



Volume 16, No.09

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 17, 2009

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James Powell, Executive Director
Economic Opportunity Planning Association



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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Notes on the Obama Administration

In the first several weeks of the Obama administration the Department of Homeland Security released a report warning that there was a potential for increased recruiting efforts on the part of right wing extremist groups.

According to the report, the combination of the election of an African-American president, the economic recession, a widespread fear of the loss of gun rights and returning combat veterans provided just the right combination for such groups to enhance their membership rolls.

The report was immediately pooh-pooed by conservative pundits, particularly those in talk radio, who assailed the department for politicizing the process. This was notwithstanding the fact that the department had made a similar assessment weeks earlier about left-wing wacko groups and the fact that they might also feel the time was ripe to increase activity.

After a killing at an abortion clinic and the Holocaust Museum, perhaps the DHS was prescient in its warning about right-wing activity. The fact is, the department made a comparison to the atmosphere of the early 1990's and the events that would lead to the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. Increased scrutiny of such groups helped to tamp down their activity.

But now come those who would deny that such folks as the abortion and museum shooters are indeed right-wing fanatics. Some are making the case that the Obama administration actually has more in common with such lunatics than do the nation's conservative politicians.

You gotta have quite an imagination to make that case.

* * * * *

And now comes the push for health care. We can already see the problems the Obama administration faces with the opposition on the other side of the aisle. Interestingly, Republicans cannot seem, on their own, to decide philosophically what their position on a health care plan might be.

On the one hand, a significant number say there is no need for any such program. However, the majority of elected Republicans seem to feel that they need to step forward with some semblance of a plan since a majority of the American people do want the issue addressed.

The easy way out for such Republicans is to call for ways to increase competition among insurers but stop far short of constructing a government-run public option.

On the Democratic side, there will be no shortage of grumbling about how President Barack Obama handles the situation. Liberal voices are already reminding Obama that he won the election and he needs to start acting like it. The heck with the Republicans, they say. Structure a health care plan and ram it down the opposition's throats. That's what a President George W. Bush would have done.

* * * * *

On the world front, nobody is planning on making it easy for the new American administration.

Obama's Cairo speech struck just the right note in a lot of places. Israelis were a bit put off by Obama's comparisons of human struggles but his forcefulness in condemning continued West Bank settlements and his unequivocal call for a two-state solution was just what he needed to do at the start of his term. Remember that both Clinton and Bush waited until their final months in office to take the issue of Israeli/Palestinian peace seriously.

Unfortunately for Obama, or perhaps because Obama is the president, he faces hard-liner Binyamin Netanyahu across the table. Netanyahu has conceded the point of a two-state solution with enough conditions attached to give everyone pause. As for settlements, the natural growth exception will be a huge hurdle to work through.

There is no doubt that Netanyahu was able to use Obama's election to his advantage in forging a coalition government even though he did not amass a popular vote majority.

And then there is Iran.

Many observers foresaw a close election and then a run-off to decide if incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would win the presidency against Hossein Mousavi.

Obama's speech in Cairo may well have frightened the ruling clerics into stealing the election.

But here's the puzzling matter. The government has claimed victory for Ahmadinejad by an impossible to believe landslide of more than two-thirds of the vote. In fact, no one inside or outside of Iran seems to believe those numbers at all.

If you are going to steal an election, wouldn't you make it a bit more plausible? The clerics probably thought that a landslide would close the door to any questions about a few votes pilfered here or there. Instead, Iranians now believe that not one honest vote was counted in the whole charade.

Obama, of course, has to tread carefully here. However, Republican hotheads such as Mitt Romney and Senator John McCain have no use for concerns such as moving diplomacy forward no matter who the next president of Iran is. They can just fire from the hip at the first target they see - they really don't even need a target.

Community Calendar

June 15-19

Carnel Smith Summer Youth Camp: Seventh Annual Boys Football Camp; Grades 3-8; Scott HS; 10 am registration daily, Camp activities from 11 am to 3 pm; 419-917-3547
Braden United Methodist: Vacation Bible School; "On the Move;" 9 am to 1 pm; 5 to 16 years old: 419-698-6413

June 18

3rd Thursday ArtWalk: Ford Gallery; 6 to 10:30 pm; Frozen drinks, art work

June 19

Poetry Live: All poets and performers welcome; 7:30 pm; 2484 Glenwood: 419-508-1503

June 20

West Toledo Bereavement Support Ministry: Community Center Port Lawrence Homes; 10 am; 419-241-2133

Mt. Sinai Pentecostal Church Annual Yard Sale: 10 am; Tables available for \$25: 419-255-8577

Se' Lah ministries: "It's Just a Social Thang;" 7 to 9 pm; Live entertainment; "The Garden" inside Collingwood Presbyterian

June 20-21

Positive Force Christian School of Dance: "Power of the Blood;" Owens Community College; 6 pm on Saturday, 3 pm on Sunday; 419-932-0593

June 21

Rhema Word Christian Fellowship Church Choir: In concert; "Sing a New Song;" 6 pm

65th Graham-Woods Family Reunion: Pearson Park, Parker-Hammersmith Center; 10 am to 4 pm; 419-932-5144

June 21-28

28th Annual Edwin Hawkins and Walter Hawkins Music and Arts Love Fellowship Conference: 419-241-7332

New Kingdom Missionary Baptist Church will host their 6th Anniversary for Pastor Randall and First Lady Louise Parker, III on Sunday June 28, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.. There will be a special event leading up to the celebration honoring First Lady Louise Parker on June 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. On Saturday, June 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. we will have our banquet. The location for these events is 1415 Broadway, Toledo, Ohio 43609

June 22-26

Union Grove MBC Vacation Bible School: 6 to 8 pm nightly; "Boomerang Express all comes back to Jesus:: Classes for ages 4 to adult

Carnel Smith Summer Youth Camp: First Annual Girls Basketball Camp; Grades 6 thru 8; Smith Park; Daily registration at 1 am; Camp activities from 11 am to 3 pm; 419-917-3547

June 22-28

Greater St. Mary MBC: 84th Church Anniversary; 7 pm nightly; Mon. Pastor Cordell Jenkins and St. Paul; Tues. Pastor Randall Parker and New Kingdom; Wed. Nolan White and Christian Community Church; Thurs. Rev. Otis Gordon and Warren AME; Fri. Bishop Ronnie Hoard and Ephaphata House of God; Sun, 4 pm, Rev. Henry Newson and Spiritual Harvest

June 23

Toledo Kwanzaa House: Planning for Toledo's Kwanzaa celebration; Kent Branch Library; 7 pm

June 26

Poetry Live: All poets and performers welcome; 7:30 pm; 2484 Glenwood: 419-508-1503

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



the Lucas County Democratic Party for their endorsement to fill the vacancy. Steel is an old ally of Ashford.

Steel will take the seat if offered because it will presumably give him a leg up in this year's race for a four-year term. However, back in 1986, candidate Jack Ford opted out of the City Council run-off against Jan Scotland but still beat him in the fall election. Sometimes it pays not to take the easy way into political office.

Like the mosquito at the nude beach, I hardly know where to start this week. So much is going on behind the scenes.

Let's start with the vacancy on Toledo City Council created by President Mark Sobczak's sudden resignation.

Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford wants to be president of City Council. That's only natural because he got a taste of it almost two years ago. But Ashford will carry a huge bulls eye on his back if he rises to the presidency. To get his majority, Ashford will support Steve Steel, president of the Toledo Board of Education and candidate for Council, who asked

So why would Fisher vote yes for Hill when it would so clearly be against her own interest? Of course, no one has called or asked for my vote except for Aji Green.

Green is a young, black man new to Toledo politics. He has already been pressed by union interests not to support minority contractors by unbundling demolition contracts. You can assist Green to remain independent by sending him some campaign contributions. The less financially secure a candidate is, the more he or she is likely to rely on interest groups in labor or business or the mainstream press such as The Blade. So if you like Fisher or Hill or Green, send your candidate a check.

My guess is that Rob Ludeman and Steel will ultimately win at-large seats on council. Ty Marsh might break through if he stops the usually Republican "illness" fear of campaigning in the black community.

At the mayor level, it looks like Keith Wilkowski and Mike Bell are moving out front. Wilkowski is working the hardest and staying open the latest. But who is that suddenly

coming on board the Bell team? Why, it is the old man of Toledo politics, that old geezer Weldon Douthitt. Will Douthitt make a difference for Bell? He will certainly help once he gets his street operation in gear.

It seems to me that Mark Sobczak had nothing but bad choices coming his way, if you

are wondering about the sudden decision to step down. And the longer he waited, the worse the situation would have become.

If he had waited and the mayoral recall movement succeeded, he would have become mayor for two months. How could he have allowed that to happen and make the

decision to lay off scores of Teamsters? Could he have stayed with the Teamsters in that eventuality? Better to resign and secure his Teamster pension if possible.

