



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 17, 2010

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Neema Bell, Esq

2010 YWCA Milestones Award for Government

"This is the 15th years the YWCA of Greater Toledo has recognized women of northwest Ohio who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and who, through their efforts and accomplishments, opened doors for other women to achieve milestones of their own." – YWCA Announcement

Lil' Chocolate Shortie

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



One who has no sense of being an object of love is seriously handicapped in making someone else an object of love. —Howard Thurman

"Everything looks good via ultrasound. The doctor said the baby will have my height," the text message from my son-in-law announced. Our first grand-child is expected in a little over three months. I was happy. My wife's exhilarating scream, however, revealed jubilation on a whole other exponential level — "It's a GIRL!" she shouted.

Under-celebrated in the community or perhaps overlooked by a confused society which measures masculinity partly by the birth of sons is the special relationship between black fathers and black daughters.

In fact, with two million black men present in U.S. prisons, but absent — or in the minority — in college, church, civil rights and community groups, Parent-Teacher Organizations and black homes, our interventions and solutions have focused primarily on the injurious effect of fatherlessness upon males while inattentive to the tremendous impact of the black father — black daughter relationship.

Yet black girls need daddies too!

Jonetta Barras indicates in *Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl?: The Impact of Fatherlessness on Black Women* that black females who are abandoned by their fathers entertain strong feelings of being unworthy or incapable of receiving any man's love and thus are susceptible to "Fatherless Woman Syndrome." This condition often results in a "triple fears" factor: fear of rejection, fear of abandonment and fear of commitment that in turn often leads to either promiscuity ("sexual healing"), aversion to intimacy, or to food, sex, alcohol or drug addictions in order to shield or mask the attending despair.

Also, with 57 percent of all black children growing up in single parent households and one-fourth of all black children living in households where the father is absent, black daughters "may experience men as a mystery" relying only on negative media portrayals and stereotypes (Ashby, 2010). Therefore the "ways, movements and perspectives of men are unknown and unfamiliar so black females have to guess — how to love or support; not to hate, be afraid of, reject, dismiss, or be in competition with; and how to feel supported and loved by a black man."

Yet, where the presence of black fathers is supportive and protective, and there exists no abuse, neglect or exploitation, there are several benefits. Black daughters whose fathers were positive active participants in their lives are more likely to:

- Learn what they are willing to accept from men and are predisposed to not accept denigration of their personhood or abusive treatment from black men because it was not modeled upon them. (a/k/a Papa Don't Take No Mess and Neither Do I)
- Learn how to be more assertive and how to stand up to "fight any notions of inferiority."
- Learn verbal skills through constant communication and conversation which can encourage daughters to speak up and speak out to demand justice and equality for themselves and others. "Daddy was my first and most brilliant professor, and he taught me the meaning of words, of intellectual power, African-American history, literature, and culture," says scholar Daphne Brooks. "Daddy always encouraged me to make my voice heard, to use my voice and love of writing as an instrument for change." (Neal, 2006)
- Gain emotionally, socially, intellectually and psychologically; are self-directed, extremely competent and frequently successful.
- Have a sense of esteem, of being loved and the confidence to demand love, respect, and encouragement from others instead of questioning their worth.
- Develop their ideals of what to look for in a life partner and have a proper understanding of what it means to be in relationship with a black man, improving the chances of long-term success for the relationship.
- Have a broader perspective of what African-Americans can be and what black females can become as well as shaped expectations of what they might want in a husband.

How can we deal with the persistent problem of father absence in today's context?

One major way to deal with the absent black father epidemic is to become dedicated to media education, awareness and literacy in order to undo the damage of stereotypes on young African Americans and to regain control of the black image that has been used negatively to impose an inferiority complex.

It is ironic and hypocritical that BET and its president Debra Lee, prime validators of black oppression through violence and raunchy objectification, are sponsors of Leading Women Defined. That is a gathering of prominent African-American females to address media portrayals of black women, the problems facing black girls in urban schools and the state of the black family.

Yet it is important for black men to "close ranks with black women who resist and challenge the sexism, misogyny, and patriarchal norms in the community and its institutions" and to "create spaces where the plight of black girls is taken seriously."

At the same time that a father's absence requires "sensitizing young black males to the importance of black women and girls" while also enabling our children to see black men of excellence — academic, intellectual, ethical, or technical — in the home and in the media instead of modeling ignorance, black antisocial behavior and dysfunction.

In addition, the reality of black unemployment in the current economic crisis forces us to reconsider what roles fathers play in the parenting process. Traditional household gender roles may need alteration. Yet, when children see their father washing dishes, clothes or otherwise involved in a shared parenting process it communicates the principle of equal pay for equal work.

But in the end, we learn finally, that in the process of raising our daughters that somehow they have rather raised us, and discover that true manhood is tied to how good a parent we have been to our children.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

March 10-12

Truth Marches on Conference: New Bethel COGIC; Bishop Herman Miller, Pastor Deitrick Haddon and Marvin Sapp, D. Min: 419-242-6937

March 10-28

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

March 19-20

Phillips Temple CME Women's Day Project: Fish and Chicken Wing Dinner Sale; 10:30 am to 5:30 pm; Delivery available for four business orders or more: 419-242-7906

March 20

Women's Luncheon Sponsored by UAW Locals 12, 14 and 1435: "A Woman's Place in History;" 11 am to 2 pm; UAW Local 12 Hall; Environment, history, politics and thriftiness; Fashion show

St. Paul's MBC Men's Day Celebration: Morning speaker is Deacon Craig Washington; Afternoon guest is Pastor Charles W. Tatum and the Good Shepherd Baptist Church of Columbus, OH

March 21

Jerusalem Baptist Church 5th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor W.L. and First Lady Monica Perryman; 4 pm service with guests from St. Marck MBC: 419-461-1789

March 23

Birmingham Public Library: "No Crystal Balls Required;" 4 pm Grades K-5

March 25

Birmingham Public Library: "Teen Space;" Video games, snacks, crafts and more; Grades 5-12

March 27

Health Fair: UAW Local 14 Hall; Sponsored by NAACP WIN; 10 am to 2 pm: 419-810-2225

Clarence Smith Community Chorus: Annual Spring Concert; Toledo Mennonite Church; 6 pm; Negro spirituals, songs of the season, ensemble and solo performances: 419-535-0216 or 419-535-0933

March 28

Jerusalem Baptist Church 5th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor W.L. and First Lady Monica Perryman; 4 pm service with Indiana Avenue MBC: 419-461-1789

Queen of the Planet Earth: Fundraiser at the Collingwood Art Center celebrating Women's History Month; Hosted by Sherita Evans of Planned Parenthood; 4 pm doors open, program at 5 pm; Special performance by Self Expression Teen Theatre: 419-242-2255

New Prospect MBC Night Sunday School: Hosted by Deacon Lionel Hueston; 7 pm: 419-944-2790

April 24

Warren AME Church Health Fair: Sponsored by Faith in Motion Fitness; 10 am to 2 pm; Free screenings — blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and vision; Comp massages; Free healthy lunch: 419-266-1065

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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You Go First...! No, You Go First ..!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Well, I am going first. I am going to jump into the roiling waters of saying that President Obama is hanging on a jagged political cliff and unless and until he changes his stratagems, he will be a one term wonder.

I know...I know. It has only been a little over a year and I know what a whopping fed-

eral deficit he inherited from George W., but the fact remains that you can not simply govern in the same mode as you campaigned.

Those are two entirely different sets of math problems. One is basic math wherein you add and subtract and do short division with some aplomb. The other is theo-

retical – Boolean Algebra wherein there are no place markers and x equals y but only when three is less than two. Get it? Obama apparently doesn't.

In campaign mode, and especially in light of the fiascos that George W., placed us in including a costly and unpopular war in Iraq, a

presidential contender has the luxury to pontificate about his greatness and to excoriate the excesses and ignorance of the prior administration.

All of this is done to the melodies of the fusion group The Black Eyed Peas and everyone feels wonderful about Obama and how he is going to bring us all back from the brink of morbid distrust in government and we were to have halcyon moments with each other.

Only problem is that Obama started believing his own Yes We Can! hype and thought that it was a transferable concept to the White House and beyond.

No one told Obama that Yes We Can! does not translate into achievable foreign policy wins and does not reopen closed factory sites in Peoria, Illinois or Flint, Michigan.

No one seemingly took the time to sit down with Obama and tell him that the sour and recalcitrant Republicans or the right wing media machine led by Limbaugh, Fox News and Glenn Beck did not give a "wit or a bit" about the grand story of his white mother and African father and he being a community organizer who was able to strive and rise to reach the White House.

There was no lectures given to him that since he ran

as a populist, you can not get to the White House and start cooing to fatcat Wall Street bankers who gave you big bucks but then, on the other hand, you want to eviscerate their obscene bonuses.

Where was the reality check team to tell him that he was not on the proverbial Harvard Yard talking to second year constitutional law students about the vagaries of the Bill of Rights or the arcane language of the Commerce Clause and his highfalootin' words would fall flat on the average working stiff who seemingly liked his beer straight and with no dictionary.

No, the fundamentals that were needed to be addressed during the first week of his now faltering administration was a four-letter word: JOBS. Where was the insider advice that the loud mantra should have been: "It Is The Economy Stupid!"?

