we were oddballs and we loved it that way. If you were around Toledo in 2002, you can remember.

Spoken Word crews were popping up like gangs!

And mine was among the most popular along with Nu Mutants, Organic Canvas, M.A.D.D. and the like.

At 25 I decided to retire from the poetry scene because it had proved to be an exhausting distraction from my other career. So unless I'm on myspace or scribble late at night and I just feel

like writing a poem, I have hardly written or recited since my college days.

Running another poetry night isn't exactly what I wanted out of this endeavor so I wanted to make U.G.E.'s Listening Lounge (tentative name) to be different.

WHAT U.G.E.'S LISTENING LOUNGE/

OPEN MIC NIGHT IS ALL ABOUT

It's straight home-grown, laid back in almost every way.

Not a big production. Not a club night.

As a matter of fact we are keeping it simple, and short so our night will be over in time enough for everyone to still get to the clubs at the peak hour.

Look at Saturday Nights at The Truth Art Gallery as U.G.E.'s pre-club affair for those who love to go out.

Or perhaps a much needed alternative to same old routine for those who

do it at a bigger show, this night is perfect for that.

If you got a poem about something that you experienced that got you heated, OR a love poem or whatever ... this night is perfect for that.

Artists, producers, singers, lyricists, producers, poets, and people who claim they wanna do something different. This night is perfect for you all.

We might be looking for new acts, people might find artists to collab with, you might even see some art you wanna purchase during gallery hours.



Inside The Truth Art Gallery

are sick and tired of the club.

Wear whatever you want to wear. No judgment.

Say whatever you want with your time on the mic. No judgment there either.

I am allowing teens 16 years and older to come since there's no alcohol.

I'm aiming for a crowd that is diverse, festive and laid back.

U.G.E. is myself...my Co. CEO, the artists on our roster who we produce plus a few helping hands.

So often when we share the stage with other rappers, singers or production teams/labels around the area...it's all about business or promotion or whatever.

This isn't about all that. This is U.G.E. extending an invite to all kinds of artists all across the city to come down and we can just chill and enjoy each other's talents.

If you got a new song and you wanna try it out on a fresh audience before you

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glasscitytruth@yahoo.com Or www.myspace.com/undergodzent-Mercury...first friend listed

## Eagle Bowlers Take First Place at State Tournament

Special to The Truth



NDA sophomore Alexa Lubinski placed second in the bowling singles division "C" handicap State Tournament.

Notre Dame Academy (NDA) bowlers, sophomores Susan Dandar and Alexa Lubinski, took first place in the All Events Division at the State Tournament in Akron, Ohio. The All Events Division means their combined scores in the singles, doubles and team events were the highest among all the participants in their respective divisions in the state of Ohio. This is the highest individual honor a bowler can have.

Dandar also finished first in the singles "D" Handicap and in first place with her doubles partner sophomore Alexa Zmuda. In addition, Dandar's whose average was 96 at the time of the tournament bowled her all-time high game of 233 which also earned her an award.

Lubinski took second place honors in the singles division "C" Handicap. Dandar and Lubinski earned trophies and scholarship dollars. All the young women were freshmen at the time of the competition and put in extra hours with their coach Shari Gorski.

For the 2007-08, NDA won both the Gold Team (northeast division) and the Blue Team (south division) league championships. This was the first time in the 34-year history of female participation in the league that an all-female team captured a league championship and NDA did it twice in the same year.

Coach Gorski was also the first female coach to lead an all-girls school to a championship in the Metro League. She was also the first female to participate in the Metro High School League in 1974.

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## Unions

(Continued from Page 10)

often been at the forefront of these global organizing efforts.

In 1945, Panama native and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Pittsburgh, Maida Springer-Kemp became the first African-American woman to represent labor abroad. She was chosen for a labor exchange trip to England where she met many pan-African leaders, including Jomo

Kenyatta. Influenced by African-American labor and civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph who was her life-long mentor and friend, "Mama Maida," as she was fondly called, helped to publicize the African struggles against European colonialism and exploitative employers, working as an AFL-CIO international representative from 1955 to 1965. Symbolizing

the new spirit of solidarity in the American labor movement, as both a woman and an African-American, Maida Springer-Kemp became an important historical figure.

