

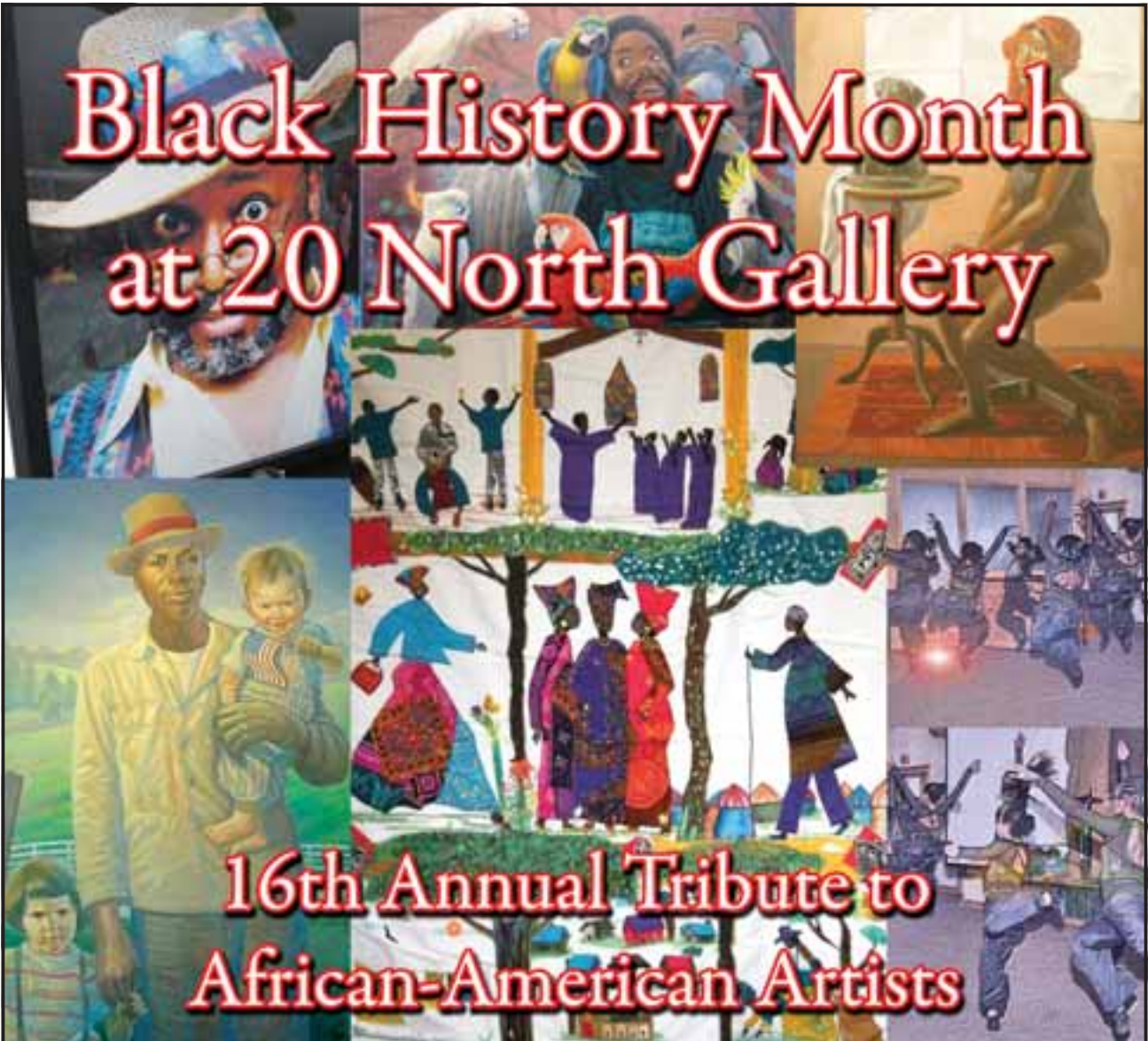


The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 19, No.14

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 26, 2011



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Choices



By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

A people who are truly strong should be able to look soberly at both their accomplishments and their problems - past and present.

- Michael Blakey

Last Thursday, three days after the national celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, the late icon's daughter Bernice refused the presidency of the SCLC, the civil rights organization he founded and that his daughter had been elected to 15 months ago.

Ms. King, also a Baptist minister, listed "turmoil, chaos and confusion" as reasons for her exit, according to The Root, which was related to the organization's years of decline, toxic power struggles and gross mismanagement leading to a recent indictment of a former national chairman.

While the SCLC's future remains in doubt, several current board members insist that the organization and its work will continue without Ms. King. Others such as former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and Rev. Joseph Lowery, close advisors of Dr. King, suggest that the organization "should have been closed down years ago."

Criticism of black leaders and/or black institutions in the community has long been taboo, even when they have inept or dysfunctional.

Yet, the incident raises the fact that the time has come to ditch the hands-off approach of the past and to ask hard questions, not only of historic national black organizations but also of the local institutions and leaders who purport to represent the African-American community.

Has the time come to turn the page on many of the well-meaning but non-or dysfunctioning entities in the community who exist in "name only" rather than by usefulness?

"It depends," says Iva Carruthers, PhD. "Although the King children have already abandoned the SCLC, if local affiliates are strong or if they are tied to a viable national organization, a functional institution deserves and can survive something like Bernice's exit."

"While a new generation doesn't understand the old story and has abandoned the legacy and sacrifices of the civil rights warriors, we have returned to a pre-1954 status socially and economically," Carruthers adds.

So it is important to 'keep our eyes on the prize' where the masses and 'the least of these' are concerned, yet it is true that some of our methods and organizations have become outdated. The external forces of a bad economy, poverty, joblessness and health and wealth disparities require the hard decisions of whether to abandon, re-energize, or re-visit old institutions or recreate new ones altogether."

Yet creating, implementing and accepting the need for change may be the most difficult and least discussed of the colossal challenges currently facing the community.

Despite almost unanimous demand both within and outside the community for results and accountability, we continue to subsidize incompetency, support incessant conflict and provide ineffectual black institutions with a pass.

Why are we and our institutions so resistant to change?

Organizational psychologists Robert Kegan and Lisa Lahey suggest that what often gets in the way of change are hidden competing commitments that often cause those who are benefiting from the status quo to become "irremediable and immune to change."

Frequently, those in leadership who have outlasted their usefulness, badly need the money and cannot afford to move on or suffer from "Authority-itis" and are often "enabled" in a co-dependent relationship by a community plagued by "chronic Victim Complex."

Other leaders are beset with a paralyzing fear of loss – the loss of identity, control, meaning, belonging, competence or of the future and assume a bunker mentality trying to protect their turf but eventually turning their organization toxic.

Or, sometimes leadership becomes stubborn and fixated with what worked for them in the past and "persist in using the wrong scoreboard" or strategies and methods that worked successfully in the past but are no longer appropriate in a changed world.

Another common problem is leaders who often mistakenly choose survival strategies by introducing more and more arbitrary programs or products rather than understanding that the key to competitive success is by transforming the way that the organization functions.

At other times, leadership, often charismatically-gifted, spends such an inordinate amount of time in the public eye attempting to inspire confidence in their organization that rather than "actually accomplishing things, they merely settle for the appearance of accomplishing things."

There are many reasons why a number of our institutions remain ineffectual and/or its leaders resist change. Yet, while the need exists to understand the dynamics of change, the SCLC issue most clearly reveals that we stand at a critical crossroads and must choose the path to take regarding our own institutions and leaders.

What is needed to guide us?

We are obligated to recognize that to truly be free, we must take responsibility to make our own choices and be willing to accept the consequences, rather than to continue to allow others to choose for us.

The decree "A Standard is a Standard" regardless of who is being judged, given by Pittsburgh football coach Mike Tomlin to his Steeler team, needs to become a community-wide mandate.