Great speaker? Perhaps. Nice guy? Sure. The kind of guy that you would want to spend an evening bowling with and then splitting a Chicago deep dish pizza? Why not.

But the hammering question still is and yet to be answered is: Did Obama get in over his head or is he the victim of a personality cult that will not let him get out of the magical but insulated political Land of Oz?

Does Obama want to return home to Kansas and fight a good fight or is the wicked witch of the east (his closet and closest advisers) telling him that all he has to do is click his Florsheim shoes, continue to follow that yellow brick road and all will be fine?

Congress seems broken and the public polls are using brass knuckles on this president.

Harry Reid looks pitiful and tired and Nancy Pelosi seems lost in space.

What's a mother to do? Simple. You reassess and change directions and use your built in PR machine as a bully pulpit to spell it out to the anxious and down beaten public.

You make drastic changes in the personalities that feed you what is what and you shake up your personal staff so that you have people who have the temerity to say you are wrong and here is why.

You go on the offensive with carefully crafted media promos that will pre-empt the gibberish of the Fox Media haters so that you tell your story, your way and not wait to have to clean it up after Ann Coulter or Michelle Malkin have mauled it beyond recognition.

You review your public speeches and excise all of those "whaddiya mean by

(Continued on Page 4)

An Open Letter to the Community

It's has been a whirlwind of an adventure since I have taken the oath of office on January 4, 2010. I am quickly learning the ropes of governance and prudent decision-making as the newest member of Toledo City Council. I receive many questions in passing conversation and I am continually amazed and humbled by the many strangers who have approached me and tell me they voted for me. The two most common questions I get are: Is this everything you thought council would be and, secondly, my votes regarding the payouts for Duane Moorehead and Perlean Griffin.

The first question is the easiest to answer and it's yes and no. In the affirmative, yes, being a city councilman is everything I had expected it to be. I am extremely grateful for the assistance of so many who have helped me to be successful thus far.

To begin, I appreciate my colleagues on Toledo City Council and the Bell Administration for their generosity of time, resources, and advice. The many city employees I have had privilege of working with have been fantastic and supportive. The staff members at Toledo City Council who are truly the back bone of our operation and continually go above and beyond to ensure things are done in a timely and professional manner. And of course, I would be remiss, if I did not especially mention my legislative aid Joanne Bell-Car for all of her assistance, hard-work, and dedication.

The "no" part of this answer is I am continually amazed at communication barriers between government and the people we serve. It appears over the past several years there has been a lack of customer service from our governmental agencies and, in turn, a frustration level among citizens who have desperately tried to navigate the labyrinth of local government. This by far has been the biggest sur-

prise I have encountered. However, I stay optimistic in our leadership and remain hopeful that we will continue to focus on customer service as well as our transparency efforts within government.

The next question I often get is regarding the discrimination settlements against the previous administration and Mr. Moorehead and Ms. Griffin. Many people were not surprised by my vote when I voted, along with nine of my colleagues, in favor of Mr. Moorehead's settlement. This case was a much simpler case to vote on having very little to do with racial discrimination. The second case was not so cut and dry. I agreed with my colleagues D. Michael Collins and Tom Waniowski that we should not settle and let the judicial system takes its course.

First and foremost, I take diversity very serious. Diversity for the sake of diversity is not good and often times sets individuals up for failure. Diversity should be embraced for the sake of enhancing our community and for the betterment of our society. Diversity in our government, administration and council brings people together for the benefit of the collective good. Additionally, diversity gives us an opportunity to draw on individual's experiences, culture and abilities to find solutions to our common problems versus causing chaos and polarizing our communities because of visual and cultural differences.

That being said, I voted no on Ms. Griffin's case because I believe everyone should have the opportunity of due process and plead his or her case in front of a jury of their peers. Many times cases like this get played out in the media and personal credibility gets tarnished or jeopardized by rumors or loud mouth-know-nothings. I wanted Ms. Griffin to have the opportunity to share her side of the story and have a jury of her peers decided if this was truly racial discrimination, wrongful termination


or if her claim was unjustified. Therefore, I voted no on principle as I personally felt she had a very compelling story to tell and I think a jury would have agreed with me.

That being said, I am not naive enough to think racial discrimination does not exist in our world, in our city, or within our governmental agencies. Many times discrimination is camouflaged in humor, actions, or potentially sanctioned through our laws, policies, procedures, or even board appointments. I am also not naive to think that reverse discrimination does not exist within our own communities. Unfortunately, this is the reality we live and both forms of discrimination are reprehensible and should not be tolerated on any level.

As a community it is up to us to stand up against discrimination in all of its forms, even if it is against members of our own community, government and especially the collective status-quo. However, we must ensure we are fighting with merit, based on good sound logic, facts, and evidentiary support instead of what often times gets turned into personality issues, personal vendettas, and miscommunication among individuals. As I progress throughout my legislative career, I want to ensure we do not drop the banner called civil rights and continue to fight discrimination in all of its forms and keep fighting the good fight.




Discrimination is an ugly thing that unfortunately we still fight today. However, things are getting better, relationship building is occurring, wounds are beginning to heal, and new bonds are being formed. I am very optimistic that our community as a whole will get through these issues with style and grace and this will be yet another chapter in our unique history.

Sincerely,
Adam J. Martinez
Toledo City Council – At Large



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**Women Blessing Women
Annual Meeting**
Monday, March 22, 2010
Catholic Diocese of Toledo
1933 Spielbusch Ave.
Toledo, Ohio
5:00 P.M.
Open to the public

Women Blessing Women
(501c3 Non-Profit Organization)
223 Page Street
Toledo, OH 43620
Website:
www.womenblessingwomen.org

Put It All on the Table!

By Steven Flagg
Guest Column

I attended the March 3 special meeting of the Toledo Board of Education virtually. In addition to watching the meeting video on my computer, I was able to access BoardDocs during the meeting where I viewed the meeting agenda and the budget presentation being discussed.

Not only was it a more convenient experience, as I saved 40 minutes of drive time, it was also easier to follow and more informative than being at the meeting since the Board has gone paperless.

The Toledo Board of Education deserves credit for improving public access to its meetings by contracting with WGTE to provide live coverage of this important special meeting.

While watching the virtual Board meeting and reviewing the materials presented, it became obvious that many important questions went unanswered.

- What cuts did the TPS administration evaluate?

- Did they evaluate every TPS program or service?

- What are the costs for all programs provided by TPS and which are discretionary as opposed to statutorily mandated?

- Are there any other changes in operations besides those suggested that could improve efficiencies and save taxpayer dollars?

- What proportion of TPS students participate in extra-curricular athletics?

- Has the district effectively matched their reduced student enrollment with the number of school buildings? Are there more schools that should be closed or consolidated?

Besides unanswered questions, it became evident that there was little detail provided by the TPS administration in their budget presentation. All that was offered for some items was a short general description with a dollar figure attached. Cuts in elementary education programs and secondary education adjustments that required additional staff or payments beyond core instruction or programs resulted in a savings of over \$4 million.

- What are these programs?

- How many students are affected by these cuts and in what manner?

Among the final cuts discussed were over \$14 million of unspecified contract concessions which made up 36 percent of the \$38 million in budget cuts presented by TPS.

- Are the cuts envisioned by TPS administration reasonable concessions to expect employees to make and can these cost savings be realized?

While labor negotiations in Ohio can be behind closed doors, the magnitude of the savings and their impact on students, parents, staff and community demands they be identified.

Without details, just how can this community understand the overall picture and

the impact and trade-offs of these difficult decisions? How can our community determine if these cuts are really being made with student interests placed first?

"Trust us" is not acceptable from the TPS administration or the Board of Education in these times of economic difficulty and public cynicism given the poor academic results, corruption revelations and history of indifference to the needs of the Toledo community.

As a taxpayer providing financial support to TPS, I believe every program and service should be evaluated with a cost attached. Every program or service should be identified as discretionary or required to meet statutory mandates. If no evaluation has been done, there should be. If such an evaluation was completed, there is no reason to be shy: show us see the results.

With our local economy in recession, an uncertain recovery date, and personal and governmental budgets on life support, everything has to be on the table and open for discussion. As we sit around this table, one simple principle of shared sacrifice should prevail and be evident to all when the five member Board of Education votes on the final package of budget cuts.

Steven Flagg is a community activist and education advocate. For more information visit TPSINFO.COM.

Community Organizations Provide Donations in Triplicate to Benefit The Bridges Program

Special to The Truth



On Tuesday, March 9, 2010, the Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Jewel Chapter #20, O.E.S., Prince Hall Affiliated and the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. joined in a partnership to provide clothing and non-perishable food items to support The Bridges program located at the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center.

The Bridges, an outreach of the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center, is committed to providing a helping hand to those in need struggling in these difficult economic times. Clara Petty is the executive director.

Every Wednesday, The Bridges, a cozy house behind the Monroe Methodist Church opens its doors to those seeking assistance. When they leave, they have groceries, an assortment of

included pastas, soups, vegetables and fruits.