I am voting for the recall, by the way. Nothing more needs to be said.

Assimilation Blues

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor



The debate over what to wear and what not to wear

while running for political office nearly made the full circuit of Toledo weekly newspapers and blogs last week. The critique and discussion did revolve around the "entrance" of a well-known local political personality at a social event. However, the resulting fallout had less to do with fashion sense and more to do with the complex struggle faced by post-Civil Rights, African-American politicians and citizens in

majority white districts.

While injustices and problems endemic to African-Americans such as incarceration rates, unequal and inadequate schools, inner-city violence and a myriad of other issues continue unabated, there is a new template for black leadership that no longer focuses solely or even primarily on the black community. Taking a cue from President Obama, this new

(Continued on Page 11)

Suggesting a Paradigm Shift in the Replacement Process

Toledo City Council has many issues to contend with: rising unemployment, lagging economic development, budget deficits, increasing crime, decreased city services, employee layoffs and potholes. Now, unleashed in the midst of all these issues, is the search for a replacement to Council for Mark Sobczak, who resigned.

If the process plays out in usual political fashion, we will again witness the partisanship and divisions within the parties and the end result will be a flawed, biased appointment of a person to fill the seat. It plays out like a three ring circus, which creates great press the media enjoys but is harmful to effective government. Will the best person be appointed, or the best-connected person?

I challenge the Republican and Democratic chairmen and Council to effect a paradigm shift and consider the best interests of Toledo rather than the interests of the political parties. Appoint a statesman to the position, a person who has no desire or inclination to run for office

Seek a person who is experienced and can provide leadership without bias to the party, reach out to the community, appoint a business leader of our community – a Donna Owens or a Tom Crothers or a Tom Pounds or a John McHugh, experienced but not politically motivated to seek office.

Select a statesman who affects policy rather than policy affected by politics. Once this appointment is made, appoint this experienced statesman president of Council. Again, avoid politics, consider the needs of Toledo.

How refreshing it would be to have our political leaders take the high road of a paradigm shift, being more concerned with the welfare of Toledo and dismissing politics as usual.

Sincerely
Karen Shanahan

Third Baptist's Kenyan Mission

I am writing to sincerely thank you for the article that appeared in the May 13, 2009 issue of The Sojourner's Truth newspaper entitled "Third Baptist Church Establishes Kenyan Mission."

Sister Msimbi Shuman is finishing the missionary work of empowering African women and establishing and maintaining a clean water supply in the western Kenya area near Bungoma and Kakamega. She will return to Toledo this week.

Our church remains hopeful that we will also be able to assist with science education in those areas as well. Again, thank you for the wonderful article and pictures. We wish you continued success. May God bless you.

Rev. Kevin J. Bedford, Senior Pastor
Third Baptist Church

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Harrison's Home Destroyed by Flames While Fire Department Fiddles

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Just by chance, Barbie Harrison woke early on Tuesday morning, June 9. As she lay back down and tried to get to sleep, she heard the neighbors dogs barking, which was unusual for that hour of the morning. And she heard what she thought was a distant smoke alarm, perhaps from the neighbors' house.

Harrison got back up and wandered into the hallway. She noticed smoke coming up the stairway from the family room. Then she noticed a flame. It was about 3:30 a.m.

She rushed back into the bedroom, woke up Herman, her husband of more than 40 years, and tried to dial 911, but the lines were dead.

The couple, who had raised three children during the 31 years they lived at 1945 Mt. Vernon, scrambled to get out of the house. Barbie Harrison got into her car and called 911. That call she estimates was placed at about 3:35 a.m. and the fire department responded in what the couple now considers to be good time – perhaps in about 15 minutes.

As they waited for help, Herman hooked up a water hose and tried to douse the flames through an open window; he stopped when the fire trucks arrived and the fire fighters took over.

The fire fighters entered the house, hose in tow, having hooked it up to the nearest fire hydrant. After a short while they came out and Herman overheard one say to the other – “not enough water pressure.”

Up until that point, the Harrisons felt that their home and possessions would be saved. “I was just so confident that things would be taken care of,” said Barbie Harrison, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio, last weekend in the lobby of the Ramada Westgate. The Ramada provided temporary lodgings for the now homeless couple in the immediate aftermath of the blaze that ended up consuming a houseful of keepsakes that represented a lifetime of memories. Photographs of parents, videos and photos of children, marriage license, wedding pictures ...

“We were expecting to go back in,” said Herman Harrison of his thoughts as he watched the fire fighters take control of the situation. Unfortunately, one fire hydrant did not work and the other had insufficient

water pressure.

None of this was conveyed to the Harrisons as they watched helplessly.

The firefighters did call for assistance and eventually another fire truck arrived with additional hose. They hooked that hose up to a hydrant on another street and finally got the necessary water pressure. But by that time, say the Harrisons, it was 6:09 a.m. Far too late to save any-



thing of the structure.

The experience, the failure of the City of Toledo to provide adequate fire fighting service, has left the Harrisons shattered. On the one hand, they recognize just how fortunate they are. They are fully covered by insurance for their financial losses, they managed to escape the blaze uninjured and they have friends and family members who are standing by their side ready to help in every imaginable way.

Nevertheless, they are angry and they plan to let city officials know just how angry they are at the foul up. And they plan to seek answers as to just why fire hydrants did not, and still do not, work in the Westmoreland neighborhood.

“The city needs to take a look at this,” said Herman Harrison. “This is a water issue and this could have happened anywhere – at a school or a hospital. Lives could have been lost. Citizens should be concerned

and outraged ... it's a safety issue. All of us are taxpaying citizens, we expect these things to work. That did not happen.”

How are they hoping the City of Toledo will respond to their catastrophe?

They need to make sure that there are consistent water hydrant checks,” said Barbie Harrison. “That they are working adequately and properly. I should not, as a citizen, have to worry about

Toledo Fire Department, a number of older city neighborhoods face the problem of low water pressure. It's a problem The Truth was told, that can only be solved by digging up the old pipes and replacing them. Doing so, of course, increases the assessments on residents of those neighborhoods.

Not all city departments proved to be inefficient during this particular crisis, however. On Saturday following the fire, the Harrisons received a letter – dropped off at a neighboring house – from the City of Toledo informing them that they had 72 hours to get rid of the public nuisance on their lot – the wreckage of their home – or they would be charged \$300 a day until the debris was cleared away.

Helping Hearts for Herman & Barbie Harrison



A benefit account has been opened in the name of the Harrisons for those interested in donating to them after their tragedy. You can go to any Huntington Bank and make a donation

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Toledo Politics Takes a Turn into the Unknown

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo City Council President Mark Sobczak resigned abruptly last week shocking both his colleagues and the most casual of observers of the Toledo political scene. As Toledo grapples with budget deficits, skyrocketing unemployment rates and stagnant economic development and as November



Sobczak

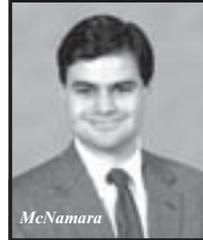
elections and a mayoral recall petition loom, Sobczak's resignation promises to deliver even more intrigue to an already complicated set of scenarios concerning the make up of the next council and the next board of education.

There are two immediate consequences of the resignation - City Council needs a new president and a new council member.

In addition, there will be a domino effect based on how those decisions are made. In all likelihood, the Toledo Board of Education may soon need a new president and a new board member. If the mayoral recall

action is successful, more turmoil looms for City Council. The new president will become mayor, if only for a few months.

As for the council presidency, Councilmen Michael Ashford and Joe McNamara



McNamara

appear to be the leading candidates. Both are actively rounding up their colleagues' votes.

"I'm all in," said McNamara in the aftermath of the Sobczak decision. McNamara, an at-large councilman since 2006, immediately hit the campaign trail and started canvassing his fellow councilmen. Ashford, who has served as District 4 representative since 2002 and who briefly served as president of council in late 2007, was calculating his support as well.

The vote for president will occur before the vacancy on council is filled. Sobczak's resignation is effective after the council meeting of June 23 and therefore council needs to fill that post by July 7 at the latest. Procedurally, council would need to vote on a leader before it can take up other business such as filling the vacancy. Therefore, a successful candidate for president needs to round up six of 11 votes to carry the day.

A look at what has occurred in past elections on



Ashford

such votes would suggest that Ashford will have difficulty capturing six votes this time around.

It would be no small feat for McNamara to reach that magic mark either. There is a lot of back room maneuvering ahead for the suc-

cessful candidate for president.

As for the council vacancy, the Lucas County Democratic Party has been screening applicants for the opening in order to make a recommendation to City Council. Such a recommendation is not binding on the Democratic members of council, as we have learned in the past. Sobczak himself was recommended for an opening created in 2005, but council ignored the party's advice and brought in Phil Copeland instead. Copeland would go on to



Meadows

win an at-large seat in that year's election cycle.