We must come to the place where we ask ourselves, "What if we, and only we, are responsible for our success and well-being?"

Finally, we must change the mindset that keeps us in useless, fruitless relationships only because they are familiar or have been around a long time. The new criteria must become "Is it making a difference?"

If not, then its time to move on. Even if we must turn the page on our own.

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

Community Calendar

January 29

UT/Toledo EXCEL 27th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth: "Success or Failure: The Consequence of Choice;" 8: 30 am to 1 pm; UT's Student Union Auditorium; Featuring author Wes Moore – guest speaker: 419-530-3823 or 419-530-3820

January 29-30

Bethesda Christian Center Praise Anthem Weekend for Youth: Youth Prayer Breakfast; 10 am on the 29th; Youth Day at 11 am on the 30th: 419-944-0984

February 2

Flower Hospital Community Blood Drive: 10 am to 4 pm: 419-824-1244

February 4-6

Bibleway World Outreach Ministries First Elevate Youth Ministries: "Launching Out;" 7 pm

February 7

Ezra Moore Fitness Center Boot Camp: Grace Temple Church; 6 to 7 pm; Personal Trainer Ryan Rollison: 419-841-4614 or 419-343-4658

February 12

West Toledo Bereavement Ministry Monthly Meeting: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 10 am

February 20

Historic Third Baptist Church Concert: Father William Cunningham Memorial Choir of Detroit: 4 pm: 419-248-4623

February 21

SAPATH Coalition of NOW: Monthly Circle; Cordelia Martin Health Center; 11:30 am to 1 pm: 419-729-0245

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Fletcher Word
Becky McQueen

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Stop the Money Drain!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



gether and let loose on whatever ails them.

I have tried playing the radio at a loud pitch to drown out the screaming sounds of ranting teachers but to no avail. I have tried ear plugs but that does not work. I have tried humming the top Motown tunes but that does not help.

Once I was almost tempted to knock on the thin common wall in the belief that they would ratchet down a notch or two the railings and histrionics but I thought better of that idea when my phone rang and the treasurer of TPS was calling me with the results of my urgent request on the amount of funding the district loses each year strictly based on the number of TPS employees who have school-age children but send those children to schools other than TPS.

Here are those stunning results:

- Number of teachers in TPS: 675
- Number of administrators: 57
- Number of principals: 42
- Number of

staff positions: 148
Total: 922 (as of September 4, 2010)

Number of school age children: 2988
Number who do not attend a TPS school: 2192

Funds per pupil: \$5800.00
Funds lost each school year: \$12,713,600.00 (the result of: 2192 times \$5800.00)

As you can see from the above shocking figures, the budget for

TPS could be partially and dramatically healed if the employees of TPS decided to give each other a vote of confidence and place their precious little Johnny or Suzie in public education.

But no, they do not. Now, there are only two glaring reasons why this is happening and, as a consultant, I am going to step out and report that my preliminary findings indicate that the employees who opt out of placing their kids in a public school do it for two reasons.

One. It is a class issue. The employee-parents probably do not like the cultural and racial composition of the

public schools (mostly blacks and Hispanics) and they believe that having their kids associate with such kids will have a bad influence on their kids.

Two. It is an image issue: The employee-parents are eager and happy to get a paycheck from Toledo Public but do not believe that TPS is competent to teach their kids. As a corollary to this finding is the glaring fact that the TPS employees simply do not believe that the TPS teachers are competent enough to teach their kids.

Think about it. Your educated compatriot, in your estimation and as voted by you as to where you place your child for their education, is not enabled with the credentials or abilities (to your satisfaction) to teach your child!

Or, worse yet, you weigh the cultural and racial makeup of the public schools and you see too many "Shauntae's" and "DeMarcus's" in the classrooms. Translation: the public schools are too brown or too black for me to send my Johnny or Suzie there.

Tragically, for years and years, there has been no re-

quirement that the teachers and administrators and staff and principals contract so that their kids are required to be in public schools.

As a TPS consultant, my first recommendation will be to require in the year 2013 that all teachers, administrators, principals, staff members and yes, even board members who have school age children, enroll those kids in TPS.

No exemptions. No waivers. Don't like it? Simply do not apply to TPS to teach or to work. Go elsewhere.

This is a no-brainer to recapture millions of tuition dollars for an anemic budget and to have TPS employees have some "skin in the game" by their kids being enrolled in TPS.

That alone will cause seismic shiftings in both finances and expectations because now those employees, with their kids in the system, will work to improve the system and not simply leave at 4:00 P.M. each day and think all is well in the Land of Oz.

If the scaredy board of education is not willing to

find some backbone and implement this contractual clause (one of many that I will propose as a consultant), then they are wasting their money on me and I will simply resign.

Now, as for the ongoing problem of my tissue thin walls, I am recording as much as possible the conversations in that teacher's lounge and will report on that at a later time.

By the way. If the various unions balk at this needed contractual clause, let them strike. In case of a strike, I have already given prior authorizations to the school board to bus in unemployed teachers who would be willing to work in these tough economic times and who will also gladly place their kids in TPS.

The positive responses from hundreds of unemployed and laid off teachers in both Ohio and southeast Michigan being possibly hired as a result of a possible teachers' strike in Toledo has been over the top.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

AKA's Inaugural Masquerade Ball

Special to The Truth



The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter hosted their Inaugural 'Masquerade Ball', December 31, 2010, New Year's Eve 2010 at the Pinnacle, where proceeds will benefit community service and scholarship.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1908 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and became the first African-American Sorority.

Deborah Washington, Ph.D., vice president of the local chapter, opened the event by sharing the history of this illustrious organization.

Washington said that "since that time, we keep with the sorority's purpose to 'Provide Service to All Mankind'

and our members participate in projects to respond to the needs of the Toledo community." Local sorority members work together to raise funds and have provided over \$180,000 in Scholarships and Community Service during the last 58 years.

The 230 guests in attendance were from Michigan, Cleveland, Columbus as well as the Toledo area, on this special night.

Clara L. Petty, local 2010-2011 president, opened this inaugural event and was pleased to lead this chapter as it continually strives to plan and promote Scholarship and Community Service programming.

Denise Black-Poon, chairman, gave special thanks and recognition to the sponsors, committee members and

guests. Major sponsors for this event were Buckeye Cable, Roth Furs, Fifth Third Bank.

Felicia Dunston, silent auction chairman, offered her expression of appreciation to auction donors: The Melting Pot (dinner for two), Toledo Furs (fur piece), Dr. & Mrs. Mark Watkins (UT Basketball Season Tickets), Elizabeth Foster (Glassware), Elegance with Style (fur piece) and Kimberly Lipscomb (Traci Lynn Jewelry). A friendly bidding frenzy occurred over the donated Roth Furs Leather coat with fox fur trim.

Co-Chairmen Paula Martin and Mary Hayes led the chapter's Scholarship Committee as it presented over \$6,500 in scholarships.

As guests entered, a display board spotlighted the names of the 2010 Scholarship Recipients.

This event was complete with an sumptuous dinner, an evening of dancing, silent auction bidding, fellowship with old and new friends and, of course, ringing in the New Year!

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

The University of Toledo, TOLEDO EXCEL

The Joint Committee and Sponsoring Organizations Presents the

27th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth

inviting (all Toledo-area 7th - 12th grade students, parents and community)



"Success or Failure: The Consequence of Choice"

Saturday, January 29, 2011
8:30 a.m. (sharp) to 1:00 p.m.

at
The University of Toledo,
Student Union Auditorium
Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

-----Free Admission and Lunch-----

Guest Keynote Presenter:

Wes Moore

Youth Advocate,
Army Combat Veteran,
Business Leader and as seen on Oprah - author of

"The Other Wes Moore One Name, Two Fates"
with a book signing after the presentation

Advance reservations strongly suggested but not required:

Thursday, January 20 thru Thursday, January 27, 2011
10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Register online at www.utoledo.edu/utic/excel or by calling (419) 530-3823, 3820

Chinese Real Estate Investment Company to Purchase Docks' Property from City

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Dashing Pacific Group, a Chinese real estate investment company, has made an offer to the City of Toledo to purchase real estate housing The Docks' restaurants for \$2.15 million, Mayor Mike Bell announced yesterday.

