



Local and National News

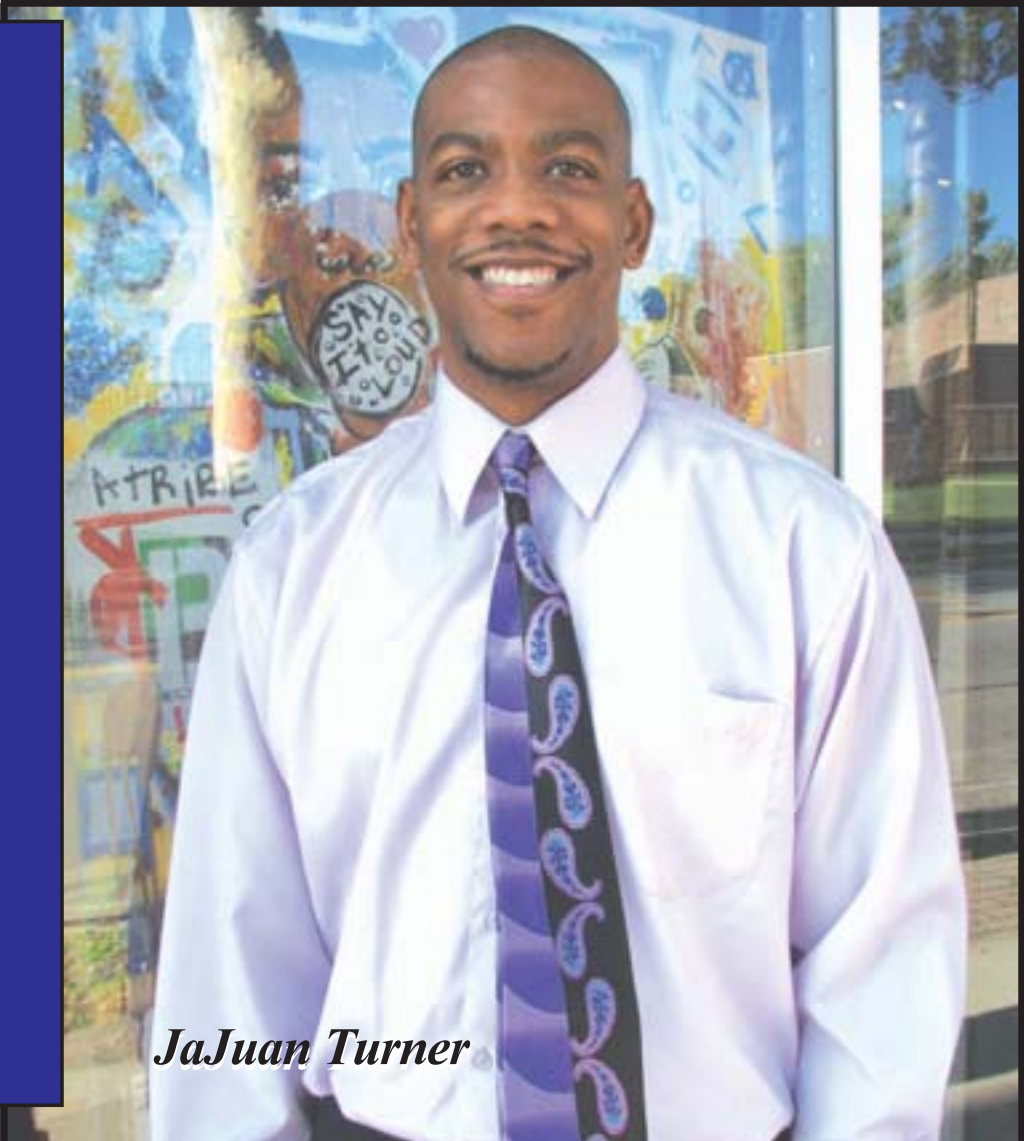
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The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 14, No.26 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." October 15, 2008

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JaJuan Turner

"I had all these plays that I had written that were collecting dust. They had good messages that I felt people needed to hear. There was so much negativity around. I felt we needed to breathe new life into the entertainment industry and the community."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

If we have discovered nothing else during this presidential election cycle it is that no one in the public eye can utter anything touching on the subject of race, ethnicity, gender without expecting multiple forces with every type of agenda to roundly condemn the utterance ... and the utterer.

Several days ago, Senator John McCain was riling the masses by attacking his opponent and his association with terrorists. One not-so-enlightened member of his audience responded appropriately enough and spoke of how she distrusted Senator Barack Obama because "he's an Arab."

Naturally McCain was astonished. And naturally he took the opportunity to deny the woman's charge. Obama is a decent human being he reassured the crowd.

Now McCain, in that particular utterance, said nothing wrong. He just didn't get it right. He did not say that Obama is not an Arab. He rebutted exactly what the woman meant, not what she said. In fact, she did not say that Obama is not a decent human being, she merely said that he is an Arab.

McCain, having run his campaign in recent weeks so that members of his audience could freely make such an association—Obama palls around with terrorists, terrorists are usually Arabs, Arabs are not decent human beings—quickly took umbrage at a syllogism he has helped to reinforce.

Pundits respond to each reference to race in this election as if the latest such reference will bring the discussion to the forefront. The fact is, race has been at the forefront since Obama announced his candidacy. If it hasn't been race, it's been ethnicity or gender.

McCain did not pick the estimable Governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate because she was the best person for the job. He didn't pick her because she is an unreconstructed conservative. He picked her because of gender. He was concerned with winning the election not governing the nation—that would come later. Quite frankly, as we look at how Palin has described what her duties will be in a McCain administration, we wonder if she is running for vice president or first lady.

A recent opinion piece by a syndicated columnist suggested that Obama has not been able to transcend race. No kidding? Who among us has been able to do so?

Obama's association with a white person—former Weatherman Bill Ayers... remember the syllogism from hell: he's a terrorist, Arabs are usually terrorists, Arabs are not decent human beings—somehow comes back to race and ethnicity for not a few folks.

Congressman John Lewis's recent comment that the campaign tactics of McCain/Palin are reminiscent of the tactics George Wallace used were condemned by the McCain campaign as an uncalled for reference to racial intimidation of the past.

Was Lewis incorrect? Or just politically incorrect?

When Obama suggested that his opponents would find issue with the fact that he doesn't look like former American presidents, he was accused of using the race card notwithstanding the fact that McCain had earlier referred to himself as having the makings of a real American president.

Sometimes we just speak different languages. Months ago when Michelle Obama made her infamous remark about finally being truly proud of her country, she was roundly criticized for denigrating America.

But how many African-Americans can say we are proud of our country? Not many that we know of. Love our country, yes. Proud of what our country can become, yes. Proud of the promise that our founding fathers laid out, yes. But, in fact, in the eyes of so many Americans, especially those who are minorities, Michelle Obama's expression of pride may have been a bit premature.

And if it's not the race card, it's the gender card. McCain's supporters have been ever vigilant of being called out on matters of race—of being insensitive to racial issues. Then they go on the offensive.