The Community Partnerships Committee of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. spearheaded the project. Community Partnerships is one of the organization's five national program thrusts. The goal of this thrust is to provide mutually collaborative arrangements between equal partners working together to meet self-interests while solving problems prevalent in our community. The other national program thrusts are: Top Teens of America, Senior Citizens, Status of Women and Community Beautification. Mary Dawson is president. Denise Black-Poon and Barbara Tucker are committee co-chairmen. Members of the committee are: Clara Petty, Charlesena Smith, Angeline Murry, Edith Gholston, Muriel Webb Williams, Equilla G. Roach and Denise Cardwell. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was organized in 1964

services that benefit both youth and adults. Special projects include the Black and White Extravaganza Fashion Show at the Ramada Hotel on May 15, 2010 to benefit charity.

The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. is under the leadership of Wanda Terrell, president. Denise Black-Poon is the first vice president over programs. The Toledo Club was founded in 1964 serves the community in the areas of Health, Education, Employment and Economic Development. Under the umbrella of these program areas, many valuable services are provided to the community.

Cerssandra McPherson is chairman of the club's Employment and Economic Development Committee and was assisted by Barbara Tucker, North Central District Governor and Toledo Club member.

You Go First

(Continued from Page 3)

that"

statements and talk straight and quit believing that you are anointed with the wisdom of Solomon insofar as long as you said it, it will magically happen or cure the malady at hand.

Obama will need to take off the cuff links and fur lined gloves and take some of his political thorns in his side to the woodshed and read them the riot act and let matters fall where they may.

President Bill Clinton was an astute political maven who had to reinvent himself in order to right the ship and

win a second term. Obama needs to huddle with Bill and get

the dope on how to get a second mortgage on hope and change.

Once Obama has been irretrievably labeled as a darling caricature who can only give pompous but nice-sounding speeches but alas, there is no fire in the belly to use a lead pipe on fat cat bankers, or a soulless health care CEO, the die is cast and the vultures will swoop in for the final pickings.

Obama has a political opportunity window time of

approximately another year to silence the pundits and to show his now disenchanting Democratic and independent voters that he was not a fluke or a mirage but is the real deal that they greedily voted for.

If not, then look to the political stage right and hear the footsteps of the thundering Republican elephant that will be coming to graze on Obama taters and his tattered dreams of Yes We Can! becoming...No We Didn't!

Lafe Tolliver may be contacted at tolliver@juno.com

Women of Faith
Chicken Wings and Waffle
Dinner - \$6.00

When:

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Where:

St. Philip Lutheran Church
3002 Upton Ave.
Toledo, OH 43606
419-475-2835

Time:

10:00am - 2:00pm

Greater Toledo Urban League Holds 13th Annual Banquet

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

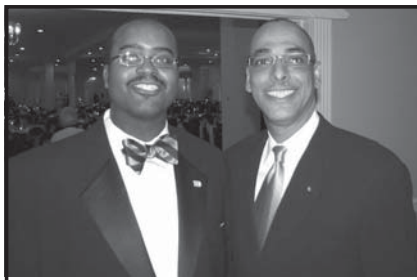
It was an evening of elegance and glam at Parkway Place in Maumee. Women in stylish dresses and men in tuxedos socialized in the spacious ballroom, while the sounds of a live band and singers could be heard in the background.

The low-lighting and stunning table settings made it appear to be a red-carpet affair and, in fact, it was so.

On March 12, the Greater Toledo Urban League celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Urban League at their 13th Annual Dinner.



Norman and Ora Bell



John Jones and Richard Fisher

This was also their annual fundraiser to "acknowledge the services provided in the past year, communicate the mission purpose and vision of the Urban League and thanking extremely loyal supporters."

As a treat, Kristian Brown from 13abc was the mistress of ceremonies.

Shirley Lyons of the Workforce Development Coordination of GTUL performed The National Negro Anthem – "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." The atmosphere of the event was set for the evening.

Rhonda Sewell and Cheryl Slack, the dinner co-chairmen, welcomed and gave thanks to all the guests. They spoke of the work put into planning this occasion and their experience. Slack then introduced James Murray, the Board Chairman of the GTUL.

Jokingly, he recalled a time last year at the dinner when he was introduced as "Bill Murray."

Murray thanked everyone for attending and supporting the efforts in the community.

"There are over 400 people here tonight and that says a lot to us as a leadership organization," said

Murray.

He recognized both elected and running public officials and community leaders. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of the 9th Congressional District was unable to attend, but she sent her best wishes to GTUL. Murray then introduced Mayor Mike Bell to give greetings and thanks.

Bell commented on the importance of working together in these hard times. He states that with patience, focus and a positive attitude we can get through these changes.

Following Bell was the

President of Lucas County Board of Commissioners Pete Gerken. He presented a ceramic frog as a gift for the keynote speaker, Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League. Kevin Boyce, the 47th Ohio Treasurer of State, and Executive Director and Vice-President of University of Toledo Medical Center Marc Chastang completed off the greetings for the evening.

Pastor T.A. Smith, Sr. of First Baptist Church of Fostoria said the invocation for dinner.

Continuing the event af-

ter dinner was the awarding of the prestigious Charles H. Penn Humanitarian Award to Yolanda Jackson. The 2009 Penn Award recipient, Charles Doneghy, judge of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, presented this honor.

Then it was time for the keynote speaker. Morial's keynote address was more like a motivational call to citizens to let them know what they can do to help the community and the nation. Morial spoke of the challenges the country faces as the recession and the decade-long war ends, as well as other obstacles.

"We need to think about what we can contribute to the society coming out of this decade," he said. "We have to build in order to compete on a global level with other communities."

Other topics he touched upon were having the Urban League maintain its strong position in the community and keep providing programs in the areas of economic empowerment issues, job train-

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Marguerita De Leon and Pete Culp

Community Partners, Parents and Students ASK TPS To Save Stewart and Lincoln

Sojourner's Truth Staff

A proposal that the Toledo Public Schools' administration has floated that would involve merging its single-gender academies in order to save money is simply not sitting well with a variety of those schools' community partners, parents and students.

"We want to stay focused and get good grades," said Tae'vana Willis, a fifth grader at Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls, during a press conference this past Monday at which a group of concerned citizens urged the school district to maintain the Stewart/Lincoln Academy for Boys status quo.

"If you mess with success, you will have a bigger problem on your hands," said Rev. Talmadge Thomas, one of the event's organizers. "We are here to show our support ... and our concern ... that [Stewart] remains a single

gender academy."

Among the reasons that Thomas cited for keeping the single gender schools is the academic progress that Stewart, in particular, has made since the experiment began six years ago. Stewart had a 96 percent passage rate in sixth grade reading in 2008-2009, for example, compared to a 14.9 percent rate in 2002 before the school became an all-girls academy; a 68 percent passage rate in sixth grade math compared to 20.4 percent in 2002; a 71 percent passage rate in fourth grade reading compared to 24.2 percent in 2002 and a 58.9 percent passage rate in fourth grade math compared to a 14.8 percent rate in 2002.

Stewart's attendance rate is currently close to 97 percent and since 2003 there have been no expulsions, noted Thomas.

Joining Thomas were a host of community partners such as representatives from

The Links, Inc, the Toledo NAACP, the Greater Toledo Urban League, Toledo City Council, among others.

"Girls need an opportunity to grow at their own pace," said Toledo City Council President Wilma Brown who cited her past experience on the Toledo Board of Education as well as her years in a leadership position with the Girl Scouts of America as a basis of her concern about the education of female students.

"Toledo needs things that work," said Brown. "Girls need their own place."

Both Stewart and Lincoln were ranked on the State of Ohio Report Card in the continuous improvement category during the 2008-2009 academic year. Stewart has an enrollment of 230 students while Lincoln's enrollment is 147.

Church's Chicken

Special Meals for any Family!

Feed 4 8 ^{PC} MIXED 3 Corn, 1 Lg. Mashed Potatoes & 4 Biscuits	\$13⁹⁹
Feed 6 12 ^{PC} MIXED 5 Corn, 1 Family Mashed Potatoes & 6 Biscuits	\$19⁹⁹
Feed 8 16 ^{PC} MIXED 6 Corn, 1 Family Mashed Potatoes & 6 Biscuits	\$23⁹⁹

Offer good for Church's Chicken at
2124 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio

Neema Bell, Esq – Flying Under the Radar Is Not an Option any Longer

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"I am not by nature a politician," says Neema Bell, attorney and partner in the law firm of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP. "I tend to fly under the radar. I try to be diplomatic and speak from the heart. What you see is what you get."

Bell's days of flying under the radar may well be over. The civil litigator, who has been with Shumaker for 22 years and is one of only a few African-American partners in a majority law firm in Toledo, is about to burst into the spotlight for several reasons.

First, she is the YWCA of Greater Toledo's Milestones awardee this year for government. Second, Federal District Court Judge David Carr is about to retire to senior status and Bell is applying for a presidential appointment to replace him.

This is the 15th year of the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women awards ceremony. The purpose of the awards is to honor women "who have demonstrated leadership qualities



and who, through their efforts and accomplishments, opened doors for other women to achieve milestones of their own" says the YWCA's literature about the event.

For Bell this achievement means joining the ranks of others who have served as her role models.

"It's a tremendous vote of confidence, an honor bestowed by my sorors who nominated me and the YWCA," says the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority mem-

ber.

This year Bell will join six other honorees at the March 23 luncheon in accepting possibly as prestigious an award as the area has to offer. The other awardees are: Paula Brown – Arts; Betsy Brady – Business; Mari Davies – Education; Dr. Anne Baker – Sciences; Deb Ortiz-Flores – Social Services and Sandra Hylant – Volunteerism.

