

Local and National News

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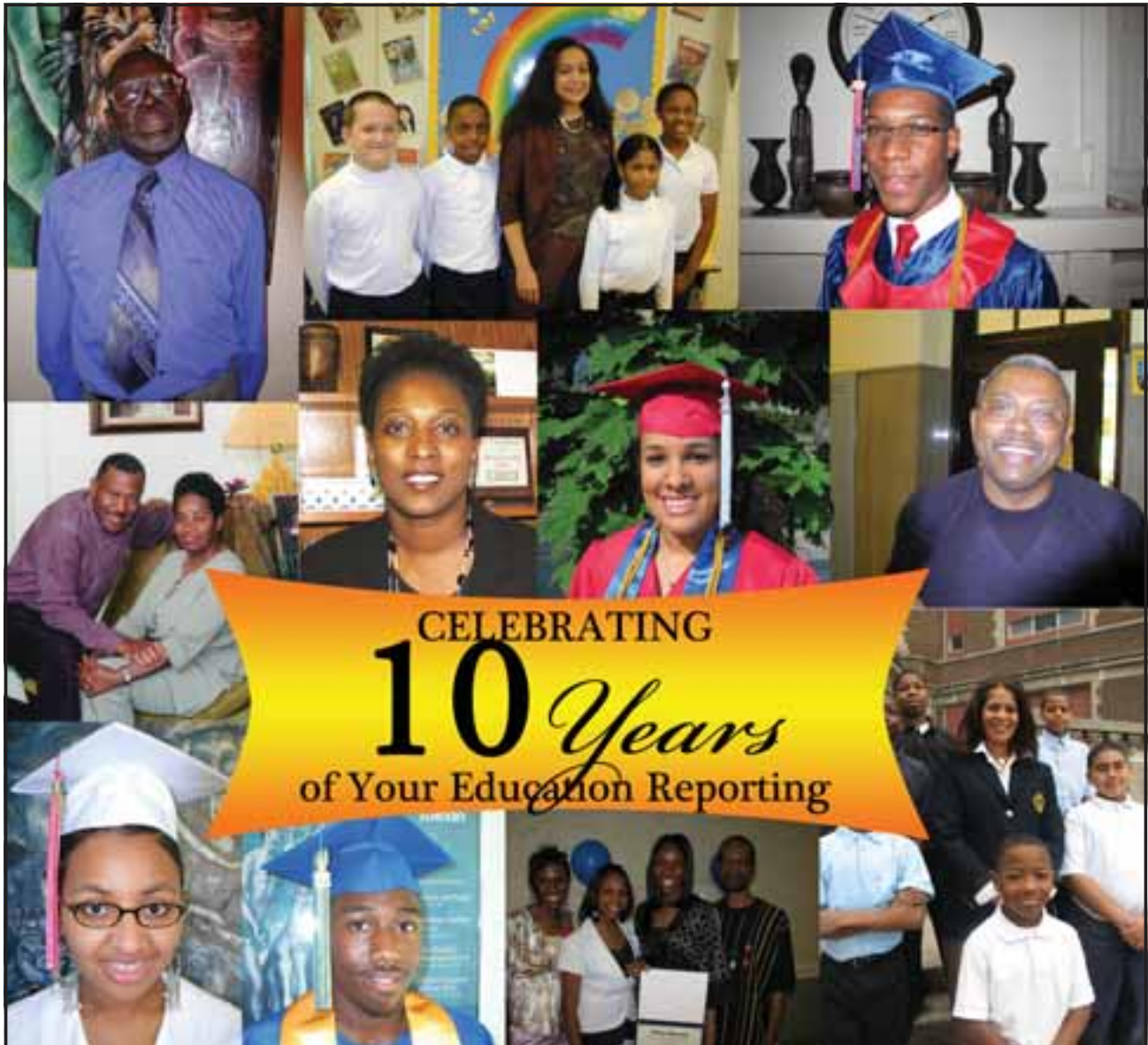


The Sojourner's Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 11, 2012



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A Matter of Respect

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



*I know one thing we did right
Was the day we started to fight
Keep your eyes on the prize....
- Civil Rights Movement Song*

The days of civil engagement went out with The Cosby Show and was replaced with a culture of disrespect and incivility that emerged with Beavis and Butt-head and the arrival of The Simpsons.

Treating human beings with dignity and respect had been a source of power and the established means for attaining social advantage, erasing class boundaries and eliminating social divisions between the rich and poor.

But today, expletive-laced shouts during school board sessions no longer raises eyebrows. Heated verbal exchanges, filled with language more befitting barrooms, are likely to take place on any given Sunday in church parking lots or even sanctuaries. Women, are being maliciously and openly labeled 'sluts,' and minorities publicly demeaned and devalued by patriarchal, misogynistic and supremacist political ideologues.

Perhaps most troubling, has been the evil-minded disrespect shown to President Barack Obama since being elected to office. During an address, he has been called a liar by a member of Congress, had a finger pointed in his face by a governor, had guns brought to presidential appearances and has been under a constant barrage of verbal attacks by pundits and elected officials pursuing political capital. And depending upon how the Supreme Court decides, the most aggressive put down of all, may be the attempt to "get in the President's face" by 'jacking him for his crowning jewel - the Affordable Health Care Act.

How to respond seems to be the relevant question for the president?

President Obama's response to date has been to "fly above" the negativity, placing his quest for a second term in jeopardy.

Whereas, studies show that these incivilities can be precursors to other spiraling, increasingly intense, and overtly aggressive acts. Rarely is violence a spontaneous act. More often, it is the culmination of escalating patterns of negative interactions resulting in violent incidents such as the recent Trayvon Martin or Tulsa, Oklahoma killings.

To ignore the current culture where the lack of mutual respect or failure to treat others with dignity, is to court danger.

The president might turn to his organizing roots or early inner-city experiences, and where respect is the unchallenged framework for survival, to understand the universal law that states: "unanswered transgressions encourage further transgressions."

One thing is certain, "the streets" is THE acknowledged arena that truly has an appreciation for the consequences of winning and losing. The "brothers" might also be the only ones who can advise the president on how to escape constantly being "rolled on" politically.

How might they advise President Obama regarding being "disrespected"?

They would tell him that the first point of business is to "manage your position of respect." In order to maintain your honor, you have to act crazy in order to let those who try to elevate themselves by putting you down know in no uncertain terms, that "you ain't the one who can be messed with." You got to get your props from them upstarts or everybody and they mama will try to roll you.

President Obama's image management, which has portrayed him as "decent" and hip rather than "street," seems to have deprived him of the flexibility needed to respond appropriately to his political opposition.

It is this struggle between decency and street or the Nice Guys' dilemma, faced by many young blacks and which Obama himself, must now negotiate.

Sylvie Taylor, PhD, in sharing her parental concerns for black adolescents, stated:

"How do I ensure that his self-esteem remains strong and intact while I protect him from the harms that await him? How do I make sure he survives? How do I make sure that he comes home alive and unharmed every day?"

"In my household, that has been about many talks and life lessons. We started with a lot of rules that were passed on from grandparents, parents, and other elders. Don't touch things in the store that you do not plan to buy. Be kind and courteous; address your elders by title and never by first name - show respect. Please, thank you - shake hands, it is a pleasure to meet you. No red tee shirts, no sagging, no hoodies, no over-sized clothes! You wear clothes that fit! Fashion? Talk to the hand."

The only problem is that portraying this decency role publicly is seen as a sign of weakness and leaves one vulnerable. So, even those with a strong decency orientation, have to know the code of the street and how to play the game; how to dress and interact in a way that mimics the street in order to survive. Therefore nice guys learn to code-switch - act one way at home and present themselves differently with peers.

In order to avoid being bullied and bothered, both decent and street must say loud and clear through behavior, words and gestures "if you mess with me, I'm man enough to make you pay."

And President Obama must also understand, that in the dog eat dog worlds of both poverty and politics, "its better to be feared than loved."