However, despite the strides in bridging the racial gap made by unions as they grew in the U.S., racism still remains an issue. In September of 1972, more than 1,200 black union officials and rank

and file members, representing 37 different international and national unions, met in Chicago, Illinois for two days to discuss the role of black trade unionists in the labor movement. The highlight of the Chicago conference was a speech by William Lucy, the international secretary-treasurer of AFSCME, who was then the highest-ranking black elected labor leader in the

world.

"At the present time, we occupy a very important and critical position in the politics of this nation, both in terms of the trade union movement as well as the political parties of this country," he said. "We are in nobody's pocket, do not intend to get in anybody's pocket, and we are going to assume a position of full partners. You see, we don't want anybody to

be making decisions for us any longer, because we are quite capable of making decisions ourselves. We don't want to be thorn in anybody's side, but we don't want to be a pivot for anybody's wheel." Lucy became the president of the newly formed Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), the longest existing African-American labor organization in history.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

August 27, 2008

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## University of Toledo

PCN 994969 - Direct Service Provider – Rocket Solution Central

This part-time, 20 hr a week, position is highly complex requiring detailed knowledge of a multitude of disciplines including, but not limited to Student Accounts, Financial Aid, Dining Services, and Parking Services. The primary function of this position is to promote and provide direct quality customer service to students of the University. The individual in this position is responsible for: Answering and responding to incoming phone calls and emails; Processing course registrations, seminars, drops, withdrawals, transcript requests, and enrollment certifications; Financial Aid processing and advising; Processing meal plan changes, cancellations, and responding to inquiries about account information; Providing Rocket ID Card replacement, deactivation and cancellations; Providing parking permits and stickers; Providing appropriate referrals. This position will require significant decision making skills. Individuals will be called upon to use discretion when making decisions that fall outside established procedures. Independent judgment will be needed to resolve issues that have created barriers to student success.

This position requires a Bachelor's degree or five years of experience in bursar, registrar or financial aid related fields. Excellent communication and customer service skills are required as well as strong organizational skills and attention to detail. Ability to work independently and as a member of the team is required. A candidate must have a strong work ethic and a history of exceptional customer service. A passing score on the Direct Service Provider Assessment test will also be required. Evening and weekend hours will be required. This is an hourly position, \$14.19, within our CWA union.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job #), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email [recruit@utoledo.edu](mailto:recruit@utoledo.edu), which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, August 29, 2008. The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.**

## Port Authority Funds Neighborhood Economic Development

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will make available \$350,000 to economic development agencies and community development organizations in Lucas County for the specific purpose of neighborhood economic development.

To be eligible to receive funding, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization in good standing and must demonstrate the capacity to engage in economic development at the neighborhood level. Priority will be given to projects in areas of economic distress such as Community Reinvestment Areas and areas eligible for HUD Slum & Blight designation.

The funds will be used for "bricks and mortar" economic development.

The deadline for the sixth round of funds is 5:00 P.M., September 26, 2008.

To obtain more information and a PDF version of the application, log on to [www.toledoportauthority.org](http://www.toledoportauthority.org) and click on the hot link provided, or contact the Port Authority at (419) 243-8251 or the Local Initiatives Support Corporation offices at 419-242-3836.

## The University of Toledo

Job 994907, Director of Development, Ohio CAN!, Institutional Advancement:

Ohio CAN! Director of Development will be responsible for cultivating, soliciting and closing scholarship gifts from prospective donors. The Director of Development will implement focused strategies and oversee necessary tactics for increasing scholarship support. The University of Toledo in collaboration with other Directors of Development and Principal Gift Officers. The Director of Development will be responsible for a portfolio of at least 100 prospects. These prospects will be assigned by the Director of Prospect Research in consultation with the Vice President and Associate Vice President. The Director of Development will work closely with his/her colleagues, the advancement team, Deans and donors to market and solicit significant contributions toward scholarships for veterans, first-generation college students, under-represented populations and the Ohio senior-to-sophomore program.

