



Volume 17, No.16

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 17, 2010

**In This Issue**

Perryman's Tribute to Local Women,  
Pt 2  
Page 2

More Commentary  
Page 3

YESS for Haiti  
Page 4

The Economy Section  
Cover Story:  
Stockard Consulting  
Page 6

The Green Column  
Page 7

Real Estate Column  
Page 10

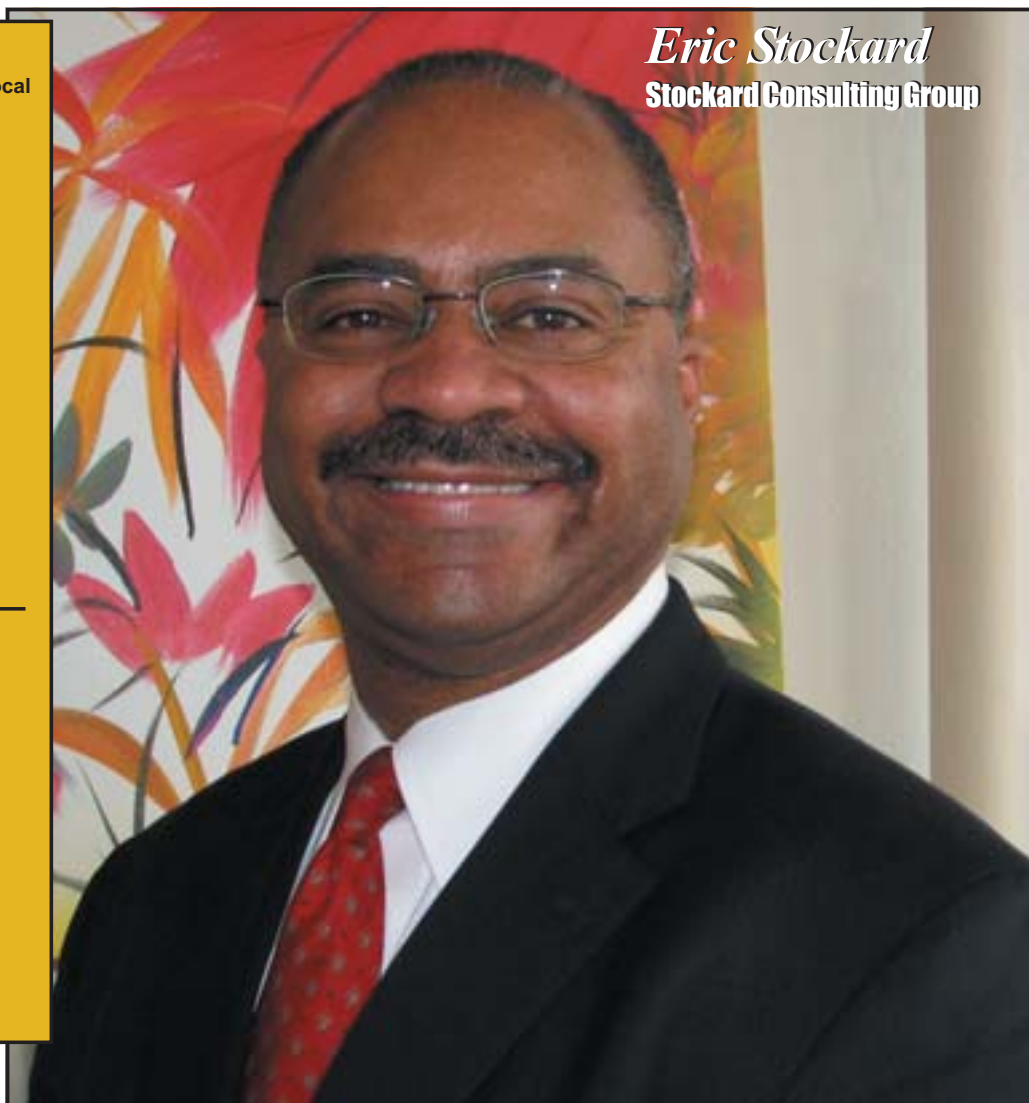
BHM: Book Review  
Page 11

NANBPWC, Inc  
Founders' Day  
Page 12

Minister on Mall Brawl  
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace  
Page 14

Classifieds  
Page 16



*Eric Stockard*  
Stockard Consulting Group

*"If you are a start-up company and you need investors or if you are a small to medium-sized business without a sales force, we can come in and help you and we can do either one-to-one meetings with investors or small group presentations."*

## New Paradigms of Power: African American Women Walking On Water, part II

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



*It grew on me that we, black men especially, were expected to be subservient even in groups where ostensibly everyone was equal. – Shirley Chisholm*

African-American women represent a notable source of upper-level leadership talent and abilities in Toledo and continue to demonstrate both power and influence despite operating under the double marginalization of racism and sexism.

Who are these emergents with such laudable competencies and what can we learn from their lives as they go about the business of leading in these troubled but changing times? What values inform their leadership styles and how do their experiences contribute to their unique capabilities and shape their identity and self-awareness?

One common theme among those being profiled during Black History Month is that they all have arrived at the pinnacle of leadership by being baptized by "trials of fire"

rather than by delicate placement upon pedestals.

"When I came to Neighborhood Health Association (NHA)," recalls Doni Miller, CEO, "we faced a number of problems including the risk of closing. The IRS was poised to padlock our doors the very day I started. Had it not been for Mercy Hospital, who provided \$15,000 in emergency funding, we would probably not exist today."

Since Miller's arrival in 1992 the operation has expanded from one and a half sites to eight free-standing, three school-based and several off-premises locations. The budget has also increased to \$7 million from \$2 million and NHA now has 100 employees.

Yet it is the continuing struggle to be taken seriously as an African-American female leader that Miller agonizes over and contends most vigorously. "It is the clear issues of where talented black women with expertise are disregarded that are a real challenge," she states. "White folks, black women, and black males in particular, it seems as though you can't do enough to be credible on your own."

"A clear example," she elaborates, "was at a table in a meeting when an angry white politician, as retaliation for my pointing out that he overlooked people of color and their quality of life in a hypocritical legislative policy, pointed his finger in my face and said disrespectful things as bad as you could say in public."

"A room full of black male clergy and community leaders all sat around the table but said absolutely nothing. The level of disrespect and silence was heinous. This politician would never have allowed black men to disrespect white women like that. I finally told him: 'You must have me confused. I am not your woman and not your wife!' It's not that I am a crier or not capable to address my own issues, but as a culture what values do we have that allow that to be done to our women and what do we as black women have to do to earn the respect for what we contribute? I get the sense that we have to work harder and harder and still not get respected at the end of the day."

Respect and a social justice leadership perspective stand out as the salient characteristics of this self-proclaimed "child of the 70s," who admittedly wore a large afro, black turtle neck and defiantly raised the right fist of protest during her undergraduate days at the University of Detroit.

"I miss the political activism and the taking ownership for change from back then," Miller reminisces. "It's not ok to accept being minimized. I miss our participation in those struggles. But I also am inspired by the legacy of NHA, started in 1969 by a small group of concerned citizens led by Mrs. Cordelia Martin, who were tired of poor people dying in emergency rooms waiting to get their medical needs addressed because they had no money or health insurance. This group had a will to start a volunteer clinic and that legacy of service and aggressively trying to change things has been handed down to me."

Yet respect, competency, and a sense of justice alone are not enough to maintain one's sanity navigating local shark-infested, male-dominated organizational waters where it is often difficult to determine which discrimination – racial or gender – African-American women are facing.