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

Community Calendar

April 11-13

City of Zion, Mt. Zion Church Toledo District Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Intercessory Prayer Conference: 6 pm nightly; Speakers Bishop Jerome Ross, Bishop Duane Tisdale, Bishop William H. Murphy; 419-246-1850

April 14

Global Youth Service Day: Hosted by United Way and North Toledo Network; 9 am to noon; Friendly Center Gymnasium: 419-243-1289 ext 304

Community Health Fair and 14th Annual Prostate Cancer Education & Awareness Program: Sponsored by Toledo Council of Black Nurses and OACWC; Cordelia Martin Health Center; 10 am to 2 pm; Raffles - \$100 Kroger Gift Certificate and \$25 gas card: 419-531-4310 or 419-534-2915

Women Empowerment Luncheon: Parkwood Community Center; Anger issues, behavior problems, doubtfulness, fear, bad finances, and more; 11:30 am to 1:30 pm: 419-241-9789

District 4 Community Cleanup

Phillips Temple CME Church Beginners Ballroom Class: 5 to 7 pm; Pre-Women's Day Event

April 15

St. Paul AME Zion S.T.A.R.Z. Dance Ministry 4th Anniversary: 4 pm; Guests include Warren AME Dance Ministry, Tyreese Bell, Trina Willis, Tonya Steward, Selina Perryman, Opal Dunlap: 419-870-5747 or 419-243-1065

Beulah Baptist Church Pastoral Anniversary: 6th Anniversary for Pastor Ronald Taylor; 4 pm; Guests - Rev. F.A. Shears and Rossford Baptist

April 17

Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital Annual Health Fair: In recognition of Minority Health Month; Refreshments, massages, screenings, etc; 11 am to 4 pm: 419-381-1811

Community Health Fair: 11 am to 4 pm; Sponsored by the NW Ohio Psychiatric Hospital and the African American Women Cancer Support Group; 930 S. Detroit: 419-381-1881

April 17-19

Calvary MBC Spring Revival: 7 pm; Tuesday - Pastor Derek Arnold of Bethlehem Baptist; Wednesday - Pastor Stanley Clark of United Vision; Thursday - Rev. Pat McKinstry of Worship Center: 419-242-8379

April 19

Tiffany Reynolds Ministries Conference: 1-855-234-9797 or www.followingmypassion.org

April 20

Glass City Gospel Celebration: 7 pm; River Life Church; Featuring Half Mile Home, Bryan Scott, Min Mark Williams, Twinkie Clark, Debra Brock, The Difference, Newsom Family Singers and many more: 419-810-2483

April 21

"A Holistic Workshop Focused on Mind, Body and Spirit:" 11 am to 1 pm; Featuring guest speaker LaQuintta Newton; United MBC: 419-380-1455

Global Youth Service Day: Graffiti Free Project; Hosted by United Way and North Toledo Network; 9 am to noon; Friendly Center Gymnasium: 419-243-1289 ext 304

Warren AME Second Annual Community Dental Clinic: For families; 12:30 pm; Dental screenings, skin care, nutrition and exercise clinic, budgeting for health: 419-243-2237

Take Back the Night: Community rally women's march to end all violence against women; Collier Bldg at UT Health Science campus; 6 pm - resource center; 7 pm - clothesline project, silent witness project, bandanna project

April 27-29

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry Spring Retreat: 419-787-9635

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
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The Future of Medicare

By Senator Sherrod Brown
Guest Column



Charlotte is a nurse from southwest Ohio who also advocates for seniors. Like other Ohio seniors, she has paid into Medicare and Social Security all her working life. And, like many Ohio seniors, Charlotte recently wrote to me that she “value[s] traditional Medicare and doesn’t want to let it whither on a vine.”

Yet the big insurance companies – and their allies in Washington – want to strip Medicare to help fund extra tax cuts to millionaires.

The House of Representatives just passed a budget

that would give tax breaks to millionaires and oil companies while ending Medicare as we know it. The bill would fundamentally change the way older Americans pay for health care and jeopardize the stability of long-term care funding.

The House-passed budget would turn Medicare into a voucher system, which means that seniors would get a fixed amount no matter how high or how quickly health costs climb. Not only would the House proposal strip away Medicare’s guaranteed benefits, it would require seniors to pay thousands of dollars in additional out-of-pocket health care expenses each year. If seniors wanted to keep their traditional Medicare, they would be forced to pay more.

Fortunately, this wrong-headed proposal will not go any further. A clear majority of Senators agree with me that we need to stop this radi-

cal attempt to undermine Medicare.

Congress should stand up for Medicare and make it stronger. Cutting costs by cutting service helps no one. Instead, we should focus on innovative ways to reduce Medicare spending while ensuring that it can continue to meet the needs of Ohio seniors. Right now, the Department of Veterans Affairs can negotiate bulk discounts on prescription drugs for veterans, but Medicare can’t do the same for seniors. By giving the Secretary of Health and Human Services negotiating authority, we could save millions reducing Medicare cost by an estimated \$20 billion over the next 10 years.

Ohio’s seniors have worked hard, paid into Medicare, and deserve a program that truly meets their health care needs. Our seniors deserve better than an underfunded voucher that would put them at the mercy of their

private insurance industry. Before the passage of Medicare, 30 percent of our nation’s seniors lived below the poverty line, only half had health insurance, and insurance usually only covered visits to the hospital. Now, thanks to Medicare, nearly 98 percent of seniors have health coverage and more than 90 percent live above the poverty line.

Congress must take concrete steps to ensure the solvency of this important program for all Americans. We can make Medicare better, but we should not destroy a program that works for millions of Americans. To think that some would slash Medicare so that they could give tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans disrespects hard-working Ohioans, Ohioans like Charlotte who have played by the rules and rely upon Medicare to be there for them when they retire.

That’s why I will continue to stand up for Ohio seniors who deserve better than this plan. And I will fight back

against attempts to turn back the clock on the advancements America has made to protect our seniors.

NAACP Reacts to Decision to Cancel the Grand Jury in Trayvon Martin Case

Special to The Truth

The NAACP released the following statement from NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous regarding special prosecutor Angela Corey’s decision to forgo a grand jury in the Trayvon Martin case:

“We hope this decision signals the special prosecutor’s intention to live up to her reputation as a passionate, justice-focused attorney and bring charges against Zimmerman herself,” stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. “The future

of this case now rests solely with her and we have faith that she will do her best to secure justice for Trayvon Martin.”

Over the last two weeks, tens of thousands of people around the country have signed the NAACP petition that asks the special prosecutor to handle Trayvon’s case with passion and an eye for justice.

The petition can be found here. <http://action.naacp.org/page/s/trayvon-letter>

Westfield Franklin Park and United Way Bring Global Youth Service Day to Northwest Ohio

Special to The Truth

In recognition of the power of young people to change the world, Westfield Franklin Park, in partnership with the United Way, is proud to be a part of bringing the 24th Annual Global Youth Service Day to Northwest Ohio.

Global Youth Service Day, the largest annual service event in the world, brings together millions of children and youth every year to improve their communities through service and service-learning.

“Westfield Franklin Park is proud to support Global Youth Service Day. Young people have so much to give, and we’re proud to help them shine,” said Erika Williams, general manager of Westfield Franklin Park.

Community-wide, more than 1,600 people will disperse from 9 a.m. until noon the morning of April 21 for service projects like graffiti clean-up with neighborhood centers, arts and crafts with seniors, or storm drain stenciling with Partners for Clean Streams, and many more. Participants will come together at the conclusion for a free lunch and celebration at the Toledo Zoo. Local personalities, such as Mayor Bell, will be on-hand to serve up lunch and speak to youth about the importance of service. There are also several youth entertainment groups performing. As an additional incentive, the Toledo Zoo will be granting participating youth free access for the remainder

of the day.

One of Westfield Franklin Park’s team members, Carla Leonard, and her 12-year old daughter Corryn decided to participate in this year’s Global Youth Service day after hearing about it on Facebook. They will spend the morning together painting a home for the Epilepsy Center.

“I want my daughter to understand the value in serving the community she lives in. Life is bigger than just you, and I want her to understand

the importance of service,” said Carla Leonard.

Participants can pick up their t-shirts and supplies at Westfield Franklin Park on Saturday, April 14 in the center court from 9am – 11am. Caribou will also be offering free coffee to participants with a volunteer shirt.

To contact Carla and Corryn Leonard for comment, contact Julie Heigel at 419-473-3317 and she will connect you.

April is Fair Housing Month!
Celebrate with us at the Spirit of Fair Housing Awards Luncheon. Start your day with a CEU class, followed by an Awards Luncheon.