According to Bell, the proposed transaction, which will be placed before Toledo City Council for approval, is a direct result of the trip he took to China in September to promote the city to Chinese investors.

"We started a relationship in September when we went to China and then we had people come over to see what Toledo was about," said Bell during a Tuesday morning news conference. "They really liked Toledo and they were interested in what types of businesses they [could invest in.]. These are investors that have the ability to make sure that [The Docks] stay an outstanding spot for the City of Toledo."

The mayor noted that this initial investment was just a part of his administration's plan to attract as much inter-

national investment as possible.

"We have to figure out how to become more international," he said. "That's our focus - to bring in business from all over the world."

According to the mayor, the investment in The Docks' property is the first investment the group will be making in the United States.

Scott Prephan, a representative of the Dashing Pacific Group, also addressed reporters on Tuesday regarding the group's plans for the entertainment area.

"How fortunate I feel to be a part of Toledo future," said Prephan. "Mayor Bell and [Deputy Mayor] Dean Monske took a lot of time to attract business to Toledo and it will be a great benefit." Prephan noted that the group would be open to other such investments in the area.

Dashing Pacific, according to Prephan, is strictly a real estate investment group and has no intentions of actually running restaurants or entertainment at The Docks. He anticipates that local man-

agement would be hired to run the day-to-day affairs of the property. The \$2.15 million deal includes the purchase of the restaurant complex and the immediate parking lot - approximately five acres. It does not include the parking area across the road from the restaurants.

The mayor pointed to the fact that he intends to take more such trips to market Toledo.

"We have to be able to market ourselves in a much higher way than we have in the past," Bell said. "There's still more to come - we're still marketing."

When the mayor went to China in the fall, his excursion received a certain amount of criticism, particularly from councilmen who felt they had not been properly consulted in advance.

The mayor took a certain amount of pride in noting that the move had successful.

"This is a highly appropriate way to be working; we're in a global economy. If we stay localized, we will die localized," he said. "We will be taking more trips. We have to build relationships - have to go see them. This group had never been in Toledo and knew nothing about it."

Shortly after his trip in September, a representative of Dashing Pacific came to Toledo to see the area and, according to the Bell's account, fell in love with the city, The Docks and the possibilities for investment.

Monske noted that the mayor had led a collaborative effort to attract the Chinese investment in Toledo. "The mayor is working with our partners such as The University of Toledo, the Port Authority, Regional Growth Partnership, the business community - everyone has been a part of this," said Monske. He said that the mayor deserved a lot of credit for pulling all the parties together to make the investment happen.



Deputy Mayor Dean Monske, Mayor Mike Bell, Dashing Pacific's Scott Prephan

African Art Has Arrived!!

Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery - masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!



The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM



See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com



The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
419-242-7650

Local 14's Sixth Annual MLK Celebration

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Robert Smith, Judge McConnell, Ray Wood

The quote, "In order to understand where you're going, you have to understand where you come from," holds true in many circumstances.

It can apply to an individual scale or as large as a nation standpoint – one can learn from history.

This concept is what the Civil and Human Rights Committee of Local 14

to fight for civil rights and equality for all people.

Chapman gave a history lesson of the black inventor Garrett Morgan.

During an explosion in a tunnel under Lake Erie in 1916, Morgan debut his "safety hood" or as it later was known as the gas mask.

It was so successful with the rescue of those trapped in the fire, fire and police

Court. In this position, he has put into action many programs that aid homeowners in updating their properties to be in observance with the Housing and Health Codes in Toledo. He is an advocate for quality neighborhoods and informed homeowners.

McConnell began by dissecting the night's theme and clarifying how diversity has a major part in achieving this goal of one nation, one dream.

"I believe that diversity is the answer and is a fundamental asset in a community," he stated. "The understanding of diversity is about much more than just tolerance and avoiding judgment and/or stereotypes."

Illustrating this idea was his brief overview of the history dealing with diversity. McConnell mentioned the late President Kennedy's 1961 executive order that laid out the regulations of affirmative action and the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act into law by the late President Johnson. He included the 1979 affirmative action case against the University of California that upheld race as one of the deciding factors for admission, but made it unlawful for "quotas" of minority applicants.

"If Dr. King was here today, he would stress that we must continue to pursue equality and diversity in our schools, businesses and other endeavors so that we can become one nation, one dream," said McConnell.

He continued with this notion of what Dr. King would urge the people to do such as "realizing that change comes from within as well as from collective efforts, understanding that the people have to call for

civility and a healthy respect for the government and president.

In addition, "each generation needs to teach another generation to seek change in their individual sphere of influence be it family, church or work," said McConnell.

The judge challenged attendees to become those ambassadors of change and become an "extremist" through positive outlets

like helping out someone, speaking against injustice and moving out of one's comfort zone.

McConnell was honored by a plaque given by Pirucki.

Robert Smith, director of the African American Legacy Project and one of the vendors at the event, came up front to speak of the good labors of the judge.

Akrobetoe performed

spoken work for a final time with another original piece, "Legacy of Success."

Closing the program, the newly inducted NAACP officers approached the stage to lead the singing of the Negro National Anthem. Only the first verse was sung, but the third verse was read like a prayer by former NAACP president WilliAnn Moore.



WilliAnn Moore recites Negro National Anthem

"I believe that diversity is the answer and is a fundamental asset in a community,"

UAW celebrated Saturday evening at the union's hall for the sixth annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. The theme – "One Nation-One Dream."

The upper floor of the hall was transformed into a refined, inviting room of blue, red, black and white table décor with soft lighting highlighting the atmosphere.

Opening the program was the processional of the committee members. They assembled in the front room where Sharon Roach, the Powertrain Unit chairman, welcomed the guests and introduced the Robert Pirucki, master of ceremonies and Sherri Thornton, mistress of ceremonies.

Invocation was performed by Pirucki and the first raffle of the night – the earliest guest at the hall – was announced.

After the buffet-styled dinner, the Local 14 chairman of the committee, John Chapman, acknowledged union officials in the audience. He also explained the reason behind the celebration, which involve details of when MLK Day originated (first observed on January 20, 1986) and Martin Luther King, Jr's efforts

departments put in massive orders for this mask – they were cancelled when it was discovered that Morgan was black. This "hood" was used in World War I and today.

Morgan was also the father of the automatic traffic light after he witnessed a crash with a car and a horse-drawn carriage. He sold the rights to General Electric Company for \$40,000. He also invented the first hair straightener – by accident – in 1909.

Taking the podium next was Ray Wood, Local 14 president. He extended his greetings and thanked everyone. Political officials were pointed out such as Paula Hicks-Hudson who was recently appointed to Toledo City Council and Yvonne Harper, executive director of Lucas County Democratic Party, among other titles she holds.

In a creative segment of the program, Naki Akrobetoe, a local spoken word artist, recited an original poem titled, "An Open Letter to Dr. King."

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Judge C. Allen McConnell of Toledo's Housing and Environmental Municipal

DIVERSITY
UT TOLEDO

This live music theatre piece for a solo actor and trio (trumpet, piano and percussion) explores African American music and poetry of the 1920s and 30s. It examines three of the great poets of the period: Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay, as well as renowned painter and muralist Aaron Douglas. The musical score is drawn from great composers of the Jazz Age (Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and Jelly Roll Morton) and African American composers of classical music (Jeffrey Mumford and George Walker).
Learn more at www.care-ensemble.co

OF EBONY EMBERS
VIGNETTES OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE
Thursday, Feb. 3 • 7 p.m.
Student Union Auditorium

Top Ladies of Distinction Annual Prayer Breakfast

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Lords, ladies and young adults gathered in a hall of pink and purple.