In the meantime, Bell will continue her pursuit of a federal judgeship although

she admits she is at a disadvantage given her past reluctance to promote herself. Lots of candidates will be vying for a spot on the federal bench including judges in the state courts with a good deal more political contacts. While state court judges are elected and federal judges are presidential appointments, the president relies on elected officials to recommend judges – as political a process as an election could ever be.

If she does attain her goal, Bell would have come full circle in her career – an appealing prospect indeed.

A Toledo native, Bell moved to Los Angeles shortly after earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech/rhetoric and communications from Bowling Green State University – a Dean's List student.

After eight years on the West Coast, Bell applied to law schools there and also here in Toledo, making the decision to return to Toledo for the support that her family would provide while she was in school and raising a young daughter.

Law school for Bell seemed an inevitable result of her youthful gifts and concerns.

"My childhood honed my persuasive abilities and skills," she recalls. "And I always had a sense that things could be fair and things should make sense."

She did very well at The University of Toledo's College of Law – valedictorian of her 1986 graduating class. That success earned her a coveted clerkship with her early mentor, Judge Richard McQuade, then on the federal bench in the

Western Division of the Northern District of Ohio.

Bell clerked for McQuade for two years before joining Shumaker, the largest law firm in north-west Ohio, as an associate. She made partner after nine years and now specializes in civil litigation, a practice that encompasses commercial real estate, federal rights, civil rights and employment issues, among others.

But after all these years with the law firm, she reflects fondly on her early years in the federal courthouse, where she made lifelong friends and the idea was implanted in her that she would make an excellent judge at some point.

"It was the best job I have ever had," she says. "The judge was, and is, a mentor and a friend – as were the other judges. That experience gave me the opportunity to advocate as he listened to me; my ability to analyze was honed; it really helped me to learn to research and write and to get an inside sense of how justice is done."

However, as Bell notes, since she has never seen herself as a politician, running for the bench was never a particularly appealing prospect. An appointment to the bench, however, would be welcome... more than simply welcomed.

The federal district court – the court Bell calls "the people's court" – provides an opportunity for a judge to exercise both courage and discretion, she believes.

For although Bell loves the law because "the law makes sense," she also recognizes that there can be exceptions on occasion. As a judge, "you have to be courageous when necessary," she says.

"If there is a change in circumstance that brings a law into question or allows it to be adjusted without losing the spirit of the law, that can be done at the district court level."

As a judge, Bell would also be an advocate for greater transparency in the federal justice process, bringing greater understanding of the process to all citizens. Presently, federal courts, unlike most state courts, do not allow cameras inside the courtroom. She would argue for such openness as long as national security issues were not at stake and as long as the rights of the parties involved were protected.

In order to reach that goal, however, she will have to work with a good amount of intensity to make her case with those who have the president's ear – elected officials, unions and other interest groups. It's a process that involves not only the well connected but also the everyday U.S. resident who takes the time to contact his or her representative and senator and to call or write the White House in support of Bell's candidacy. Should enough people advocate for her appointment, her long-shot chance can become a reality.

"It would be a dream come true," says Bell, "to end my career in the same place I started."

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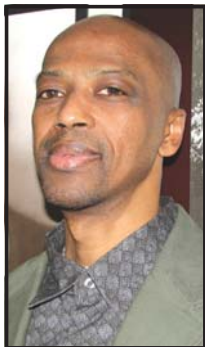


The Truth ECONOMY

Tackling Tough Times

Become a Green Innovator, Not a Glamorous Entertainer

By Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.
Guest Column



Let's face it – many young Americans would love to become celebrated professional entertainers. Not only do such entertainers make a lot of money, but also many don't have any discernable special artistic, athletic, or technical skill or talent. Impressionable young people may look at some of these entertainers and say, "Hey, that could be me pulling down that high income." My argument in this green column is a mixture of sociological analysis and self-reflection about my one-time, long-ago aspiration of becoming a professional entertainer, specifically, a basketball player.

As I perceived myself, I was as good as the athletically talented young men around me, and many of us appeared to be as talented as the men we were watching in the NBA; so I was pretty convinced that I had a clear shot at the pros – piece of cake! Talk about being way off the mark.... I realize now that I wasn't all that talented and the competition for the few coveted NBA spots made my dreams of a successful athletic career all but impossible to come true. Many adults have lived through their own versions of such dreams of celebrity and wealth.

Fortunately, it dawned on me that not only would I have to be "better" than the 150 or so fellow high school basketball players in my district, but I would have to outperform millions of other players who were investing just as much time and effort as I was to get one of those 300 or so NBA spots at the time. It is up to over 400 now, but still.... Once that realization finally sank in, I began to look at basketball as just fun exercise while deciding to hunker down and get serious about my academic studies and pursuing a "realistic" professional career.

A similar type of analysis of the unbelievably long odds applies in the case of individuals aspiring to become rappers, actors, newscasters, and other entertainment-related professionals. Every day, thousands of young Americans finally experience an epiphany: "I have to seriously prepare myself to get a job!" Luckily, not all jobs are boring or are related to what may be considered mundane professions. Some jobs are actually downright "cool," financially rewarding, exciting and satisfying professions.

Take the job of an innovator as an example. Innovators in any professional field generate radically new ideas and pioneer far-reaching new products, services and production processes. Such products as the Internet, the iPhone, satellite radio and the process of turning garbage and animal waste into electricity are all products generated by a slew of innovators.

It is ironic that we live in a society highly dependent on and fascinated by science and technology, yet relatively few understand science and technology. The focus is too much on the world of entertainers. As one person said to a Senate panel on education in Washington on March 8 of this year, American youths today are "over-entertained and distracted."

Ohioans appear to be less innovating than citizens of other states. I say this based on one important metric, namely, patents. In 2008, Ohio received only 2,227 patents from the US Patent Office. Ohio is nearly eight times the size of Idaho, yet Ohio received only twice the number of patents as Idaho received in 2008. Also, the city of San Jose received nearly as many patents that year as the entire state of Ohio.

There is a lot of money to be made, a lot of exciting careers to be experienced, and a lot of good to be contributed to society by individuals who have the interest and desire to become a leading innovator in green technology areas such as: renewable energy generation (e.g., solar and wind), energy efficiency, energy storage, energy infrastructure and advanced materials.

According to Governor Ted Strickland, the Ohio Advanced Energy trade association, and Willard & Kelsey, which is one of many renewable energy companies in metropolitan Toledo, the clean-energy economy is now poised to ramp up sharply.

A young person's commitment to becoming an innovator as opposed to becoming an entertainer could be his or her ticket to personal and professional prosperity. As a matter of fact, some professional green innovators will become far wealthier than any profes-

sional entertainer, though most will simply be regarded as a big-time success by almost any measure.

I'm certainly not knocking entertainers; after all I enjoy being entertained by thrilling movies, dazzling music and exciting football games as well. And I know that many entertainers work incredibly hard at perfecting their craft. During my junior and senior years in high school, I often invested over 30 hours a week training in basketball. Looking back, obviously that was an unwise investment.

Almost any high school stu-

dent who is disciplined enough to invest 30 hours a week for a shot at the NBA or WNBA or as a musician could undoubtedly prepare for a career as a green technology innovator by taking 20 of those hours and applying them strenuously to the study of math, science, social studies, and the humanities. However, the student should devote the remaining 10 hours to the basketball activities or to some other form of intense physical exercise, so as to avoid obesity and other possible health problems.

Young Toledoans are fortunate to have a number of

highly regarded innovators in green technology and related social policy fields close-by at The University of Toledo. Toledo's youths should reach out to such UT innovators for advice regarding a career as a green innovator just as they would if they had access to a local NBA/WNBA star, a well-known rapper, or other entertainer.

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

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Career Exploration Fair Sponsored by Local Groups

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, the Beta Gamma Xinos and Kudos, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Toledo Youth Club, and Kent Branch Library sponsored a Career Exploration Fair at the Kent Branch Library for youth in the Toledo community.

The Fair included a panelist of young professional African-Americans who shared their educational career paths and experiences. The panelist included: Treva Jeffries, Toledo Public Schools educator; Andy Duckworth, TPS educator; Erin King, 2009 University of Toledo graduate; Pastor Arthur Battle; Schylar Meadows, radio personality and Dorian Hooker, Summit YMCA executive director.

Duckworth focused his address on D R E A M: D-defy odds, R-run track or get involve, E-

evaluate yourself constantly, A – ask questions and M – the **mind** is powerful so challenge yourself by reading more and staying focused. Battles emphasized the importance of having a passion for what you do and not being miserable in a job just to make a lot of money.

The Exploration Fair also included presentations by Melissa Jeter, Kent Branch Library, on ways to utilize the library as a resource to research college scholarships. Armando Bejarano of UT, provided information about scholarships that are available at UT such as the Blue and Gold. He also distributed UT brochures and College Planning Guides for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Frances Collins, Ph.D., Toledo Youth Club advisor and TPS educator, gave a presen-



Dorian Hooker, executive director Summit YMCA; Pastor Art Battle; Schylar Meadows; Treva Jeffries, Principal, Scott HS and Andy Duckworth, Assistant Principal, Bowsher HS

tation on Test Taking Strategies for the OGT/OAT. She emphasized the importance of reading, thinking, completing short and extended responses, utilizing graphic organizers, viewing the

test as a continuous document, eating properly, and using common sense and prior knowledge.