Thursday, April 26, 2012
At the Toledo Club

Continuing Education for Realtors
8:30-11:45 a.m.
Fair Housing Advertising
Presented by John Zimmerman, Vice President of the Toledo Valley Fair Housing Center. Estimated fee: 1.5 hours of Fair Housing continuing education credit for \$145.75/seat.

11:45 Networking
12:00 Spirit of Fair Housing Awards Luncheon

CEU Class Only
No Refreshments, Lunch & Luncheon

For More Information
www.tovalleyfairhousing.org

Click here to Register: www.tovalleyfairhousing.org/pdfs/guid_events

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FOURTH IN A SERIES: JIM

Letters from the Heart

Their grief counselors helped me cope.

When my wife, Joan, died, my reaction was overwhelming. Pain I couldn't imagine. Emotions I hadn't experienced before. After searching for help, only one place had everything I needed – Hospice of Northwest Ohio and their Bereavement programs. I was in groups with people who felt like I did, led by trained professionals who knew where we had been and where we were going. I was amazed at how effective these programs are.

— Jim, 2007

For 30 years, families have been writing to Hospice of Northwest Ohio to express their thanks for support before, during and after the loss of a loved one. Our bereavement programs help each person work through grief in a way that's right for them.

Share your story. Visit hospicenwo.org
419-661-4001 (Ohio) • 734-568-6801 (Michigan)

Frederick Douglass Community Association Hosts 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Special to The Truth

Children ran around, squealing with delight and parents had plenty of smiles this past Saturday as nearly 200 kids enjoyed a carnival like atmosphere at the Frederick Douglass Community Association (FDCA).

The FDCA held its 1st annual Easter Egg Hunt and children had the opportunity to enjoy games, face painting, prizes, hot dogs and drinks, a bounce house, and of course an egg hunt. Most of all they had a visit from the Easter Bunny!

As the FDCA focuses on "Renewing its Relevancy" to

the community, it decided that having a Easter Egg Hunt would be one event that area children would enjoy. Special thanks are in order for Natacia Parker and interim Executive Director Sonya Newton, who put in many hours of planning and organizing the event. The board of the FDCA and members of the community contributed financially to make it a huge success. As one parent put it, "Hats off to the FDC[A]!! It was very well done. It was good to be in the midst of the community from where we were reared."



The FDCA program committee has already begun planning for next year's Easter Egg Hunt to make it big-

ger and better. As one board member stated, "we want kids to enjoy themselves and we want even more next year."

The FDCA's next event will be Saturday, April 28, 2012 with its Spring Talent and Fashion show.




FDCA Board President, Karl Parker; City Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson; Easter Bunny; Vaughn Jackson

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Building Better Futures

The State of Education in the Black Community Celebrating 10 Years of Education Reporting

By Candice Harrison
 Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Malcolm X

For many years, education has been a major topic of discussion and debate. With graduation and drop out rates, standardized test scores and school district report cards all being at the forefront of the conversation, the question emerges, where are we now as a community and beyond in terms of education compared to 10 years ago?

In the 2000-01 school year, the average dropout rate for grades nine-12 was 3.9 percent according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The dropout rate in Ohio schools was the lowest for Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.4) and non Hispanic whites (3.0) and highest for Hispanics (8.9) and blacks (9.2).

Reports have shown that education is an important indicator of economic well being. Not only do higher levels of education reflect higher income, but also in many circumstances more education leads to higher levels of health and well being. In the U.S., adults ages 18 and over who worked at any time during 2001 earned an average of \$35,805 per year. Average earnings ranged from \$18,793 for those without a high school diploma to \$101,375 for those with a professional degree. The 2005-2006, the Toledo Public schools graduation rate was 90.5, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as "the Nation's Report Card," is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments are provided on the state level as well.

Results indicated that Ohio eighth graders performed on par or higher than the national average in the subject areas of math, science, writing and reading. In 2003, there was no statistical difference in average math score between male and fe-

male eighth graders—representing a change from 1990 when males had a higher average score than females.

Female students had higher average scores than males in both reading and writing; however, in the area of science, eighth grade boys had a statistically higher average score than did girls.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National

Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP);

How are students performing now?

Third Grade Reading—35 percent of students from low-income households read at below proficient levels, with 27 percent reading at the proficient level

Graduation Rate—63 percent (based on new state rate to more accurately account for on-time, cohort based, student rates of graduation)

Over the past 10 years, there have been significant adjustments made in an effort to improve and increase the number of educational opportunities.

Charter Schools-

Charter schools are another driving force in the decline of students enrolled in the public school districts. Charter schools have emerged as a significant competitor to the traditional schools by offering an alternative. However, charter schools are also public schools. Since the first Charter School opened in Minnesota in 1991, interest has spread across the country.

Today, all but eight states have a charter school law in place. More than 690,000 students are enrolled in 2,695 schools across the United States. Currently, the Ohio Council of Community Schools sponsors 48 charter schools located in Toledo, Maumee, Cleveland, Canton, Springfield, Trotwood, Columbus, Whitehall, Dayton, Middletown and Cincinnati.

The 1997 law enabling charter schools in Ohio began as a "pilot" in Lucas County allowing a maximum

of 20 charter schools. The Aurora Academy opened in 1998 as the first charter school in Ohio. Today, over 300 schools exist in Ohio with a total enrollment approaching 87,000 students.

No Child Left Behind-

Developed in 2001, the legislation was designed to ensure accountability and flexibility as well as increased federal support for education. No Child Left Behind continues the legacy of the *Brown v. Board* decision by creating an education system that is more inclusive, responsive and fair. This in part has impacted a decline in students enrolled in the public school district.

Closing the achievement gap (CTAG)

Toledo Public Schools received a \$1.1 million state grant in 2007 to create a plan to close the achievement gap of ninth-grade at-risk male at-risk male freshman students at Scott, Woodward and, at the time, Libby high schools that were identified as benefiting from a Closing the Achievement Gap program.

The United Way of Greater Toledo

The United Way as an organization has identified education as one of their top community impact areas. According to the local website, nationwide, a student drops out of high school every seven seconds. In Toledo, the Ohio Department of Education's updated method of measurement puts our graduation rate at 63 percent.

The United Way has also reported that the drop-out rate impacts entire communities as students who drop out of school are more likely to be unemployed during economic turn downs, pay far less in taxes and consume far more in public assistance benefits. Those same students are more likely to continue the cycle of poverty and remain six times more likely to drop out than their peers.

They have charged the community to look at each child as a whole person, not just as a student because when

children start behind, they remain behind. Education Director for The United Way of Greater Toledo Greg Braylock said that, currently, kindergarten readiness is at 37 percent of students from low-income households. Students from these families are generally under-prepared and not ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten.

The local United Way early childhood/school-readiness efforts span education, health, and public policy. They are working to ensure that children receive adequate health care to focus and thrive in the classroom.

Schools as Community Hubs

Community Hubs are a strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success. This initiative is intended to make a school – a place that al-

ready acts as a natural anchor for children – the center of an entire neighborhood. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.

Not only will children learn at their school, but that school will become a hub outside of normal school hours for an entire neighborhood, offering services like out-of-school activities and enrichment, parent involvement, medical and dental services, mental health services, social services adult education and community and economic development. The Hub strategy is in the implementation stage and four schools locally are considered community 'hubs' - Scott High School, Levelette, Pickett and Robinson Elementary Schools will all

serve as a location that will attend to the barriers in the community that hinder student success on holistic level.

One newly-hired Community Hub director said that this new strategy "has the power to break barriers that have a longstanding history of contributing to disparities. Things like access to medical care, parent education, economic and community development are all things that help families become more stable. When families are stable overall, the student will be more successful."

She went on to add that, "if we have a student whose parent is in need of a job, lack of income is a barrier. If there's a student (or parent) with a chronic illness, that's a barrier. We want to be able to provide services that can in breaking those. The thing that makes this program ave-

(Continued on Page 6)

Do You Want to Choose the School that Your Child Attends? **Hurry Now!**
 Deadline April 13, 2012

Your Child May be Eligible for an EdChoice Scholarship to Attend a Private School of Your Choice.

If your child attends an eligible Toledo Public School, he or she could qualify for an EdChoice scholarship up to \$4,250 for elementary and \$5,000 for high school. Enrollment dates are February 1 through April 13 for the 2012-2013 school year.