However, the moment Obama used a phrase like "lipstick on a pig," a phrase McCain and virtually every other politician has used as well, he was accused of being a pig himself, a male chauvinist pig in this case, especially since a woman is on the opposite ticket. She, of course, had referred to lipstick herself, albeit on a pit bull.

What happens if Obama is elected? Does it tamp down people's fear of the unknown... people of all sort? Not likely. So many people are speaking openly these days about the ramifications for the African-American community about an Obama victory. There is a reasonable expectation that an Obama win will mean that calls for the end to affirmative action will increase exponentially from both the white and the minority communities.

In other words, Obama's victory—should that occur—offers the potential of ratcheting up the conversation about race and, temporarily, the tension as well.

Is that worth it?

Absolutely.

Community Calendar

October 15

New Psalmist True Church of God: Pre-dedication kickoff; Featuring Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant from Baltimore, MD; 7 pm: 419-720-0520

October 16

Voter Education/Get Out the Vote Rally: Braden UMC; 4:30 to 7 pm; Rev. Al Sharpton and other labor, religious and civil rights leaders; Shirley Murdock

October 16-18

Third Annual Prayer and Prophetic Conference: New Life C.O.G.I.C.; Workshops at 6 pm on Thurs. and Fri., worship service at 7:15 pm; Saturday Worship Service at 11 am: 419-242-3278 or 419-242-2850

October 17-18

Collingwood Methodist Rummage/Bake Sale: Friday 9 am to 6 pm; Saturday 9 am to 2 pm: 419-476-8034

October 17-19

N-His Name Ministries 4th Annual Perfecting in Holiness Conference '08: New Kingdom Church; Friday Pastor Bryann Rogers; Saturday "Youth Explosion Night;" Sunday Min. Calvin Jackson of Redford, MI: 419-250-4013 or 419-290-8106

Indiana Ave MBC Youth and Young Adult "Faithastic" Fellowship Weekend: "Christian Youth and Young Adults keeping our faith and focus on Christ in the midst of the storm

October 19

Women's Day Celebration 2008: Grace Temple COGIC; 10:45 am; Guest speaker Missionary Delores Jackson of Detroit

October 18

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

Third Baptist Church (Holland) 14th Anniversary Musical: Youth Choir; 6 pm
Toledo Kwanzaa House's Red, Black & Green of the Future Fashions & More: Collingwood Presbyterian; 3 pm: 419-243-3329 or 419-471-1912

Warren AME Kickoff for 160th Anniversary: Grand Reception from 6 to 9 pm: 419-243-2237

October 19

Historic Third Baptist Church's "Blessing of the Hands" Special Service: 11 am; Speaker Dr. Theodore Jones, MD of Detroit's Wayne St: 419-248-4623

Interfaith Mass Choir: Calvary MBC's Lions of Judah Victory Choir presents the musical of the year; 6 pm; Presented by the Lions of Judah Victory Choir

St. Paul MBC 90th Anniversary Celebration: All-day event with afternoon guest speaker Pastor Kevin Bedford of Third Baptist at 4 pm: 419-246-2886

Warren AME: 160 anniversary celebration at the 10:45 am service: Guest speaker is Rev. Marvin McMickle of Cleveland

United MBC 25th Church Anniversary: "Building the Body;" 10:45 am service with Pastor Robert Bass; 5 pm service with Rev. Paul Broadus (first pastor of UMBC)

October 24

Toledo NAACP 83rd Anniversary and Freedom Fund Dinner: Pinnacle; Social Hour at 6; Dinner at 7; Speaker Rev. John Roberts: 419-244-3955 or 419-241-5776

October 24-25

2008 Ohio Young Black Professionals Conference: Park Inn Hotel; "Bridging the Gap in Health and Healthcare;" Registration starts on September 8; Luncheon keynote speaker Jeff Johnson of BET's "The Truth:" 419-243-3343

October 25

ASSETS Toledo Alumni Business Celebration: Bethlehem New Life Center; 10 am to 5 pm: 419-251-9870

Sight Center of NW Ohio White Cane Walk: 1002 Garden Lake Parkway; 9 am to noon; Learn basic elements of how to use a white cane and serve as a sighted guide: 419-720-3937 or www.sightcenterwhitecane.org

Citywide Christian Trustee Association: Monthly meeting; James B. Simmons Bldg; 10 am: 419-380-9477

The Sojourner's Truth

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Lucas County Children's Services' Issue 38

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Issue 38, as Dean Sparks, executive director of Lucas County Children's Services (LCCS), hastens to point out is not a new tax. It is a replacement levy, one of two levies that helps to pay for services to protect Lucas County children from abuse and neglect, and it represents 25 percent of the agency's operating funds.

The scope and breadth of LCCS's impact on children in this area is remarkable. In 2007, the agency served more than 11,000 children and 5,000 families, conducted more than 4,400 investigations and confirmed that more than 2,300 children were victims of abuse and neglect.

Even so, LCCS, says Sparks, "worked diligently to keep kids in homes and decreased the number of removals." The agency increased the number of children going with relatives when they did have to be removed in part because

Lucas County is the only county in Ohio that subsidizes relatives in such instances.

"The citizens of this community have always demanded we do the best for children with what we

"The citizens of this community have always demanded we do the best for children with what we have,"

have," says Sparks as he contemplates the results of this year's election and whether or not Lucas County voters will respond to the agency's request to maintain its operating funds.

Simply put, the agency protects children and Sparks believes that the residents of Lucas County want their children pro-

TECTED - all of their children.

LCCS is mandated by law to investigate reports of child abuse, make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of children from their homes, accept cus-

tody of children from courts with juvenile jurisdiction, provide temporary emergency shelter when necessary, find foster homes for children, implement a system for assessing risk to children and administer federal adoption assistance funds.

The largest expense LCCS faces is in monitoring the county's children -

investigations, keeping track of the children, visiting schools and homes. The second largest part of the budget is for those children who are in the legal care of LCCS.

\$100,000. That works out to two cents per day.

Sparks speaks with pride of how his agency has been a careful steward of taxpayer funds. The levy on the ballot in November was

LCCS's total annual expenses total just under \$46.8 million with federal funding amounting to around \$20 million and state funding of \$3.6 million. Levy dollars are used to leverage the federal monies received.

What happens if the levy fails?

Staffing and services will have to be cut, says Sparks. That means that fewer complaints will be investigated and oversight of children at risk will be reduced. "I hate to think about that," says Sparks. "This community has been very supportive of us because we've reached out to all segments of the community and are partnering with a lot folks here."



This levy, says Sparks will raise \$9.9 million annually to help accomplish those missions at a cost of about \$31 for a homeowner with a house valued at

originally at 1.25 mill until 2003 when it was reduced. The other five-year levy, which was replaced in 2006 at 1.4 mill was originally 2.25 until 2001.

Avoid Long Lines VOTE EARLY VOTE TODAY

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The University of Toledo Africana Studies Program Presents Kemba Smith Sunday, October 26, 2008 3:00 p.m. University of Toledo Law School Auditorium Tickets \$30.00

Moderator Mr. Fletcher Word, Editor of The Sojourner's Truth newspaper, presentation by Kemba Smith, followed by a panel discussion and audience Q & A.