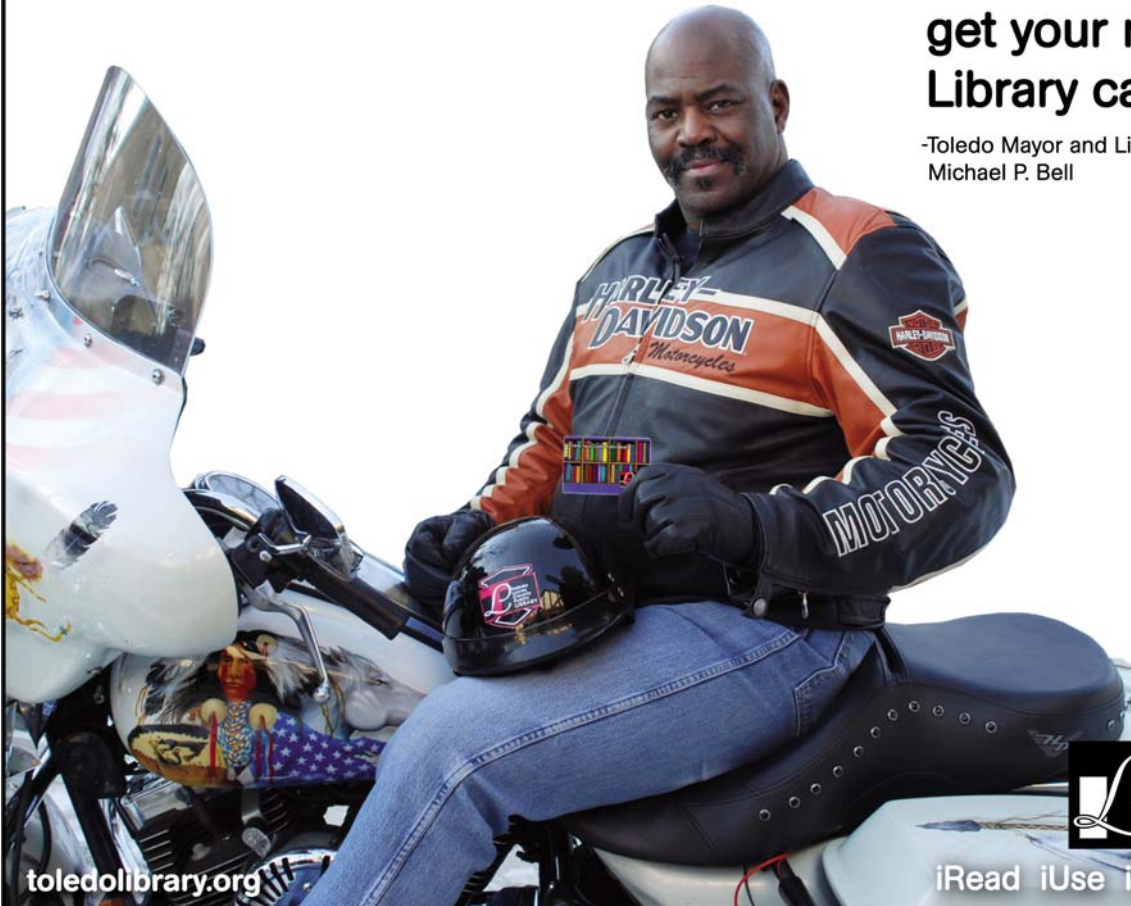
Linda Collins, Beta Gamma Kudos Advisor and TPS educator, gave

a presentation on Interview Etiquette. She gave advice about wearing blue suits, silk ties, and smaller earring, being articulate, having volunteer experience, and demonstrating how you can con-

tribute to the company. India Santos, Beta Gamma Xinos advisor and TPS educator, helped coordinate the Career Exploration Fair but was unable to attend.

Isis Darks, president of the Toledo Youth Club and Start High School senior, and TiRohn Saunders, president of Beta Gamma Kudos and Scott High School junior served as moderators.


The other Toledo Youth Club members who attended the Fair were: D'Vaughn McGill, Chenell Olds, Dontai Robinson, Derrick Smith, Paula Smith, Melissa Smith and Opal Dunlap. Beta Gamma Xinos and Kudos members who attended were Tiara Peterson and Shaun Alkins respectively. Bethlehem Baptist Church Youth Group and The Top Teens Youth Group also attended the Fair.



“Ride over and get your new Library card!”

-Toledo Mayor and Library user, Michael P. Bell

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FINANCIAL FOCUS**Put Your Tax Refund to Work***Guest Column*

It's Tax Refund Season again. This year, if you're going to get a check from your Uncle Sam, why not put it to work to help you meet your financial goals?

Last year, the average tax refund was more than \$2,700, according to the IRS. The size of your refund, or whether you will get one at all, depends on your individual circumstances. But if you are going to get a refund, plan ahead for what you'll do with it. Here are a few possibilities:

• **Pay down some debts.** In these difficult economic times, you may be carrying a higher debt load than usual. If so, you may want to use some of your refund to pay down some of these debts. The lower your debt payments, the better your cash flow and the more money you'll have to invest for the future.

• **Build an emergency fund.** If you don't already have an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, you could use your tax refund to start one. Without

such a fund, you may find yourself constantly dipping into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or an expensive car repair. Keep your emergency fund in a liquid account — one that you don't draw on for your day-to-day expenses.

• **Help fund your IRA.** In 2010, you can put in up to \$5,000 to your IRA. Consequently, if you received a \$2,700 refund, you'd have more than half of what you need to fully fund your IRA for the year. (If you're 50 or older, however, you can contribute up to \$6,000 per year.)

You might not think that your \$2,700 would make much of a difference in the long run. But by investing your refund and giving it many years of growth potential, you could end up with a sizable amount. Consider the following:

• If you put \$2,700 in your IRA, and you earned, on average, seven percent a year for 30 years, you'd end up with about \$20,000, even

if you never invested another dime.

• If you put \$2,700 every year in that same IRA, again earning an average seven percent annual return, you'd end up with more than \$270,000 after thirty years.

(These examples are hypothetical illustrations and do not represent any currently available investments.)

You'd eventually have to pay taxes on your earnings, typically when you make withdrawals at retirement. And if you qualified for a Roth IRA, you'd never have to pay taxes on your earnings, as long as you had your account for at least five years and didn't start taking withdrawals until you were at least 59-1/2.

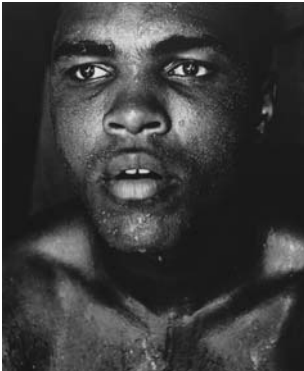
• **Contribute to a Section 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren, you may want to establish Section 529 plans to help them pay for college. You can contribute virtually any amount, and the earnings grow tax-free, provided the

money is used for higher education expenses. (Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal, state and penalty taxes. Contributions are tax-deductible in certain states for residents who participate in their own state's plan. Please note

that a 529 college savings plan could impact a beneficiary's ability to qualify for financial aid.)

You may be tempted to spend your tax refund on things you want today — but, with a little planning, you can use it for things you need tomorrow.

This article was written by Edward Jones and provided by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Lawrence Hodges III, 2273 S. Byrne Rd., 419-474-4715.



Toledo Museum of Art

Bare Witness

Photographs by Gordon Parks

February 5–April 25, 2010
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Gordon Parks, "Muhammad Ali," c.1970. Gelatin silver print, 24 x 20 inches. Lent by The Capital Group Foundation, 2002.47. © 2000 The Gordon Parks Foundation. Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks was organized by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. The exhibition and its accompanying catalogue are made possible by generous support from The Capital Group Foundation, the Cantor Arts Center's Horbach Family Fund and the Cantor Arts Center's members. Ohio Arts Council

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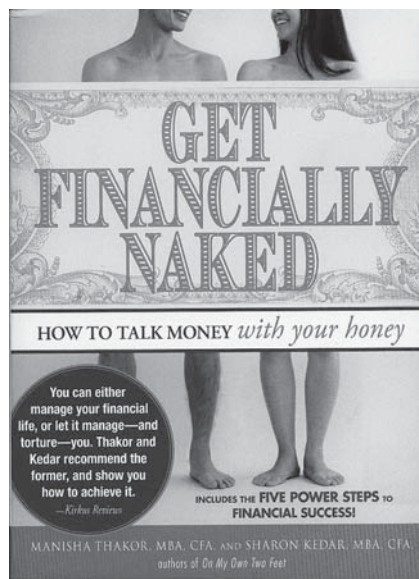
The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling**Book Review****Get Financially Naked by Manisha Thakor, MBA, CFA and Sharon Kedar, MBA, CFA****c. 2010, Adams Business****\$12.95 / \$15.99 Canada****185 pages***By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor*

You've never felt so exposed in all your life.

Somebody saw one of your paycheck stubs and now everybody thinks they know how much you make. Word raced around the office and everybody was amused except you. You feel totally vulnerable. That was private information, something you hadn't even shared with your Significant Other.