The decision to ignore the party exacerbated the tensions between the A and B teams and led to a fissure that has only recently been somewhat healed under the leadership of Party Chairman Ron Rothenbuhler. It's not likely that the Democratic members of council would blithely disregard the party's recommendation this time around.

Moreover, the leading candidate for the appointment is undoubtedly Steve Steel, Ph.D., who would not face much opposition if he is the party's recommendation.

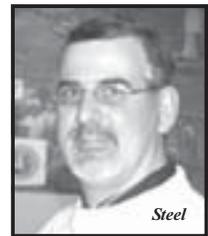
Steel, a declared candidate for City Council is currently the president of the Toledo Board of Education.

He is one of six applicants for the party's recommendation. The others, who appeared before the screening committee on Monday night, are: Schylar Meadows, Adam Martinez, Art Jones, Terry Biel and Terry Shankland.

Martinez and Biel both declared their candidacy for City Council some months ago and have been actively campaigning since. Martinez sees "an opportunity to have my name out and an opportunity to lead." It's also an opportunity, says Martinez, for the Democratic Party to give an up and coming politician, such as himself, an opportunity to get his or her name out there.

Biel pointed to a few of the prevailing issues such as the budget deficit, job creation and public safety and noted that "people want to see these things addressed now - I'm eager to get to work on them."

Jones, on the other hand, will not be a candi-



Steel

date in November if he is appointed to the vacancy. A former city councilman who was appointed to a vacancy once before, Jones feels that his experience, commitment and knowledge are just what the council needs in the interim.

(Continued on Page 6)



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Keith Wilkowski Announces Women's Commission

Sojourner's Truth Staff



“In my administration, as mayor of the City of Toledo, women will hold key decision-making positions at every level of city government and women’s voices will be heard loud and clear.”

Mayoral candidate Keith Wilkowski announced the formation of a Women's Commission last week and brought together two dozen supporters who will advise him during his campaign on issues of importance.

During a press conference held at the MMK Art Gallery on N. St. Clair Street, Wilkowski spoke of the need to address the issues facing women on a day-to-day basis. “From fair employment practices to poverty and domestic violence, women disproportionately grapple with society’s most challenging conditions,” said Wilkowski. “In my administration, as mayor of the City of Toledo, women will hold key decision-making positions at every level of city government and women’s voices will be heard loud and clear.”

Among the several dozen

women in attendance were elected officials – Julia Bates, Lucas County Prosecutor, and Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Lucas County Commissioner. Both spoke in support of the planned commission and Wilkowski’s efforts to address issues important to women residents.

“In the criminal justice area, women’s issues are incredibly important and often overlooked,” said Bates. “To have a commission that talks of policies and programs ... I can think of nothing better. I think it’s a wonderful idea, there are so many things that are so pertinent.”

“This will be a collaborative effort,” said Wozniak. “In the county, what we have lacked is leadership from the city in addressing women’s issues.”

In addition to the elected

officials, a number of others spoke in support of the proposal including Margaret Lockhart, a partner with the law firm of Cooper & Walinski, one of the few law firms that are majority women-owned; Gabrielle Davis, The University of Toledo law professor and an expert in the area of domestic violence issues; Torri Blanchard, a recent college graduate and young professional who wants to stay in the Toledo area; Kristen Langendefter, a single mother who lives in East Toledo and Francine Lawrence, president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers.

“Keith [Wilkowski] is a man of intelligence and vision,” said Lawrence. “Strong schools come about when they exist in strong cities. We look forward to a time when the city is partnering with us.”

Toledo Politics

(Continued from Page 5)

After such a stint, he wishes to return to his community service work.

Meadows, who has run once before for council, is tossing her name in the ring with the “expectation that I will run to fill the vacancy,” she told The Truth after she appeared before the screening committee on Monday. “The optimal choice is to run as an incumbent,” she said. “If I do not get the appointment, it is unlikely I would run against the person who is appointed.”

And as for Shankland, he just always runs.

Steel touted his ability “to work in a fractious situation” and his experience in dealing with some of the same issues that face council now, such as the current budget deficit. “I try not to think parochially,” he said. “I try to think globally. I have the skills and expertise that can help [city council] in the community.”

If indeed Steel is indeed the party’s recommendation and council’s choice, that gives the party an op-

portunity to then recommend someone to fill the school board vacancy and then have a leg up in the November general election.

The party has already endorsed Brenda Hill and Aji Green for election to the school board, as well as incumbent Bob Vasquez. The recommendation of either Green or Hill to fill the vacancy would probably win the approval of both Vasquez and board member Lisa Sobecki but the winning candidate would need three votes.

The support of either Darlene Fisher or Jack Ford would be needed to put a Green or Hill over the top. Since Fisher is running for re-election and was denied the endorsement of the Democratic Party, she would not be likely to put a stamp of approval on such a recommendation. Clearly Ford would be the wild card in such an event.

Then there is the matter of the recall. The Take Back Toledo drive would elevate the council president onto

the 22nd Floor for about two months. That of course means that another council president would have to be chosen and a vacancy would again be created.

Council would vote to fill that vacancy. If Ashford were elevated to the mayoralty, he would have to run in a special election to reclaim his district seat – probably set for May 2010. Should McNamara win the presidency and then move in to the mayor’s post, a different scenario would follow.

McNamara is up for re-election for his at-large seat in the fall. Should he win, he would simply claim that seat in January when a new council is sworn in.

It is quite possible that the musical council chairs could continue for quite a while.

Now, about this Nine Is Fine petition ...

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The Truth ECONOMY

Tackling Tough Times

James Powell: Executive Director Focused on Turning EOPA Around

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

After months of turmoil in the aftermath of the death of its longtime executive director and the struggle to replace him, the power plays and squabbling amongst the board of directors, the reports of missing funds and federal investigations, the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA) is back on its feet again, says Executive Director James Powell, who finally managed to shed the "interim" part of his title late in 2008.

"Our operations are good, we have made a thorough analysis of our programs and our procedures and practices have been improved," says Powell of the current status of the agency that was founded in 1964 as part of the war on poverty sponsored

by President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society.

In other words, says Powell, things are calm over at EOPA and the staff and board of directors are re-focused on business now that the distractions of the past year are behind them.

What a mountain of distractions there were last summer and fall as board members battled publicly, primarily over who would be selected to succeed the late Oscar Griffith who led the agency for 31 years. Five board members resigned in protest and months later when the dust settled and all of the applicants for the post had been vetted, the newly constituted board unanimously selected Powell, who prior to being named interim

director had been deputy director since 2001, to lead the agency.

Powell started with EOPA in 1989 when he was asked to head the minority contractors and business assistance program. He left the agency in 1992 and returned in 1995.

A Sunflower County, Mississippi native, Powell came to Toledo at the age of three with his family. He graduated from Scott High School and then attended The University of Toledo on a football grant in aid. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and finance.

Powell took over the reins at EOPA just in time to deal with a debt to the Ohio Department of Education of more than a half a million, incurred when an early learning initia-



tive program was not administered and a looming federal investigation. A payment plan for the debt is in place and the feds seem to be satisfied with the agency's progress, says Richard Jackson, board vice president. EOPA appears to have regained its footing.

EOPA was created in the 1960's to serve as an all-inclusive way of addressing a variety of conditions in poorer neighborhoods.

"It was and yet is a comprehensive service provider that is part of the safety net for those less fortunate, either temporarily or permanently through issues such as age or disability," says Powell of his organization. As such, there are five major programs the agency administers in fulfilling its mission.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) assists households with energy bills, particularly during periods of high energy use. There is a winter crisis program to help with heating issues and a summer crisis program to help those who might suffer due to high-heat issues.

"In this existing economic climate, the demand has rapidly expanded," says Powell. "We are seeing more people we would not ordinarily see ... laid off homeowners for example." As such the guidelines have expanded to accommodate those at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Community Resource Center is "basically a basket

of services for qualifying clients," says Powell. The case management program assists families and individuals with such matters as credit repair, financial management, housing and medical needs. The assistance may be direct or through referral to other agencies. For veterans, for example, the agency would help someone in need with the necessary paperwork that needs to be filed.

The Pre-release and Re-entry Program performs those same case management tasks for those who are or have been incarcerated in order "to address and abate the recidivism rate," says Powell. There is more of a social and cultural component to re-introduction such as how to find a job or how to prepare a resume.

The Senior Emergency Home Repair Program is funded through community development block grant funds and is directed at assisting seniors or the handicapped in dealing with code items.

Finally, there is the granddaddy of them all—Head Start—the largest of the EOPA programs. Head Start commands about \$12 to \$13 million of the \$16 to \$17 million annual budget of the agency.

Currently, the agency, the only Head Start provider in Lucas County, is authorized by the Department of Health and Human Services to have 2043 clients. This early childhood program serves youngsters from three to five years

of age in as many as 17 sites around the county.