For more information about eligibility and participating schools, call (419) 351-4852. Or visit edchoice.ohio.gov



Good Health Begins With You!

April is Minority Health Month

For a free calendar of events contact the Toledo-Lucas County Commission on Minority Health
 At 419-213-6990 or bryston@jan.lucas.oh.us




Education Reporting

(Continued from Page 5)

some is the idea, that even if you don't have a student who attends one of the hubs, the services are still available to you if you live in that community!" A neighborhood with their needs met while building community with each other is a neighborhood that ultimately takes care of one another. The Hubs will transform the way the community provides support for our kids and delivers services to our neighborhoods simultaneously.

Mentoring groups - The Village50 - The Village50 is a non-profit organization of dedicated African-American male professionals, who strongly believe that it takes a "village" to not only raise a child, but to save a child. The group serves as advocates for at-risk youth and families residing in the economically disadvantaged communities, of the Greater Toledo, Ohio Area.

Their programs and services are designed to inspire, encourage, educate,

strengthen and empower at-risk youth in the community. The co-founder of the organization, Lawrence Tribble, says that the biggest barriers are "parent or lack of parents in the home whether it's a one or two parent home or lack of a father present in the home, the second are the teachers. Some are mis-educating the students. Many times, teachers don't have the understanding or try to gain the understanding of the best way to serve our students. The first thing we (Village 50) try to do is educate the parents. One we engage the children, we have to engage the parents. We like to hold them accountable and let them know what role they've played in the situation. We teach them how to do their jobs better. We then engage the school. The school needs to know some of the circumstances in the student's lives that contribute to low performance in school."

Right now, the organization has nearly 50 men who volunteer their time, commu-

nity and monetary resources to make the program successful.

Albert Earl, also a co-founder said that "one of the most overlooked barriers that people often don't see and it's community-wide and not just centered around the home is the idea that we don't show children the value in education. For example, children that play sports and children that commit crimes are highlighted in the news at a much higher rate than those who excel academically."

"How often do we see a child in the news that's on the honor roll? But, I guarantee every time I turn on the news, I'll see a student who has committed crime or has done something great in sports. We don't highlight and uplift the child that is doing well. Even if it's not straight A's, if it's straight B's and C's, but given that child's environment B's and C's are a huge accomplishment."

"I've heard adults say 'well that's not newsworthy.' If that's what we're saying,

then in essence we're saying that education isn't that important. If a child can walk into a store and pick up the local newspaper and see their peers highlighted for either being a great athlete, or on the front and see them featured for being a gang member or committing a crime, we're telling them that is what's of value."

"We, as a community, need to show our children that education is important and invaluable. I think that is something extremely overlooked and we need to determine who is defining us as a community. Right now, it's not us. We need to figure out what do we have planned to highlight the positive stories in education?"

Student African-American Brotherhood (S.A.A.B)

According to the S.A.A.B website, "the U.S. Census and the Chronicle of Higher Education 2005 Almanac, found that, although black males represented 47.5 percent of the African-American population in 2000, black male students are not encouraged to achieve academically during their primary and secondary education, have the lowest high school grade point average (GPA) compared to other groups, fail to finish high school, are disproportionately targeted for disciplinary actions including expulsion, and are disproportionately placed in behavior disorder and special education classrooms (Bonner & Bailey, 2006; Cuyjet, 2006; Strayhorn, 2008).

Hence, those who make it to college often lack indispensable requirements for success, including basic comprehension, and reading, writing, and test-taking skills (Adelman, 1996; McGinnis, 2002).

Aggravating these problems is the lack of institutional commitment to providing African-American males academic support services (i.e. mentoring, tutoring) and to establishing a welcoming campus environment (Swail, 2000; Flowers, 2004; Schwartz & Washington, 2002). These factors, in turn, affect the retention and graduation rates of black men.

Black males are not only the least likely to enroll in college, but are also the most likely to drop out without earning a bachelor's degree. A 2006 U.S. Department of Education report shows that only nine percent of all students receiving a baccalaureate degree were African Americans in 2001, compared to 27 percent for whites. Less than three percent of black men earned their degrees from 2001 to 2002 (American Council on Education, 2003).

In addition to the race gap, the scholastic achievement gap between African-American men and African-American women has not gone unnoticed. Studies show that black women are twice as likely to earn their baccalaureate degrees compared to their male counterparts (American Council on Education, 2003; Cuyjet, 2006.) "A report by the Washington DC based Council of the Great City Schools found that only four percent of college students were black males.

SAAB is a national organization that focuses on increasing the number of African-American and Latino men who graduate from college by creating a positive peer community based on a spirit of caring. SAAB operates through student run chapters with professional advising and mentorship to

assist young men to excel academically, socially, culturally, spiritually and in the community. This organization is found on both the middle, secondary and collegiate levels with the national headquarters being located in Toledo.

The organization was founded and still continues to be led by Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D. Scott High School S.A.A.B coordinator Joshua Archer says the organization "connects students to a national network of positive role models, the national network provides support and holds it's members accountable throughout their academic career and beyond.

Toledo Public School District "Race to the Top"

The TPS district received federal dollars to implement national educational standards, use data to drive instruction, reward great teachers and leaders while turning around the lowest achieving schools. The monies will also prepare teachers to implement the standards and provide accessible data in the building and classroom level. Another new piece includes the introduction and implementation of performance-based evaluations for teachers and administrators as well as research based intervention in high need schools.

This is merely a fraction of the programs and services developed in the area to assist in student success. As presidential administrations increasingly place education as a top priority, and continue to make federal dollars available creating more access for students to continue to utilize the programs and services, it is hoped by policy makers that student achievement will show measureable and significant improvement.

Do the Math!
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Library Offers *Living Well with Less* Series - Great Opportunities in Home Ownership!

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator
Special to The Truth

In observance of Money Smart Week (April 21-28), the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is pleased to offer more programs in its Living Well with Less, a FREE series designed to provide adults with information on opportunities to work at home, saving money, home ownership and more!

Money Smart Week is a series of free classes and activities nationwide designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances.

If you're having a hard time stretching your budget, or just want to find creative ways to make some extra money, our Living Well with Less series is designed just for you:

• Monday, April 23

a) (6-8 p.m.) – Great Opportunities in Home Ownership! @ [McMaster Center, Main Library](#), 325 Michigan St. (Great opportunities in home ownership in Toledo

and Northwest Ohio. Find out about programs that can help homebuyers find financial help with mortgages and down payments, and attractive homes renovated and built by local community groups.)

b) (6:30 -8 p.m.) – Learn

about Working at Home @ [Heatherdowns Branch Library](#), 3265 Glanzman Rd. (A panel of experts will tell you what to be aware of when looking for jobs at home. Hear from the following experts - a home-business owner, the Arts Com-

mission of Greater Toledo, Better Business Bureau, Ohio Attorney General's Office, and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality.)

Get information at the Main Library segment on programs by: The Northwest Ohio Development Agency,

Neighborhood Housing Services, Lucas County Land Bank, ONYX, United North, Habitat for Humanity, Toledo Community Development Corporation, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and more!

Thank you to our gener-

ous Living Well with Less series sponsors: Directions Credit Union, and Fifth Third Bank

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419.259.5200

Black Students Graduating From Toledo Schools Outnumber Those Dropping Out

The Sojourner's Truth, May 1, 2002

Ed. Note: The following is an excerpt from an article we published in our second issue in 2002. In light of a change during the ensuing years in the method of calculating drop out rates, it would appear that we were overly optimistic in our assessment

High school dropout rates among African-American students has been an issue of some importance for some time in our nation, our state, and our city. Sta-

tistically, out of the 648 students who dropped out of Toledo high schools in 2001-2002, 6.4 percent black females and 7.2 black males. Statistics are not available for 2002. According to Bob Rocker, Director of Toledo Public School's Research and Analysis Department, the dropout rate for black males "is the lowest it's been in a while."

A survey of Toledo high schools in 2000 showed that of the 1483 graduating stu-

dents, 309 (or 20.8 percent) black females and 255 (or 17.2 percent) black males. Scott High School, Toledo's historical black high school, had the third highest percentage of its seniors graduating at 85.6 percent, while Libbey High School, which also has a large number of African-American students, had the lowest at 66.3 percent. Statistics are not available for 2001 and 2002.