Meet and greet Kemba Smith Immediately following in the Shumaker, Loop, Kendrick Lounge in the U of T Law School Refreshments will be served Meet & Greet Tickets \$20.00 To obtain tickets call Clara Brank (419) 537.0760, Sue Fletcher (419) 476.5730 or Sheryl Riggs (419) 248.4254, Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, Inc. or the University of Toledo, Angela M. Simer 419.530.4660

The Importance of Saving COSI: I took my class of seventh graders to Toledo every December for several years. While I do not live in the Toledo area, we Michiganders loved COSI. Please encourage your voters to fund this issue. Thank you, MaryAnn Cannon Plymouth, MI

You can reopen COSI for less than the cost of one lunch. (That's \$5.21 per year on a \$100,000 home.) Food for thought. KeepCOSI.com Kids Jobs Our Future vote for 37

Obama Hosts Rally in Toledo, Before Final Presidential Debate

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth reporter



Toledo's downtown Seagate Convention Center was filled to capacity as supporters and campaign volunteers gathered to hear his ideas on the economy, tax cuts, healthcare, renewable energy, business incentives, and job creation.

The Monday, October 13, 2008 rally opened with words of encouragement from Ohio political leaders Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Ohio's 9th District, Senator Sherrod Brown, and Ohio Lt. Governor Lee Fisher.

Fisher challenged the crowd to imagine they were on a space station with a zoom lens focused on Toledo. "Now go into one city called Toledo, ladies and gentlemen, the eyes of the world are all wondering what is happening in Seagate Center. In a few weeks we are about to elect the most powerful person on Earth."

Senator Barack Obama was introduced by veteran factory worker and UAW member Jim Snodgrass Jr, who

shared how the recent lay-off has affected his families' finances. "My 401(k) is slowly becoming a 101(k). I believe in Barack Obama because he believes in us."

The crowd then chanted the campaigns' theme "Yes, we can," as they waited for the senator to address Toledo.

Ohio's economic stability was the first topic that presidential candidate Obama addressed. He focused on the major issue of shirking personal savings and 401k plans due to recent economic problems. "Toledo we live in a time of great uncertainty in America. There is an economic crisis that we face, that is just as bad as the Great Depression. The markets across the Globe have become increasingly unstable. Millions of Americans are opening up their 401k savings this week, seeing that so much of their hard earn savings has disappeared to become a 101k," said Obama.

Along with individual eco-

nomic candidate Senator John McCain's new approach that would focus more on Obama then economic issues. "His campaign said and I quote 'if we keep talking about the economy we're going to lose.' Senator McCain may be worried about losing an election, but I'm worried about you losing your jobs. I'm worried about you losing your home. I'm worried about you losing your life savings," said the Democratic candidate.

In the subject of tax refunds, his plan would allow the majority of Americans to qualify for his tax cut program. "I'll reform our tax code, so that 95 percent of workers and families get a tax cut. I'll eliminate income tax for seniors making under \$50,000 per year," said Obama.

In response to recent news of what some experts and the media call the economic bailout or rescue of Wall Street, the senator promised to address the concerns of foreclosed homes. "So we got to act now, we need to pass an

economic rescue plan for the middle class, and we need to not do it five years from now, but right now. So today I'm proposing a number of steps to stabilize our financial system to provide relief for families and communities," said Obama.

Throughout his speech he stated that he also had a plan for small businesses, and all American companies to strengthen the economy by employing American workers. In his plan American companies would receive tax credits for new American workers that are hired. "We can't wait to start creating jobs, that's why I'm proposing to give our businesses a new American job tax credit. Instead of giving tax credits to companies that ship jobs overseas. For each new employee you hire in the United States over the next two years, you are going to get a tax credit. I propose another tax incentive through the next two years to encourage new small business investments," he said.

The senator's speech closed by encouraging Toledoans with his plan for new jobs, investments in renewable energies, homeowner assistance, American business incentives, and future economic stability to create confidence in the economy. "Future generations will judge ours by how we respond to this test. Will they say this was the time Americans lost its way, when it lost its purpose, or we lost our nerve? Will we allow our petty differences and broken politics plunge this country to a dark and painful recession? Or will they say that this was another one of those moments when America overcame? Toledo, I think this is one of those moments," said Obama.


Obama plans to stay in the Toledo area after the rally to prepare for Wednesday's final presidential debate against McCain at Hofstra University in New York.



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Owens Community College Expands Access to Higher Education Through New Toledo Public Schools Success Program Partnership

Special to The Truth

All graduating Toledo Public Schools' students in financial need will be afforded the opportunity to pursue a free college education at Owens Community College as the academic institution's Foundation announces the expansion of its Success Program partnership to include all high schools within the Toledo Public Schools district.

The 2009 graduating classes of Bowers High School, Libbey High School, Rogers High School, Scott High School, Start High School,

Toledo Early College High School, Toledo Technology Academy, Waite High School and Woodward High School, among others, will serve as recipients of this unique program, which is designed to assist students, who receive only partial state and federal financial aid, attend college. The Success Program will bridge the gap between the federal grant aid a student receives and the cost of an Owens education.

Fourteen high schools are now partners in the Owens

Success Program. Earlier this year, both Toledo Public Schools' Woodward High School and Findlay City Schools became the first and second educational institutions to partner with the College's Foundation and extend this opportunity to its students. Since announcing the new initiative, 87 Woodward and Findlay high school students have chosen to continue their education at Owens through the Success Program.

"Every student should have the opportunity to pursue a college education and realize their goals and ambitions," said Christa Adams, Ph.D., president of Owens Community College. "The Success Program was established to eliminate financial barriers and provide greater access to higher education. Owens Community College is proud to further its partnership with Toledo Public Schools and the mission of educating and developing Northwest Ohio's future lead-



Students receiving scholarship news



Waite Principal David Yenrick and seniors

ers and societal contributors."

"Toledo Public Schools appreciates the continuing support from Owens Community College and the generosity they are extending to our students through the Success Program," said John Foley, superintendent for Toledo Public Schools. "The Success Program provides our students with a tremendous opportunity to attend college and pursue an associate's degree while planning for a successful future."

In order to be eligible, Toledo Public Schools' students must graduate from high school, be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours each semester at Owens and complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial aid and receive some federal/state grant funding. Recipients must enroll at Owens during the first Fall Semester or Spring Semester following graduation and will have three years to complete their associate's degree

through the Success Program initiative.

The Owens Foundation was incorporated in April 2002 and has over \$2.1 million in assets. The Foundation Board of Directors currently is comprised of 23 community leaders from Lucas, Wood and Hancock counties. The mission of the Owens Foundation and its Board of Directors is developing and providing resources to advance the College's overall mission of serving students and the surrounding communities. The

Foundation is also dedicated to removing barriers to education by providing student scholarships and supporting growth and innovation at Owens.