Hugs, welcomes, music, laughter and "chit-chat" abounded as attendees arrived.

With tables that filled the room and a buffet towards the back, one would think that it was a party or even a Renaissance-themed occasion, but at nine a.m. on Saturday, people came for a positive cause and for an organization that celebrated the art of service.

The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated (TLOD) held its 26th annual prayer breakfast with this year's theme: "Servant Leadership Through Timeless Service."

Opening the program was the chapter's first vice-president, Mary McKinley-Reed, and second vice president, Clara Petty, with introductions of the Top Ladies, Lords and Top Teens. As the lords escorted the members and teens, Petty presented the history of the organization. For the members, she mentioned the year of induction,



past and present activities and positions held while in the organization.

President Mary Dawson welcomed and thanked guests for support of the program and the rest of the affair was under the direction of the Mistress of Ceremonies McKinley-Reed.

Bestowing her special greetings, Area V Top Teen and Toledo Chapter President Opal Dunlap recited an original poem titled, "I'm Praying." It was announced that a screenplay she wrote entitled, "If There is a Will, There Is a Way," would debut April 16 at the Collingwood Arts Cen-

ter. Chaplain Anna Marie Bolden offered the invocation followed by Lisa Johnson who performed a spiritual song as guests lined up for breakfast.

After all were seated with their plates, Corresponding Secretary Denise Black-Poon, showcased her singing talents by staging an *a cappella* version of the gospel song, "Open Up My Heart" by Yolanda Adams.

Member Theresa Crump introduced the keynote speaker, Jamie Richardson, who is pastor of Second Baptist Church in New London,

Ohio. The day took a turn towards a church atmosphere as Richardson preached about her concerns for the future, not just for the world, but for young generation.

"I am concerned about the world today and about the young people who are going to take over," she expressed. "I'm worried because no one has patience for anything and our children who do not have the gumption to be leaders and stand out."

Richardson made references to the changes in our culture such as how cursive writing is becoming obsolete

"We have a responsibility to stand up for ourselves, but for others because there are no more people like Rosa Parks who weren't afraid to fight," she said. "We are called to do the work of Jesus Christ, the perfect example of service."

Wrapping up her message, Richardson charged the audience to change their lives and live better with a few tips like having the power to get out of comfort zone and make a difference; by stop doing busy work and get down to business; do not get tired and weary and do not compromise or settle.

As a token of their appreciation, Petty, Dawson and McKinley-Reed presented Richardson with a gift from the organization. Dawson was also honored with a gift for her leadership in the Toledo Chapter.

A special thanks was given to ABC Health Care, Inc for their \$1,000 scholarship donation to TLOD.

Closing the event was Bolden with the benediction.

TLOD is a national professional and humanitarian organization. The Toledo Chapter was charted in 1983 in Cincinnati, Ohio by area director Roberta Pickett and organized by Ann Battles, who served at first chapter president. Its program thrust focuses on Top Teens of America (sponsored by TLOD), community beautification, community partnerships, senior citizens and status of women.

When she is not serving as pastor, Richardson is the programming specialist at the Kinship Navigator Program and is employed by Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Incorporated.



Clara Petty and Mary McKinley-Reed



Jamie Richardson



Opal Dunlap

SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!!



- Colleges to be visited are:
- Fisk College – Nashville, Tn.
- Tennessee State University – Nashville, Tn.
- Jackson State University – Jackson, Miss.
- Dillard University – New Orleans, La.
- Xavier University – New Orleans, La.
- Tuskegee University – Tuskegee, Ala.
- Alabama State University – Montgomery, Ala.

Tour Scheduled for April 17, 2011 through April 22, 2011
Deposit is required to secure a seat on tour.

For More Information Call:
Trevor Black @ 419/478-7844 or Gwen Banks @ 419/944-5912

Sponsored by:
The Maumee Bay Club
National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

(the keyboard versus manual writing), the English language being distorted (text message lingo) and caution of what is shown on television and heard on the radio ("Skins" on MTV or derogatory music).

"What makes the change is you and knowing that you have a purpose," she explained. "Trust in the Lord and believe in the impossible because that is where blessings and faith grows."

She creates curriculum and conducts educational workshops in relation to the program. In addition, she leads caregivers to services and assistance in the surrounding area.

Worship EXPERIENCE

Join Us!
Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
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Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor



The Truth Arts

• Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section • Arts Section •

Exhibition of Work by African American Artist Extended, Related Activities Planned During Black History Month

The Toledo Museum of Art is extending its popular *Aminah Robinson: Voices That Taught Me How to Sing* exhibition through April 10 in Gallery 4 at the Glass Pavilion®.

The free exhibition, originally scheduled to close in late February, showcases *The Ragmud Collection* by noted African-American artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson. Made possible through the generosity of TMA members, the exhibition is supported in part by Libbey, Inc. and the sustainable grant program of the Ohio Arts Council.

The exhibition is among several activities at the Museum during Black History Month that focus attention on the cultural contributions of African Americans.

In her sculptural work, Robinson combines traditional art materials with found and everyday objects to create enchanting two- and three-dimensional works of art. Densely packed with imagery and materials, her work is a cross between folk art, quilting and high art. *The Ragmud Collection* is a set of books that contain sculptural pieces, drawings, poems, stories, books-within-books, extended pullouts and cases.

Robinson incorporates storytelling of some kind, whether it references the historical past, her family history or her explorations of her ancestry, in all of her work. Memories of growing up in Poindexter Village, a Columbus, Ohio neighborhood, and her experiences



“People really love this show. We hope that many more area residents and families will stop by and contribute to our Community Voices Project in the weeks ahead.”

traveling through the African Diaspora are recurring themes. Several works specifically explore her close relationships with family.

Museum staff hope that, especially during Black History Month, Toledoans of all backgrounds will come and take part in the exhibition-related Community Voices Project. A multitude of found objects—buttons, ribbons, bits of fabric and other items—

have been placed on a table in Gallery 4 where visitors, inspired by Robinson’s books, can express themselves by creating pages that will become part of a book of Toledo memories. Some of the pages created by visitors so far are posted on Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/32968453@N05/>).

“We are pleased by how many people have been inspired by Aminah Robinson’s work,” said Amy Gilman, curator of modern and contemporary art. “People really love this show. We hope that many more area residents and families will stop by and contribute to our Community Voices Project in the weeks ahead.”

Admission to the Museum and the exhibition are free.

Here’s a list of some more Museum activities during Black History Month:

FREE Family Center Activities: Celebrate Black History!

Tuesday, Feb. 1 and Thursday, Feb. 3: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Family Center
Inspired by the Aminah Robinson exhibition, children under the age of 10 and their adult companions can make and decorate their own drums and musical instruments to tell a story through music.

FREE Club Friday Music

Friday, Feb. 4: 6:30–9:30 p.m., Cloister
The Murphys (jazz)

FREE Performance: Music, Poetry and Dance to Celebrate the African American Experience

Saturday, Feb. 5: 3 p.m., Great Gallery
The lyrics and poetry of spirituals, gospel and praise music paint a picture of the life of African Americans. The music

played a role in the transition from slavery to freedom as well as chronicled the agony, pain, hopes and aspirations of African Americans. These songs helped to establish a need for a change in the existing social order. Margaret Barron performs.