Further analysis by Dr. Rocker's department shows that 46 percent of black fe-

males who graduated from Toledo high schools in 2000 attend college full time and 12 percent attend college part-time, while 46 percent of black males who graduated from Toledo high schools in 2000 attend college full time and 7 percent attend college part-time. The total percentages of black female and male students who graduated from Toledo high schools in 2000 attending college are 58 percent and 53 percent, respectively.

There are over three times

as many black females graduating as there are dropping out of school and over twice as many black males graduating as there dropping out of school in Toledo, according to these figures. The statistics for the African-American students continuing in school until graduation has improved, according to Dr. Rocker's analysis, particularly black males. Does this mean that Toledo is doing a better job of edu-

(Continued on Page 11)



Great Opportunities in

Home Ownership!

Monday, April 23, 2012 ■ 6 - 8 p.m.
McMaster Center, Main Library
Refreshments will be provided.

Great opportunities to buy in Toledo and northwest Ohio! Learn about programs that can help home buyers find financial help with mortgages and downpayments, and attractive homes renovated and built by local community groups.

Get information on programs by:

- The Northwest Ohio Development Agency
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- Lucas County Land Bank
- ONYX

Additional program support from:

- United North
- Habitat for Humanity
- Toledo Community Development Corporation
- Ohio Housing Finance Agency








419.259.5200 ■ toledolibrary.org

The Library Recommendation



Special to The Truth

For its April 2012 installment, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library recommends the book *Harlem: A Century in Images* (2010, Skira Rizzoli) by authors Deborah Willis, Cheryl Finley, Thelma Golden and Elizabeth Alexander.

This coffee-table-style publication encompasses a century of Harlem, through the eyes and lenses of some of the most important artists and photographers of the 20th Century. The vibrant and bustling neighborhood occupying the upper reaches of Manhattan has been at the crossroads of the artistic, literary, and political currents of the African-American community since the early days of the twentieth century. Home to writers and revolutionaries, artists and agitators, Harlem has been both subject and inspiration for countless photographers. This sweeping photographic survey includes nearly two hundred images that tell the story of Harlem - its distinctive landscape and extraordinary inhabitants - throughout the twentieth century.

Featured artists include: Gordon Parks, James VanDerZee, Eve Arnold, Alice Attie, Cornell Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Richard Avedon, Dawoud Bey, Chester Higgins, Jr., Helen Levitt, Aaron Siskind, Bruce Davidson, Roy DeCarava, Leonard Freed, Carl Van Vechten and Weegee. The book features essays by leading scholars of African-American studies and art - including Deborah Willis, Cheryl Finley, Elizabeth Alexander, and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ph.D. - which are paired with the work of eighty artists and photographers, affording this enclaves the richest chronicling in its history.



Source : Amazon.com

Toledo SAAB Chapter Named as Chapter of the Year

Special to The Truth



Congratulations to the Toledo chapter of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), as they were named as the District SAAB Chapter of the Year at the organization's national conference. The Toledo contingency competed against 260 other SAAB chapters from across the country.

Locally, SAAB is very active and has grown at an amazing rate in the past year. Currently, there are more than 250 members of 13 chapters across Toledo Public Schools. The TPS chapters meet monthly with The University of Toledo Chapter, as well as hosting other surrounding universities. The TPS chapter

provides peer-to-peer mentorship between the elementary, high school, and college chapters. The members are very involved within their respected school, and the community.

Through a variety of educational and cultural activities, SAAB focuses on:

- Ensuring that all males on educational campuses take full advantage of their academic years and to better understand and practice their full responsibilities, rights and privileges to obtain an advance education.

- Works in the community with young men who are in need of guidance and direction

- Strives for members to become role models for each other as well as for other males in the community.

- Prepares their members to enter the workforce as professionals and be among the best competing for a meaningful place in their community.

Given the overwhelming success of SAAB, Toledo Public Schools is introducing a new organization for young ladies - the Young Women of Excellence or YWEO. More than 300 female students have expressed interest in this new 'sisterhood', which will adopt many of the philosophies and goals that SAAB has for its members.

The University of Toledo
Minority Business Development Center
 and
Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women

2012 Diverse Business Symposium
 April 28, 2012
 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
 SCOTT PARK CAMPUS AUDITORIUM, ROOM 1360

The History of Entrepreneurship in the African-American Community
 This symposium will help you to gain important insight into the rich history of entrepreneurship of African-American business leaders.

Learn valuable strategies from the following breakout sessions:
 Increase Sales by Marketing
 Improve Your Bottom Line by Planning
 Understand What Diverse Businesses Bank Loans

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 UT Minority Business Development Center
 Margaret O'Keefe at 419.530.3079 or
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Eat Smart. Play Hard. Have Fun. The choice is yours!

Eat It Up! presented by ProMedica OPENS April 6 at Imagination Station

Special to The Truth

Imagination Station announced its newest experience, Eat It Up! – a highly interactive, nutrition and exercise focused exhibition presented by ProMedica. After over 18 months of planning, Eat It Up! opened to the public Friday April 6, 2012. This engaging selection of individual exhibits blends the newest in technology with nutrition information and human physiology to tell the story of how the choices you make today affect your body as a whole.

Eat It Up!, a permanent 2,000+ square foot exhibition contains seven major



mission to improve the health and well-being of those we serve, this partnership is a perfect fit", said Randy Oostra, president and CEO of ProMedica. "I am confident this exhibit with its fun, interactive components is a great way to share our message about the importance of eating well and



located on the downtown Toledo riverfront, is a science center dedicated to delivering science and technology based programming to youth and their families throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Eat It Up! will be included in the cost of admission.

exercising to stay healthy."

As with all of Imagination Station's exhibitions, the exhibits within Eat It Up! is aligned with the State science academic content standards in both Ohio and Michigan and the National health standards, making the exhibition an extension of the classroom.



The Imagination Station,



sion of Imagination Station's mission, of inspiring in children the wonder of science and technology."

Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the last 25 years. For the first time, many children face health issues that used to be reserved for parents and grandparents – diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. As a science center in the state with the 12th highest rate of childhood obesity in the nation, Imagination Station and ProMedica saw this partnership as an opportunity to directly impact the children in our community by providing accurate nutrition and health information, in a fun, engaging atmosphere.

"ProMedica is excited to partner with Imagination Station to bring this new exhibition, *Eat It Up!* to our community. As part of our

exhibits, including the Wheel of Fire, over eight feet tall, just step inside and the faster you walk or run, the higher the 10 foot tall flames will grow, showing calories virtually burning off; the Heart Rate Rally which makes players race against their opponent to keep up with an unpredictable light show; the Social Table, an interactive, multi-touch experience that uses video projected floating icons to teach about the impact of personal choices on life expectancy, along with a number of other exciting exhibits, demonstration area and larger-than-life graphics, to help educate visitors to make healthy choices, even when in situations where the choice is not clear.

"We strive to meet the ever changing educational needs of the children in our community by offering exciting, educational, state of

the art exhibits that help to shape and inspire the decisions of the worlds future scientists," said Lori Hauser, executive director of imagination Station. "Partnering with ProMedica on bringing Eat It Up! to the Toledo community, was a natural exten-



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Parents – You Have the Power, Use It!

Talk to your teen about the dangers of alcohol and drugs and help them live to celebrate another day.

Special to The Truth

Teenagers find themselves at a crossroads % especially in the spring where they find themselves enjoying prom and graduation parties % facing widespread use and availability of drugs and alcohol. Every day, 2500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time. And alcohol use remains extremely widespread among today's teenagers. Nearly three quarters of students (72 percent) have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) by the end of high school, and more than a third (37 percent) have done so by the eighth grade.

One bad decision can impact their entire future and parents should intervene now before an irreversible choice has been made.

Unison Behavioral Health Group has launched their spring prom and graduation campaign and urges parents and caring adults to participate. The "Live to Celebrate Another Day" campaign is

designed to increase awareness of alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse during the graduation months of April through June where one third of alcohol-related fatalities involving teens occur.