Miller's eyes twinkle as she shares her coping strategy. "Everybody needs a mentor and I have one. They don't have to be someone who runs a bank or necessarily has a

(Continued on Page 3)

## Community Calendar

### February 3-March 3

Healthy Relationships 101: Eberly Center for Women; 6 to 8 pm; Wednesdays: 419-530-8570

### February 21

NW District of Ohio Association of Colored Women's Club, Inc and Youth Affiliates Sixth Annual Black History Extravaganza and Soul Food Buffet: 2-5 pm; Local 14 UAW Hall; Music by DJ Ice: 419-535-5960 or [btall419@aol.com](mailto:btall419@aol.com)

Third Baptist Church (Holland) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Musical: 4 pm

United MBC Black History Presentation: Remembrance and Reflections: A Journey in Songs featuring "Crowns;" 4 pm

Black Emphasis Sunday Warren AME Church: 10:45 am; Speaker Dr. Wilbert "Skeeter" McClure: 419-243-2237

### February 22

Black History Month Luncheon by Mercy M.S.R.C.: Mercy St. Vincent Auditorium; 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; Tips to improve health behaviors, role of food and nutrition in black community, how Mercy M.A.C.R.C. addresses chronic disease in black community: 419-251-4000

### February 22 – April 26

A Woman's Success Series: 10 week program at the Eberly Center for Women; Course designed to guide women on the journey of personal and professional development; Facilitator Angela Spoerl; 6 to 8 pm; Mondays: 419-530-8570

### February 23

Hope and Help for Haiti: Holland Gardens in Holland, OH; Dosti Foundation presents evening of music, food, a silent auction; 6:30 (doors open): 419-535-3214, 419-345-9550, [jessicaw@dosti.org](mailto:jessicaw@dosti.org), [nicolecoulter@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolecoulter@hotmail.com)

### February 25

Board of Community Relations Public Meeting: East Toledo Family Center; 5:30 to 7:30 pm: 419-245-1565

### February 28

Diocesan Celebration of Black History Month: "Looking Back to the Future;" St. Martin de Porres Church; 5 pm; Toledo Symphony Orchestra

Calvary Baptist Church African American Culinary Food Taster: 4 pm: 419-242-9173

AKA Sorority, Inc Founders' Day Celebration: Open to the public; Brandywine Country Club; 2 to 4 pm; Guest speaker Jala Anderson-McGee: 419-537-9462

### March 7

Momentum: 2010 Statewide Summit for Young Women: Noon to 5 pm; Dana Conference Center UT Health Science Campus; Open to young women grades 7 through 12; Presenters include Gov. and First Lady Strickland; Register at [www.momentum2010toledo.eventbrite.com](http://www.momentum2010toledo.eventbrite.com) or 419-321-0023

### March 9

Madd Poets Society Family Night: Mott Branch Library; Celebrating Black History Month; 6 to 7:30 pm: 419-259-5230

### March 10

Morehouse College Glee Club in concert at Third Baptist Church: 7 pm

### March 10-28

Calvary MBC 21<sup>st</sup> Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith: 10<sup>th</sup> – Church prayer at 7 pm; 12<sup>th</sup> – Service with New Home Baptist @ 7 pm; 14<sup>th</sup> – Service with True Vine @ 4 pm; 19<sup>th</sup> – Service with Beulah Baptist @ 7 pm; 21<sup>st</sup> – Service with Friendship Baptist @ 4 pm; 28<sup>th</sup> – Service with Rhema Word

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Wanna Save Some Bucks ...Change Your Attitude!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.  
Guest Column



It is almost enough to take your breath away! I see where the longstanding legal fight of the Toledo Board of Education against Scott High School teacher Johnnie Warnsley has been settled...ostensibly for some yet to be disclosed big bucks.

But get this ... the attorney fees are already over \$100,000.00 and continuing.

Imagine. Over a \$100,000.00 to fight the legitimate claims of Warnsley. She did nothing wrong but only asked to be treated fairly.

Imagine that \$100,000.00 being used to educate kids and not fight the honest claims of this aggrieved teacher. And yet this school board wants to get a new levy approved but this is how they spend your

money!

Now, hear me on this. I have no problem whatsoever with the school board and the Toledo Federation of Teachers union (President Fran Lawrence) being socked with damages for racial and sexual discrimination.

That is just how they roll and in my humble opinion, especially how the TFT does their work under the umbrella of the nefarious **Intern Program** which is tantamount to a drubbing out of minority teachers who want to come into the system but that is a 30-part expose all by itself.

In this austere budget cutting climate, when the public taxpayer is paying out legal fees in the six figures, something is grievously amiss with TFT or TPS management and foresight.

If one wants to prematurely whiten his hair, simply get a Freedom Of Information Act (F.O.I.A.) request and demand from the school board an itemization of taxpayer monies they have paid out over the decades to their favorite law firm (Spangler & Nathanson, among others) and then ask a very simple question:

Why are there so many lawsuits against TPS (and which

tangentially may involve (TFT)?

Answer: Could it be that the powers that be simply do not know how to head off an imminent lawsuit and resolve issues before they generate the steam that causes the parties to go the mat ... litigation that is.

Or, could the answer be that the school board simply does not mind writing big buck checks to their favorite law firm because it is not out of their collective pockets?

Can you imagine the reduction of lawsuits if the school board members and the TFT leadership were held personally accountable for lawsuits that they lost and it was found out that it was due to their racial and sexual biases or age discrimination?

In those cases, the public should demand a policy of... "You caused... you pay for it!"

I betcha (apologies to Sarah Palin) that the school board and the school unions would quickly get their pony show act together; and when an aggrieved teacher or employee makes a legitimate gripe, the response from the board or the union would not be... "Don't like it? Sue us! It isn't coming out of our pockets!"

You also have to wonder what type of legal advice certain lawyers would/could give a public client when their client is faced with a race/sex-based lawsuit.

Do they seek a neutral, outside entity that will come in and give their opinion as to either resolving the issue or do they dare the aggrieved client to spend the money needed to take their client to court?

Let me give you an insider's secret about the realities of certain litigation. If you are an employee who has been fired or demoted, the bosses know that litigation is expensive and they are counting on you saying "it is not worth it" and thus letting the wrong go unrighted.

However, if that fails and the malefactor is a public entity, they can simply take the hit and have either their insurance carrier pay for their inane carnage or they will pass it on as a buried budget item for the John Q. Public to unknowingly pick up the tab.

Trust me. Defending discrimination cases is a highly lucrative business. Don't believe me? Ask for the payout records from the board as to what they have paid over the

past 10 years to defend or settle these cases. It will make you involuntarily suck in your breath. It would shock the public's conscience.

Please remember that these remarks are coming from an attorney who recently settled the Sturdivant/Martinez school cases against the nonsensical antics of the school board and also indirectly against the union.

I regularly review complaints from possible litigants who want to sue the school board or one of the school unions and it is my humble opinion that a lot of those possible lawsuits could be quickly resolved if we had saner heads at the board or at the union or at the to be involved law firm who would state that fair is fair and thus resolved the issues.

My cases should have been resolved way before it was settled but the board and the union dug their high heels in and barked... "Not now... not ever" and the dogfight was on!

My clients were the scrappier dogs and we won the dogfight.

But until John Q. Public roars and tells the school board

and the school unions, enough is enough, big taxpayer bucks will continue to be paid out for many cases that should never see the shiny brass on a high priced lawyer's overpriced monogrammed brief bag.

People... this is the public's money and the decisions as to how it is utilized cannot be left in the hands of those who profit the most from it. A different set of priorities has to be in place as to when, "to hold 'em and when to fold 'em."

The Warnsley case is a prime example. That case never should have gone this far. Was there no one who could have stepped in miles ago on that long road and said "stop it?"

The method of amicably resolving these types of school board cases is broken and seemingly, the only beneficiaries are the lawyers who gladly defend them. Don't believe me. Demand the attorney fees payout records for the past 10 years from the school board and be ready for a head of white hair and a packet of Tums.

The telltale records are there. Don't let them tell you otherwise.

Comments to:  
Tolliver@Juno.com

## New Paradigms

(Continued from Page 2)

position at your level. They can be a mother at the church, who in her wisdom can point out the best way to pattern your growth or expose flaws in your decision-making process. Sometimes I can just call Mama, who is 78 years old, and has never held this level of responsibility but she keeps me focused and helps me with critical self-examination and authenticity."

"But most of all," Miller, aware of society's tendency to worry more about being politically correct than morally correct, momentarily hesi-

tates before sermonizing, "I have a faith - not conventional but persistent; it is terribly flawed but unrelenting - and I believe on God's journey because I've learned that I just can't make it without faith. In the early days the organization once struggled to pay the light bill, but God worked it out. And back then, when I would wonder how am I gonna handle all of this, but God worked it out. Now I just look at what's in front of me and listen for direction and watch while God places me where I'm supposed to

be."