FREE Public Tours

Aminah Robinson: Voices that Taught Me How to Sing Exhibition
Sunday, Feb. 6: 3 p.m., Glass Pavilion®

Friday, Feb. 11: 6:30 and 7 p.m., Glass Pavilion®

Saturday, Feb. 19: 2 and 3 p.m., Glass Pavilion®

African and African American Art
Friday, Feb. 18: 6:30 and 7 p.m., Meet in Libbey Court

FREE Celebrating the Art of Storytelling

Friday, Feb. 11: 7:30 p.m., Glass Pavilion®
GlasSalon

Local storyteller Odessa Rowan brings to life different cultures from around the world in the same spirit as artist Aminah Robinson shows us her world. Rowan has told stories in New York City as a children’s librarian as well as in Indianapolis and Baltimore.

A member of Frogtown Storytellers, she now is often found telling tales in Michigan and Ohio.

FREE Hands-on Activity: Storytelling Figures

Friday, Feb. 18: 7–9 p.m., Glass Pavilion®
GlasSalon

Tell your own story by making stick figures that represent the important people in your life using popsicle sticks and a variety of materials. All ages invited.

FREE Hands-on Activity: People in Your Neighborhood

Sunday, Feb. 27: 2–4 p.m., Glass Pavilion®
GlasSalon

Who are the people in your neighborhood? Let Aminah Robinson’s stories of life in Poindexter Village inspire you to create your own illustrated neighborhood. All ages invited.

Note: Events are subject to change. Consult the Museum’s online calendar at www.toledomuseum.org for updates. For images or further information, contact Teri Sharp, public relations manager, phone 419-254-5082 or tsharp@toledomuseum.org.

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20 North

(Continued from Page 8)

artists and art patrons of Toledo's future.

Also honored in this year's exhibit will be the memory of Toledo's beloved Wil Clay, who was a yearly contributor to 20 North Gallery's *Black History Month* exhibitions and school outreach presentations. In addition to the work Clay himself submitted to the 2011 show before his death on January 12th, the family of Wil Clay have selected several additional paintings from his estate to show in a special section of the exhibit dedi-

cated to his memory. Gallery visitors are invited to share reminiscences of Clay as they enjoy viewing his art exhibited together once more.

Also exhibited in the 16th Annual Black History Month Exhibit: *Homage to LeMaxie Glover* will be the work of seventeen celebrated Toledo-area artists: Lorenza Arnold; Aaron S. Bivins; Charles T. Gabriel, Jr.; Earl VanDerZee Gordon; Alice Grace; Adam Grant; Ronald Jamison; Elizabeth V. Jordan; Marcus Nunn; Ahavalyn Pitts; Brenda Price; Robert E.

Shorter; Ramon R. Tiggs; Mack Walton; Warren and Yolanda Woodberry and John Wade III from Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

20 North Gallery, exhibiting artists and the family of featured artist, the late LeMaxie Glover, will be welcoming friends and collectors at the free Opening Reception on Friday, January 28th, from 6–9 p.m. Reception attendees can begin Black History Month by enjoying light refreshments, conversations with these regional artists and sharing with one

another their stories of Will Clay.

To view a virtual tour by 360Greater Toledo of the 16th Annual Black History Month Exhibit: *Homage to LeMaxie Glover*, visit www.20northgallery.net

What: 16th Annual Black History Month Exhibit: *Hom-*

age to LeMaxie Glover
Where: 20 North Gallery, 18 N. St. Clair Street, (Downtown) Toledo, Ohio 43604, 419-241-2400

When: January 28
March 12, 2011
Exhibit Hours
Wednesday: 4–8 p.m.
Thursday – Saturday:
Noon – 4 p.m. and By Ap-

pointment
Free Opening Reception — Friday, January 28, 2011, 6–9 p.m., with special tribute to Wil Clay


For More Information Contact: Condessa Croninger (Associate Art Director) or Peggy Grant (Art Director) at 419-241-2400, or visit www.20northgallery.net



Will Clay



The Birdman



Aminah Robinson
Voices that Taught Me How to Sing
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Free Exhibition
Glass Pavilion

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French Quarter +
Mardi Gras 2011

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New Orleans Buffet

Costume Contest

Zydeco Music

Buffet 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Party 7 pm - 1:00 am

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Mardi Gras Attire

Must be 21 and over

Sat., March 5th, 2011

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Toledo Native Japanese Movie Debut

Special to The Truth



Toledo native, and current San Francisco resident, Daphne O'Neal recently made her Japanese TV movie debut on Thursday, January 13 at 9 p.m. on Fuji TV.

The two-hour movie, *Gaikoukan Kuroda Kosaku*, a big-budget international production (which was also shot in Los Angeles and Mexico) is set to be a huge television event.

The movie served as the first installment in a 10-part miniseries based on the hit 2009 theatrical release *Amalfi: Megami No Hoshu* (now the #1 DVD in Japan).

The movie stars Yuji Oda, the biggest star in Japan. He tries to save O'Neal—a diplomatic staffer—from a world conference.

When Oda fails to per-

sue the terrorist, the Japanese Vice Foreign Minister (the purple-clad Tamiyo Kusakari of *Shall We Dance*) steps in to save O'Neal's life. But the terrorist will not be appeased.

View the 30-second trailer, which features portions of the scene prominently, here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC18R6tjg0U>

Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts Showcases Rossford Resident's Commercial Photography, Jan. 19 – Feb. 10

Area residents are invited to view the masterful commercial photography of Larry Linkous as Owens Community College's Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery presents a new exhibit titled "The World of a Commercial Photographer," Jan. 19 to Feb. 10.

"The World of a Commercial Photographer" is being showcased on the exterior exhibition wall of the Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery, which is located in Owens' Center for Fine and Performing Arts on the Toledo-area Campus in Perrysburg Township.

Additionally, the College will host a reception for Linkous at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20. The reception, which is free and open to the public, will take place in the Center for Fine and Performing Arts Studio Theatre Room 111. Linkous' reception is occurring in conjunction with a reception and lecture for nationally recognized artist Amanda Burnham. Her exhibit

titled "Urban Signs" is currently on display inside the Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery.

Linkous' passion for photography began at a young age and led to his pursuit of a bachelor's degree in professional photography from the Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, Calif. After obtaining his degree in 1973, Linkous worked for several studios before taking a position as a Commercial Photographer for Toledo's Owens Coming company in 1979.

Additionally, the Rossford resident has served as a Commercial Photographer for Eric Eggly's PointSeven Studios and has worked with such companies as Owens-Illinois Inc., Dana Holding Corp., BP, La-Z-Boy Inc. and General Motors Co., among many others.

Linkous has garnered several awards throughout his career highlighted by two KODAK Gallery Awards for

excellence in professional photography, specifically for outstanding industrial photography in Ohio. His background also includes a master of photography from the Professional Photographers of America.

Linkous began his teaching career at Owens as an Adjunct Instructor in Fine and Performing Arts in 2006. He currently provides instruction with the academic courses related to studio lighting and large format photography.

Admission to the Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery on the Toledo-area Campus is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. For additional information about the exhibit, contact the Center for Fine and Performing Arts at 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 2721 or (567) 661-2721.

Toledo School for the Arts' Faculty Art Exhibition Opens in Gallerie 333

Special to The Truth

Gallerie 333 is pleased to announce the February opening of works from the faculty and staff of Toledo School for the Arts (TSA). This exhibit will highlight the extraordinary talent of the TSA staff and feature paintings, photography, drawings and three-dimensional works of art.

The opening reception is Friday, February 4th at 9:00 a.m. during TSA's First Friday event and the exhibition runs from

February 4 to February 28, 2011.

Gallerie 333 opened in June of 2010 and was made possible by an anonymous and generous donor to TSA. "The gallery is a unique space for the students and our guests to be able to exhibit their work in a professional manner," states Gallerie 333's manager and AmeriCorps member, Leslie Ann Taylor, "The gallery affords a place for our students to learn about hanging a show and have a true gallery experience as part of their educational process at TSA."