Bonnie Kauffmann, Ph.D., director of Unison Behavioral Health Group's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program for Youth, encourages parents to intervene - - even when it seems like your teen does not care. Kauffmann states that, "based on the stage of their brain development, adolescents are more likely to: act on impulse, misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions, get into accidents of all kinds, get involved in fights, engage in dangerous or risky behavior. We also know that adolescents are less likely to: think before they act, pause to consider the potential consequences of their actions, modify their dangerous or inappropriate behaviors." The teenage brain is differ-

ent and being aware of these differences can help parents and concerned adults manage the behavior of adolescents. **Kauffmann reminds parents that "74% of kids (8-17) said their parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking and using drugs."**

Bonnie Kauffmann and the staff at Unison Behavioral Health Group know all too well that addiction is a developmental disease, typically beginning in adolescence. Kauffmann's team currently treats 100 adolescents who suffer from substance abuse and dependence disorders. The teens involved in Unison's program often have family and school problems, poor academic performance, health problems (including mental health), and involvement in the juvenile justice system. These teens often begin to abuse alcohol and/or drugs during times of transition, such as changing schools, moving, or divorce.



Kauffmann advises parents, caregivers, and concerned adults to recognize that youth diagnosed with the following mental health disorders are at an increased risk for substance abuse: attention deficit disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and bipolar disorder. Warning signs to look for include: sudden changes in personality, drop in school performance and attendance, sudden and frequent outbursts (temper tantrums), increasing conflict with family members, withdrawal from responsibility, changes in peer group, borrowing/steal-

ing money, difficulty concentrating, loss of interest in hobbies, secretive behavior regarding actions and possessions, change in appearance, poor grooming habits, and redness around the eyes or face.

Unison Behavioral Health Group treats youth ages 11-17 with substance abuse and dependence disorders, including behavioral health disorders. Through an integrated team approach, the program offers clients and their families the option of receiving services in their home or in our offices at 1212 Cherry Street.

Youth involved with

Unison's substance abuse treatment program also have full access to the agency's psychiatric services.

Professionals and family members who are concerned about a child's behavior and suspect a mental health condition and/or substance abuse, can obtain confidential support by calling Unison Behavioral Health Group at 419-693-0631.

Information on Unison's "Live to Celebrate Another Day" prom and graduation campaign can be found by visiting the agency's website at www.unisonbhg.org.

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www.toledofhc.org



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 Conference Room 1

Mon, **April 23, 2012**
 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Mott Branch Library
 1085 Dorr Street



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Culturally Specific Tips for African-American Parents: Praising the Positive

By Kerby T. Alvy, Ph.D.
Special to The Truth

Praising children is an important parenting practice that has been downplayed in homes of African-American children because of an experience during the time of slavery that unfortunately has been passed down in some black families. During slavery, when a master or overseer commented on a black child's "coming along," parents quickly corrected that image by noting the child's bad qualities - he's stupid, shiftless, unruly, can't work - to keep him from being sold. Thus, avoiding the public and verbal praising of children was part of the parent's desire to protect the child.

To the extent that this legacy of slavery is still active, it is especially important for parents of black children to use good praising skills.

Here is a seven-part praise approach that is very helpful. It is a technique that focuses on the exact behavior that is praiseworthy and which involves praising that behavior as opposed to saying something like "You're a good boy" or "You're a good girl," which would be considered as praising the child and not the behavior. This is a very important emphasis as it helps the child know exactly what of his or her actions are of value to their parents and therefore can be also considered as a discipline technique because it teaches the right ways of acting. It is a technique that exemplifies the African proverb, **When the heart overflows, it comes out through the mouth.**

The use of this skill becomes more culturally-specific by using phrases that are of an Ebonics or black nature while praising a child's behavior. For example, enthusiastically saying, "You rock!" "On the one!" or "Hey, that's too tough!" or "Go girl/go boy!" or "That is so fresh!" or any other contemporary phrasing that is used in African-American communities.

Another component is using a non-verbal gesture or action that is consistent with praise, such as giving a high five or whatever such gesture is popular at the moment.

The seven components of this praise method (behavior-specific praise) are:

1. Looking at the child.
2. Moving close physically.
3. Smiling.
4. Saying lots of nice things to the child.
5. Praising the behavior, not the child.
6. Showing physical affection.
7. Praising immediately after the child engages in the behavior.

This method is best used in response to such positive child behaviors as proper table manners, hanging up clothes, cleaning the dishes, brushing teeth, making the bed, being polite such as saying "please" and "thank you." It is important to use this method as often as possible and for even the smallest improvements and for effort.

Coming alive like this and being appreciative of children can make parent-child relations more rewarding, and bring out more of those actions that parents want to see. The method promotes harmony in the home.

###

Kerby T. Alvy, Ph.D. is a clinical child psychologist and the Executive Director and Founder of the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring (CICC). He is the author of two recent books, The Soulful Parent: Raising Healthy, Happy and Successful African American Children, and for all parents, The Positive Parent: Raising Healthy, Happy and Successful Children. Birth-Adolescence; for more info, see www.ciccparenting.org.

Black Students

(Continued from Page 7)

cating African-American students in the twenty-first century than in previous years? If so, why are more students graduating from Toledo's historically black high school than another local school with a large number of African-American students?

Many factors have influenced the increased success of Toledo's African-American students who graduated from high school in 2000. However, 13.6 percent of the dropouts from Toledo schools are African-American and some effort should be given to trying to make further improvements to help these students and others like them. Although no statistical information is available to show from which schools students are dropping out, it is clear that the schools have failed to educate these students. This failure may be due to lack of parent involvement, socio-economic factors such as income or low expectations of parents who also dropped out of school, poor school attendance, failures of teachers to meet students' individual needs, high suspension rates among African-American students in some schools, high retention rates of African-American students (which research has determined lowers self-esteem and students' motivation to continue school), as well as many other factors.

All of these should be studied to provide better schooling for those students who are potential dropouts or who have already dropped out and may be encouraged to return to school or get a GED. Incidentally, the equivalency tests are being rewritten and will be even more difficult to pass in the future. Clearly, those students who drop of school will have many difficulties without a high school diploma or GED. Most jobs require one or the other, as does admission into two or four year college programs. Adults without this most basic of education find themselves trapped in dead-end, minimum wage jobs with no hope for economic advancement.

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Spring Cleaning: Part I

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

There's always something cathartic about throwing open the windows and doors and preparing to throw old stuff out. Things you've accumulated over the winter, gone. Stuff you bought to combat the colds, outta here. You always find some treasures, don't you? There's always something discovered that you'd totally forgotten you had.

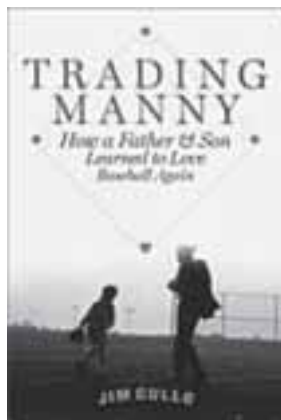
Like, for instance, the bookstore gift card you got back in December.

Uh oh.

What do you use it for? You have no ideas, but I do. Here are some great ideas for that gift certificate you forgot you had...

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS...

then you've got to go find *The Superhero Book* by Gina Misiroglu. This book, filled with color pictures of comic book covers, will lay to rest the age-old question: if Superman and Batman had a duel, would Iron Man step in and kick tail?



If you're a baseball fanatic, there are two books you should look for: *Trading Manny* by Jim Gullo, which is the story of a father and son, how baseball disappointed them so badly, and how they once again touched base with their love of the game. The other book, *Summer of '68* by Tim Wendel is the story of one baseball season and the players that made it fantastic, even as the

world seemed to be falling apart around the field. Catch both books. Home run!

If your bucket list is still too empty, then use your gift certificate to find *What Do You Want to Do Before You Die?* by The Buried Life (Jonnie Penn, Dave Lingwood, Duncan Penn & Ben Nemtin). This book is likewise filled with pictures and ideas from others who've dreamed about life's can't-misses. This is an easy-to-read book, and a sure conversation starter.

For wondering minds, look for *The Reality of ESP* by Russell Targ. Is extra sensory perception something you can learn? Can someone really predict the future, read minds, see ghosts? Find out. Read the book.

If you're in a contemplative mood, look for *Life and Death on the Prairie*, photography and text by Stephen Longmire. This book, filled with pictures of cemeteries and



scenery from Iowa's countryside, is simply gorgeous. It's sad, too, but in a life-affirming way, since there's so much green amidst the tombstones. Seriously – it's a simply beautiful coffee table book.