Now fully emboldened and comfortable in using sacred language, Miller concludes: "Each of us is here for something that's bigger than us. I believe that God has filled Toledo with smart, talented people who have the solutions for all of our problems, but it is WE who keep getting in the way because WE don't hear why we're here."

AMEN!

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at  
delperryman@corncroftchpistopg

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# Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities "Say YESS to Helping Haiti's Disabled"

By Geneva Chapman  
Special to The Truth

Most adults read their newspaper or watch the news on television in the morning while drinking a cup of coffee, hot tea, hot cocoa or other beverage of choice. The young adults in Zeigler Habilitation Homes, Inc.'s YESS program are no different. Walk into the YESS House weekday mornings and you will find them in the great room either watching news on a flat screen TV above the fireplace that's hooked up to a wii and an X-Box and will later be filled with the action of games like Modern War-

fare, Madden or wii Bowling or they will listen as one of them or a staff person reads stories from a newspaper.

However, they don't just listen. Quickly opinions or reactions to the story are expressed, often leading to spirited and sometimes heated discussions. Recently, news about the devastation in Haiti was the main topic of news stories almost every day. So, one day during "brews&news"©, the young adults with developmental disabilities who are enrolled in northwest Ohio's only day

program for their demographic decided they needed to do something.

"Although the tragedy is very sad, this is a very good opportunity to reach out to the people in Haiti who need special equipment for maneuverability," says Eric, recalling the discussion that followed. Eric has cerebral palsy necessitating the use of a walker for mobility. Eric is one of three people who gets paid to answer the telephone at the YESS House.

Talking about what was already being done to help



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people in Haiti, the young adults who have their own disabilities to live with realized nothing had been said about helping disabled people in Haiti.

"When people here started helping people in Haiti, they helped everyone but the disabled," says Kristina, who works as a receptionist at Zeigler's administrative office, answering phones and greeting people in the lobby. "We felt that someone needed to help them."

"We wanted to help people like us," says Randall who gets paid to do janitorial work at the YESS House. "People have helped us. This gives us a chance to help them."

"They need our help," says Sedjerick who has right side paralysis and also gets paid to work at the YESS House doing janitorial. Exploring how they could help the disabled, they realized that the most important thing they could do would be to replace any adaptive equipment lost in the rubble of the hurricane or provide equipment to those who need it now.

"When the disaster happened, everything else was being donated that was needed," says Jennifer, who uses an electric wheelchair for mobility and also gets paid to answer the phone at the YESS House on the days that Eric doesn't work.

"Some people think that people with disabilities don't count in Haiti," says Skip who uses a wheelchair for mobility and writes Christian lyrics. "I wonder why because God made everybody in His image. If we're all created in His image, people in Haiti deserve as rich a life as we have in the United States."

"I heard on the news that 70 percent of the people who survived the earthquake are

now amputees," says Lenny who wears a hearing aid and has other physical disabilities and who also does paid work at the YESS House. "People in Haiti who are disabled won't be able until they get the equipment they need."

It didn't take long for these young adults to agree to ask for donations of wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment to send to Haiti. Several volunteered to be on a committee to organize a wheelchair campaign for disabled people in Haiti.

"We know what it's like to struggle with a disability," says Amy, Lenny's significant other, who uses an electric wheelchair for mobility and is paid to answer the telephone at the YESS House, also. Amy and Lenny live on their own in the community.

Others who don't have obvious physical disabilities wanted to help, too.

"I think it's good to help others," says Takila who is a cleaning expert and as part of her job doing janitorial at the YESS House mentors her peers and shows them how to clean properly.

"I'm glad we're helping them," says Ericka. Ericka is also paid to do janitorial work at the YESS House. Eric, Jennifer and Michael are donating some of their own used adaptive equipment to the campaign.

"I have a power chair to donate like mine," says Jennifer. "I'm going to call National Seating and Mobility (her adaptive equipment supplier) to see if they can repair it."

"I feel bad for the people in Haiti," says Michael, "so I want to donate a wheelchair to help them." Several young adults are volunteering to clean the used wheelchairs to get them ready for shipping.

"I want to help," says Joey, whose communication skills and group participation have improved immensely since he's been enrolled in the YESS program. Several others have also volunteered, including Stephanie and Curtis who work at a sheltered workshop and come to the YESS House a couple of days a week to "hang out" with people their age for social interaction and learning skills like turn taking, good sportsmanship, and sharing.

Both also work on their Independent Support Plan (ISP) goals, as do the other participants in the YESS program, improving adult daily living skills like staying on task, meal preparation, budgeting, etc. Like the other young adults, they are excited about being involved in a volunteer effort. Stephanie has volunteered to help clean the used equipment that's donated and Curtis, who is very athletic, agreed to help load wheelchairs and other items donated into the POD.

This spirit of giving comes from the heart, but learning to organize and implement a community service project is something these young adults with developmental disabilities learn as part of the transition from youth to adulthood that the YESS House provides.

Young adult Enrichment Support Services (YESS) program, the only day program specifically designed for young adults with developmental disabilities in Northwest Ohio, provides a transition from youth to adult living through skill development training taught in a youthful recreation/enrichment environment utilizing games, fun habilitation activities, and community involvement to teach skills such as adult daily living, social interaction,

(Continued on Page 8)



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## Photovoltaic Training • Starts: 03/15/2010

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## Solar Manufacturing Technician • Starts: 03/02/2010

This 80-hour training program produces workers who are well-prepared for current and future entry-level jobs in solar equipment manufacturing facilities. Trainees learn the fundamentals of mass production, manufacturing processes, including exposure to the culture of continuous improvement and lean manufacturing.

## Green Transportation • Starts: TBD

The Green Transportation program offers a full-service truck-driving program to prepare you for the trucking industry, along with knowledge that helps you to conserve energy on the road and load/unload alternative energy equipment such as wind power equipment and solar equipment. Alternative energy equipment terminology is also covered to enhance the driver's ability to work with companies that transport such equipment.

### Note: prerequisites for Green Transportation Program:

Student must be 21 years old or older (to cross state boundaries) and not have any of the following:

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- High blood pressure if not medically managed and within 150/90 range
- Any epileptic seizures – must be free of medicine and seizures for 5 years
- Eyesight issues – must be correctable to least 20/40
- Hearing in both ears (though exceptions may be made)
- Joint flexion without neuropathy

## Pharmacy Technician • Starts: 03/01/2010

This 50-hour program prepares you to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's (PTCB) exam. Course content includes pharmacyspecific medical terminology; reading and interpreting prescriptions; and defining drugs by generic and brand names. You will learn dosage calculations and conversions; drug compounding and dispensing of prescriptions; IV flow rates; and inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

Prerequisite: Student must be able to pass a drug test, show proof of high school diploma or GED, and cannot have a felony record.

## EKG Technician • Starts: 04/05/2010

This 50-hour program prepares you to work as an EKG Technician and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT) Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician exam and other national certification exams. The course will cover anatomy, physiology, terminology and disease of the heart, legal and ethical aspects of patient contact, and laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography. You will learn hands-on with EKG and other equipment.

Prerequisite: Student must be able to pass a drug test, show proof of high school diploma or GED, and cannot have a felony record.

## Phlebotomy Technician • Starts: 05/04/2010

This 90-hour program prepares you to collect blood specimens from clients for laboratory analysis. Course includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen hands-on practice, and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. Note: you are responsible for arranging your own clinicals.

Prerequisite: Student must be able to pass a drug test, show proof of high school diploma or GED, and cannot have a felony record.

## Pre-apprenticeship Training • Starts: 03/02/2010

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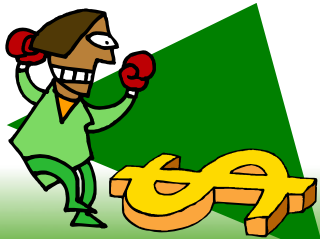


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# The Truth ECONOMY

Tackling Tough Times

## Eric Stockard and Stockard Consulting Group: Building Strong Corporate Structures To Increase Productivity and Profit

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor



"We get people with ideas together with people with money," says Eric Stockard, president and founder of the Stockard Consulting Group, summarizing the principle task of the company he started in 2009.

"If you are a start-up company and you need investors or if you are a small to medium-sized business without a sales force, we can come in and help you and we can do either one-to-one meetings with investors or small group presentations," says Stockard.