The Gallerie 333 exhibition in March will be the Midwinter Student Exhibit and April will feature works from well-known local glass artists Tom McLaughlin and Phil Hazard.

Gallerie 333 is available to visit Monday through Friday by appointment (419-246-8732 x 291). The gallery also participates in the Art Commission's Art Walks and Art Loops from April through October.

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Bring Black History Month Home With A Click

With the rich history of contributions to science and technology by African Americans—including such notables as mathematician Benjamin Banneker, agricultural chemist George Washington Carver, who revolutionized Southern agriculture, and, more recently, Dr. Patricia Bath, the first African-American female

doctor to patent a medical invention—it seems only fitting that opportunities to celebrate Black History Month in February are taking a decidedly 21st century turn.

For example, to see more about African-American history, you can check out an online version of the Un-

derground Railroad; explore interactive time lines of important milestones; or click a remote control to gain access to on-demand cable programming on a wealth of important topics. Top picks include:

- Milestones in Black History: Gain new perspective with historical documenta-

ries that explore Lincoln's journey from the early years to his fight to abolish slavery during the Civil War; current perspectives on how ambitious plans to reinvent New Orleans are unfolding; and topical concerns such as finance and debt in Black America. Kids can get in on the learning with docu-briefs examining the legacy of slavery and the reasons for Black History Month.

- Profiles in Courage: The biographies of influential African Americans come to life with dramatic profiles,

including that of living legend Dr. Ben Carson, who overcame a troubled early life to become a renowned neurosurgeon. Laurence Fishburne inspires in a one-man show portraying Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American on the Supreme Court, and Jamie Foxx amazes as the legendary Ray Charles.

- Powerful Portrayals: Storytelling has always been an important part of African-American culture. Drama fans can enjoy Black cinema offerings, including movies based on be-

loved literature such as Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning book "The Color Purple" and Cormac McCarthy's "The Sunset Limited," which chronicle the challenges of African-American protagonists. Movie fans can catch up on favorites such as "Action Jackson," "Blood Diamond" and "Clara's Heart."

- That's Entertainment: Want to lighten up winter's dreary days? You can get your laughs with comedy specials such as "Mike Epps Presents: Live from Club Nokia." Urban romantic comedies such as "Let's Stay Together" can warm the heart. And if music is your thing, tune in to the biography series "Unsung" as it examines the lives of some of the most influential, talented and yet somehow forgotten artists of the last 30 years.

For more Black History Month programming, check out www.thisiscable.com.

Frozentoesen Fun Continues in February!

The Toledo Zoo is like a trip around the world in one great day, so the Zoo's Frozentoesen Winter Weekends are the perfect break from the winter blues! Don't miss ice-carving, Cabin Fever feeds and more. Visit our website, www.toledozoo.org, for more information about these and other upcoming events. Frozentoesen is presented by Mercy Children's Hospital.

Saturday, February 5 ZOOper Bowl Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Before the big game, come kick it at the Zoo! The Zoo is celebrating all things football with some gridiron games that are great for the whole family.

Sunday, February 6 Glass City Steel Band 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The Toledo School for the Arts' Glass City Steel brings a blast of the Caribbean just when you need it most! Performances take place in the Indoor Theatre, located in the Museum of Science.

Saturday, February 12 Vanimal-time's Day 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Zoo loves animals, and animals love treats! Come share the love as some of your favorite Zoo animals dig into Valentines filled with their favorite treats. A complete schedule of Vanimal-time's day activities can be found at www.toledozoo.org/valentine.

Sunday, February 13 Toledo Ballet 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Toledo Ballet brings a touch of class to the Zoo with special performances in the Indoor Theatre, located in the Museum of Science.

Saturday-Monday, February 19-21 Lucas County Appreciation Weekend

The Toledo Zoo is proud to celebrate its partnership with the people of Lucas County with free admission for all Lucas County residents all weekend long. They'll also receive coupons for discounts throughout the Zoo as well as a coupon for a free visit in March. Proof of residency is required.

Saturday & Sunday, February 19 & 20 Zap Entertainment 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Zap Entertainment will present their engaging and educational shows—don't miss *The Wonderful World of Bubbles* and *The Magic of Going Green* in the Indoor Theatre in the Museum of Science.

Saturday, February 26 Fami-lympics 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring your family for a day of fun and games in the Museum's Great Hall. Things might get a little silly, but you're sure to have a great time.

Saturday & Sunday February 26 & 27 Magician Chris Clark 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Magician Chris Clark has performed at the Zoo several times, and he always keeps the crowd entertained. Come see what he's prepared for this year's Frozentoesen celebration!

The Toledo Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit www.toledozoo.org or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.



"Time Flies When You're Having Fun"

That quotation has proven true for Cynthia and Jack Ford during the last 90 days!



Photo by Steve Lohoff

The couple got on board with a pro-health company, Visalus Sciences, and took the Body By Vi Challenge on May 1, 2010. They took the challenge with 12 friends to make health a larger priority in their busy lives.

Jack set a goal of losing 80 pounds to become eligible for placement on the kidney transplant list. Cynthia took the Body By Vi 90 Day Challenge to get fit, increase energy level and show support for Jack.

They are thrilled with the results! Jack has lost 54 pounds in 90 days! Cynthia has changed two dress sizes and no longer munches granola bars and diet soda to get through the day. Now that they have achieved success without stress, they want to invite YOU to join them on the Body By Vi Challenge, too!

Jack Has Just 26 pounds to Go!

If you, or someone you care about, are interested in a weight loss transformation before the holidays begin or if you are interested in joining their team of positive and dedicated professionals, Jack and Cynthia invite you to join them beginning in August 2010.



Photo by Heather Schneider

Website - www.demsey.bodybyvi.com
 Email - prosperouslivingbto@gmail.com
 Phone - 419.467.8327

Meet the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center!



Simone Lightfoot is leading NWF's efforts to advance local "green" projects in Toledo.

- Clean energy jobs
- Urban farming
- Healthy environments

Learn more about the National Wildlife Federation's urban initiatives. Go to: www.nwf.org/urban



Book Review

Natural Born Hustler by Nikki Turner

c.2010, Ballantine One World \$13.00 / \$15.00 Canada 112 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

No money? No worries.

Even in a bad economy, you're a survivor. You got connections, friends, and you got your game on. You won't starve. A little ingenuity and a few tips, and you can hustle up what you need. It's all good.

But watch your back, even if you have nothing to do with what's going down. You never know when things might get bad, as you'll see in the new book *Natural Born Hustler* by Nikki Turner.

Desember Day hated when she and Fame fought, but it happened now and then. He was her man, but he sometimes forgot that Desember could hustle snow to a penguin. When he was ignorant enough to tell her where she

could and couldn't sell her merchandise, well, nobody told Desember what to do.

The only good thing about fighting was making-up, and they were just about to do that. As they fumbled with one another in the car on a lonely North Carolina side road, a motorcycle passed and shots sizzled through the night air. Fame was hit all over, but the wound in his belly was the worst. Desember rode with him in the ambulance, praying and thinking about what got them there...