Not good, say authors **Manisha Thakor** and **Sharon Kedar**. In their new book *Get Financially Naked*, they explain why you should bare your bank account to the one you love most, especially if you're planning a life together.

As a businessperson, you're used to protecting corporate information. Social mores have always dictated that we keep our personal



financial information to ourselves, too. But if you're romantically involved with someone, sooner or later, you'll want to strip off the cloak of secrecy and have That Talk About Money.

Let it begin by understanding where you, yourself, stand on money issues.

What would you do if you were in a position of financial strength? Knowing the answer to that helps you get a clearer vision of where you want to be, financially: you need to know where you're going in order to get there. Once you have that vision—whether it's frivolous or serious—write it down and revisit it on a regular basis, with or without your Significant Other.

Now that you've got the vision, you need to understand your deep-seated attitudes toward M-O-N-E-Y. Are you a "live for today" kind of person? Or do you

have the first dime you ever made? How did you grow up and what were your parents' attitudes on money? Knowing your financial history allows you to adjust your attitudes to line up with your goals.

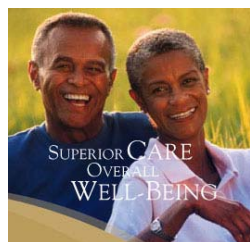
Next—gulp!—ease into this with your SigO. Broach the topic gently. Move slowly. Do the exercises in this book together and don't point any fingers. Learn what one another owns, owes, earns and what your respective credit scores are. Discuss the Five Power Steps to Financial Success and plan—together—how you're going to deal with the little things that life will hand you as a couple.

Meant for women but useful for men, *Get Financially Naked* warns readers that baring one's (financial) soul is best not done on a first date. Conversely, authors Manisha Thakor and Sharon

Kedar also point out that many a wedding has been postponed because one partner is uncomfortable with what is learned about the others' money attitudes.

And while that should serve as a warning for using this book, it shouldn't deter readers from utilizing the information here or from having That Talk About Money. To facilitate the discussion, the authors include hints, personal stories, worksheets, quizzes, and website information.

At a time when seven out of 10 people live paycheck-to-paycheck and the divorce rate hovers around 50 percent, this is the perfect book for new couples or, for that matter, established couples who need a long-overdue sit-down. *Get Financially Naked* can help anyone with money and a honey... no ifs, ands or buts.

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The Right Time for Homebuyers

*By Elizabeth Kollar, Senior Vice President
Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio)
Guest Column*

Current mortgage rates, tax credits and home prices can create the perfect buying opportunity.

While 2009 was a difficult economic year, it has created a great opportunity for those hoping to buy a home. With mortgage rates near all-time lows and home prices at 2004 levels, many potential homebuyers have many options as they enter the housing market. Add in the government-provided tax credits for first-time and now repeat homebuyers—and this could be the right time to become a homeowner.

Many have taken advantage of the up to \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit. When that tax credit was extended in November, the government also announced an additional tax credit for up to \$6,500 for current homeowners who have owned their home for five consecutive years and are buying a new principal residence.

People with higher incomes may now qualify for the credits, as income limits have increased to \$125,000 for individuals and \$225,000 for married couples. Both first time and repeat homebuyers must enter a binding contract by April 30, 2010 and close by June 30, 2010.

Most economists say there is a high likelihood the government incentives for first-time and current homebuyers looking to upgrade will not be renewed after the April 30, 2010 expiration date. It is expected that when the economy begins to recover, the Fed will reduce or not renew its investment of mortgage-backed securities to prevent inflation.

This combination of low rates, low housing prices and government incentives at this rate might not happen again for some time. Depending on your credit history, down payment and other factors, your monthly mortgage payment could be less than monthly rental fees for an apartment.

Many buyers have already taken advantage of this right time for homebuyers. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), first-time homebuyers purchased 43 percent of homes in December. Repeat buyers rose to 42 percent of transactions in December from 37 percent in November as the tax credit for repeat homebuyers was announced.

While it may be the perfect time to enter the housing market, contact a mortgage loan originator who will be able to review your options and provide you with all available options to decide. For more details about the government tax credits and eligibility requirements, visit www.irs.gov or contact your tax consultant.

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Bare Witness
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Gordon Parks, "Muhammad Ali," c.1970. Gelatin silver print, 24 x 20 inches. Lent by The Capital Group Foundation, 2002-47 © 2006 The Gordon Parks Foundation. Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks was organized by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. The exhibition and its accompanying catalogue are made possible by generous support from The Capital Group Foundation, the Cantor Arts Center's Hohnbach Family Fund and the Cantor Arts Center's members.

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

Get Your Money Up!

By Rodney Neely
Real Estate Contributor



The world as we know it is changing and changing fast. The boom and bust of the banking and real estate economy has come and gone. The recovery is in full swing throughout the country

with those who were frugal and risk averse during the past five or six years sitting in the catbird seat, mostly thanks to the leadership of President Obama.

Cash is truly king right now and the major players in real estate know it. Currently in New York the titans of the industry are picking the bones of the mid-level players who over-extended themselves or took calculated, but misguided risks.

A lot of unfinished development projects, over-leveraged investments in office and multifamily, also commercial

mortgage-backed securities holders, are all sucking wind financially. These tragic stories are opportunities for others to acquire assets for 40 and 50 cents on the dollar. For them, now is the time that billionaires are made, for us locally, not so much...

Around here we are experiencing a similar, yet much more subdued environment. The carcasses of our investors litter the landscape, but there are very few predators to feast on the remains. It is easier to hit the lottery than to get a large commercial loan

from a local bank without a 40 or 50 percent down payment for the loan.

Although I understand the reluctance to extend credit, those who do will be the banks that lead the revolutionary economic recovery of north-west Ohio and the Midwest in general. Until then it's going to be necessary that we think outside of the banking box.

For us, now is the time that millionaires are made. It starts with your sphere of influence – think of everyone you know, call them, ask them if they would like to be a part of a million dollar partnership, and then get to work. Create your investment club by pooling your cash and savings for a revenue-producing real estate investment. Apartments, retail, industrial, or whatever, but find a deal that works for your group.

Remember to use qualified professional support to underwrite your deal, but get as much free assistance as possible before you begin to spend. No matter what you decide to do, do something. Create a team of complementary skill-sets, develop a business plan, pool your capital, then invest.

Every ethnic group on the face of the planet works collaboratively to achieve wealth and contrary to the popular belief, so do African-Americans although not nearly enough.

In my opinion, the smartest and easiest way to get in the game is through the land contract purchase method. Those readers who have followed my articles know that I have laid out the step by step methods to buy this way and to capitalize on a distressed sale situation.

Be cautious, diligent and very critical when evaluating each investment opportunity. Get in your car and drive the areas where you want to own property. In apartments, look for landlords who are offering very low discounts for occupancy. He might be a seller. In retail, look for small strip centers that are half empty. He is probably a seller. Try not to get discouraged if it doesn't happen overnight. It never does.

Hey, what are you waiting for?

Pick up the phone call everyone right now. Just get started!

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

Rodney Neely, real estate contributor, may be reached at rodney@q3development.com

ASK YVON

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



Debt Collection Defense

Imagine this. You've worked all day, rush hour traffic was gruesome and you finally arrive home to have some peace and quiet. Then it begins. The phone rings continuously with the same 800 number until you finally answer it. The voice on the other end of the phone begins to reference a bill that is not yours and states they are a debt collector for XYZ Collection Agency. So what do you do?

Unfortunately, this scenario is beginning to happen more often than what you may think. Many companies are now turning to debt collectors to help ease the pain of getting bad debts off their books. In some cases even when the debt is not owed in the first place or was legally discharged through court proceedings, such as bankruptcy. Consumers need to know that you have rights under the FTC's Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA).

It is critical that you take steps to address debt collectors, especially when the debt is incorrectly credited to you. Here is what to do if you are contacted by a debt collector for a bill that is erroneously credited and attempted to be collected on.

- 1) Don't ignore the debt agency. Immediately dispute the debt in writing within 30 days of contact and send to the debt collection agency using certified return receipt mail.
- 2) Request verification of the debt. Request the debt amount, original creditors name and address, written proof of both the debt and verification from the debt agency that they legally have the right to collect on the debt, because debt collection scams are on the rise.
- 3) Get legal assistance. If your efforts to get a debt agency to cease and desist collection for erroneous debts are ineffective seek legal assistance. You can find a list of debt attorneys at www.debt-collector-problems.com or complete a local or internet search.
- 4) Take them to court. If you win the minimum amount you could potentially be awarded is \$1,000. The key is to keep good written records.

Is the debt correctly yours? Under the FDCPA you still have legal rights to combat how a debt collection agency interacts with you. For more information on the FDCPA visit www.FTC.gov and look under debt collections.

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T#58736
DOFU: 05/13/2009

Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill Hosts Free Women's Health Seminar: Strengthening Your Mind, Body and Spirit

Special to The Truth

Women's health was the focus of a special event held on March 7 at the UAW Local 14 Hall, 5411 Jackman Road. Two Toledo physicians and a spiritual leader shared vital information on how women can take a holistic approach to their health at the "Strengthening Your Mind, Body and Spirit" symposium sponsored by the Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America.

This free event featured three dynamic speakers. Dr.