In addition to the funding for these programs—provided by HHS, the Ohio Department of Development, the City of Toledo, among others—EOPA is receiving \$1.8 million as part of the federal stimulus package (the Recovery Act). That money will give the agency the opportunity to shore up the credentials of its Head Start staff.

Powell is nothing if not optimistic about the current status of EOPA and the quality of service the agency provides its clients. The board issues, he feels, were not a distraction to the staff in the deliverance of those services, says Powell, even though the image of the agency may have suffered. Those days are in the past, he says.

"We have a very capable and competent board," he says. "They are willing to objectively address issues and agree to disagree when necessary, but they can engage in objective discussion and come up with decisions that all can support."

And the staff, Powell believes, has maintained its commitment to competence. "We have 300 to 400 employees here—you are going to have employee issues," he says. "But we have the means of addressing those issues. Our programs are fulfilling objectives, we are delivering the highest quality of services efficiently and that is the goal of any business enterprise."

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union



A Few Brick Donors

currently located at 1339 Dorr Street, has just launched their "Brick Campaign". The TUFUCU has begun this campaign in an effort to raise funds for the new building which will be built at the corner of Detroit Avenue at Dorr Street. If

you are interested in purchasing a "Brick" as a part of the campaign the prices are as follows:

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The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling

ASK YVON

By Yvon Harper, CEO
Focus on Finance, LLC



Have you checked your 'price tolerance' lately?

The truth is with the U.S. credit AAA rating in question, economic stimulus packages galore and questionable bailouts still on the horizon we are all, to some extent, at the mercy of the economy. The impact has been felt from the gas pump to the college campus. Can you say "continuing recession?"

How does it make you feel not to have control over the cost you pay from day to day for the commodities you need and want like food, gasoline, medicine or even travel? The roller coaster ride can be maddening. Some prices we just can't control...at least not directly. So, what cost savings are still

left to be had? Plenty, if you know your price tolerance.

Okay, here's Yvon's definition: "Price Tolerance is the unwillingness to spend your hard earned money on ANY product or service that exceeds your self-determined price point." And I do mean any!

I once walked away from purchasing a pack of gum at a certain retailer, because they were overcharging by \$.10 more than I was willing to pay. Let's face it, I'm aware that \$.10 may not be your deal breaker, but the fact is you must really begin to examine the long term effects. Since I purchase at least three packs of gum a week, because I like to share, choosing to pay an extra \$.10 over the long haul would cost me \$15.60 over the course of a year and that's given the price doesn't go up.

Now, add this kind of amount to any other inflated costs you pay for consumer goods. You can clearly begin to see the compounded effect. Take a look at the chart below that shows the cumulative effect of overpaying for an item three times a week

at varied amounts:
Additional One Item Cost / 3 Times Weekly:
Annual Cost of the Overpayment:
\$.25 / \$.75 Weekly
\$39 Yearly Cost
\$.50 / \$1.50 Weekly
\$78 Yearly Cost
\$.75 / \$2.25 Weekly
\$117 Yearly Cost
\$1.00 / \$3.00 Weekly
\$156 Yearly Cost

Can you see the bigger picture here? Now, allow your price tolerance to kick in. You could begin to SAVE these amounts and get INTEREST on them too. Let me assure you that in these days of an uncertain economy you need to begin storing up cash reserves, anywhere you can find them, for the long haul.

So instead of spending \$2.29 for a single burger, instead check out the \$1 menu or daily specials at your favorite restaurant. It could save you up to an extra \$134 or more over the course of a year, even if just done twice a week. Instituting your own price tolerances will empower you to walk away from unnecessary spending. It will open your judgment to weigh

every 'deal' before you release your hard earned money. In the end you'll be the one who is richer for it. So, tell me have you checked your price tolerance lately?

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at www.AskYvon.com. Readers are strongly urged to consult with a qualified legal or tax advisor to analyze your specific financial situation before application of any advice from this column.

Wayman Palmer Community YMCA Offers Free Breakfast and Lunch to Youth

Special to The Truth

The YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo is sponsoring a free food service program for children under the age of 18 this summer, under the Ohio Department of Education, USDA Food Service Program for Children. The program will be held at the Wayman Palmer Community YMCA, 2053 N. 14th Street, and through a collaborative effort, with the Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center at 1225 Broadway Street.

The Wayman Palmer Community YMCA will offer breakfast from 8:00 – 9:00 am and lunch from noon – 1:30 pm.

The Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center will offer lunch from 11:30 am –



1:00pm. The free food program meals will meet the state nutritional guidelines and be served weekdays June 8 through August 21 to any child under the age of 18. Children under the age of

12 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For more information, contact YMCA/JCC Food Program Administrator Lori Thompson at 419-474-3995.

It's a Buyers Market for Real Estate Investors

By Rodney Neely
Guest column



Investors, hurry, hurry! If you can buy a house as an investment with cash and hold it, do it. Rent it out to a tenant. Allow a relative to live there at a reduced lease rate until values rise. Do whatever you need to do but get in the game.

In my opinion, the local housing market is prime and is moving in a positive direction from its stagnant, lethargic state to what is now a slow crawl in increased value. Home starts are increasing regionally, as well as nationally. In Toledo home sales have improved and are continuing to exceed experts' bleak predictions. Now is definitely a good time to jump in the game if you have

some cash.

There are so many opportunities to get into the market today – to buy low, hold and sell high at some point in the future, that it doesn't make any sense not to look seriously at investing. If you need to finance a property it still works. The cost of capital is so cheap, in some cases less than five percent, from many lenders in the residential market.

With a low cost of borrowed money, the low sales price of houses and rental rates continuing to rise, this has created a perfect storm for smart investors to move in and make out in the long run. Don't get me wrong - this is not a get-rich-quick endeavor. This is going to take

patience and strategy, as well as focus and persistence. Nevertheless, the next several years could make many millionaires of everyday Joes who are working 9 to 5 gigs today.

I'm not advising you to be reckless with your savings, 401k, or kids' college fund. I am saying that, if ever there were a time to take advantage of basic real estate principals of "buy low & sell high" it's now.

You should be careful to follow the things I have encouraged over that past year in this real estate section. Location is the key to your success.

First, you want to own the worst house in the best neighborhood. This ensures that the improvements you make can only add value to your investment. Second, make sure that the area is on the way up and not down. This means that if you believe the area is taking a turn with home values increasing and improving schools, it's a good place to consider. Next, never buy more house than you can afford.

(Continued on Page 12)

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Kristina Underwood's Temptuous Boutique Brings Something Different To Toledo

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"Romantic ruffles, de-structured denim, tie dyes, floral prints, bright colors, booty shorts ... they are all big this year," says Kristina Underwood, proprietor of Temptuous Boutique. Underwood's retail clothing store, which opened on May 1, 2009 at the 1417 W. Sylvania Avenue location, offers items that Underwood, with her eight years of retail experience, says are unavailable anywhere else in the Glass City. And, they are available at extremely reasonable prices – nothing so far in the stylish boutique tops the \$80 to \$90 price mark.

Underwood, a Toledo native who graduated from Start High School and has attended The University of Toledo, has long had a passion for clothes and fashion. She was a store manager for a number of years at a retail outlet at Franklin Park Mall before joining a Dearborn, MI operation, Corito's, where she ultimately became the principal buyer

for the handbag outlet.

When she started there, the store carried primarily high-end bags – some in the \$10,000 price range, not many of which were selling.

Underwood decided to learn the buying end of the business on her own, she recalls. She researched, made phone calls and developed a network of fashion representatives. The store began to move into moderate-prices accessories and sales took off. Underwood had established her own credentials and her contacts in the retail world.

When she had enough saved up, she was ready to become an entrepreneur and open her own shop, which she found on Sylvania Avenue. The building itself however did not come *prêt-à-porter*. She had to put in the hardwood floor and the colorful lavender and purple wall treatment. And she had to find product.

That she did, using the

contacts she had developed in the fashion centers of Los Angeles and New York – over 200 in all.

"We are doing something different," says Underwood, "something this city hasn't seen. We are offering a product where the quality is phenomenal and where it doesn't cost your entire pay check to look good. We don't offer imitations, only boutique wear and only from boutique vendors."

And it's all selected, says Underwood, with real customers in mind.

"It's more about the designs and the styles," she says. "It's made for women with hips and narrow waists, those who are voluptuous, accentuating the curves." As an example, she points out the Brazilian denim that is all the rage this season. It's a style, as with most of the boutique's fashions, that can be worn to work or to the club.

In addition to clothing,



Temptuous Boutique also offers locally-made jewelry and is in the process of bringing in handbags and shoes. The shoes, says Underwood "have not been seen in Toledo ... funky, stilettos, for example." That's a striking contrast with what is com-

monly available says the fashion maven. "When you go into the mall, it's already last season."