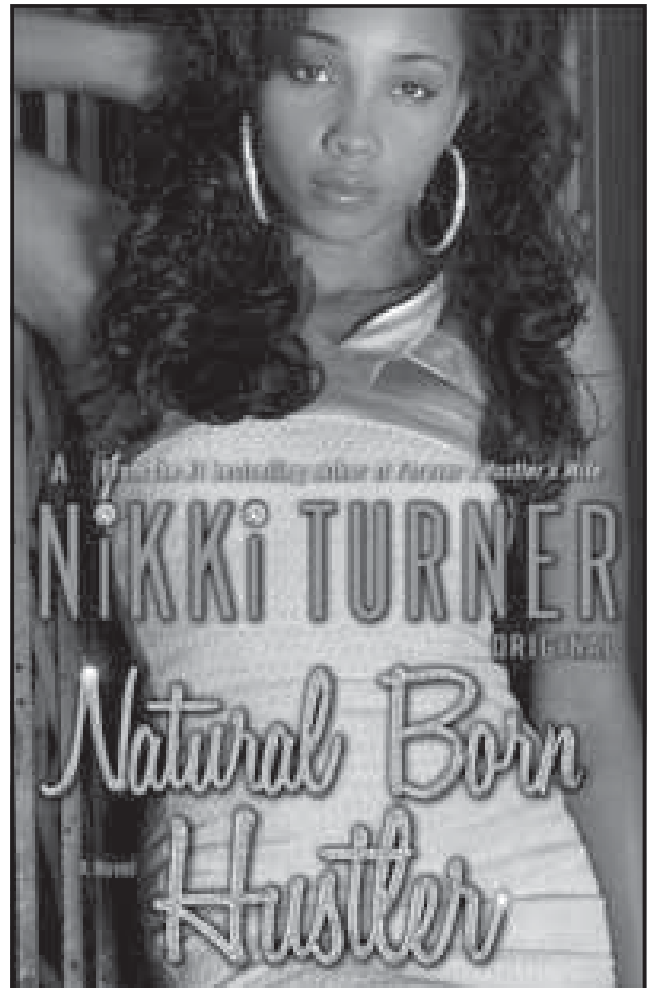
Ever since grade-school, Desember and Fame were like magnets, though they fought then, too. His family didn't like Desember. Her family was a mess, and she wondered who her biological father was. But love can overcome, and when they

officially became a couple, Desember moved out of her Mama's house – she was going to anyhow, because she couldn't tolerate her stepfather's abuse – and she moved in with Fame.

Things were good for awhile. Fame made sure they always had money and food on the table. Desember had his back on big jobs. She learned to cook. He taught her to shoot. Then came the night on the side of the road.

In the hospital, Desember was sure Fame would be okay. He was alert. Doctors were optimistic. Then, from his sickbed, he scrawled a horrifying note: "u n d a n g e r! U gotta get out of here. Not safe."

At just 112 pages, *Natural Born Hustler* is less of a novel and more



like a novelette. Compared to some books, it's almost a pamphlet. But oh, what author Nikki Turner packs in this skinny little paperback...

If you're a fan of Turner's work (or if you just read the first four pages in this one), you'll know instantly that this story is violent, sassy, and grittier than a sandbox. But it also has a surprising touch of something else: Desember Day is a fatherless young woman coming of age on the streets, and her attitude belies a certain tenderness. That makes you want to take care of her and protect her. And you'll want to see more of her.

Natural Born Hustler is a sort of bridge to other Nikki Turner books, but can be enjoyed all by itself. If you're in the mood for something quick, good, and gutsy, you'll find it here – no worries.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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COMMERCIAL VS. CONSCIOUS

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I like to call this the civil war of the hip-hop generation.

Comprised of two factions, this conflict runs much deeper than the East Coast vs. West Coast feuding of the 1990s because ideologies and artistic integrity are at stake (supposedly).

Most of you reading this have surely taken part in a battle or two.

But for anyone unaware, allow me to break it down.

Rap music has always been extreme and even at times possessed of multiple extremes simultaneously.

The so-called "Golden Era" of rap lasted from 1986 to 1992 (give or take) and although the full plethora of hip-hop offerings were so balanced that diverse acts flourished (everyone from The Fat Boys to Rakim to more female emcees than ever since), it was also a time of polar opposites.

On one end of the spectrum was Gangsta Rap.

Music that told the harsh realities of street warfare, crime, drugs and gunplay.

On the other end of the spectrum was Black Consciousness Rap.

Music that uplifted black men and women, dealt with community issues and tackled racism.

In grade school, I found one of my dad's tapes on his nightstand .. it was Public Enemy.

I took it to my room to listen to it.

I still remember somehow feeling that it was both dark and light at the same time.

Even in the midst of rap music's greatest contrast, the playing field was even.

You never heard X Clan making songs dogging Easy E (not that I know of).

Fast forward to the mid 90s, however, and now that money has been introduced into the equation all of a sudden battle lines get drawn.

COMMERCIAL RAP MUSIC:

Artists who flash cash or expensive whips in videos, name drop designer fashions and jewelry in their raps and make you feel as if life is one big shopping spree in be-

tween visits to the club. That's pretty much the archetype.

Once you make a mold though, now it's time to start shoving people into it.

Anyone who came across too flashy, too glamorous, or even just not serious enough was labeled a commercial rapper. No longer making music for the joy of making it, or for artistic expression or integrity... just a smaller soul-less corporate machine feeding a larger soul-less corporate machine.

CONSCIOUSRAP(ahem, hip-hop)MUSIC:

Artists who mainly stick to wordplay or less cliché subject matter in their songs.

These artists' videos would have a lot of backpacks



Cash Money's Baby and Lil Wayne

and timbs instead of Versace shades.

Rhyming about hip-hop or directly taking shots at those they feel are commercial are familiar concepts in conscious hip-hop material.

As stated above, now that you have the mold it started to take form and fit certain artists in the industry. These artists were seen as purists, not in it for the money or at the very most just succeeding in the industry without making club music a/k/a selling out.

Anyone seen *Hotel Rwanda* and it's account of the Rwandan genocide?

At the heart of the issue was a small variation among Africans in the area.

Hutu and Tutsi. One with darker skin and wider noses, the other the exact opposite yet all black Africans in the same area.

Of course on a much smaller dynamic, that's the way the differences played out between so called COMMERCIAL and so called CONSCIOUS hip-hop artists.

As more and more mainstream rappers took heat from

the underground for talking about jewelry and champagne, they eventually started to fight back against the backpackers.

Now all of a sudden, every rapper who made it was labeled an instant sellout and every rapper who didn't make it was written off as a broke hater.

Of course this wasn't actual, but it was perception. And that was enough.

EVEN THE MUSIC sounded different.

Commercial rap music would be produced more digital, with handclaps and synthesizers.

Conscious or Underground hip-hop music would be more sample based with

waves but also a more organic sound and more relatable subject matter.

COMMERCIAL RAP FANSLIKED:

Mase, The Lost Boyz, Jermaine Dupri and.. you know what, I can't even go on with this list.

Let's be honest, MOST of the opposition to what people called "commercial" in the 90s was really opposition to three key figures: Puffy, Biggie and Jay Z.

Yeah, a lot of rappers were guilty of making mostly party records (that's why LB got hate), and referencing the words "platinum & ice" a little too much.

But when it came to being jigy, none were easier to

target than Sean, Shawn and Christopher.

THE PROBLEM

Anyone who loved so called underground/conscious hip-hop so much should take a good long look at the beloved and previously mentioned ATCQ *Midnight Marauders* album and you will find pictured in the liner notes none other than Sean Puffy Combs.

For all the people who viewed Wu Tang as the anti-commercial heroes of the underground, should check some of the Wu's lyrics and see how many high-priced SUV's and name brand clothes are mentioned.

With the deaths of Tupac and Biggie things quieted

down for a little bit but then in '98 the battle got more sophisticated. Because even though people would CLAIM that Bad Boy was a commercial label... any full listen to an entire Bad Boy album in that time period would prove otherwise.. however, there was now about to be entire labels built around either platform.

CASHMONEYRECORDS and RAWKUSRECORDS.

Two powerhouses in their own right, catering to a hungry fan base of very different tastes.

1998 was the year that may have mimicked the Golden Era best.

Everything got a little shine that year.

Ruff Ryders had acts that were both gritty and glamorous, Lauryn Hill was earthy, soulful yet wildly commercially successful.

The industry had found some sense of balance.