Toledo Public Schools is the fourth largest public school system in the state of Ohio and is recognized as one of the leading urban school districts. The school district enrolls nearly 29,000 students and operates 38 elementary schools, seven middle schools, nine senior high schools and various specialized learning centers.



John Foley and Christa Adams

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American Issues – What It's All About

Wayne (Fresh) Martin is a hustler. Whether cutting hair in his basement or selling drugs on the street, he does what he has to do to get his money.

His girlfriend, Nadia, is college-educated with a degree in business management. She wants him to marry her and quit his illegal activities.

They open up a barber shop, but Fresh is still not ready to give up his life on the streets. Their relationship is threatened when Nadia witnesses him making a drug transaction in the shop. He is forced to re-evaluate his life when he learns that she is pregnant. Will he choose her or the streets?

* * * * *

New Life Productions brings American Issues to the Maumee Indoor Theater on Saturday, October 18 for two performances – 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased at Jack's Men's Wear or The Sojourner's Truth. For more information, call 419-514-0668

Dr. Darrell Hall Locates Medical Practice in Downtown Toledo

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Dr. Darrell Hall, MD, family practitioner, has moved part of his practice – Empowered Disease Management (EDM Health Services) into a downtown office at 316 Michigan Avenue and the City of Toledo kicked in a grant of \$5,000 to help him get started at his new location.

The city monies came from the Mayor's Downtown Incentive Fund.

"We need to provide health care for those who still live downtown," said Dr. Hall last week during the announcement.

EDM will be bringing about 20 employees into the downtown area in order to service residents of nearby neighborhoods especially those who are elderly, said Dr. Hall.

EDM focuses on the fact that "there is a strong relationship between emotional state and disease," Dr. Hall has said in the past. "Physical fitness is also important as well as the level of environmental stressors."

Who Knew?



This photo was taken in Feb. 2006 with Senator Barack Obama at the Senate Bldg during Delta Days in the Nation's Capital. Little did Michel Vaughan (Second from left) of Charlotte, NC know at the time that she was taking a picture with perhaps the next president of the USA. Far right is actor Suzanne Douglas (*Tap*) and on the other side of Obama is Akilah Weaver, also from the Charlotte chapter.

Issue 6 is a bad deal for Toledo.



NO jobs for Toledo under Issue 6. Just empty promises.

Issue 6 locks in a casino monopoly for one out-of-state company and one Southwest Ohio county. Toledo would be locked out – and would get NO jobs or any other real benefits.

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There are loopholes in Issue 6 that could let the out-of-state owner avoid paying any casino taxes to Ohio. That means that Toledo gets NO jobs and NO guaranteed revenues from Issue 6.

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JaJuan Turner: Breathing New Life Into The Toledo Theatre Scene

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

JaJuan Turner is a writer. It's as simple as that, really.

What exactly does the young writer write? Just about everything and he has been doing it for just about forever.

Turner writes poetry, screenplays, stories, songs. Above all, Turner writes plays.

"Stage plays are what I have the most control over," says Turner. "I can rent a theatre, rehearse, cast some hungry actors, put on a show. I have more control than trying to get a book published or a screenplay produced. This is what I can do at the moment."

And at the moment, this weekend to be precise, Turner, who also produces, directs and acts in his plays, will make his latest work of art come alive at the Maumee Indoor Theater.

New Life Productions, Turner's theatre company that he founded in 1999, presents *American Issues* on Saturday, October 18 at 4:30 and 8 p.m.

"It's all about faith, personal responsibility and commitment," says Turner of the particular message he and his theatre company will be bring-

ing to live audiences this weekend.

"Ultimately you have to believe in something. You can't simply say that I'm down in the dumps because this was done to me. You have to take responsibility for your own life. Excuses are useless and you have to commit to doing the right thing, to taking care of business."

The concept of taking responsibility for one's actions is a theme that resonates throughout Turner's body of work. His previous three productions – *Choices Equal Consequences*, *The Game of Life* and *Come Together* – all carried themes about the importance of proper decision making and the consequences of ignoring one's responsibility.

Here's what The Truth reviewer, Geneva Chapman – who has dubbed Turner "the next Tyler Perry" – had to say about his production of *Come Together* back in February 2007: "What Turner does with these all-too familiar elements rises above the cheap slap-



stick comedy routines, melodrama and predictability of those so-called 'professional' plays. He writes witty, youthful dialog for his young cast, but he's not just trying to get laughs. Turner teaches with theatre."

Turner's teaching is born of his own life's experiences and the difficulties he has encountered. He has certain expectations of himself and he feels his mission is to use his

art to raise others' expectations of themselves.

"I want to give people hope; I want to inspire," he says. Turner, a native of Flint, Michigan, comes from an environment he describes as the "dog-eat-dog streets and a broken family."

He had a sister who was diagnosed with bone cancer at the age of 10 and eventually succumbed to the disease when she was 14 – on Turner's 19th birthday. His family also has a history of mental illness.

"But I choose – a personal choice – not to be down and out through will power and dedication. I just can't choose to give up and if I can do this, than anybody can. You've got to get up and make it happen," says the playwright.

Turner has been making it happen for quite a while. He started writing when he was in the third grade during a creative writing session. "My biggest inspiration was my English teacher, Mrs. Stevenson. She pulled me aside and planted a seed that I had a gift. By the time I was a freshman, I had already written a story, poems and songs. Spike Lee inspired me to write screenplays."

What he did not get in Flint, among family and friends, was any confirmation that he was on the correct path in pursuing his calling and the craft of writing.

Turner arrived in Toledo 10 years ago from those Flint mean streets. "Initially it was just on a whim," he recalls. "I came to visit friends and family. On my way home my car broke down. By that time, I felt Toledo was a better alternative."

Turner enrolled in the theatre department of The University of Toledo before starting New Life Productions.

"I had all these plays that I had written that were collecting dust," he says. "They had good messages that I felt people needed to hear. There was so much negativity around – violence, sex, pimps, thugs and so forth. I felt we needed to breathe new life into the entertainment industry and the community. I wanted to be a part of that. I was kind of

annoyed by the lack of positive images in the entertainment industry."

So the productions followed – each one more polished and more successful than the previous.

Near the end of 2007, Turner branched out and sponsored the Midwest Talent Showcase in order "to give other talented people a chance to perform." Over 30 acts participated in the Showcase as Turner reached into his own pockets to provide prize money. "It's important to help one another," he emphasizes of his desire to give others the opportunity.

What's up next for Turner? That's easy. He's a writer. He'll just keep writing.

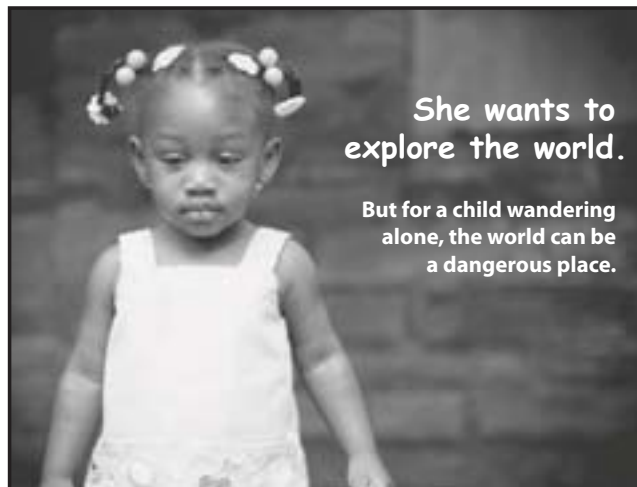
He just signed a production deal with a company that will help take *American Issues* on the road – perhaps to as many as 20 cities throughout Ohio and Michigan.