Stockard has been consulting for more than 27 years during his career, both with for-profit firms and for non-profit entities

as well. He has specialized in career development, human resources and sales and marketing, conducting leadership workshops as well as diversity workshops.

A Toledo native, Stockard, a graduate of Central Catholic High School with a bachelor's of education and a master's of education administration from The University of Toledo, spent his early career with Owens Corning in sales and marketing in locations such as Maryland and Texas. He then returned to Toledo to become associate director and coordinator of Minority Admissions with UT. He eventually became assistant to the vice president for

Academic Affairs at the university before taking a position with Defiance College as vice president for Enrollment Management.

It was at UT that Stockard got, as he calls it, "the fundraising bug."

"As coordinator of minority admissions, I was charged with going out and getting the best and the brightest," he recalls. "But we needed money for the scholarships." Stockard and his colleagues started raising monies for such awards as the Thompson Scholars – named after Lancelot Thompson, Ph.D., the retired chemistry professor and university administrator who blazed a trail for UT minority faculty starting in the 1950's.

After his university days, Stockard became vice president at Central Catholic for Institutional Advancement and then on to Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) as the chief development officer.

From all that experience, Stockard brings a wealth of expertise to the table in the areas of sales, fund raising and human resources – talents that are the foundation of Stockard Consulting.

"There is a void in small to medium-sized compa-

nies," he notes. "They usually don't have the time to do very much from a personnel standpoint. We can be there as their HR office or we can assist on a project basis to help with their HR needs. So we are trying to help small businesses outsource HR functions in areas such as policies, stra-

tegic planning and benefits."

Stockard Consulting uses the services of three associates who specialize in human resources and four who focus on the development side of the business.

In the course of the past year, since starting the consulting business, Stockard

has been called upon to lend his group's expertise to such varied entities as the Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis; Beacon Financial, Wholehan Marketing Associates, All Square—all of Toledo; Widener University in Chester, PA and the Toledo Police

(Continued on Page 16)

## ASK YVON

By S. Yvon Harper, CEO  
Focus on Finance, LLC



### 4C Personal Finance Checklist

Have you ever thought about the amazing power that a checklist possesses? It is a simple list that can provide the possessor with immediate success, if utilized. Just ask the business person missing their notes on a trip, a hostess in the kitchen missing the main ingredient for the night's meal or anyone who forgot to complete an important task before the big event. If only they had utilized a checklist.

When it comes to your financial outlook you too must have a checklist. There are many steps in your financial freedom that you don't want to forget. Doing so can cause you undue setback with regards to obtaining your financial goals. In this article I've taken the time to provide four not to forget. Just call it your 4C Personal Finance Checklist.

1. Create or Update the Budget: We all have a budget it's either written or unwritten. The difference in financial success is that it must be in written form. Today to assist us with this often dreaded task are free budget websites and tools for budget creation task like JGnash found at <http://SourceForge.net/projects/jgnash>. JGnash is a free open source program that has been used by thousands since 2005.

2. Create or Update your Will: This is a big one that many people fail to complete. Even if a Will was done in the past it needs to be reviewed against your current financial situation to ensure it is still accurate. Remember passing without a Will allows the State to call all the shots for your estate by determining who gets your assets and they will retain a good portion of your wealth.

3. Complete an Insurance Review: This is one area where you can discover hidden savings on car, life and home policies with a little effort. One suggestion is not to allow an insurance provider to pull your credit unless they can provide you with a reasonable quote and you are fairly certain that you will go with their company. Too many credit inquiries can hurt your credit score.

4. Check your Credit: Once a year the US government allows you to obtain a FREE copy of your credit reports from the big three credit reporting agencies of Experian, Trans Union and Equifax. Take advantage of this opportunity to review what your credit reports say about you. They are not always correct. Take steps to remove or update incorrect information, which can potentially increase your overall credit scores. Obtain your free copy at [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com).

Your 4C Personal Finance Checklist will provide you with immediate steps to take for financial success for today and tomorrow. As with any checklist you must be careful to record your completed tasks for the best success. Also note that all these steps should be repeated at least once a year, except for your budget, which should be adjusted more frequently as needed. We will look to share other checklist items in future articles.

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## Yes, We can End the "Tyranny of Oil." Or Can We?

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.  
Guest Column



the tyranny of oil? Second, did he not understand that only the American people themselves could free the nation from the tyranny of oil?

According to a 2009 report, three out of four Americans want the government to provide much more support for renewable energy research, development, and commerce. That is the good news. The bad news is that talk of favorable public sentiment and formidable public financial support for renewable energy, no doubt, scares the bejeesbers out of Big Oil; that is, the major oil giants such as Exxon-Mobil, Shell, BP and Chevron. Big Oil extols competition as a capitalist virtue, but at the same time Big Oil is out to crush anyone seeking either to enhance meaningful competition to its form of energy or to stiffen regulation of the industry.

Big Oil is simultaneously in a sweet spot, with staggering profits, an addicted public and unrivaled political power while, at the same time, the industry is in the midst of declining oil supplies. In 2008, Exxon-Mobil, Shell, BP and Chevron had profits exceeding \$116 billion. However, the world is now experiencing a four-to-one burn-to-find ratio.

In other words, we are using four barrels of oil for each new barrel found. Big Oil is perfectly satisfied keeping us addicted to a declining 19<sup>th</sup>-Century resource rather than getting out of the way so that we can get on with 21<sup>st</sup>-Century renewable sources of energy.

Efforts to eliminate subsidies for Big Oil (and Big Coal, too, for that matter) and to plow those subsidies and others into renewable initiatives tend to be futile. Notes Anthonia Juhasz in *The Tyranny of Oil*, "Through lawyers, lobbyists, elected officials, government regulators, conservative think tanks, industry front groups, and full-force media saturation, the oil industry uses its wealth to change the public debate and, more often than not, achieve its desired policy outcomes."

In other words, breaking the back of Big Oil is impossible — or is it?

It is useful to note that a century ago America took the unlikely action of breaking up the biggest and most powerful corporation in the world: Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. By the 1880's, Standard Oil was controlling 90 percent of all US refining and 80 percent of the market of oil products.

What's more, by 1911, Rockefeller's wealth was 2.5 percent of the US economy, which would be over \$350 billion today. Imagine breaking up a corporate entity so powerful today! As challeng-

ing as that would be, to do so still would not be as difficult as breaking the back of Big Oil and ending its tyranny in America today.

Transportation by means of cars, trucks, trains, and planes accounts for nearly 70 percent of all the petroleum consumed in America today. Think back 100 years ago to an America when a very tiny percentage of the population drove cars and trucks and obviously no one was flying around in airplanes.

In other words, oil did not lubricate the comfortable lifestyle to which Americans have grown accustomed. "Convincing" the oil-addicted American public — mind you, without a ready-made and structured viable option — to give up on oil today is about as unlikely an outcome as simply trying to counsel drug addicts to simply put down their drug of choice because drugs are not good for them.

Therefore, as I said at the outset, I wonder if presidential candidate and Senator Obama realized what he was saying when he declared that he would end the tyranny of oil in America. Presidents can only lead transformative change under one of two conditions: (1) when they can il-

lustrate to the major industries such as Big Oil and Big Finance that the changes are in their economic interest or (2) when the people themselves demand this transformative change.

As it stands now, we don't have either one. Maybe it isn't so much that we need better leaders, but rather we need a better people. (I know that stings a little!) In other words, Obama can't bring change — only we can bring change.

**If we just advocate for an ecologically friendly economy and the associated green-collar jobs without the simultaneous effort to break the back of Big Oil, we are just whistling past the graveyard. We cannot get to where we want to be with just a pro-green president — which is what we have in President Obama — and a Democratically-controlled Congress; rather, we need a pro-green president and a Congress committed to simultaneously drowning Big Oil and birthing a whole new ecologically friendly industrial sector — which is what we do not have.**

Getting Congress to fiercely take on Big Oil must start with mass education focusing on environmental issues in general and the re-

newable energy issue in particular and, then, the initiation and follow-through of a social movement that is bigger and stronger than any we have witnessed in the last one hundred years. Thus, our mission is clear — let's get to it!