And speaking of coffee table books, here's an incredible way to use that gift certificate: find *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty* with essays, pictures, and more. This huge book is filled with stories written by and about heroes at war, all of them medal winners for valor. Just looking at the pictures is inspiring. The text itself will make you bust with pride. Bonus: it comes with a DVD, too.

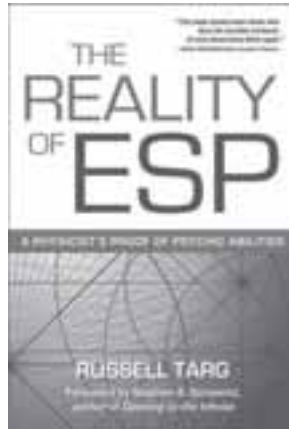
If you got a digital camera at the same time you got a gift card and you found them both in the same drawer, you're in luck. Look for *How to Use the Digital Camera You Just Bought!* by John Stewart Socha (with Alice J. Andersen). This book will take the guess-work out of that piece of equipment. It may even teach you to love your camera....

Okay, I can't decide which is cuter: the sweet kids' story in *Spud & Chloe at the Farm* by Susan B. Anderson, or the toys you can knit from the directions inside. The story is cute, and kids will love it. And the toys...? Easy step-by-step knitting directions make this book a real winner. (Toys it is!)

So you got a gift certificate last holiday, but you also got a ring. That explains why the piece of plastic kind of took a back-seat, but now it's time to use it by finding *A Practical Wedding* by Meg Keene. This book gives you dozens and dozens of ideas for having a beautiful, uniquely special day without compromising your dream, your plans, or your wallets. Bonus: your guests will never forget your anniversary if you utilize some of the ideas in this book.

Regrets. You have a few. So assuage your guilt and read the heart-felt letters from others in *The Things You Would Have Said* by Jackie Hooper. This book, based on a blog by the same name, consists of things that went unsaid – with regret. Buy this book, buy a hankie, bawl your eyes out, enjoy.

If you're quite taken with the release of the 1940 census, then you'll also want to read *Hey, America, Your Roots Are*



Showing by Megan Smolenyak. This is a book about finding your roots, learning where your ancestors came from, and finding those tantalizing secrets and skeletons in your family tree. How fun is that?

You've always loved a good mystery, so why not try a real-life crime book? *From Crime Scene to Courtroom* by Cyril H.

Wecht, MD, JD and Dawna Kaufmann is all about some real-life cases that have made the news. Wecht is one of the world's foremost forensic experts, and this book delves into the Casey Anthony case, Michael Jackson's death, the death of the Stones' Brian Jones, and others. Whodunit? You might find out here.

IF YOU LOVE A GOOD NOVEL...

then you need to find *Finding Our Way Home* by Charlene Ann Baumbich. This is a story of friendship, and how two vastly different women find it in an unlikely place. It's also a book you'll want to share with your own friends, so maybe you'll need two copies....

Who doesn't like a wildly scandalous book that involves scams, framed innocents, and a hasty fleeing across the country to avoid enemies? Oh, you know you want *Low Down and Dirty* by Vickie M. Stringer. This novel includes all that, when Dirty Red's past comes back to haunt her and the people she wronged want the ultimate revenge. Read it... just not at night, or you'll never get any sleep.

So you want a chilling thrill ride in your books, eh? Then look for *The Magnificent Life of Gravy Brown* by DeVaughn Lilly. Starting at the turn of the last century and moving forward, this is the story of race and discrimination, one man's irreversible act, and how his mother set the course. Set in New Orleans, it's... magnificent.

Older fans of *Watership Down* and younger fans of the



"Ga'hoole" series will like *Doglands* by Tim Willocks. This is the story of a young dog who's meant for a rough life and eventual death in D e d b o n e ' s Hole... but he's not going down easy. Instead, he figures out an escape and a way to find his father and, subsequently, his destiny. This is supposedly a young adult novel, but even if you're well-past YA

books, you'll like it just fine.

What's more fun than a love triangle? *Inside Deception* by Faynetta Lavergna Burrle is the answer to that question. When a woman finds the love of her life, there's only one thing in the way of her happiness: another woman. Vengeance, lies, deceit... how can you go wrong?

IF YOU'RE AN "ANIMAL PERSON"...

and you can't get enough books about the furry love of your life, then look for *Dogs Make Us Human* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson and Art Wolfe. Filled with pictures and a little narrative about our four-footed best friends, this book will put the wag in any dog lover's tail. Another doggy book to find is *Your Dog is Your Mirror* by Kevin Behan. It will help you understand Poochie in a whole new way.

Is that a wolf on the floor? How did he get there? If you've often wondered that, then you'll want to find *How the Dog Became the Dog* by Mark Derr. This book looks at the evolution from predator to pampered, from ancient canine to couch potato, and how the breeds developed. It's a science geek's delight. It's a dog-lover's dream.

Here's another irresistible book: *Animals and the Kids Who Love Them* by Allen & Linda Anderson. Consisting of stories of children (both two-footed and four-footed), this book also includes meditations and thought-provoking questions on the subject at the end of each chapter.

(Continued on Page 14)

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Race War in America?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



*"While we rantin & ravin
bout gats, n*ggas they made
them gats. They got some sh*t
that'll blow out our back.
From where they stay at" -
Andre 3000 of Outkast*

Hip-hop is such an eloquent teacher. While reading a few posts on line suggesting that a possible race war could erupt in our country, these are the lyrics that came to mind.

The Trayvon Martin situation has gotten even more complex this past weekend with announcements that it won't make it to federal levels.

While we contemplate just how hard our collective faces are being slapped by these topsy-turvy developments, I'll hold off writing specifically about the Trayvon Martin murder.

Instead, lets look at what happens if all our demands for justice are met with an even bigger middle finger from the so-called powers that be.

What are we going to do, if the State of Florida basically legalizes the modern-day lynching of innocent black people? What are we going to do?

Is this the Rodney King acquittal times 100?

If our demands for fair treatment are met with a giant "F**K YOU!", will there be an uprising?

Will we go out in the streets?

Will we riot? If our black elected officials watching this situation play out come to the realization that the corrupt systems that employ them still refuse to consider them deserving of basic human rights, will they stage massive walk outs? What can we do to the cripple the establishment?

If we turn these praying hands into fists...if we take up arms... if we decide we are ready to stop being civil, who do we make the target for our fury?

Any random white person we see? Members of our nearest justice and legal system?

The Ku Klux Klan? The police? Who?

One thing I've noticed since President Obama has been in office is that whites who are racist are bolder than ever. The days of suppressing bigotry are long gone.

The whites who are racist seem to now feel empowered, almost as if they have a righteous calling to remind us of our place in this country.

I'm sure you've seen the Republican anti-Obama bumper sticker.

It has Obama's logo crossed out with the words "DON'T RE-NIG IN 2012".

I'm sure you are aware that a small battalion of Neo Nazi fighters have gathered in Sanford, Florida as a show of respect (also show of force) for George Zimmerman.

Armed to the teeth, the all-white/all-racist National Socialist Movement say they are patrolling the streets and acting on behalf of Zimmerman's well-being.

I'm sure you are already hip to the documented proof that the Department of Homeland Security has placed an order for 450 million hollow point bullets...in anticipation

of some sort of domestic need for excessive ammunition. That's D.H.S., that's domestic.

Not military bullets to be fired in a conflict somewhere else in the world. That's a confirmed order for 450 MILLION bullets to be used here. On this land. For some conflict here.

It's quite possible, a fuse has been lit. But what it will ignite is still anybody's guess. However.

You and I both know that the likelihood of a massive black uprising is extremely low.

I love the New Black Panther Party. I love the Nation of Islam. I cherish every organized group of black Americans providing much-needed services to our community whether I know of them or not.

We need all the empowerment and self-determination we can find amongst our own ranks. But as much value as some of these respected civil institutions may add to their immediate black vicinity, they are hardly capable of staging full-scale rebellion on our behalf.

The black America I see is still generations away from having the preparedness it would take to overthrow or overpower any fragment of what oppresses us. Millions of black would-be rebels are actually destitute. Millions of black would-be rebels are imprisoned or sick. Millions of black would-be rebels don't give the slightest damn about fighting for the right to have justice. They are too busy fighting for a job or a place to stay or some semblance of peace of mind.