He's working on a series of children's books and he's been writing more songs recently because he wants to produce a gospel demo.

He also wants to return to school to study the art of writing screenplays.

In the meantime ... the play's the thing.

"I will continue to write plays so that I can get on the road with them. They have good messages that people need to hear."



She wants to explore the world.

But for a child wandering alone, the world can be a dangerous place.

Parents sometimes underestimate their child's desire to see the world, especially when we hear reports of a young child wandering alone on the street. It's almost always because the child has found a way to get outside the house to satisfy his or her curiosity.

If you're the parent or caretaker of small children, be sure you take steps to keep them safe and secure.

- Sleep when your children sleep; stay awake when they're awake.
- Always know where your child is in the home and what he or she is doing.
- Install a sliding bolt on any exit doors. Make sure the lock is near the top of the door, to prevent a child from climbing on a chair or table to reach it.
- Use infant gates to block off rooms as needed.
- Use door alarms or baby monitors so you know if someone gets out.
- If your child isn't old enough or able to talk, mark both your name and theirs on their clothing. This will help law enforcement officials identify your child.

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Sinbad Is Still Alive, Well and Keeping His Audiences in Stitches

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



this interview and I present this to all of my readers as proof that: YOUR CITY is doing big things so stop hating and join all the doers by coming to The Stranahan this weekend to laugh and kick it with Sinbad.

Michael Hayes: Sinbad, how are you sir? Thanks for coming to Toledo but, yo... I have got to ask the most important question out of the gate...and my momma co-signs this for all your fans in her generation... Where have you been?

Sinbad: Haa haa, man I been on the road. I never stopped. I been on the road since 1983.

Far as TV and movies, man, a new time came and Hollywood just wasn't interested in what I do. It became this time of...they thought they wanted edge and I'm thinking I'm being edgy just by walking. I talk about every subject. I had no idea that Hollywood would get so caught up on me being 'clean' because I was 'dirty' when I started.

One night years ago my father came to one of my shows and asked me to clean it up.

When I was out on the road, nobody cared if I was clean or dirty. They just knew I was funny.

But when I got to Holly-

wood, they try to figure out 'well, what bag are you in?' you know? 'What type of Negro IS this?'

Then they start using terms like Squeaky Clean, All American, Family Man and I'm like "Whoa, none of these things are what is true of me" I was just a brother who had a different approach.

Hayes: No doubt, I see some of the older pics of you online and you're rocking the leather, the earring and just had a bad boy swag but then they kind of put you in a box.

Sinbad: Hell yeah, man. See what would happen is they would meet me and talk to me and then think "oh, well

he's kind of militant". Plus, I noticed sometime they were angry that I knew stuff. I wasn't just some kid that was coming to Hollywood. I had been to college, I had been to the military. I didn't come to Hollywood just looking to be a star or trying to find myself. I had already found myself, I knew who I was when I got there.

I hoped to do something but I also hoped to *stay* something, it wasn't just about making money. I came from the civil rights era. I hoped what I did made me money but I hoped to also say something.

Hayes: That's what's up. *(Continued on Page 13)*

First things first, if you hating saying there is nothing to do in Toledo... I know all 300,000 of us can't be bored all day every day. This "I hate Toledo" mindset has got to stop. The 90,000 or so people who read this paper right here, you really have no excuse. And if you're bored during a week like this week, then you are just a boring-ass person. Period!

That's what's up, just look at this week!

You got Barack Obama chilling in the Glass City for like four days straight!

That's major. And then at the end of the week our city is welcoming one of America's premier comedians...Sinbad.

Yeah, Sinbad. You know you got swag when you can have a career off of one name.

I remember my parents watching his comedy specials. I remember his role as

Walter on *A Different World*. That's where he made the biggest impact on me.

But I have to admit... even though I laughed at his jokes and went to see his major Hollywood releases, I still never knew much about him.

When I told my mother that The Sojourner's Truth had lined up this interview, she told me about how important he was to people at the tail end of the baby boomer generation.

People who are 50ish or a little more.

My mom told me how her friends would quote Sinbad the way we all run around quoting Katt Williams and Dave Chappelle but that the freedom for many popular comedians to enjoy success and enjoy diversity in their approach... much of that freedom came from the way Sinbad presented himself.

So I was honored to have

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Toledo Police Officer Retires After 28 years With Safe-T-City Program

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Over 50 fellow officers and family members gathered to celebrate the career accomplishments of Officer Earl Barry on Friday, October 10, 2008 at Toledo Police Department's Scott Park Station.

The retirement party was originally a surprise arranged by fellow Community Service Officers Penny

and Starr, but eventually Barry figured out the surprise the day of the event. "This was organized by Officer Starr [Mitchell-Chong] and Officer Penny [Holcomb]. They worked with my father for years down in Safe-T-City and in the school program. They really took the primary responsibility, we can't say

thank you to them enough for initiating this event," said Katrina Barry.

Barry's children – Kimberly, Katrina and Roderick – expressed how much they respected their father and look forward to spending more time with him. "We're extremely proud; words really can't say how proud we are. We've been proud



Officer Barry and family



Officer Barry and colleagues

of him our whole life. I don't think there are other actual words to say," said Kimberly Barry.

Several fellow officers and co-workers spoke words of gratitude and encouragement to Barry who spent the most of his police officer career in Community Service Department where he, along with fellow officers, would visit schools and groups to discuss safety issues.

"They are really going to miss him because actually they call it Safe-T-City, but Earl is Safe-T-City. I've talked to people in their 30s who went through Safe-T-City, and he's been through generations of people. They don't say I went to Safe-T-City, they say I know Officer Barry," said Lieutenant John Preston.

Barry is obviously well-known for his role with Safe-T-City Program, where he has worked for the past 24 years every summer. Safe-T-City Program is a child pedestrian and traffic safety program with a life safety course. It includes

classroom instruction and outdoor practice in a miniature city complete with streets, sidewalks, small buildings, traffic lights and stop lights. One of the Safe-T-City streets is named in honor of Officer Barry, who is now preparing for life

after retirement.

"It's sort of exciting and little bit scary because you don't know what to expect. It will be a while before I become used to not having to wake up at 5:30 in the morning anymore. For the

(Continued on Page 14)



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Darrick Beckwith
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African-American Women's Cancer Support Group Hosts 9th Annual Cancer Awareness Workshop

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

A group of more than 50 attended the 9th Annual Cancer Awareness Workshop at Southern Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, Oct. 4, to get the facts about cancer prevention, screenings, and treatment.