An Announcement to Green Column Readers:

Dorceta Taylor, Ph.D., of the University of Michigan will give a talk at The University of Toledo in the Student Union, Room 2584, on February 25 between 3:30 — 5:00 PM. The event is open to the public, and admission is free. Her talk is titled "Environment, Social Inequality & Sustainability: Understanding the Past and Working Towards the Future." Taylor is a national leader in efforts to get minorities interested, prepared, and credentialed to take up leadership positions in environmental organizations and to help shape environmental movements, policy and commerce. For more information, contact the UT Africana Studies program at 419.530.7252.

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D., is professor of Sociology and the interim director of Africana Studies at The University of Toledo.

## The Earned Income Tax Credit: You Earned It; Just Ask for It!

By Kevin Boyce, Ohio Treasurer  
Guest Column



As a government official, I know how important it is to serve all Ohioans—especially during these tough economic times. Sometimes, helping can be as simple as telling people the easy ways to keep their hard-earned money.

That's why I want to tell you about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It's a federal tax program that allows people earning less than \$49,000 to get up to \$5,657 more of their hard-earned

money back on their tax refund. About 800,000 Ohio families qualify for the EITC, but roughly 20 percent of these families don't take advantage of it. The reason is they don't know about the tax credit or don't know how to access it.

It's unfortunate that last tax year 160,000 Ohio families didn't receive the money they were entitled to. That means hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds went unclaimed.

As chairman of the Ohio Commission on the EITC, my goal is to help Ohio families avoid this mistake. Along with co-chairmen Attorney General Richard Cordray and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, I am working to make sure that every Ohioan gets what they deserve with the EITC.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal program that works. According to a 2006 Brookings Institution study, the EITC lifts more children above the poverty

line than any other federal program. In 2005, more than 22 million households applied for the tax credit and received more than \$1800. As a result, an estimated five million people—including 2.6 million children—were pulled out of poverty.

Democrats and Republicans agree the tax credit is viewed as an economic stimulus. In fact, if the estimated 160,000 eligible Ohioans who did not claim the credit last tax year claimed it this year, hundreds of millions of dollars could be injected into Ohio's economy. Especially in tough fiscal times like we're seeing today, this is money that could give Ohio a significant economic jolt.

So as tax season approaches, it is important to ask your tax preparer if you qualify for the EITC. They can help you. But also be aware because not every tax preparer is on your side.

Some tax preparers target

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## Helping Haiti

(Continued from Page 4)

problem solving, decision-making, organization, time management, focusing and staying on task and communication, as well as vocational skills that are applied in actual employment answering telephones, cleaning and janitorial work, and doing other jobs at Zeigler. Goals and supports written in ISPs and approved by each young adult's team are met through YESS activities, as well.

"The YESS Program was started from an idea I had back in 2007, when I noticed the lack of service that was offered to the young adults of the DD population," says Michael Zeigler, Jr., former director and now administrator for the YESS program.

"Once I did my research and planning, I opened the YESS Program in December of 2007. Since then we have been in service to help those young adults take that next step to adulthood by helping them learn adult daily living skills through recreation/enrichment and community involvement, vocational training/supportive employment and a Saturday recreation/

enrichment program."

Among the many program activities that teach adult living skills are "Movie & Wings" (movie and lunch), "Booking It" (visiting the library), "Shop Around" trips to various stores in the community, "Stepping Out," accessing various community events and sites, and "brews&news"© which is teaching the young adults at the YESS House the importance of learning about their community through reading or watching the news.

"We talked about Haiti when we read an article in the newspaper," says Takila, realizing that without the news she and her peers would not have learned about what happened in Haiti and how badly the people there need help.

"I feel blessed to work with this program, this staff, and the young adults," says new YESS Program Director Tanya Lee. "I see our program expanding and growing and I see our young adults learning and accomplishing so much. This wheelchair campaign is an example of the

growth they've made in the YESS Program.

"Often people with developmental disabilities receive so much help from their communities but don't always think they can help. Our young adults want to give back some of what they've received. That's an accomplishment for the program and, most importantly, for them."

YESS staff, who've assisted the young adults with the wheelchair campaign are impressed with their enthusiasm and willingness to help others.

"I think it's awesome," says Marcel Masuca, fulltime staff at the YESS House who provides instruction, supervision, individual and group conflict resolution, and models appropriate adult behavior, along with other staff, including Pam Zeigler, the YESS House Activities director. "I think it's a good idea for young people to help others."

"They should get recognition world-wide," says Jesse Coleman, Jr. who provides one-on-one for a young

adult, Brian, who has autism, as well as one facilitates an exciting new program for the YESS House, Mentor Media: a studio that will allow participants to learn music composition, recording, graphic design, website design, photography, and videography.

The "Say YESS to Helping Haiti's Disabled Wheelchair Campaign" is off to a good start with a POD donated from the Toledo area's only supplier of the popular storage and moving containment equipment, Gary Briggs and several used wheelchairs already donated.

Active Mobility, Inc., a local business located at 5702 Opportunity Drive, donated three new wheelchairs right after the big snow storm, delivered personally by Purchasing Manager Tad Peterson.

"We're delighted that we're able to help people in Haiti," said Barb Hupp, marketing director for Active Mobility during a follow-up call after the donated wheelchairs were delivery. "We can't comprehend what they're going through."

Another local businessman who sells mobility equipment has been a resource of important information regarding shipping items needed by the Haitian people.

"They'll only ship palettes of items," said owner of Patriot Products, Inc., Steve Grudziun who immediately returned the call when YESS staff left him a voice mail asking for his assistance.

Grudziun explained that in order for things to be shipped that far there would have to be a large enough number because it would be too costly to ship a few items at a time. After hearing about the desire of the young adults at the YESS House to send donated wheelchairs to Haiti, Grudziun agreed to sell wheelchairs at a loss of profit for his business for only \$100 each.

Also, a story aired on the local CBS affiliate, WTOL, Channel 11, February 11, 2010, showed the three wheelchairs donated by Active Mobility, Inc. already loaded into the POD and administrator in charge of the YESS Program, Michael Zeigler, Jr. talking about the wheelchair cam-

paign. Nick Dutton, WTOL reporter, posted the story along with a contact number in the Big Red Box so anyone interested in making a donation can call and arrange to drop off adaptive equipment to be donated.

The support of business owners like Briggs and Grudziun and companies like Active Mobility, Inc. and Patriot Products, Inc., the local media like WTOL and The Truth that are getting the word out, and the people who are donating wheelchairs, has assured the young adults at the YESS House that their community service project will be a huge success, not only for the people in Haiti, but for the young adults as well who are getting as much as they are giving.

Kevin, who is employed in the community and participates in YESS program activities a couple of days a week as well as volunteering as a peer mentor when he's not working, says it best.

"It shows that even though we have disabilities, we know what's going on in the world and we can help."

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**Toledo's Own "The Prince"**

The boxing "Prince," Albert Bell, is fighting this week in the open class of this year's U.S. National Championship against other elite boxers from around the country.

Bell represents Toledo's Central City Boxing Team in Cincinnati, OH in his attempt to win his first gold medal and earn a berth on the U.S. Olympic Team for 2012.

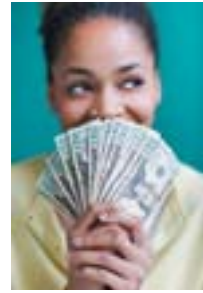
**Earned Income**

(Continued from Page 7)

low and moderate-income taxpayers for RALS — Refund Anticipation Loans. RALS are so-called deals where tax preparers lead people to believe that they're receiving their refunds instantly, but in reality, these "instant" refunds are high-interest short-term loans. These loans are generally a bad deal for taxpayers. Various fees and interest could end up costing many consumers up to 25 percent of their total refund.

What these tax preparers don't want their potential customers to know is that many of them are eligible for fast, free tax preparation at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Ohio Benefit Bank sites.

These sites use the work of volunteers to prepare simple tax returns for taxpayers with low to moderate incomes (generally



\$39,000 and below). And, if the taxpayer has a checking or savings account, these tax preparation sites can utilize direct deposit to get their refunds quickly.

For the most up-to-date information on VITA sites, dial the IRS at (800) 906-9887. For Ohio Benefit Bank information, including sites near you or to check your eligibility, dial (800) 648-1176.

To find out more about

the EITC or free tax preparation services, visit HYPERLINK "<http://www.Ohio.gov/EITC>". There, you will find interactive tools as well as information about how you can volunteer to help other families save more of their hard-earned money.