The successful applicant will possess a Bachelor's degree, an advanced degree is preferred, excellent communication and organizational skills, one to three years professional experience in fundraising or closely related experience, and a demonstrated knowledge of philanthropic activity in higher education preferred. This is an 18-month grant-funded full-time position with the possibility of becoming a permanent position dependent upon funding. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience within the approved hiring range.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job #), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email [recruit@utoledo.edu](mailto:recruit@utoledo.edu), which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by Friday, September 5th, 2008.

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## INTERESTED BIDDERS:

### TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – WARREN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEMOLITION AND MCKESSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEMOLITION

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on September 17, 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 demolition of the Warren Elementary School, and McKesson Elementary School Bid as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger Munger & Associates Architects, Inc. 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 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 **August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008** which can be purchased from **Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd. Toledo, Ohio 43615 Phone: 419-385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **September 3rd, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608. **(The walk-through schedule for the tours of Warren Elementary School and McKesson Elementary School will be provided at that time.)**

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to [Kimakus.Johnson@lbg-llc.com](mailto:Kimakus.Johnson@lbg-llc.com), by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No. 1 Warren E.S. Demolition \$ 207,475.00

Bid Item No. 2 McKesson E.S. Demolition \_\_\_\_\_ \$

29,709.00

Total Estimate: \$ 237,184.00

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS

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

JOB NO.: 28068

PROJECT NAME: Installation of Water/Gas Meters at 435 Nebraska Avenue

WALK-THRU DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2008 @ 10:00am

BID OPENING DATE: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 @ 11:00am

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

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20080028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.

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

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

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY  
MODERNIZATION DEPARTMENT

## Showcase

(Continued from Page 12)

Other sightings of sheer brilliance that day would have to include Ashley Duke and Charity Wimberly. I must admit that with all the cute kids and gospel vibes of the whole day, it was a huge shift in atmosphere when these ladies came out with their routines set to Maxwell's "This Woman's Worth." Once again, I'm lookin' around and I'm like the *only person* who seems geeked by the song selection. Duke and Wimberly had delicate and tasteful choreography set to a song that is designed to create a very delicate and, yeah ... let's just say that song creates one hell of a mood. Where my true heads at? Fifty points for the reader who can tell me what scene of what movie that song is famous for! Okay, never mind.

But no doubt, those two ladies had the most flawless group choreography of the entire event. Brilliant as always, Toledo-based, spoken word impresario Andre "Dre Day" Knighten.

Over the years I have watched this man cultivate



the art of putting an audience firmly in the palm of his hand and his piece "Positive Stew" is always a sure shot.

Earlier in the millennium, Dre Day and a few others took some of us under their wing in a way as the poetry/open mic scene in Toledo flourished and I have been around him enough to say that he embodies his art for real.

No pretending, he's a positive and encouraging person just like his poetry exudes.

C.J. Manning, Jessie Coleman, Leslie Lane, Sherry

Reed and Perry Harris, The AMAZING Tyree Bell (like, honestly, AMAZING!) and others helped to make this event spectacular in every way.

It was a refreshing change of pace for me.

Because of my other endeavors, when I am at a showcase or something similar it's usually someone trying to get into the industry. Even around Toledo... the entertainment scene is so competitive and crowded we all have to be about our business 24/7 and some of us for-

get to enjoy what we do.

This took me back to how my mom and dad (Jaye & Mike Hayes) raised me, doing your art simply because it's uplifting for yourself and others.

The AKA Showcase of the Arts 2008 was exactly that, uplifting for those involved and those of us lucky enough to bear witness.

So to Co-chairmen Denise Black Poon and Melissa Jeter and all the other sorors of the Zeta Alpha Omega that I don't even know ... please know that you have my highest respect for organiz-

ing this event.

Continued success to you

all.

Glasscitytruth@yahoo.com



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