Kettie Daniels, a Board Certified psychiatrist and a fellow of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology talked about why women are more likely to develop depression and the kinds of treatments that are available. Dr. Tanya Baldwin, M.D., a board certified family practice physician focused her remarks on heart disease and diabetes. And Marjorie Holt, Ph.D., pastor and motivational speaker, delivered a powerful message about the impor-

tance of spiritual well being.

"Women often take care of everyone else, their children, their spouses and other family members but they often forget to take care of themselves," said Toledo Chapter President Asha Barnes. "We felt it was important to provide an environment where we could have a candid conversation about the importance of taking care of ourselves."

Each speaker spent about 20 minutes sharing information and taking questions from the audience. During her presentation Dr. Daniels, who maintains a private practice in psychiatry in Toledo, said that people often mistake sadness, grief or even boredom for depression. People who are truly depressed are not functional for a several weeks, she said. Depression is a common disorder and the symptoms include trouble sleeping, lack of interest in everything, not having any energy, not being able to concentrate an increase or decrease in appetite and suicidal thoughts.



Jack and Jill members and speakers



Dr. Daniels, Dr. Holt, and Dr. Baldwin

Holt, the founder and pastor of Bethesda Christian Center, uplifted the occasion with a powerful message saying the mind, body and spirit are all interconnected because your whole self belongs to God. "Negative spirits can be as powerful and impactful as positive spirits," she said. "We must ask ourselves, do I have the spirit of God inside of me, to enable me to do my best."

Dr. Baldwin, whose medical practice serves mostly under and uninsured patients in East Toledo, focused her

remarks on two conditions that are epidemics in this country and disproportionately affect African Americans - heart disease and diabetes. Baldwin expressed concern that diabetes has become a generational curse with younger and younger children developing the disease.

"It doesn't happen overnight, it's a continuum," she said. The disease takes hold over the years because of poor eating habits, lack of exercise and a predisposition because of family history.

"The key is catching it before it gets out of control," she said.

The Toledo Chapter, of Jack and Jill has rendered 58 years of service to the community. Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a family organization that provides cultural, social, civic and recreational activities that stimulate and expand the mind to enhance life. With a membership base of over 9,500 families, it is the oldest and largest African American family organization in the United States.

New UT Program Opens Girls' Eyes to Science Careers

Special to The Truth

A day of hands-on experiments and activities at The University of Toledo aims to encourage more high school girls to pursue math and science careers.

Girls in Science Day, the first of what coordinators hope will become an annual event, invites more than 45 high school sophomores and juniors to explore the fields of engineering, chemistry and physics and astronomy with UT women professors, administrators and students.

"Regardless of how hard we try to tell them, those fields are still known as being male fields and that could be a turn off," said Isabel Escobar, UT associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering.

Maybe checking out the Wind Tunnel at the College of Engineering, exploring the Ritter Planetarium and Brooks Observatory, and making smoking bubbles and other experiments in a chemistry lab will turn the girls on to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine.

The high school girls will be on campus from 8:30 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Friday, March 19 to have those experiences.

Most of the girls attend Toledo Public Schools, including Rogers, Woodward, and Start high schools, as well as Toledo Early College High School that is located on the UT Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation.

Central Catholic High School, Ottawa Hills High School, Springfield High School and Delta High School also were invited to participate.

Rosemary Haggett, Ph.D., UT Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, will welcome the girls to campus at the beginning of the event.

"Involvement in the sciences can lead to so many exciting and rewarding opportunities and experiences," said Haggett, who has served as an administrator with the National Science Foundation, dean of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences at West Virginia University, and a biology professor. "I encourage all girls interested in science, math and technology to pursue those in-


terests and really enjoy the opportunities those pursuits provide."


The Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women and Northwest Chapter of the Association of Women in Science are the primary sponsors of the Girls in Science Day. A gift from immunologist Dr. Philippa Marrack, who spoke on campus last year, helped make the event possible.

Girls in Science Day is an expansion of outreach Charlene Gilbert, director of the Eberly Center, began when she came to UT in 2007 and was surprised to learn only 16 percent of students in the STEM fields at the University were women.

"The opportunities abound for strong careers in the STEM fields and I want to make sure women are not left out," Gilbert said.


The center created the WISE mentoring program, which stands for Women in STEM Excelling, to help support UT's female students in those fields. The Girls in Science Day will take it a step further and reach girls in high school with the WISE students on hand to interact with the girls.





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Toledo Has Talent April 3 2PM-5PM Major Talent Showcase

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

What's good, Glass City?

You've seen me interview everyone from Dre P, Tracy, Flow, D.J. Lyte N Rod, Hutch Daddy and many, many others you know from around the way.

This brotha is somewhat new to the city but still doing his part to make an impact in our entertainment scene. Have you ever been to a talent show where you could walk out with a free Sidekick from T-MOBILE?

Well, you've never been introduced to the Lavish Life.

This is my sit down interview with Sam Estes, CEO of Lavish Life Entertainment.

The event is Toledo Has Talent, and it goes down Saturday April 3 at the Collingwood Art Center.

Pay attention!

Michael:

Please explain the thought process behind bringing an event such as Toledo Has Talent to the Collingwood Art Center.

Sam Estes:

After living in the city of Toledo for the last three years I have come across some of the most talented young individuals I have ever met before. From myself being raised in the Metro Detroit area for most of my life I am no stranger to talented performers but Toledo has an extremely large talent pool from the ages of 12-25. They shocked me a little bit because I had never heard of Toledo producing main-stream talent besides two artists. After discussing this with my business partner we decided to create a talent show to showcase the talent to the community. We also agreed that there was no better place to showcase the city's talent than at the Collingwood Arts Center. The CAC has a wonderful executive director in Audrey Johnson and program director in Brian Felster, and we felt it necessary to showcase the resources of the Arts Center to the community as well as the talent.

Michael:

Yeah, that venue is amazing. A lot of people in Toledo don't even use it, we tried to last month but the blizzard hit.

How are you so familiar with our fair city?

Sam:

My connection to this area is my fiancé. She was born and raised in the city of Toledo. Her desire to continue her life and my own in Toledo persuaded me to move to the area in the summer of 2007.

Michael:

Explain what Lavish Life Ent is all about...past events, company structure etc.

Sam:

Lavish Life Entertainment is a Midwest entertainment company that deals with some of the biggest named professional athletes, comedians, reality television stars and musicians in the country. I am not one to name drop, and we keep our client's identities private unless otherwise

specified, but you will

see the people we represent by the events we bring into the area in the near future. The company is operated under K&E Consulting which is owned by my business partner Dajuan Kennedy and myself. The purpose of our

company is to provide the highest quality events at the lowest prices possible for our patrons. We are able to do this by conducting ourselves with integrity, respect, and guidance under our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For more information visit www.explicitlifestyle.com

Michael:

Feel that.

For readers who themselves want to get into the business of event promotions, what are five important points they need to be aware of or follow

Sam:

I would tell the people that want to get into this business to really look in the mirror and find out if they have a real passion for this type of business. This is not an easy profession to succeed in but you can succeed in it if you put your heart behind it. What a lot of people don't want to talk about in this business is that it takes money to make money.

You must invest thousands of dollars into each event to make it a success.

You can spend \$5,000 on an event and not one person show up at it. So you have to be prepared to lose the money you invest in each event before you spend it. I lost how many points that was. You have to really budget your time

and money for each event, and I believe you need to keep God first because through him all is possible.

Michael:

In our city, a lot of people get into promotions just ...well, I'm not sure why.

For "Toledo Has Talent," what kind of impact do you hope this has locally?

Sam:

I hope that Toledo Has Talent does so many different things on the local level. I foremost hope that this event opens up some doors for the contestants. I believe that the exposure gained from this event will help some get their craft off of the ground help them build some confidence for themselves. I also hope this event creates some new business relationships between my company and some other companies that are doing some great things in the community.

Michael:

Explain some of the partnerships that you created to put on such an event.

Sam:

My company prides itself with the corporate sponsors that we are able to secure for our events. Many of the sponsors that we have for Toledo Has Talent have been sponsoring our events for years: T-mobile, The Juice 107.3, Burger King Bennett Management Inc., Gold Ribbon Trophies and Meijers have all decided to be a part of this great event and have provided their products, resources, and services to us.

Michael:

Major sponsors plus a few hometown favorites, that's what's up.

What are your plans for future events?

Sam:

Lavish Life Entertainment has some great local and national events in the works for the greater Toledo area. We are in discussion with The University of Toledo and The Juice 107.3 to produce a big event with some big names, but I can't go too far into details until contracts are signed. We are also in discussions with

some businesses in both Michigan and Ohio to create an annual awards ceremony for community leaders.

Michael:

What do you think about Toledo's entertainment scene?

Sam:

I have mixed feeling about Toledo's entertainment scene. I think that the resources are here for some great things. I just don't see the end product of the resources. There is a great downtown scene for the city, but if you go downtown on the weekends it looks like a ghost town. I have confidence that Mayor Bell will help create a bigger nightlife scene for the city to coincide with the new Lucas County Arena that is now in operation.