**Boyce's Bottom Line:** The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal program that lets employees who work for low wages get a larger tax refund. The amount of money you can get back through EITC is based on your annual taxable income and the number of children in your household. This credit has the potential to increase the annual income of a low- to moderate wage worker by as much as 25 percent. You earned it. Just ask for it.

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

## Consolidation and Conservation Works – We Need to Give It a Try

By Rodney Neely  
Real Estate Contributor



All over this country we are seeing a wave of consolidation in real estate users and tenants in order to save money. Commercial users have known for a long time that they could improve their bottom lines by locating two, three, or more food concepts at one restaurant outlet. By cross marketing several brands they own but, more importantly, saving money on opening additional brick and mortar stores they achieve increased revenue without the additional expenses.

For example, Yum Foods! one of the largest corporations in the country, which owns brands like KFC, Taco Bell, A&W and Pizza Hut, often times opens locations

with up to three of these restaurants at one spot with a drive. These free-standing operations have begun to revolutionize fast food. Brands you know and food you love all in one location.

No more running around to satisfy the taste of each person in the car, it's all right at your finger tips.

Their competitors have taken notice and are planning similar operations changes in the near future, not just because it's innovative, but because it makes good financial sense. Spend less to make more!

In other ways, real estate consolidation has been an effective tool to maximize limited resources. During our current financial crisis, in the

national residential housing market a similar phenomenon is happening. Many homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments or may be facing loss of employment have begun taking in tenants or relatives to share the cost of utilities and other living expenses. We are seeing many colleagues use carpooling as a method to save on gasoline. These are all very smart, tried and true ways to save money.

These words – consolidation, conservation and cash-flow – are more important than ever today. Businesses, individual people and even our government all have the same challenges of high cost and low revenue. With that in mind, the merger of companies, banks, households, and government agencies not only makes sense, but it has become a necessity.

In northwest Ohio we could apply some of this same logic. The City of Toledo currently has an estimated \$48 million dollar deficit and no clear way to dig ourselves out. Although I have complete confidence in Mayor Mike Bell's strategy, he could take this advice as well. "Look at your facilities and merge where you can."

Of course the politics will have to be worked out, but the savings on operating costs could reduce the deficit by millions over time. We didn't get into this hole overnight and we probably won't climb out by morning. Both in the City and in Lucas County there are many facilities and agencies that could be consolidated to save money. Due to the age and condition of most of the buildings occupied by the agencies' support services, now is prob-

ably the best opportunity to implement a consolidation and conservation strategy.

By either constructing new or rehabilitating old buildings to house the larger most essential county service agencies, almost immediate savings could be realized. Through using renewable energy and green technology sources the long-term reduction in operating cost would be a direct benefit to the Lucas County taxpayers to the tune of millions of dollars.

Through the leadership of our County Commissioners and Mayor Bell we could be heading toward increased financial stability. The strategies and techniques of consolidation and conservation in tandem, in my opinion, are two of the ways to begin that journey.

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

Contact Rodney Neely at [rodney@q3development.com](mailto:rodney@q3development.com)

## Representative Edna Brown Welcomes Free Financial Education Workshop



Representative Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said: "If we as a community make financial education available for everyone, we are providing an opportunity for people to acquire the knowledge to make a positive change to their life and their family. I welcome opportunities that empower the people and enrich their lives."

On Saturday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Toledo Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., in Toledo, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Checksmart Financial Company sponsored a program entitled, "You're in Control of Your Money." This program is one in a series of financial education courses

being offered in major urban areas throughout Ohio.

The program is intended to introduce basic personal finance concepts such as budgeting, savings, understanding financial disclosures and understanding credit and credit reports.

"Gaining an understanding of the basic principles of personal finance is essential for everyone. Knowledge is power and this type of knowledge helps people learn that they can be in control of their money versus their money controlling them. The Congress of Racial Equality is excited to have the opportunity to partner with the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and Checksmart to deliver this vital information to Toledo and to other urban communities in Ohio," said Niger Innis, spokesman for CORE.

The program was free of charge.

Brown of the 48th District is currently serving her fourth elected term – and fifth term overall – representing more than 116,000 constituents in a district wholly within the city of Toledo. Brown is a member of the House Finance & Appropriations Committee and serves as chairman of the Human Services Subcommittee. She is also a member of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, the Elections and Ethics Committee, and the Health Committee. Brown sits on the Ohio Commission on Minority Health Board and serves as chairman of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) is an American political organization composed of African-Americans elected to the Ohio General Assembly. Founded in 1967, the purpose for establishing OLBC was to recognize and address the hopes, aspirations and needs of African-Americans in Ohio. The organization continues to help ensure equality for all citizens by promoting, fostering and sponsoring educational, civic and political initiatives. Its primary focus is public policy advocacy and development, as well as, significant involvement in state and national electoral politics.

Founded in 1942, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) is the third oldest and one of the 'Big Four' civil rights groups in the United States. CORE is a philanthropic human rights organization that seeks to bring about equality for all people regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic background by identifying and exposing acts of discrimination in the public and private sectors of society.

Checksmart was founded in Columbus, OH in 1987 and provides financial services to customers in need of immediate cash. Checksmart offers loans, credit services, check cashing services, bill pay services, wire transfers, money orders, pre-paid debit cards and phone cards for both wireless and long distance.

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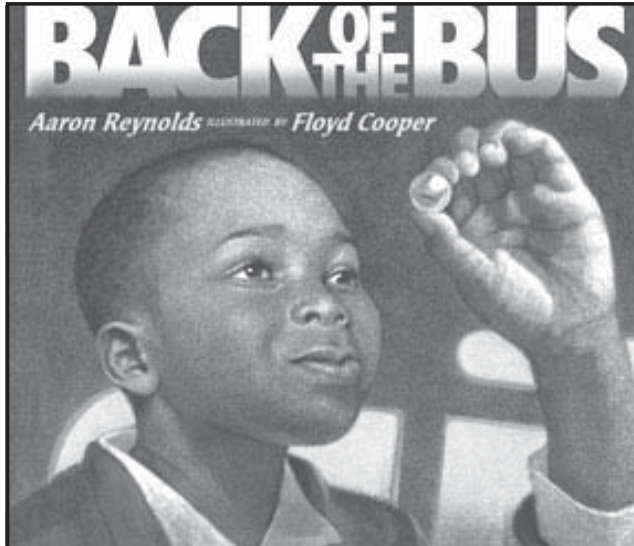


**Book Review****Back of the Bus by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Floyd Cooper**

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\$16.99 / \$21.00 Canada

32 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor**New Works Presents Two Plays for Black History**

Special to The Truth



New Works Writers Series will celebrate Black History Month with a dramatic reading of *Young Messiahs Fly* by Frank Dobson, Ph.D., and several productions of Pearl Cleage's play *Late Bus to Mecca*.

Theater-goers are invited to enjoy a special presentation by New Works Writers Series at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Ground Level Coffeehouse, 2636 West Central Avenue in Toledo. Actors performing with New Works, under the direction of Imelda Hunt, Ph.D., will give a dramatic reading of Dobson's play *Young Messiahs Fly*, which

examines exploitation and sports in America. A discussion will follow this exclusive presentation.

New Works second black history month offering will be the play *Late Bus to Mecca* by Pearl Cleage. Enjoy these performances Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. at Elizabeth House, 3837 Secor Rd. (across from Boston Market), and Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Toledo Museum of Art.

"As one of Cleage's most comical and passionate plays, *Late Bus to Mecca* is a story of sisterhood and the oldest profession," says Hunt, founder of New Works.

Actors joining New Works for these special performances include Latoya Williams, Jeannette Turner, Jessica Kight, Kristen Noel Seay, Gary Bond, Darius Hall, Richie Brown, Deonte Moss and Tisha Carroll.

In its second decade, New Works Writers Series is Northwest Ohio's oldest independent black theater and performing arts organization. A 501(c)3 non-profit, New Works has presented plays and workshops within the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library system, at Pittsburgh Kuntu Repertory Theatre and Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, to name only a few venues.

Admission to all events is \$5.

"We promise exciting performances of these outstanding works," adds Hunt. "We also expect to enjoy lively discussions."