Temptuous Boutique is open Thursdays through Saturdays from noon to 9:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 7 p.m. Underwood is avail-

able on Wednesdays by appointment.

For more information about the boutique, go to myspace.com/temptuousboutique or call 419-720-6993.

An advertisement for Church's Chicken. The top part features the text "Church's Chicken" in a stylized font. Below that is a large "99c Menu" graphic. The menu items include: "NEW! 5 Nuggets", "Leg or Thigh and Honey Butter Biscuit", "BBQ Biscuits", "Crispy Tender Strip and Honey Butter Biscuit", and "and More!". At the bottom, it says "Offer good for Church's Chicken at 2124 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio".

Soul Food on the East Side? Absolutely

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The Serenity Family Soul Food Restaurant at 932 Woodville Road opened about three months ago to the very great relief of those folks who do not want to leave East Toledo to get real home-cooked soul food.

Which, of course, is why it's on the east side.

"They did not have a soul food restaurant on this side," said co-owner Bishop M.C. McGhee, pastor of Serenity Church of God in Christ. "We're trying to do something to help."

It's a family affair that's

come to the rescue. Erma McGhee, First Lady of Serenity, is the chef who oversees the kitchen's production of chicken, fish, baked beans, green beans, hush puppies, macaroni and cheese, along with other traditional soul food delicacies.

McCardell McGhee, Robert McGhee, Vincent McGhee, Candus McCardell, Rebecca William, Alicia Henneman, Victoria Williams, Valerie McKee and Princess Anderson are all part of the staff as well.

The menu is studded with

seafood specialties such as whiting, catfish, tilapia and shrimp. Chicken wings and burgers are also available as are an array of lighter offerings such as chicken and shrimp salads. In addition to the menu, a full buffet is available during all hours the restaurant is open.

The Serenity Family Soul Food Restaurant is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For take out orders, call 419-671-6265.

The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling

Book Review

**Dear Success Seeker by Michele R. Wright, PhD,
foreword by Camille O. Cosby, Ed.D.**

c.2009, Atria

\$14.00 / \$18.99 Canada

227 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Failure is not an option.

When you put your heart and soul into something – a project, a career, a program – you want everything to go right. You don't want to lose. And you don't want to give up because nobody wants to fail.

But now you find yourself stuck. You're at a crossroads. How can you find the guts to stay the course and keep on going in the face of adversity, loss and a bad economy? You'll get many words of strength for success when you read *Dear Success Seeker* by Michele R. Wright, Ph.D.

In her introduction, Wright says she overcame many adversities to graduate from college with High Honors: she had a speech impediment, a learning disability, and attention problems. Despite this, she's now an award-winning professional with a thriving career. She uses her life as an example: if she can be successful, you can, too.

In this book, written directly to readers, 83 women from all walks of life likewise explain what made them successful, what motivates them, and what wisdom keeps them going. For instance...

"It doesn't matter what background you come from, you hold the key to your destiny," says restaurant owner Martha Hawkins.

Actress Loretta Devine points out that you need to feel successful to be successful. In the meantime, "dream big."

Carolle Jean Murat, MD, tells several anecdotes about medical school to illustrate her point: obstacles are everywhere, but you should look upon them as challenges and blessings.

M. Joycelyn Elders says you need four things: a voice in your ear so

that you hear those less fortunate, a vision in your eye that extends further than you can see, a good education in your hand and a song in your heart.

From Senator Mary L. Landrieu: "The possibilities are endless, shaped by our individual life experiences and dreams."

From Marian Wright Edelman: "There is no free lunch."

From Mary Aaron, first lady of Bibleway Community Church: "Success comes in cans. 'I can, you can, we all can'."

Sometimes, when good things seem as if they're just out of reach, all you need is a boost. *Dear Success Seeker* does the job nicely.

Author Michele R. Wright assembled the voices of 83 notable women, including Wilma Mankiller, Ruby Dee, Myrlie Evers-Williams,

Billie Jean King and others, between two covers. The result is useable, helpful, and empowering.

Two things I noticed in this book: while there are a few points that repeat occasionally, it's wonderful to see 83 varying stories of lives well-lived. With such a vast array of success, it's hard not catch the success-bug yourself.

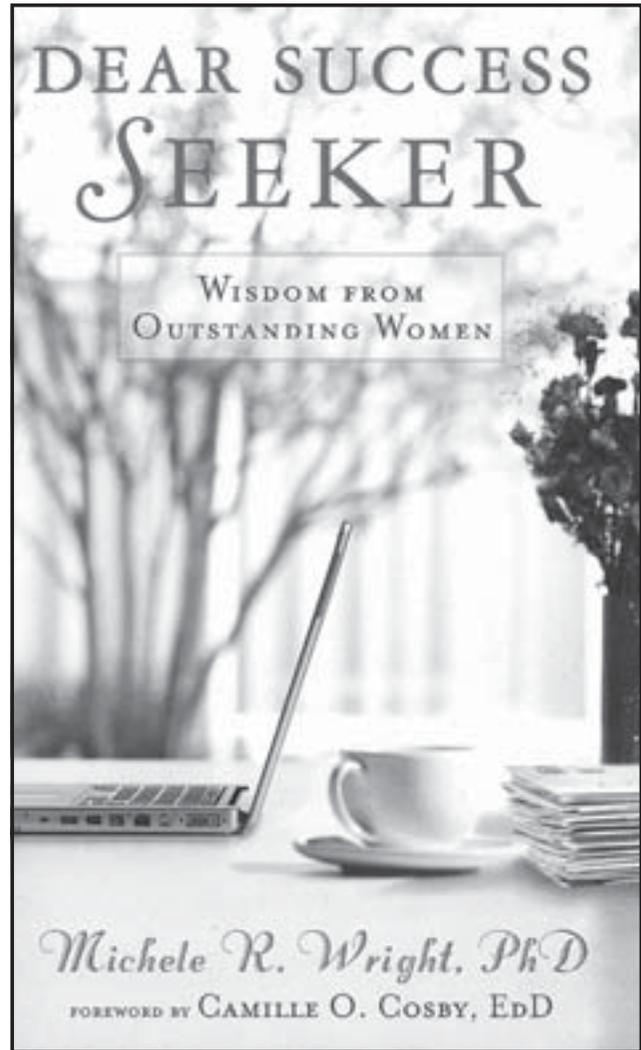
I also like the bite-sized chapters in this book. You don't have to read it front-to-back. You don't even have to read the whole chapter. Even a sentence of two is just right, just when you need it.

For recent grads, new entrepreneurs and anyone who needs wisdom and comfort in a bad economy, this book is perfect. To miss *Dear Success Seeker* would be such a loss.

Visit us online at thetruthtoledo.com



Michele R. Wright



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Assimilation Blues

(Continued from Page 3)

style black politician focuses on expanding the base by avoiding victimhood and negative, divisive or confrontational language while hyping optimism, hope and possibility.

Rightly concluding that the path to elective office is through coalition building, these leaders attempt to get at issues without directly addressing them. The discussion of race and racially charged issues such as affirmative action and discrimination in employment or housing are dropped from public dialog in an effort to short-circuit white guilt.

A dark and seldom mentioned political question that eventually gnaws at the soul of many black politicians becomes "Is the distancing of myself from the causes and issues that advance the interests of the black community too much to pay for success?"

The community, well aware of the practice evolving from the slavery era of finding "those of the victim class who are willing to extol the system, blame their own race for their sorry circumstances, or serve as apologists for the status quo," is able to quickly detect those black politicians who capture white votes by any "shameful means necessary." The program of racial fiction has long been a perverted path to prominence, prestige and success by those who have been willing to ignore the ravages of racism and pretend that the law is color blind.

Scholar Derrick Bell also states, "Perhaps the prominence of Judge Clarence Thomas serves as a continuing reminder to people of color that what many of us condemn in him for his compromise of the truth in favor of profitable racial fic-

tion is, as well, a constant temptation to us all."

The black community in the 21st Century is no longer willing to support African-American candidates for reasons of race loyalty alone nor to be taken for granted while the politician is perceived to cater solely to the whims of white voters.

The torturous and treacherous challenge for the "Obamageneration" of African-American leaders described by journalist Gwen Ifill as "almost all middle-class, college-educated, and comfortable in multiracial situations" is how to conduct a mainstream black candidacy of cross-over appeal without pandering to white voters or alienating the black community. Equally challenging is how to address the concerns of the black community without seeming to be bound or beholden to them.

The current generation of black leaders grew up benefitting from the increased access to education and opportunity opened up by the efforts of the previous generation and the success of the Civil Rights movement. As they prepare to run the next leg in the race for equality and opportunity they have a responsibility to honor those who passed the baton to them to remember those still in need. The problem of the 20th Century was the issue of the color line but the new problem are the issues of poverty and of social and economic justice.