The workshop was organized by the African-American Women's Cancer Support Group, which was initially founded in 1993, to provide information and support to women diagnosed with breast cancer, but was soon expanded to include women diagnosed with any form cancer.

Several vendors were on hand to provide information to those in attendance including representatives from the American Cancer Society, Mercy Health Partners, ProMedica Health System, and the Northwest Ohio Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Participants were also given the opportunity to sign up for The Sister Study, a breast cancer research study designed to explore how environment and genes may affect ones chances of getting breast cancer by studying women between the ages of 35-74 whose sisters had breast cancer, but who have not been diagnosed with the disease themselves.

According to data from the American Cancer So-

ciety, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed among African-American women. Last year alone, more than 19,000 African-American women were expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer. Of that number, 5,830 were expected to succumb to the disease. In fact, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among African-American women surpassed only by lung cancer. Which is why early detection is the key says Bessie Mack, African-American Women's Cancer Support Group member and 28-year breast cancer survivor.

"I think one of the main reasons other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that I am still here today, is [because of my] paying attention to my body, noticing that there was a change, and going to my doctor and following through," Mack said.

"We must pay attention to our bodies...any slight change, we need to check it out," Mack continued.

Mack's message was reinforced by Tina Myers, coordinator of Mercy's Mammogram Assistance Program who relayed the story of a 16-year-old who died of inflammatory breast cancer after failing to inform her parents and medical providers in a timely manner of the persistent pain and itching in her breasts.

"You have to be proactive, if a doctor tells you

that you are too young to have breast cancer, go with your gut reaction," Myers said.

"There are so many women out there who are only looking for that lump, the important thing to remember is that inflammatory breast cancer does not always present with a lump," Myers continued.

According to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, inflammatory breast cancer is the most aggressive form of breast cancer, and accounts for about five percent of breast cancer cases in the United States. Inflammatory breast cancer is also slightly more common in African-American women, with 10 percent of African-American women being diagnosed with IBC, compared to six percent of white women.

Common symptoms of inflammatory breast cancer include warmth and swelling of the breast, itching or pain in the breast that won't go away, nipple discharge, dimpling of the skin, and one breast becoming much larger than the other.

The AAWCSG has more than 70 members, and meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at North Coast Behavioral Healthcenter on South Detroit Avenue at 6 p.m.

Student Suspension/Expulsion Seminars

The Truth Staff



The African American Parents' Association will be holding parent and student informational seminars to address the Toledo Public School's Discipline Policy and its implementation, throughout the 2008-2009 school year. These seminars will provide information on (1) what the rules are, (2) what the law is, (3) what your rights are and (4) how to advocate for the student, when suspended or expelled, removed or sent to BIC.

The first three seminars will be held at the Kent Branch Library on the third Monday of each month from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

The dates are: October 20, 2008, November 17, 2008, December 15, 2008.
Contact: Charles Brown 419-535-3075
Twila Page 419-243-3813

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St. John's Jesuit 2020 Program Molds "Men for Others"

By Faith A. McGlown
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Across the nation, African-Americans and others rejoice and celebrate Barack Obama's candidacy for the office of president of the United States. Supporters admire him because he rose from a single-parent home to become the father – that he never had – to his children. Loads of Americans respect him because of his unquestionable intellect and eloquence. They embrace him because he is one of them. But, most importantly, he is a man for others – all others.

How can parents model and mold their young men to become the next Barack Obama? With all the challenges that subtly and blatantly bombard young men? Along his journey, there is no doubt Senator Obama had some help and guidance from people who saw his potential and nurtured it.

St. John's Jesuit High School is grooming some of the future leaders of our communities – "men for others." The 2020 Jesuit Scholars Program, which began in the mid-1990's, targets students whose economic and social disadvantages would otherwise exclude a St. John's Jesuit education. St. John's and the Jesuit name have a reputation for excellence recognized by colleges and universities across the county.

St. John's offers one of the area's largest selections of Advanced Placement classes, which allows students to earn college credit, and honors programs with over 35 classes. St. John's students have earned more college scholarships and awards over the years than any other area high school. Scholars receive ACT and SAT test preparation and



Fr. Tom Pipp, Mary Ann Ransey, and Jesuit Scholar

classes, college counseling, and college tours including historical black colleges.

We've all heard the shocking statistics about how currently 580,000 black males are currently serving sentences in state or federal prisons, while fewer than 40,000 black males earn a bachelor's degree nationally. St. John's gives its

2020 scholars the tools to succeed and avoid the pitfalls of crime, drugs or unmet potential. Like Obama, young men will need to overcome these obstacles to become future leaders.

Father Thomas J. Pipp, vice-president for Jesuit Identity & School Diversity, said that St. John's 2020 Scholars program is making an investment in future leaders of the community. By the year 2020, the goal is that these successful college graduates will have emerged as the presidents, doctors, lawyers, engineers and business owners of our communities.

Balancing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, St. John's 2020 scholars give back to the community through Christian service. They are given opportunities to develop leadership skills in and out of the classroom and as a part of 29 athletic teams and 50 clubs. Christian service is a cornerstone of the St. John's education.

"We are involved in the community, most people don't even care," said PJ Wimberly, St. John's senior and 2020 Scholar. PJ also participated in the black college tour earlier this year.

"We are more aware that others need your help," said 11th grader Zoebedeh Malakpa about giving back to the community.

The African-American Assembly and 2020 Scholars program delivered school supplies for the Lincoln Academy for Boys. The Assembly plans to follow the Lincoln students through their sixth-grade year offering mentorship and assistance.

Transitioning into the cur-

riculum and atmosphere can be challenging for scholars. In addition to Fr. Pipp, Mary Ann Ransey serves as the 2020 Jesuit Scholar Student Life Director. She has been described as "pack leader," "den mother" and "the whip-cracker" by the scholars. It has been said that she is the glue that has held many students together during their transition into St. John's and their continued success.

"I wouldn't have made it without Mrs. Ransey, period," said Khiry Hills, senior and Sergeant-at-Arms for the 2020 program. "I would be lost."

He's deciding among Bowling Green State University, Xavier University, University of Dayton, Kent State University and The University of Toledo.

PJ's mother, Rolanda Wimberly, said she is also thankful to Ransey.

"If it hadn't been for Mrs. Ransey, PJ wouldn't have made it. I love Mrs. Ransey; I give it all to Mrs. Ransey," she said. "She is his mother away from home."

Wimberly added that Ransey keeps everything afloat and she is more like a social worker than anything else.

From school supplies to ties to pep talks, Fr. Pipp's motivation and Ransey's guidance form a tag team to ensure that scholars integrate successfully into the St. John's community and eventually graduate.

Both Fr. Pipp and Ransey agree that parental involvement is the key to any student's success at St. John's. Parents meet regularly as a group to celebrate academic achievement. They become involved in the St. John's Fathers and Mothers Clubs, attend Mini-Class Night, and Mom Prom. Families serve as support systems for one another and a 2020 retreat for students and families takes place once a year.