For more information, contact Hunt at:

(419) 380-8464 or via e-mail at [director@newworkswritersseries.org](mailto:director@newworkswritersseries.org).

Not very long ago, a couple days after you were born, Mama and Daddy tucked you and buckled you tight for your first ride home. They wanted your little self to be safe, so they put you in the back seat where nothing bad would happen to you.

Since that day not very long ago, you've spent plenty of time in all sorts of vehicle seats, mostly in back because that's where kids like you are out of harm's way. Being in the front seat, next to Mom or Dad, is a place for big kids and grown-ups.

But what if where you sit was determined by something other than your size? Read more in *Back of the Bus* by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

It's the end of the afternoon in Montgomery, Alabama, December, 1955. A small boy is at the back of the bus with his mother — just where they're supposed to be — and he's going home at the end of Mama's work day.

Mama is tired. He can see

it in her eyes, so he plays quietly with his marble. It's a pretty one that looks just like a tiger's eye. He rolls it up the aisle and Mrs. Rosa Parks grabs it, smiles at him, and rolls it back. Mama has her strong chin on, and she shakes her head "no" at him, but he knows Mrs. Parks don't mind.

Because it's quittin' time for lots of people, the bus gets more and more crowded. People are crammed in tight, all jammed up. The boy hears the bus driver say, "Y'all gotta move, now."

And then the bus stops.

The boy can hear voices, some back-talking, and the bus driver says he's going to call the police. The boy plays with his marble but he knows something's wrong because Mama's got that voice like it is.

He puts the marble away safe and people start looking around. He feels scared.

And then, way up front, he sees Mrs. Parks sitting in a seat with her strong chin

on. People are looking at her all angry and she's sitting there, acting like nothing, like she belongs in that seat.

And the boy thinks that maybe she does...

When I finished this book, something rare happened: I was speechless. *Back of the Bus* is a *wham* of a story masquerading as a children's picture book, which means that adults are going to get way more out of it than kids will.

But don't let that stop you from getting it for your child. Author Aaron Reynolds tells the story of something monumental, from the viewpoint of a small witness to a big action. The illustrations by Floyd Cooper, done in shades of color, make this story feel like an old memory told fresh.

If you're looking for a book that will make four-to-eight-year-old wigglers sit still, let this one do its magic. *Back of the Bus* will keep your kids in their seats for a good while.

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DOFU: 05/13/2009

## The Toledo Club's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Founders' Day Banquet

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On Friday, February 12, 2010, the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. held its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Founders' Day Banquet at the Ramada Hotel. This year's theme was "Think Out of the Box, There Is no Box ... Only Endless Possibilities."

"For ultimate success in all our endeavors, each of us must challenge ourselves to not be content to follow the status quo, but to reach out, take chances and try something different to bring about the changes needed in our community and society," wrote Barbara Tucker, governor of the Association's North Central District, in the program's welcome notes.

The Toledo Club has been active in the community for 46 years helping residents through health fairs, financial planning, teen pregnancy, scholastic and college preparedness programs, to mention a few club activities.

As usual, the Toledo Club's annual features an abundance of awards designed to honor the contributions of local citizens in a variety of endeavors. So it was again this year.

The event's mistress of ceremonies was club member Leola Haynes, who also served as chairman of the Founders' Day event.

The dinner opened with music by the Association's Toledo Youth Cub Ensemble, led by Isis Darks and Saraya Perry.

Then followed the introduction of the presidents of other organizations and those who were on the dais – awardees, honored guests and club officers.

City Council President, and also a member of the club, Wilma Brown brought greetings from the City of Toledo as did Mayor Michael Bell.

This year's guest speaker was Sandra A. Coleman, national president of the NANBPWC, Inc., who is a resident of Detroit and is the president and CEO of SAC Management Services, an executive consulting firm. Coleman served for 29 years



*Sojourner Truth Awardee Doni Miller, National President Sandra Coleman*



*Toledo Youth Club Ensemble*

with the City of Detroit, most recently as deputy director of the Planning and Development Department before her retirement in 2002.

Coleman is in her second term as national president.

Six local citizens received awards from the Association: Cynthia Ford for fine arts and culture; John Moore, the professional award; Edith Gholston, the Toledo Club Appreciation Award; Juanita Greene for community service; Robert Smith as Outstanding Man and Sylvester Gould for business.

The signature event of the annual Founders' Day dinner is the bestowing of the Sojourner Truth Award to a deserving local woman. The award's criteria have been established by the national office and the honoree, says that office, should participate in activities that "parallel those of Sojourner Truth" in the following ways: character building, active participa-

tion in her community, contribution to international goodwill, contribution to cultural activities, contribution to human relations and contribution toward raising the economic standards of minorities.

The Toledo Club had not named an awardee since 2005 in this category.

This year's honoree was Doni Miller, CEO of Neighborhood Health Association which operates 11 health care clinics in Lucas County, providing direct medical and dental care to thousands of county residents.

Miller's many other activities include hosting Bridges, a public affairs program, serving as chairman of Gov. Ted Strickland's Health Care Transition Team and she was a founding member of the Black

Women's Democratic Caucus, the Aurora House Shelter for Battered Women, the Committee of the Whole, the Middle Passage PAC.

Miller has won numerous community awards such as the ATHENA award, the State Democratic Women's Caucus Award and the YWCA Milestones Award. She recently completed two terms on the board of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority including a year as president – the first African-American to serve as president and the first female to do so.

This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NANBPWC, Inc. The national club was founded in 1935 when the leader of the New York Club, Ollie Chinn Porter, urged local clubs around the country to organize and form a national group.

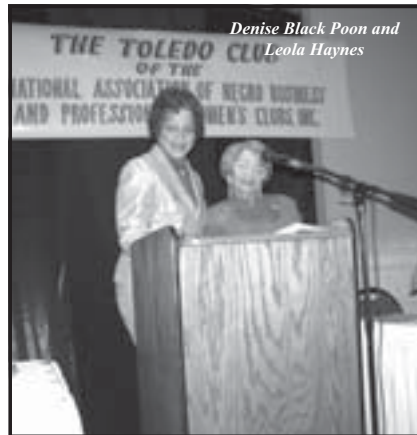
The mission of the NANBPWC, Inc. is to promote and protect the interests of African-American business and professional women; to serve as a bridge for young people seeking to enter business and the professions; to improve the quality of life in the local and global communities and to foster good fellowship.



*Top Ladies President Mary Dawson and Delta President Bettina Shuford*



*Club President Wanda Terrell*



*Denise Black Poon and Leola Haynes*



*City Council President Wilma Brown*

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# Mall Brawls – They're Not so Cute at That Age Anymore

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



I've spent years pointing out the difference between black folks & ni\*\*az.

In public places it should be easy to tell who is whom. This past weekend there was a fight at Franklin Park Mall/ Westfield Shopping Center in the food court.

I was at the mall moments before this occurred and you could sort of feel it in the air.

When you see dozens upon dozens of black teenagers, what is the first thought that goes through your mind? Do you worry? Get anxious? Do you even notice?

As black people it's something we deal with from our earliest days, how we present ourselves in public. How we make our family look, what it says about our upbringing and to a larger extent our culture and so called "race."

One also needs to draw a distinction between black youth from the inner city and black youth from the suburbs and those caught in between.

Now more than ever, we have taken residence in com-

munities where little black boys and little black girls are making life-long friendships with other races.

The dialect is different. The fashion is slightly different.

But the pastimes of teenagers in this country, regardless of shades and ethnicity, remain mostly unchanged: FUN!

Go to the movies, hang at the mall, meet up with friends and get as much exposure to the opposite sex as possible.

It's societal hardwiring that has been ingrained in our psyche since the days of ritualistic gatherings in villages and tribes where adolescents found ways to congregate. Maybe where we have fallen into ruin is that the gatherings are now virtually unsupervised.

Well, let me rephrase that. Police supervision is now more commonly found among adolescents than family/parental supervision when in public places. Sure would be nice if dad worked all day and mom was free to accompany her 12-year-old and 15-year-old to every hang out and still hold down a household.

But that's not the case. The case may be there is no dad and mom works two jobs. So her 15-year-old helps to raise the 12-year-old which means that neither child is being allowed to mature normally.