Also changed is the black experience since the Civil Rights Movement. Black voters have broader interests, more diversified experiences and varied political demands at a time when white voters, because of the shared experiences brought about by the fruits of the movement, technology, changing demo-

graphics and the economic crisis, are more open-minded towards what their leaders should look like.

As a result, many new African-American leaders are no longer motivated by an urgent single, focused call to end racial justice. Instead, they respond with a "That's not my job!" and leave black advocacy to civil-rights organizations and community organizations.

Ron Walters, PhD, director of the African American Leadership Center, professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland and who served as campaign manager and consultant for Reverend Jesse Jackson during his two presidential bids agrees.

"I think a lot of times, people, (the media especially), confuse civil-rights leaders with political leaders," says Walters. "The reason African American communities needed civil-rights organizations was because of the injustice and abrogation of rights that existed in our communities. That is not a job for political leaders, and we still need civil-rights leaders."

While the game has changed it does not mean that the fight has ended. It does mean that we now seek political redress from those who themselves represent the fruits of our historic struggle.

As with a new generation of African-American politicians there should also be a new generation of civil rights leaders - informed, active, energetic and enthusiastic - who recognize the structural constraints and political limitations placed on new black leaders to appeal to everyone but who also hold them accountable to the political interests of African-Americans.

Here Comes the Green Column

Rubin Patterson
The Truth Contributor



What does the black community need in response to present-day demands for a "greener" environment? My "green" column will tell you what we need! We need more black people who are environmentally engaged so that they can create new local green organizations; gain green-collar employment; become entrepreneurs of green products and services; and alter the focus of national and global environmental organizations to include social justice issues.

Welcome you to my new green column, which will appear in the economic section once a month in *The Truth*. The American society and economy are about to be reengineered around green industries and sensibilities—black communities must not be left behind. This green column is being created to help instigate thinking and conversation centering on environmental issues relative to the black communities in general and in the Toledo area in particular. Speaking globally, black people suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation, but we are far from the forefront regarding environmental organizations seeking redress and a more sustainable way of life.

In America, for example, brownfields as opposed to greenfields or areas that are potentially contaminated environmentally, are overly concentrated in African American and Latino neighborhoods. It turns out that

race, not homeownership or home value, is the determinative factor of brownfield location. Brownfields may not pose the demonstrable and immediate health risks to communities that active hazardous facilities pose, but they adversely affect communities in more stealthy ways: they undermine social capital, erode community pride, and stall economic development. Brownfields, which are subject to contaminant-migration, also pose potential environmental dangers by, among other things, impacting groundwater.

For a global example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the region's 750 million citizens generate less than two percent of global carbon emissions, but they suffer most of the world's deadly effects of climate shocks. Africans are living through more pronounced and prolonged droughts in some areas and floods in others. The areas on the continent suitable for agriculture, the length of growing seasons, and the yields of food staples are all projected to decline due to industrial practices of rich nations who have literally turned up the world's thermostat.

Despite being hit hardest by the ill-effects of environmental degradation, black communities worldwide are not active in environmental movements and organizations to the degree needed. Notes Robert Bullard, the prolific African-American scholar of environmental studies, "blacks must become more involved in environmental issues if they want to live healthier lives."

Two reasons are often cited for why African-Americans are not inclined to roll with environmental movements. First, the thinking is that African Americans and also other blacks have bigger, more immediate fish to fry, such as addressing crumbling black communities, grinding pov-

erty, broken families, high unemployment and incarceration rates, poorly performing schools, serious health issues, and racial discrimination (which affects all of the aforementioned) before they can indulge the "luxury" of focusing on environmental concerns such as climate changes and the threat of polar bear extinction. In short, it is argued, African-Americans and blacks throughout the world have their priorities right by focusing primarily on social justice first. This line of thinking is wrongheaded but understandable.

The second reason, as argued by some, is that, at least up until very recently, black people tended to equate "environmentalism" with conservatism. The material basis for this argument is that many of the prominent mainstream environmental organizations have had a conservationist orientation (e.g., the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and the National Wildlife Federation).

Fortunately, the streams of social justice and environmental protection have experienced a degree of merging over the past decade. The movement that blacks are joining and energizing today is the environmental justice movement, which contends that no community should bear a disproportionate share of the burden of an industrial society and all communities should benefit from the transition to a global green economy.

Moreover, I am sympathetic to the view that blacks have always been environmentalists: from great-grandma demanding we turn off that light when we leave a room to Africans living more in harmony with nature in Africa for centuries before Western penetration and subsequent domination.

But such thinking and actions are incommensurate with the environmental crisis upon us today. That is, the environmental tipping point that we have today requires arming ourselves with substantially more knowledge and engaging ourselves more energetically in activist campaigns for sustainable living after a century and a half of destructive industrialism.

A crisis embodies both danger and opportunity. The danger associated with

(Continued on Page 12)

Stephen Ward Gives Toledo Green Youth Opportunities

Special to The Truth

There are people in Toledo who do not have a voice, but they are affected by the decisions made by our elected officials. This group is directly affected when decisions are made to close city pools, stop funding programs such as the Pic program, and the list goes on and on. They are the citizens of Toledo under the age of 18. While they are not old enough to vote, there should still be an outlet for them to have a voice.

Ward asserts, "We must create a community for all people...this includes the youth of Toledo. I believe the children are our future, and we must teach and prepare them so they may become the leaders of tomorrow. By not giving them opportunities, we are failing to prepare them. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said it best when he stated, We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

The question has been asked numerous times of Ward, "How will our youth have a voice?"

Ward states, "I understand the importance of training our youth and giving them opportunities. We hear so much about our youth being the future, but I believe part of that future can start today. We have talented youth in Toledo, and it is time that we involve them in the decision making process of govern-



ment. They are affected by the decisions made by the elected officials, so they should have an opportunity to give their input as well. Therefore, when elected to city council...I would immediately propose Toledo's Youth City Council. This youth council would work with the Mayor and City

Council, to provide leadership opportunities to the youth. In addition, any agenda that the Mayor and City Council has to vote on that directly affects the youth of Toledo...the Toledo Youth City Council would also have the opportunity to be at the table to voice their concerns, and the concerns of their peers."

The Toledo Youth Council would consist of two youth from each district and three at-large members. To serve on the youth council the young leader would have to be in the seventh through the 12th grades, and the ninth through 12th grades to be an at-large member. Those serving on the Toledo Youth Council would have to maintain passing grades of a 2.5 Grade Point Average, and the at-large members would have to maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average. They would have to demonstrate community interest and a willingness to serve the youth and the city of Toledo.

The term of the Toledo
(Continued on Page 13)

(Continued from Page 11)

the present-day environmental crisis is our inability to sustain the American economy and the global economy, as we know them, by continued use of the reigning production paradigm. America's material wealth and comfortable lifestyle have required scooping up more and more resources from the environment and processing these resources industrially into finished products, using greenhouse gas-inducing technologies, then dumping these often toxic finished products and production technologies back into the environment.

Throughout thousands of years of civilization development, humans have buried and burned their waste. In the industrial age, with more elaborately toxic and greenhouse gas-enhancing technological prowess and the intense capitalist-consumerist demand for ever more "new-and-improved" material goods, the discarded rubbish became far greater and more ecologically lethal. In this modern era, burying or burning our garbage comes in the form of toxic waste dumps and municipal landfills.

The exhaustion of minerals, the loss of biodiversity, and the destabilizing environmental effects of climatic shocks from fossil fuel-based industrial production are making it abundantly clear that this production paradigm that has served Westerners so well in terms of material wealth and comforts can't be sustained, not for themselves and certainly not for the rest of the world that is rushing to improve the quality of their lives, largely through the use of the same production paradigm. Nevertheless, billions

of citizens in developing and impoverished nations are clamoring for a bigger piece of the action relative to Western-style consumption and lifestyle. To accommodate these additional nations, we would need over five new planet Earths to provide the minerals, ecosystems, and environmental sinks to burn and bury their fossil fuels and toxic wastes.

Since we've got only one planet Earth, one course of action for addressing this crisis is a whole new paradigm shift in industrial production: from destructo-industrial to eco-industrial. Destructo-industrial production is the only industrial production we have known, as it destroys the environment in step with more industrial production. But industrial production isn't inherently environmentally destructive. Eco-industrial production severs the heretofore link between industrial production and environmental destruction.

Eco-industrial production, which is the opportunity wing of the crisis, includes advanced renewable energies. For example, northwest Ohio is a national leader in the research, development, and commercialization of solar, biofuel, and wind technologies. Consequently, the emerging advanced renewable energy eco-industry is providing new career opportunities for local citizens and talent is being recruited from around the country and around the world to help expand the industry.