The diversity of the student body is celebrated at St. John's. Scholars become friends with students from other cultures who are their neighbors and others who come from around the world as part of SJJ's international World as One program. In

addition, the 2020 program includes scholars of Arabic, Greek, and Egyptian ethnicities. Diversity prepares young men for a new global economy and lifestyle.

St. John's junior Corey Greenwade said that while he lost some friends who attend Toledo Public Schools by attending St. John's, he gained some new ones.

"The people here are cool," Greenwade, who is an honor student and 2020 scholar, said about the SJJ community. Greenwade hopes to attend Howard University or The Ohio State University.

Neil Duris, an 11th grader, is not a 2020 scholar but he said it's good to be as diverse as possible because there's not just a bunch of kids from the suburbs attending St. John's. He has met new and different people and formed friendships that extend off the school's campus.

Currently, there are 71 scholars in the 2020 program, with 20 seniors preparing for higher education. These seniors are applying to colleges and mentoring underclassmen. This year's freshmen class received home visits from Ransey and Fr. Pipp, attended a two-week summer enrichment program and conducted tours of the campus before the start of the new school year.

"The curriculum is demanding and rigorous, it has a diverse body of thought and ideas, and I'm exposed to people that I may have otherwise never met. I feel prepared for college and life," said Hills, summing up his experience at St. John's. He and his fellow 2020 Scholars have become "men for others."

Over \$1.7 million in tuition assistance awards are available in scholarships and non-repayable grants. St. John's partners with over 60 percent of their families to cover tuition costs.

For information or to discuss if the 2020 Jesuit Scholar Program is the right fit for your son, contact Fr. Pipp or Ransey at 419-865-5743. Visit the Toledo 2020 website at: www.sjjitans.org.



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The Lima Truth

October 15, 2008

The Sojourner's Truth

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Time for Change Say the Candidates and the Celebrities

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"What is today?" The excited crowd gathered in downtown Lima on Monday, October 6, 2008 facing the temporary headquarters of the Allen County Democratic Party nestled against the Obama Command Center.

"This is the most important day for Ohioans next to November 4. What is today?" Nearly 200 voices erupted into one: "The last day to register to vote!"

Josiah Matthews is running for Allen County Commissioner – he stood on a picnic table and made his plea into the microphone. "We make history today and with this election no matter what the outcome. The biggest change there has been is with you – you are here! Look at the neighbor standing next to you and ask are you regis-



Cuba Gooding Jr.

tered? Have you voted? Ohio has early voting, so what are you waiting for?"

The crowd continued to assemble in the square usually quiet at this time of day, only seeing real activity during planned social events and festivals, but today another honored guest was to arrive. Actor Cuba Gooding, Jr. was scheduled to stop by and address the citizens of Lima to encourage them to remain strong, to register and to vote.

"Until 9:00 tonight, we still have time to register every single voter. Our worst nightmare is to open this office tomorrow and see a hundred pairs of eyes looking at us asking 'Are we too late? We want to register.' And it would be too late. This is our

11th hour, are you willing to help us seek out those who have not gotten the message that today is the last day to register to vote for change in America? We need each of you here to join us this evening at 5:00 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on Lima's South side. We'll feed you and arm you with registration forms; we will do our final canvassing effort for registration in the 5th ward. Will you come?" Many in the crowd answered with strong "Yes!" and the underlying buzzing began again as phone calls were made and people began to make plans to meet at the park.

As the speaker looked above the crowd, he gave a

questionable thumb up then said: "In a moment, I can present to you Mr. Cuba Gooding, Jr."

An excited hush fell over the crowd, quiet anticipation, then another eruption of applause and screaming as the Academy Award-winning actor headed toward the square. A frenzy of photographs, handshakes, autographs, smiles as the people swarmed this beloved public figure. As has been the case with all the visiting celebrities this year, everyone was patient, respectful, and gracious.

"I am an actor. Not a political activist, not a social reformist. I usually don't endorse any candidate because when you're watching

Jerry McGuire, *Radio*, or even the new film I just completed yesterday, I need you to be lost in the character I'm creating. If you know too much about me; you will see too much of me on the screen, so I usually keep 'me' behind the scenes. But when they asked me if I would mind visiting Lima today to encourage people to register and vote, I said 'Yes, I Can!' I'm asking all of you to follow me just a block from here is the Board of Elections. Any of you who has not registered can do so right now, and you can cast your vote, right now. Will you come with me?"

And they did, as he led the crowd he graciously signed autographs, posed for more pictures and answered questions. Why this campaign, why did this candi-

date inspire him to step out of his usual comfort zone. "[Obama's] got a plan that's going to help us," replied Gooding. "He's a dynamic individual and a dynamic speaker, and his wife, Michelle is just as dynamic. I think he can make the plan work, and that's what America needs, he's what America needs."

The Allen County Board of Elections was overwhelmed with those who chose to vote immediately after registration, many first time voters and families gathered. "It's history in the making" was a phrase heard more than once.

Meanwhile, at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park; the grill was blazing preparing free hotdogs and hamburgers for those who have dedicated their evening to regis-

tering voters and providing rides to the Board of Elections for those who wanted to participate in early voting.

"I don't know about this early voting, stuff – I never heard anything about it until today," said one observer. "I'm not ready – I know who I want to vote for president, but all these issues still have me baffled – I need more time. I'm going to vote, that's for sure, but I'm not going to vote today!"

"I voted today because I've already made up my mind!" said another. "I know who I think should be in those positions, because I've been paying attention, but my first vote, that was for Obama!"

Many in the crowd engaged in conversations around the voting process and who should decide what, but once a soda washed down their meal, they grabbed up their clipboards and walked into the fifth ward for door to door, face to face registrations, and as one group left the park, another would return with stacks of filled forms to hand to their neighborhood leaders.

"I've been at the Board of Election for 10 years, and I've never seen anything like it!" Keith Cunningham is the director of the Board of Elections for Allen County. His office was filled non-stop with voters up to and until the final hour.

It's a new time for politics, ran the buzz in the crowd. This is a different kind of voter. Determined, confident and full of hope. That's a bit of change in itself.

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Sinbad

(Continued from Page 8)

Your average fan may not even know that you have a political side, how do you feel about that?

Sinbad: When I look at who are the hot comics right now, I look at 'who's got even more of a political base than I do?' Other than the fact that somebody might cuss, whose doin' something political? And then it became if you don't cuss, then you aren't looked at as political. And then if you don't cuss, now you not looked at as being black.

You wanna talk about sometimes your own people will put you in a box.

One thing we are not is one person. We are all over the place.

But you got our own people like "black man don't surf" but that was never true in the first place. There was *always* some brotha skating, there was *always* some brotha surfing, there was *always* some brotha playing golf.

Hayes: You've made headlines in a political arena before and people may be surprised to know that...

Sinbad: How can you live in this country and NOT be political?

How can you be a minority in this country and NOT be political?

You'd have to be blind. And people freaked about what I said about Hillary Clinton and I said there were no gunshots goin' off.

Hayes: I didn't know how you felt about talking about that...

Sinbad: There were 20 correspondents on that plane. That's not political that's just truth. I was amazed that it took me to talk about it. You see, as soon as I talked about it and all these correspondents saying 'well I was on the plane too,' and I'm like 'well, where you when she started jamming up the line?'