We are eeking out an existence in the midst of pitfalls faced exclusively by us and challenges currently faced by MOST Americans of any race. I'm so proud of us for standing up for Trayvon so

far, but if/when they acquit George Zimmerman and we feel that urge to go and demonstrate our frustration... the majority of us are going to be reminded that rent money, diapers and gas are all slightly more urgent concerns.

I took some heat for it when I suggested it, but let's say all these thugs and drug dealers who terrorize us in our own neighborhoods get organized and decide to be our front line offensive against our white oppressors. Let's say every repeat-offending, street-dwelling, gang-affiliated black man and woman walking through any hood U.S.A. decides to mobilize and take the fight to the white man. What do you think will happen?

Since the majority of black folk are actually law-abiding, responsible citizens... this small and marginally hostile few would have their asses handed to them if they strapped up and went looking for a fight with the white man.

Ahh, the white man. That's some lingo right there that's older than I am. But it's all the same.

Whether it's white racists who would love nothing better than to lead the charge in a battle against black people,

or if it's just regular non-racist white people mostly concerned about protecting their families from harm... either way we are outgunned and outnumbered.

Vastly outgunned and outnumbered.

And even if one lone black man decided to follow, confront and then murder a white teen who he felt looked suspicious... it wouldn't even take Neo Nazi's, white racists or Joe Blow America to retaliate because the police would legally execute that man with no trial anyway.

There will never be a black vs. white race war in America.

War implies that both sides have an equal chance at defeating the other.

Black Americans don't even have the freedom to fight for freedom.

Not freedom as far as bondage. Freedom to be regarded as human.

I've personally always wondered, what does a racist white person hold in higher regard:

The life and well-being of a dog. Or the life and well-being of a black American human being. Michael Vick went to prison. George Zimmerman has not. So I guess, there's my answer. And as much as it burns me

up inside to know that, what am I gonna do?

Really, what are my options in a land that has historically shown me my life means nothing to white people.

For decades, it was a recreational event for white Americans to gather together and lynch a black person. I mean, recreational as in ... family and friends showed up, pictures were taken, everyone smiling. Black Americans were murdered in cold blood by ordinary white citizens, either by hanging and/or burning us.

Police were either involved or turned the other cheek, as certain white people justified their acts by alleging our behavior left them no other options. How have we survived all of the racially motivated attacks with white people serving as judge, jury and executioner?

We have learned to endure. We have learned to play it safe. Safer than anyone else has to play it. With a black President in the White House we have made baby steps towards finally having the country we built be somewhat agreeable to our presence here.

Not at all hospitable, just
(Continued on Page 14)

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Spring Cleaning: Part I

(Continued from Page 12)

Do you often think that your dog (or cat) knows more than you think he knows? Prove it by reading *Guardians of Being*, words by Eckhart Tolle, art by Patrick McDonnell. This book – part cartoon strip, part philosophy – will make you want to smile, think, and hug the Fur One even harder. Bonus: it's available in paperback now.

And if it's been a rough year, that would explain why you misplaced the gift certificate. Maybe now's the time to use it on *Goodbye, Friend* by Gary Kowalski. Newly revised, this book is for anyone who's lost a four-footed baby. Go find it, and get a box of tissues while you're there.

FOR THE LGBT READER...who needs to know how to do it up right, look for *How to Be Gay in the 21st Century* by David Leddick. This book is

sarky, gossipy, chatty, and wonderfully sneering, and if you're really messing up at being gay, you need to read it.

So you say you're obsessed by fangs and fashion – not necessarily in that order. Well, then, you've got to look for *Fangs and Stilettoes* by Anthony DiFiore. You'll never again wonder why there are plunging necklines. You'll never again wonder if silk is an otherworldly fabric. You'll never again wonder if couture is a magical thing...



If you're up for a good mystery, then use that gift certificate on *The Second You Sin* by Scott Sherman. Set in the Big Apple, this mystery features a handsome full-time hustler who sleuths on the side, a series of murders that he needs to stop, and a few roadblocks in his way to doing so. Bookmarks? Won't need one for this book.

If a roller-coaster ride of sadness and humor sounds right up your alley, then look for *Songs for the New Depression* by Kergan Edwards-Stout. This is the story of a man who knows he's dying, knows he's made a lot of mistakes in his life, and knows that he needs to fix things before the end. I won't tell you the end. Read the book.

So you're having a staycation and want to travel anyhow? *Love in the Loire* by David Leddick is set in France, and it's a romanti-

cally hot mix of his previous two books, with characters that fans have come

to enjoy. Call it a sequel, read it as a standalone, but read it...

Happy Reading! – Next Week: Spring Cleaning - Part II

Race War

(Continued from Page 13)

slightly more agreeable to some.

We have found a balance somewhat.

Still brutally oppressed and targeted at every turn, we have found a way to idle on the fault line of ruin and achievement. We have the insight to appreciate white people who aren't racist and begrudgingly tolerate (not confront) white people who ARE racist.

We have our vision of the black American dream and much like Trayvon Martin, we have decided on a goal or two and prepared ourselves to navigate the path before us. It's not our fault if racist whites see a future aviation

technician wearing a hoodie because it's raining as he walks home and can't tell him from a criminal up to no good.

That's not our fault. It wasn't Trayvon's fault. He did his part by making it to 17 without being a criminal. He did his part by being innocent.

If the State of Florida won't do it's part to prove that the innocent lives of African Americans are worth just as much the innocent lives of its other citizens...

If the system we pay taxes to won't even arrest someone who commits a crime if the crime is against us...

If the mountains of proof are disregarded...

If a green light is given to every gun-toting white bigot to go and kill any black person for whatever make-believe reason they can concoct after the fact...

If law enforcement won't enforce the most basic law of murder being illegal...

We will know that we are once again being lynched.

We will know that any revolt we could stage would be well justified but ultimately unwise. We will suffer, and we will adapt.

Because this isn't war. This is just another century, of just another genocide in America.

Only more gradual.

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April 11, 2012

Page 15

Production Supervisors

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NHA is seeking PT (20 Hours) professionals to expand services by generating new clients and developing new services. Sales and Marketing professionals with health care, strategic planning, forecasting, and an extensive network will be ideal candidates. Forward resumes with salary requirements to: resume@nhainc.org or NHA, Business Development, 313 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. No phone calls.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-104,

(Project # 5004-12-1726) for University Medical Center 1st Floor Neuro Biplane for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2012 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$40.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Julie Cavese of MBA Architects and Planners at 419-873-8450. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 105, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$320,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$150,500.00; Plumbing & Fire Protection: \$16,500.00; HVAC: \$55,000.00; & Electrical: \$98,000.00.

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Request for Proposals Fleet Leasing and Management Services RFP #12-R002

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Fleet Leasing and Management Svcs. **Proposals received in accordance with law until Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 3PM ET.** RFP documents available at LMHA, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604, 419-259-9446 (TTY 419-259-9529) and www.lucasmha.org. All proposers required to meet the Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Section 3 compliance applied.

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Super Fun Show Comes to Quality Time

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Entertainer Shawn Brown brought his Super Fun Show to Toledo last Saturday and was rewarded with smiles and gales of laughter from the children in his audience.



Shawn Brown and Aletha Braswell



Quality Time Child Care Center presented the comedian/educator/disk jockey/recording artist at the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University. The Super Fun Show is a curriculum enhancement program that uses music, puppetry, comedy and story telling to encourage youngsters to grow and develop as they explore the world.

Saturday's program began with an in-service training for Quality Time's staff during the morning. Quality Time, which provides day care services for some 74 children, using a staff of 13 in its two locations, held the morning session to address the social and emotional issues of dealing with students.

"The training showed us how to relate to children," said lead teacher Sheila Wilson. "And showed us how children will react to us."

Along with the morning's training session, vendors were on hand with a variety of products: blankets, purses, jewelry and children's clothing.

Brown, however, was the star of the show. After lunch, parents and children piled into a conference room, children seated on the floor di-



rectly in front of the entertainer. Brown used a variety of music, hats, voices, physical stunts to teach life lessons to his young audience.

Quality Time opened 10 years ago under the direction of Aletha Braswell. The day care center has served more than 1,000 students over the years and has maintained its one-star rating from the State of Ohio during that time.



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For more details, contact Dr. Anita M. Gustafson at the telephone listed by Name: 419.734.6142 or by Email: Truett@mcgillchristian.org



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