Speaking of maturing normally, I'm always in the clubs and someone I know who

graduated high school two years before me and is in her mid 30s was up in the spot with words printed on the ass of her pants and she dropped into a split in front of the DJ simply because "they were playing her song."

What is maturity in our black community now?

What is parenting in our present-day black reality?

The thing that really gets me is more than half of the time people are false flagging.

If you were at the mall this weekend you could have looked in any direction and have seen at least 15 young black men ages 12 to 16 who all looked intimidating or as if they have come from some hardened back-ground.

When in reality of that group of 15, I am willing to bet cold hard cash that not even seven of them truly reside in a bad neighborhood.

These dudes are coming from nice stable homes.

Out Hill Ave. Sleepy Hollow/ The Pond. Pacific Park. Secor Gardens.

All places that I wished to God I could've called home when I was growing up in the gang-infested 90's.

These dudes are fighting over females and funny looks.

In the 90's there was serious gang and drug activity so raw that if you DID get to leave the hood for a minute and go to the mall, go to a movie, you definitely weren't about to bring that mess with you.

Real hood life is something you wanna escape, not glorify.

But if you look like a thug, and act like a thug you will be arrested like one.

It's no secret that I detest police officers. I swear that with any power I attain in life I will put measures into motion that will give citizens more power over who polices them and how we are treated by some of these cops who are no better than the criminals they should be chasing. HOWEVER.

If some 14-year-old wants to disgrace the home training his mother instilled in him and wants to fight and act belligerent with the law, then he should be arrested. (Read: not beaten/assaulted/insulted/choked, etc. – just arrested).

He should have to learn that there are big boy consequences for making little foolish boy mistakes when causing a public disturbance.

And if his mother DIDN'T instill any home training then she should be fined for whatever he did.

I don't know.

I don't have any true solution.

All I have is a heaviness in

myspirit.

I was the black kid from the hood trying to hang out and be silly.

I knew the kid who would get smart with any authority figure, cop or whoever.

I was also around white teenagers who would go looking for cops to harass.

White teenagers who wouldn't just fight at the movie theater, but would damn near burn down someone's house as a practical joke knowing no real consequences await.

Teenagers have always been and will always be teenagers.

When I was 16/17 I was doing a lot of grown man stuff...some good, some bad.

But when the police get involved, it changes everything.

If the manager of the movie theater is intimidated, he's not going to hesitate...he's going to have the boys in blue come handle it.

And if the situation appears to be a little too rowdy, a little too unstable... someone's life is going to be forever changed over the smallest, dumbest most simplest of conflicts.

People are losing their homes, starving, dying, wars... and you want to fight at the movie theater?

Someone has to be the smart one – the one with a future.

Someone has to be the person to step up and say 'hey, can we choose another way to handle this' or 'I don't want any part of this!'

I could write another article geared toward teens, be on a panel, make more music about it but I truly believe the change starts at home.

To all those black teens in Toledo under 18 who are doing right, probably still testing the limits but overall making wise choices I am proud of you.

You have a future. As for those who choose to wild out at the mall...

I am running out of things to say.

As always Toledo, Peace!

(Oh yea... huge music/art showcase on my birthday Feb 26 at the Collingwood Art Center in the main theatre. Doors at 7pm/ show starts at 8pm. All ages welcome)

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## High-Tech Repair Jobs Are Part Of The Work-From-Home Trend

When it comes to finding a rewarding job, a growing number of people think there's no place like home.

According to trend watcher Mark Penn, over 4 million Americans now work entirely from home and 20 million work from home part-time.

Some say that tech jobs--such as programming or computer and smartphone repair--are particularly well suited to

be part of this trend. For example, a leading provider of online technology services called Support.com recently announced that it is embarking on a campaign to hire more than 100 work-from-home online technology-solution engineers within the next 100 days.

Prospective hires must be bright, self-motivated individuals who are already highly competent at fixing

computers as well as syncing printers, smartphones and other consumer tech appliances. They're also likely to be the person who friends and relatives call when their computer goes on the blink.

Upon an initial screening, Support.com applicants will undergo additional competency testing and, if selected, will be compensated to receive rigorous online training to ensure that they meet

the "best in class" standards of technical aptitude and customer service developed by Support.com for its team of personal technology experts.

"Our services are in greater demand than ever as consumers are looking to us to ensure their computers, printers and other critical devices such as digital cameras are operating efficiently," said Josh Pickus, president and chief executive officer of

Support.com. "To meet this demand, we're seeking to hire individuals with the right tech experience and talent in areas where jobs have been scarce and we can make a positive impact on their recovery."

Tech-savvy individuals who think they have the right stuff can click or visit <http://corp.support.com/node/114> to review the qualifications for employment and submit a confidential application.

Support.com, Inc. provides what it describes as "instant technology relief" to consumers and microbusinesses. Its expert "solutions engineers" can provide quick, cost-effective and satisfying technology support experience over the Internet and the phone using an advanced technology platform.

For more information, visit [www.support.com](http://www.support.com).

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# CLASSIFIEDS

February 17, 2010

Page 15

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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, March 3, 2010. 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 \$95.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Nick Hogrefe of SSOE Group at 419-255-3830. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 9:00 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: \$865,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$445,000.00; Plumbing & Fire Protection: \$78,000.00; HVAC: \$162,000.00 & Electrical: \$180,000.00.

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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 Friday, February 12, 2010.

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## Child Welfare Caseworkers

Lucas County Children Services is accepting applications for FT and PT child abuse & neglect caseworkers. BSW/related degree required. Additional position information/requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). LCCS offers an excellent salary & benefit package. Send resume by 2-24-10 to HR Dept., LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 (Fax: 419-327-3291) EOE Valuing Diversity

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Application fee is \$25. For an appointment to apply or more information call (419) 389-0361.



## INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – JESUP W. SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **9:00 am March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the **Scott High School Renovation**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by SSOE 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 **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010** which can be purchased from **Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held on **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 pm** at Scott High School 2400 Collingwood Boulevard Toledo, Ohio 43620, with a walk-thru of the building immediately following the meeting.

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.

Sealed bids will be received for:

Estimates

Bid Item No. 1 - Site Work	\$189,870.00
Bid Item No. 2 – Concrete Paving and Curbs	\$253,351.00
Bid Item No. 3 – Asphalt	\$176,249.00
Bid Item No. 4 – Landscaping and Grass	\$50,400.00
Bid Item No. 5 – General Trades	\$9,736,798.00
Bid Item No. 6 – Metal Studs and Drywall	\$1,292,573.00
Bid Item No. 7 – Acoustical Ceilings	\$608,600.00
Bid Item No. 8 – Painting	\$480,967.00
Bid Item No. 9 – Flooring	\$1,392,550.00
Bid Item No. 10 – Fire Protection	\$542,600.00
Bid Item No. 11 – Plumbing	\$1,620,500.00
Bid Item No. 12 – HVAC	\$6,936,700.00
Bid Item No. 13 – Electrical	\$4,658,100.00
Bid Item No. 14 – Technology	\$1,191,637.00
Bid Item No. 15 – Restoration	\$1,205,942.00
Total	\$30,336,837.00

## Eric Stockard

(Continued from Page 6)



Department.

As impressive as that list is, Stockard's decades-long consulting experience – from public school systems to universities to General Motors Corporation – is even more sterling.

The Stockard Consulting Group, however, works with more than firms trying to maximize their profits. The group, for example, is

currently assisting the Great Toledo Urban League (GTUL) in formulating its strategy to move forward even as the national organization starts its second century of community activism. Over the course of the last several months, Stockard and his associates have been instrumental in helping the GTUL's executive committee redefine

its strategy and re-focus its mission to enhance the organization's impact on the local community.

"We are truly at the beginning of something that can be great for Toledo," says Stockard of the collective effort. "The Urban League here can organize and lead the community in making an impact especially on young children."

In addition to the group's recent work with the GTUL, Stockard Consulting has also directed and led capital campaigns for church parishes such as Little Flower and St. Ignatius, secured gifts for operations at Central Catholic, led the public relations and marketing effort for Glass City Academy and conducted special event planning for Neighborhood Health Association.

It's all part of the package offered at the group which, as Stockard says, "gets investors in the same room with manufacturers and entrepreneurs."

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More info: Call Bonita Adams @ 419-215-1464 or James Adams @ 419-290-5711

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