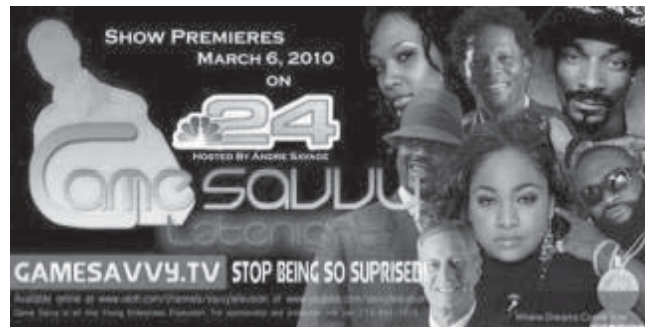
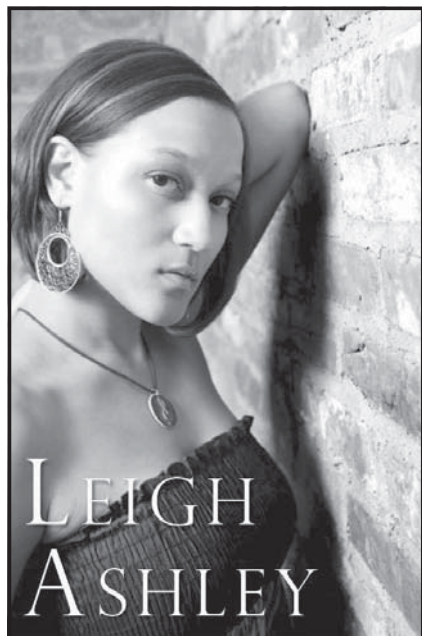
Michael:

Three years ago, downtown was rocking.

A lot of clubs for young urban entertainment people. But sadly, my city doesn't know how to act.

Do you think the recession affects people and their

(Continued on Page 14)



Toledo Has Talent

willingness to support entertainment events?

Sam:

I do not think the recession has really hurt entertainment type events. I think that the entertainment tax might hurt it a little at first but what is an additional \$2 on a \$35 ticket. We need to balance the city's budget somehow and I think people need to realize that before they just immediately criti-

cize something. You might be amazed at the amount of money people are willing to spend for entertainment. If you produce a great product or event and market it correctly, you are in a good situation.

Michael:

Any last words to invite our readers to come support Toledo Has Talent?

Sam:

Yes, we have some of the best groups of individuals competing in this talent show. House of Adonis, Touch A Dream studio, K-squad, Intoto Dance group, Naki Akrobbetoe and Sania Bauswell are our contestants as of now and we expect a great showcasing of their talents.

Toledo Has Talent will be hosted by my college friend and U.G.E. recording artist Leigh Ashley.

Leigh is one of the most talented up and coming artists to come out of the state of Ohio and she is a Toledo native. Once you hear her voice you will want to know more about her and when her next performance is.

You can purchase tickets by calling 1-800-838-3006 or by going to WWW.CACTOLEDO.ORG and clicking on the gold ticket at the top of the page. If you do not have access

to a credit/debit card you can go in the Collingwood Arts Center office and purchase tickets with cash. I hope you all come out to support your community. We are giving away a lot of gifts! We are raffling off

Free nights at hotels, \$20 burger king gift cards, T-mobile sidekicks, \$50 Meijer shopping cards, \$1,500 coupon books, and a netbook!! Once again thank you for your support and

we hope to see Saturday April 3, 2010 (2pm-5pm)!

There you go Toledo.

Don't say I never hit y'all with new, exciting info! I wanna see you all there, April 3.

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CLASSIFIEDS

March 17, 2010

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The University of Toledo Job 997780 ~ Academic Advisor, Upward Bound:

The primary responsibilities of the Academic Advisor are recruitment of program participants, providing academic and career advising and/or services to program, participants (i.e., conducting standardized testing; coordinating academic year, field and socio-cultural events/activities; monitoring weekly tutoring; classroom instruction and program workshops; liaison between university departments, the Toledo community, students, parents and target schools). Evening and weekend work is required as well as travel and other duties as assigned by director. Salary commensurate with education and experience. This is a grant funded position through August 31, 2011.

The requirements for this position include:

- Bachelor's degree required in Education or related field; Masters degree preferred
- Excellent oral, verbal, and written communication skills required.
- Excellent presentation and organizational skills
- Computer literacy
- Two or more years experience with programs or projects serving the needs of low income, minority, and/or disadvantaged students
- The ability to interpret test results and work successfully with high school students, parents, teachers, and target school personnel

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, March 26, 2010.**

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The University of Toledo Job 994371 ~ Staff Compliance Auditor, Internal Audit:

The Staff Compliance Auditor performs complex compliance research and regulatory analysis in order to monitor regulations and administer the overall compliance program developed by the Compliance Officer and the Compliance Committee. This position assesses compliance of operational units, analyzing and researching risk assessments to ensure conformity and adherence with federal, state, and local regulations, University policy and accreditation standards. The individual(s) in this position are employed as auditors that perform compliance work as needed and warranted by the University. The scope of the Compliance Auditor's duties will include both The University of Toledo Medical Center and The University of Toledo academic institution. Salary commensurate with experience.

The requirements for this position include:

- 1 Bachelor's degree in business or related field. Experience in compliance, auditing, or legal affairs preferred. Other equivalent combination of relevant education and/or experience may be considered.
 - 2 Work toward a Compliance Academy certification.
- Ability to effectively balance the compliance needs of the academic and clinical enterprises.**

Go to <http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/hr/main/employment/career.html> for complete description.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to: The University of Toledo, 2801 W. Bancroft, MS 205 Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390 or email recruit@utoledo.edu (preferred). Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Wednesday, March 24, 2010.**

The University of Toledo is an EEO, AA Employer and Educator.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following work:

LAWN MOWING SERVICES

Sealed bids will be received in accordance with law until **March 29, 2010 @ 11:00am** in the office of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, 201 Belmont Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604-1418, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 1st Floor conference room.

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications are available in the office of the LMHA Purchasing Department, 201 Belmont Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604-1418, (419) 259-9419, and will be provided upon request.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination 99-28, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work. Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality in the bidding. No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids.

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

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Purchasing Department



Legal Notice

Sealed bids will be received by Lucas County Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) at 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio, until **12:00 p.m., March 31, 2010** and opened at 2:00 p.m., March 31, 2010 for the selection of Vendor(s) to provide **Non-Emergency Medicaid and Title XX Transportation Services** for eligible LCDJFS clients. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Qualifications. The contract period will be from approximately **July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.**

Prior to the **March 31, 2010 12:00 P.M.** (local time) deadline, each bid upon submission must be stamped for the time and date and placed in our bid box. The bid box is located at the Security Desk on the first floor of the LCDJFS office. No bids will be accepted after **12:00 P.M.** (Bids that are time-stamped at the Document Center will not be accepted.)

The Request for Qualification will be available on **Friday, March 5, 2010.** It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from March 5, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. to March 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email, by Michelle Niedermier at niedem@odjfs.state.oh.us by March 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on March 15, 2010. If any changes are made to the RFQ as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFQ will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of **March 5, 2010**, at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Pete Gerken - President

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - Commissioner

Ben Konop - Commissioner

Bid. 48-2011-RFQ-01

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-089,

(Project # 0108-09-596) for Indoor Practice Facility (Savage Arena Boiler Additions) 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, March 31, 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 \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Bob Taeuber of Fosdick & Hilmer, Inc. at 513-241-5640. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 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: \$256,500.00; Breakdown: HVAC / Mechanical: \$231,000.00 & Electrical: \$25,500.00.

LCCS Celebrates Black History Month

Special to The Truth

Lucas County Children Services brought its Black History Month to a conclusion by sponsoring an art exhibition entitled, "Echoes in Motion." The show featured works by many talented artists, including Deborah Proe, Aaron S. Bivins and Jeremiah Peterson, some of whose works appear at The Truth Gallery. Others, including Keely Gray and Karla Davis-McGowan contributed works from their personal art collections.

"It's important that we recognize the many talented African-American artists who live among us," said Marjorie Holt, Ph.D., LCCS Minority Affairs and Inclusion Coordinator, who organized the show. "They bring to life our vibrant culture and history, and allow us to share it with the broader community." Works included paintings, carvings, quilts and traditional African artifacts.

Agency employees also contributed a variety of ethnic dishes to a potluck luncheon held in conjunction with the show.



Greater Toledo Urban League

(Continued from Page 5)



ing, housing, small business development and preparation of youth. As local recognition, he commented on the good works and support of John Jones, president and CEO of GTUL.

"John is one of our exciting and dynamic new leaders who certainly represents the next generation of the Urban League," Morial said.

There was also a mention of the "I am Empowered" pledge that contains four goals that the League would like to accomplish by 2025: 1) Every American child is ready for college work and life. 2)

Every American has access to jobs in a living wage and good benefits. 3) Every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy efficient housing on fair terms. 4) Every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions. This pledge is to increase individual empowerment and hope so that change can be possible and lasting.

John Jones wrapped up the occasion with remarks and more thanks. The night ended with a live entertainment of Motown Revue from CRSmith Productions.

"We still have a lot of work to do in the community and many problems to resolve," Jones said. "We want to motivate people to do more with volunteering and move to a higher level of service."

The GTUL was established in 1996 and has striven to uphold its mission of "improving the social and economic conditions of each individual in our community, particularly African-Americans, other minorities and those that are underserved."



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