For one year.

HERE & NOW

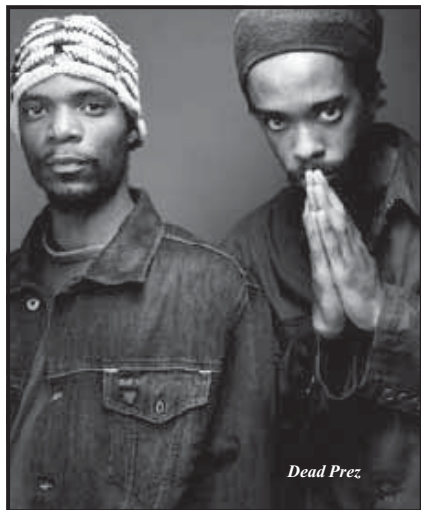
When I tell people that I like Lil Wayne, I have to defend myself.

When I listened to Soulja Boy's latest joint "Speakers Goin Hammer"...hell, I felt like I had to defend myself AGAINST myself. But I loved that song and I do indeed love Lil Wayne. Wow, did I just say that ish?

It's true.

"A Milli" and "Dr. Carter" did it for me.

(Continued on Page 14)



Dead Prez.



COMMERCIAL VS. CONSCIOUS

(Continued from Page 13)

But look at that artist. Someone who lived in that divide, hell...someone who helped increase the divide.

I hated Cash Money Records.

They stood for everything I despised about what our music was becoming.

Many others felt just like I felt.

Lil Wayne started to grow in his scope of where he saw his career going.

Backpacks in the videos all of a sudden, dreads all of a sudden...more and more word-play.

He went on record that B.I.G., Andre 3000 and Jay Z have inspired him lyrically.

How ironic is it, that the very boy who came up with the words "bling, bling...pinky ring worth about 50" is now the very man who has popularized wordplay and the actual skills of metaphor, entendre and ... you know what, I feel the hate already.

I can't even finish giving

the man his props before someone reading this will start to wonder if I've lost my mind.

To that I say:

If you despise the commercial or mainstream rap crowd for their follower mentality...

Following in the opposite direction is STILL following.

Disliking an artist simply because he or she doesn't fit in one particular mold is just as criminal as liking an artist simply because they DO fit the mold.

I understand what good music is.

Little Brother's album *The Minstrel Show* is every bit the classic that *Midnight Marauders* was but because the industry isn't as balanced it won't get the full acclaim it deserves. I'm aware of J Dilla's influence on music.

But I can't get lost in that world of cocky self righteous hip-hop purism.

I can't get lost in the swagastic, life is one big trip to the club in a lambo type of

over materialism either.

Black Thought & Common's *The Love Of My Life* is the most succinct and fitting portrayal of what this music is to me.

And although, yes... I'm a Biggie fan to the heart.. my favorite hip-hop album of all time is Mos Def's *Black On Both Sides*.

Talib Kweli came to Toledo twice one year.

I watched him perform at Headliners, then I watched him speak at UT's auditorium.

During the Q&A at the end, many "conscious" people asked him questions trying to get him to speak on the commercial state of rap music and he answered (and I will never forget): "any music with a price tag on it is commercial music, so stop hating."

And with that... I'll see you all next week.

Peace & Blessings.

FB or email: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com



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CLASSIFIEDS

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HEAD START DIRECTOR

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY11-053,

(Project # 1130-11-687) for Campus Electrical Upgrades (MC/HSC - Data Centers) 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, February 2, 2011. 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 \$55.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Lawrence T. Juette of JDRM Engineering, Inc. at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in 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: \$886,700.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$96,000.00; Plumbing: \$6,500.00; HVAC: \$90,700.00 & Electrical: \$693,500.00.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOK-KEEPER -

A senior citizen HUD housing facility is seeking experienced person for a full time position. A minimum of two years experience in QuickBooks is required. Must know accounting and bookkeeping principles, payroll, Microsoft office and Excels. Positive people skills, organized and ability to work with others are a necessity. Applications can be found online at www.abundantlifeperrysburg.org or by calling (419)874-4371 between 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Cover letter, resume and application may be emailed to ablife@bex.net or mailed to 100 Trinity Court, Perrysburg, OH 43551.



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- 3 years experience in a food manufacturing facility preferred.
- Must possess some electrical knowledge.
- Must possess strong trouble shooting skills.
- Must be able to work all shifts and weekends
- Must be able to follow written procedures and read mechanical drawings.
- Must be able to use and read tape measure, micrometers, calipers, depth gauges, ect.
- Experience with predictive maintenance tools (vibration analysis, thermograph, ect) a plus.

The qualified candidate will be required to perform daily maintenance duties to support the reliability of the factory assets and to ensure that production requirements are met daily. These activities include PM's, corrective work, project work, lubricating and cleaning of equipment, set-up and change over, and completed daily work log and work orders in the CMMS.

Resumes will be accepted by mail only until February 12, 2011.

Submit Resume to:
Heinz NA – Fremont Factory
Human Resources Job Code M-1050
1200 N. Fifth Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

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Heinz North America – Fremont Factory Electrical Maintenance/Electronic Specialist

- Responsible for supervising processes relating to electronic systems, instrumentation, PLC's, and the repair, maintenance and installation of electronic equipment and systems.
- Acts as the facilitator between vendors, service technicians, programmers and Engineering, maintenance and IS personnel concerning design, troubleshooting, installations, etc.
- Responsible for training maintenance employees concerning electronic systems, instrumentation, and PLC's.
- Optimize Production Maintenance effectiveness through utilization of the CMMS system through planning and scheduling maintenance activities.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Ability to apply knowledge of electrical/electronics principles as it relates to troubleshooting equipment and installing, programming and upgrading equipment (preferably in a food manufacturing facility); in compliance with OSHA and the National Electrical Code.
- Exceptional technical problem solving skills and the ability to strategically plan work and development and implement solutions for equipment.
- Working knowledge of high speed processing and packaging equipment, industrial controls and robotic equipment preferably in the food processing industry.

KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE/COMPETENCIES:

- Minimum AS degree in electrical/electronics engineering technology or systems, or accredited apprenticeship program in the electrical/electronics field.
- 5 to 7 years proven experience in electrical/electronics, hydraulic and pneumatic fields are required.
- Knowledge and understanding of USDA, FDA, ODA, OSHA and other State/Federal requirements a plus.
- Working Knowledge of NEC a requirement.
- Working knowledge of personal computers, PLC's and IS systems (Allen Bradley platforms and software beneficial).
- Working knowledge of instrumentation, measurement and metrology systems
- Ability to multitask and work in a team oriented fast-paced environment.

Resumes will be accepted by mail only until February 12, 2011.

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Holds 19th Annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast

Sojourner's Truth Staff



On Saturday, January 15, the Alpha Phi Fraternity, Inc, Alpha Xi Lambda Alumni Chapter hosted its 19th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast at Central Park West.

"Where Is the Love" was the theme for this

year's affair chosen by fraternity members to symbolize that commitment and accountability are necessary to uphold Dr. King's dream of freedom and equality.

This year's program featured a keynote address by George Rice III,

associate director of the Multicultural Student Services Center at George Washington University of Washington, D.C. Rice is also the chief empowerment officer of Triple Threat Enterprises which provides coaching, mentoring and

training for youth.

The annual "Drum Major" award was presented to ThoseFellas LLC, an organization that connects people for the purpose of community, economics and social growth. The Drum Major award is presented

to a deserving individual or organization that has served the community in the spirit of Dr. King.

Accepting the award for ThoseFellas were founders Kamaron Kyser and Phillip Cunningham.

The MLK Scholarship

Breakfast raises money for the Alpha Phi Alpha scholarship fund. Each year the fraternity hosts two programs for its scholarship: the breakfast and a golf outing.



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