Such opportunities are expected to expand rapidly, not only because of recent technological breakthroughs and increasing market demands for green products and services, but

because of the Obama presidential election. President Obama is as intellectually committed to a green economy and is as beholden to investors in the renewable energy industry as President Bush was intellectually committed and beholden to Big Oil. Venture capitalists and US corporations constituting a new "green-industrial complex" have expanded their lobbyists threefold in just the last year alone. With an Obama Administration, oil subsidies will continually shrink while eco-industrial subsidies will continually expand, thereby expanding green-collar opportunities in Northwest Ohio and other parts of the nation.

African-Americans must remain informed about green-collar employment opportunities and must be trained to take full advantage of such opportunities. We must not allow a whole new jobs-producing sector to emerge that recreates and exacerbates the existing racial and social inequalities.

This inaugural column provides a frame and a flavor for the local, national, and global green issues I will cover. Look for my discussions in the economic section next month and every month following. Meanwhile, get more green!

Rubin Patterson is a professor of Sociology and the interim director of Africana Studies at the University of Toledo. He worked as a professional engineer in satellite and integrated circuits production before earning a doctorate in Sociology. The Africana Studies program he is building at UT is the first of its kind in the nation for its specialization in environmental studies.

Buyers

(Continued from Page 8)

As you evaluate the deal, calculate the worst possible scenario. What if I lost my job? What if my wife loses her job? Can I still survive or would this investment bankrupt me? Think strategically about these questions and mitigate the negatives as much as possible.

There are several scenarios to follow to make these investments work for you. For example, if you buy a property at a reduced rate of 60-75 percent of its actual value as a distressed sale, bank REO or foreclosure, you could look at that savings of up to 40 percent as part of your future profit margin.

Keep in mind there will be some cost to carry the asset and expenses making improvements, but you essentially make a profit the day you close the deal. If that home is worth \$100,000 dollars and you only paid \$70,000 dollars to buy it, that equity could help you buy your next property. After repeating this exercise several times you should be building a significant nest egg of savings for retirement or assets to pass to your heirs. This is primarily a wealth-building tool for the future with less cash flow in the short term.

In addition, because rental rates are high and bank rates are low, this creates a great margin of profit for you as an

investor. That same \$70,000 debt at today's rates would give you an estimated \$375 dollar mortgage payment, plus taxes and insurance. Rent for that home could be as much as \$1,200 per month. That could be up to \$875 a month in cash flow for that property. So you can see how this increase in revenue can grow exponentially with each acquisition.

With that said, I cannot caution "would be" investors enough to use the professionals. A real estate agent

can be a huge resource for you. Talk to local lenders and mortgage companies who have experience in the area or neighborhood of your potential investment. Be cautious, mitigate risk when possible, ask questions but trust your own instincts. It's not rocket science, but if it were easy everyone would do it.

Always remember that in life success is the greatest revenge....

Contact real estate professional Rodney Neely at rodneyn@q3development.com

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Fax completed applications to (419)-241-7990, or mail them to Center of Hope Freedom Schools 137 N. Michigan, Toledo, OH 43604.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 21st, 2009

An Amazing Musical Weekend

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



This past weekend was filled with fun and music.

Singer/songwriter Tracy had an album release party at Erie Street Market that was amazing and if you weren't in the building you missed a hell of a show.

Tracy performed with a live band and it went hard.

Big P.I., Tempest, J. Rush and others hit the stage and had the crowd rocking with their every move. There was an Ollie Nicole fashion segment, too.

Highpoint of the night was certainly Cuntry performing his hits "Look At Me" and "Ay Yi Yi." Mally, Chief, B. Wills got on stage for various songs... I mean the whole thing was outstanding.

I'm especially proud of

two of our two artists who got a big reaction from the crowd. T. Diamond performed "Haterz Get Mad" as one of the openers and even at the end of the night people still remembered him rocking hours earlier and showed love.

Leigh Ashley was one of the last performers of the night and her newest crowd favorite "Never Enough" instantly won the audience over as she represented for the ladies.

Nash, Malachi (of M3M) and Tracy all made sure to keep U.G.E. involved and I thank them for having Leigh and T. Diamond there to be a part of this.

But even outside of what U.G.E. did, the entire affair was conceptualized to be a local album release like none other this city has seen.

It was a night to remember and Toledo's music scene and the fans came out to support in a big way.

This weekend I also met a female rapper named E.B. for the first time.

I had heard a lot about her but never met her until the day after Tracy's show, I had a performance for Leigh in Detroit and we ran into Lil D and E.B. up there,

and I was happy to finally put a face with the name.

E.B., you need beats, I got you and it's nice to meet you.

Lil D is having her interview in these here pages NEXT WEEK.

So stay tuned y'all.

Also this past weekend, M.O.E. invited artist Aye Dee to rock at Lil Sheba's on Alexis. I never been inside this bar but the lineup of performers was a good look that night. Taylorman performed a very nice set, Aye Dee got open and provided the only R&B of the evening. And I wish I remembered dude's name but some cat got up there and had this song called "Myspace Diva" and it was on point.

Coming up this week: Thursday at Club Rocks (5038 Lewis near Laskey)

U.G.E. is having T. Diamond's Birthday Bash and you need to be there.

Performances by T. Diamond, M.O.E, and Sunny Ray plus a few more but we are waiting until nearly 1 a.m. to start letting people get on stage because we just wanna have the club atmosphere so people can meet and greet T. Diamond and

the fam.

Saturday, Darron Scott will be performing in Detroit for Black Music Month fest

And, yes, the open mic night here at the Truth Art Gallery will still be going on from 9 to 11.

Sunday at 10:am, U.G.E. will be featured on CW Channel 5 as part of King Keyser's show: Champions. A few of us were interviewed about our music and our sense of community and it should be a good look.

Hutch Daddy's Bash At The Bay will go harder this year than ever before.

So July 26th ...mark your calendar and be at Maumee Bay to see the Midwest's only beach concert for OUR music. And... local up and coming rap artist Yung Prof

is having his official album release at Cloud 9 that night too.

Embrace (who manages Cuntry, B.Wills and more) is the rep for the Ohio Hip Hop Awards and July 24th she will be holding the following:

Ohio Hip Hop Awards Talent Showcase & MC Freestyle battle
Friday, July 24, 2009
Twisted Lizard
2148 W Laskey Rd
Toledo, OH 43612

Registration & tickets Contact:
Embrace 419.867.6900
Edhanna@ohhiphopawards.com

Showcases will be judged by the Ohio Hip Hop Award Reps for more information and official rules visit

Ohiohiphopawards.com Trust and believe, this will be a hot summer.

So everyone BE SAFE and don't get into any trouble and we should all just enjoy life.

Special acknowledgment to the Harrison family (see page 4) of Westmoreland who lost their home on Mount Vernon last week. Can you believe there were no fire hydrants with adequate water pressure and an entire home was lost due to this failure on the city's part?

Not to blame any one fire department person, this is a larger issue about how this city seems less and less capable of protecting and/or serving even the most loyal taxpaying, citizens.

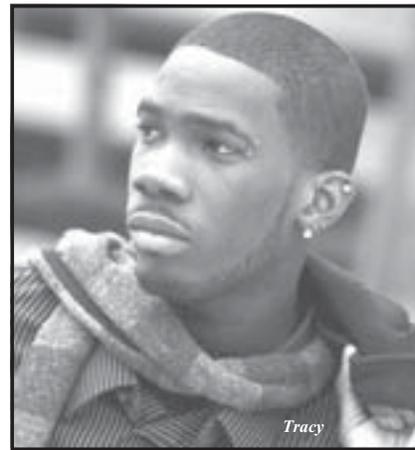
My brothers from another and I, we all spent a considerable amount of our teen years in that house.

Me, Stephen (Corey) Cunningham, Rick Easler and the middle child of the Harrison family... Marcus Harrison.

That house was the spot we went to after Afro Ball every year...and so on and so forth.

We can reflect with fond memories and I ask everyone reading this to keep the Harrison family in your prayers and best wishes, but seriously... what in the hell is going on in this city?

Y'all be easy.
Peace.
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Ward

(Continued from Page 12)

Youth Council will be concurrent with the school year of the Toledo Public Schools. If a member of the youth council has previously been removed for cause, they may apply the next year. If chosen as a member they would be placed on an automatic probation period of 90 days. Any vacancy on the Toledo Youth Council, either by removal or by resignation, would be filled by the mayor of Toledo with the advice and consent of both city council and the Toledo Youth Council.

To become a member of the Toledo Youth Council, the youth would have to

write an essay stating why they would like to serve. They would have to submit an application, along with three letters of recommendation from either their school principal, counselor, teacher, clergy, or another community leader representing a youth program. They would also have to submit 1 letter of recommendation from a peer. Once submitted, the members of the Toledo Youth Council would be selected by city council.