If that had've been anybody else...see, man, I just think that Barack freaked this country out. Just freaked 'em out because he is not like any other brotha they have ever seen.

See, we get so pigeonholed we don't realize, there is *no* one type of brotha. He's a different kind of

brotharaised by a white mother from Kansas who had a different mindset than most *white* people. He wasn't "normal." He comes from a whole different blend. And they wanna chastise because him...now, this is the funny part. They wanna chastise because he talks good...because he's charismatic and everyone else is *trying* to be charismatic.

Hayes: Do you find it's easier expressing your views on the tour circuit versus Hollywood?

Sinbad: It's not so much the tour circuit. Hollywood just didn't know where to put me.

It's like this - look at Will Smith. It took *Bad Boys*, the movie, for people to get in their minds that he wasn't just The Fresh Prince. Nobody is just one way. And as actors... no one wants to play just one role. People just get *comfortable* with you in that one role.

A lot of folks working in Hollywood find it hard for Hollywood to let them step out that role? Unless you are writing for yourself and, even back in the day, I was writing my own stuff back in the day and they looked at me like I

was crazy. But Hollywood wanted you to have just your one role. You're just the sidekick, the sidekick without the woman there for everyone's amusement and, man, that ain't me.

Hayes: How do you feel about this latest wave of comedians who have turned themselves into mini-moguls. Going beyond HBO specials to enjoying endorsement deals and sitcoms.

Sinbad: Back then we were doing it, too. We were producing and all that.

My HBO special was the highest-rated special that they ever had...but they don't want me to do one now because they don't think it's controversial enough.

I know a couple of years had gone past before I had done a movie.

The thing you gotta be careful about is when you get angry.

Because when you get angry your creativity locks itself.

And sometimes you can be angry and not know you're angry.

A little bit is not bad, but a lot of anger is bad because you become bitter and you have to be careful when you find yourself moving in that direction.

Hayes: You have children who are near my age, do you notice any generational differences in who relates to Sinbad's comedy?

Sinbad: Man, I just did this show in Louisville, Kentucky and I had everything from four months old to 75 years old. And that's another thing that Hollywood has a problem with. Man...it's easy when you can say to them 'Okay, my audience is 10 - 15 and I'm black' but then the box opens up. See, when it's a white comic...there's no box. But when it's a black comic or

a black actor...it's like they try to figure out "what box do we put him in?" I don't believe in "crossover."

If I like any white actor...they didn't cross over to me. If I like Paul Newman's movies then he didn't cross over to me...that's just considered being an actor.

But with us they always want it to be a crossover.

Crossover to what? Y'all *always* crossover to us... (both laugh). Look at every white kid in America wanna be a rapper. It's just a matter of time.

Hayes: So true, man. So look, just from talking to you I didn't even write this question down but I have to ask. See...there's a lot of diversity among the black and minority people I'm around but we all discuss

The Boondocks...what are your thoughts on Aaron McGruder's work? Because...even as I'm watching it and laughing and digging all that he portrays and the depth of his account on our culture... I know that as I'm watching it there's a living room full of white frat boys some where that's watching it too.

Sinbad: I think McGruder is a sharp brother. But I think some of the stuff he does...it doesn't make the point he thinks it makes. These white frat boys don't get the jokes.

You become the joke!

That's the point Dave Chappelle was trying to make.

All these white frat boys running around "I'm Rick James, BITCH!" These white kids think his portrayal of Rick James was really how he was and our own people... we might laugh but we still respect the talent. Rick James was one of our most amazing R&B artists! And that's what got to Dave Chappelle because he had to say 'hey, I want you to laugh with me...not at me'.

Hayes: And on that note sir, I wanna thank you for your time and I'll be checking you this weekend.

Sinbad: My pleasure, brotha.

I've interviewed a few big time celebrities so far in this writing game but I have to say talking to Sinbad was like a meeting of the minds. Big ups to all those civil rights era generation people who have done so much to cultivate our mindset and show us the way.

And he and I talked a little bit off the record about some other stuff to and guess what?

Ya boy Sinbad can lace a track too!

We got off into talking about Pro Tools and Sonar and audio interfaces and all types of stuff. Maan, NEVER would have guess that one.

YES...I will be writing something strictly about this election and our beloved Obama and the poison running through the veins of this country thanks to current administration.

People hit me up "Mike, when you gonna say something about Barack?"

Or the old heads hit me up "Young brotha you need to say something to all your readers about getting out to vote".

Forgive me y'all. But it's on the way.

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Barry

(Continued from Page 9)

last 36 years it's been my pleasure to put on this uniform with a lot of pride that goes with it. I'm really going to miss talking to all the boys and girls in the different schools that I had the chance to visit," said Barry.

Barry's wife is anticipating spending more time

with her husband and children. "He's totally committed and loves his job. It's difficult for him to say goodbye, but he also loves his children, community and church. It's going to be a big opportunity and a transition phase to the next level in his life," said Lenora Barry.

The kids of Little Generation Day Care presented Officer Barry with yellow carnations as they sang good-bye in several different languages. Then came a plaque by Pastor Benjamin and Gladys Green that featured news clips from The Toledo Blade about Officer Barry and Safe-T-City.

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CLASSIFIEDS

October 15, 2008

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Special Notice Re: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted October 13 – 17, 2008 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

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Tahyah's Dance Studio: Tap and Jazz Dancing Made Affordable

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"I wanted working-class families, who want their children involved, to have something to do to avoid idle time," says dance instructor Tahyah Smith when asked what motivated her to open her own dance studio.

That was five years ago. Tahyah's Dance Studio - 4216 Airport Highway - has flourished in the subsequent years, increasing its enrollment to almost 70 students, producing annual recitals "to showcase what the students have learned

and, within the last year, starting an adult class.

Tap and jazz are the studio's offering reflecting Smith's own experiences and preferences. Smith became involved with ballet at the tender age of five but she didn't feel particularly enamored of that form. When she was 12, Smith gave dance another try, jazz and tap this time at the Daryl Jervis Dance Studio, and immediately fell in love.

She excelled, got into the dance company and tap danced her way across the United States.

What really excites Smith, however, is choreography. She has been choreographing dance routines since kindergarten, she



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says, so opening her own studio and producing recitals was just the logical outgrowth of that expertise.

In addition to the annual program, Tahyah's Dance Studio is also in demand throughout the year for such special events as Kwanzaa and a variety of retreats and programs.

Smith conducts seven classes during the week and is contemplating more growth and dedicating even more time to her nighttime and weekend gig. Her daytime job is as a social service case manager with Lucas County Job and Fam-



ily Services.

The Toledo native and University of Toledo graduate thinks that teaching dance could go full-time sometime in her future.

One of the reasons for the increased demand is the reasonable prices. One child costs only \$30 per

month (once a week class) but the family price of \$45 per month will take care of all the children in the family. Adults can register for only \$15 per month.

For more information on Tahyah's dance Studio, call 419-380-8881.

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