Ward asserts, "My proposal of a Toledo Youth Council would encourage and promote the education of youth

regarding civic government. It would encourage youth input and participation. While this position would not be a paid position, upon implementation; I would work with the city of Toledo, and the University of Toledo, to see what ways we could provide scholarship opportunities for the youth who have served on the Toledo Youth Council. Our youth are the leaders of tomorrow, and we must take the necessary steps to train them, and give them a reason to want to stay in Toledo. The Toledo Youth Council would provide another opportunity for our youth, a tool to help keep our best and brightest in Toledo."

Stephen Ward is the candidate for Toledo City Council who is fighting for change, opportunities, jobs, and a better future for our children. Government solely exists to serve its people, the interest of the people, including our youth; must be the highest priority of City Council.

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 A black farmer takes his sons to see a silent horror film showing at a new theater Halloween night in 1930, in central Texas. Nearly 500 blacks were lynched in Texas that year; a movie about a vampire hardly seemed frightening except to the youngest son, Lijah, who consoles himself with his father's assurance that in the film, "they just be killing white folks". Download at lulu.com/content/5743710 for only \$5.00

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CLASSIFIEDS

June 17, 2009

Page 15

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Alternative School Suspension/Expulsion Services Program.

The goal is to provide children who have behavioral and academic problems and who have been suspended or expelled from school, regardless of duration, an alternative setting to go to that meets their academic and social/emotional needs in a therapeutic and supportive learning environment.

LCCS is seeking proposals from public and private agencies and individuals capable and willing to, at a minimum, collaborate with children's home schools and LCCS, assist with homework completion, provide academic instruction/assistance, and promote/coach appropriate academic and social behaviors.

RFP materials will be available from 9:00 a.m. June 8 through 4:00 p.m. June 22, 2009 at 705 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio, 43604. To make arrangements to pick up an RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information meeting regarding the RFP will be held June 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Room #913 at the above address.

The deadline for submitting completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on July 9, 2009. No proposal will be accepted after that deadline.

By:

Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

The University of Toledo

PCN: 998015, Senior Financial Analyst, General Accounting

The Sr. Financial Analyst contributes to the fulfillment of the university's mission and vision by monitoring activity in the general ledger; completing various month-end and year-end duties and functioning as a power user for the financial systems. Working in conjunction with other University Departments collects operational data, reconciles transactions, interprets data and prepares reports; provides financial system functional support, supporting the Controller's team with accounting related projects.

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To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job), a resume, as well as three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by June 26, 2009.

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY09-138,

(Project # 5004-09-1462) for the University Medical Center Third (3rd) Floor Demolition for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from City Blueprint of Toledo, 2010 Madison Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43024. Call 419-243-4881 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$55.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Ron Herzog of Harley Ellis Devereaux at 248-262-1500. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in Dowling Hall, Room 2315 at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$182,576.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$182,576.00

INTERESTED BIDDERS:

TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BIRMINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OLD REYNOLDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OLD ELMHURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND WALBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEMOLITIONS

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on July 01, 2009**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the clean out of Birmingham, Old Elmhurst, Reynolds, Riverside, and Walbridge Elementary Schools as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger Munger and Associates Architects Inc, and MacPherson Architects 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 **June 15, 2009 which can be purchased from Toledo Blue Print, 6964 Mc Nerney Rd., Northwood, Ohio 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **MANDATORY PREBID CONFERENCE** is scheduled for June 24, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608. A walk-thru of the building will begin immediately following the pre-bid meeting with the schedule given at the pre-bid meeting.

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

Birmingham K-8 School

Bid Item No. 1 Birmingham K-8 School Building Clean Out:
\$35,000.00

Total Estimate \$35,000.00

Riverside Elementary School

Bid Item No. 1 Riverside Elementary School Building Clean Out:
\$35,000.00

Total Estimate: \$35,000.00

Old Elmhurst Elementary School

Bid Item No. 1 Old Elmhurst Elementary School Building Clean Out:
\$35,000.00

Total Estimate: \$35,000.00

Old Reynolds Elementary School

Bid Item No. 1 Old Reynolds Elementary School Building Clean Out:
\$35,000.00

Total Estimate: \$35,000.00

Walbridge Elementary School

Bid Item No. 1 Walbridge Elementary School Building Clean Out:
\$35,000.00

Total \$35,000.00

INTERESTED BIDDERS:

TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – OLD ORCHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHASE 1 DEMOLITION

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until 1:00 p.m. on July 8th, 2009, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the Phase 1 Demolition of Old Orchard Elementary School, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by The Collaborative 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 **June 17th, 2009 which can be purchased from Toledo Blue Print, 6964 Mc Nerney Rd., Northwood, Ohio 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **MANDATORY PREBID CONFERENCE and WALK THRU** will be held on **June 25th at 10:00 am** at Old Orchard Elementary School, 2402 Cheltenham Road, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

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

Bid Item No. 1

Phase 1 Demolition of Old Orchard Elementary School: \$ 57,700.00

Total \$ 57,700.00

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY09-137,

(Project # 0002-07-503) for Bowman Oddy Glass Lab Upgrade for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$35.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Michael Rowe of Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc. at 419-893-9021. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606.

Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$59,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$59,000.00.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Receives Regional Recognition

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, June 13, 2009 the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. met at the Kent Branch Library and members of the chapter were recognized and honored for their contributions toward the 78th Great Lakes Regional Conference that was

held in Cincinnati, Ohio April 23 – 26, 2009.

The conference conducted business and reported on activities and best practices throughout the region. Additionally chapters and members were awarded for their successful 2008 community service

programs; their leadership and contributions on the local and regional levels.

Lisa E. Dubose, president of Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., said: "I proudly accepted awards and recognition on behalf of our dedicated and hard



Lisa Dubose and Felicia Dunston



AKA Sorors (l. to r.): Denise Black Poon, Morgannia Dawson, Lisa Dubose, Felicia Dunston, Margaret Huntley, Mary Dawson, Brunetta O'Neal

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working chapter. Our membership has continually worked to fulfill its purpose of providing extraordinary service programs within our community."

The chapter is committed to service and in an effort to ensure that they maintain this focus, they take time to document and report their efforts to their cluster, regional and corporate officers. As such, they were pleased to be recognized and awarded for what they are honored to do – help others.

Regional Awards for Zeta Alpha Omega

- 1st Place—Emily Lily Henderson Award - International Programs
- 1st Place—Eva L. Evans Awards - Graduate/Undergraduate Relations
- Certification of Participation – Beulah T. Whitby Outstanding Graduate Chapter 2008.
- Certification of Participation - Phyllis E. Robinson Award—Outstanding Newsletter 2008
- Education Advancement Foundation (EAF) 2009 Chapter Recognition for Platinum Level Contribution! This is the highest level of recognition.
- 2009 Membership Certificate of Award presented to ZAO for their reclamation accomplishment of 75% retention in 2008.
- 2008 Exemplary Chapter – Great Lakes Region from the International Connection Committee.
- Wanda Penn was remembered at the Regional Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremony, as the chapter President and members

- honored her memory.
- Outstanding Voter Registration Program—2008 Voter Registration Blitz, AKA Connection Committee.
- Platform II-The Economic Keys to Success—Best Practices Certificate of Recognition for TAAKE (Teaching Awesome AKA Kids Economics).
- Lisa E. Dubose, Basileus was honored along with all Great Lakes Region Chapter Presidents, by the Regional Director during the Leadership Breakfast, and was given a Certificate of Appreciate for her leadership and dedication to the sorority during her tenure as Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter President.
- Lisa E. Dubose, President provided an energy-charged musical invitation to the 2009 Cluster in Toledo, October 10, 2009!
- Ann Battles, Former Great Lakes Regional Director, introduced our Regional Director during the conference.
- Clara Petty, NO/WP Cluster Coordinator served as a trainer in the reinstatement workshop & invited members to the October Cluster.
- Denise Black-Poon sang in the regional choir and served on the regional heritage committee providing information on investigation team protocol. Mary Dawson served as the Regional Co-Sergeant at arms.
- Brunetta O'Neal served on the Regional Constitution and Bylaw Committee, the Protocol Committee, and is a point of contact for Great Lakes His-

tory.

Rosie Payne & undergraduate Chloe Beck served on the Regional Awards Committee

Morgannia Dawson, Assistant Secretary served as a workshop recorder/facilitator.

Pictured are the awards books, trophies and certificates. Dubose and Vice President Felicia Dunston agree that the effort it takes to create programs require time, creativity, and committed members willing to work. "It is a joy to work with community service committee chairmen to assist the community in such rewarding work," said Dunston.

"Our local chapter receiving regional recognition for our efforts is unexpected, but greatly appreciated. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has been in existence for 101 years at the national level; locally at the University of Toledo since 1928; at Bowling Green State University since 1975 and as a graduate chapter since 1952 and this continuum of providing service to all mankind, is held with great pride," said Dubose.

Mary Dawson, historian and awards chairman, extended a grateful thank you to the community, to the awards committee and our members for their support of the program activities.

For more information about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., please go to www.zetaalphaomega.com or www.aka1908.com.