



Volume 25, No. 6 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* November 27, 2013

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's Annual Banquet



TUFCU staff - Enjoli Henry, Shantae Neely, Eric Cowell, DeLise Simmons, Suzette Cowell, Shawnise Simmons

"Thank you for this night, thank you Lord for leading us and keeping us. We gather to honor those who've done commendable work for this credit union, which benefits the community."

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White Shadows

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

Racism systematically verifies itself anytime the slave can only be free by imitating his master.

— Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (H. Rap Brown)



What kind of person has the superciliousness, arrogance or disdain – to even subtly suggest that what today's young black men primarily need to be successful is a white male athletic coach-type to mentor and discipline them in the manner of certain celebrated white coaches of the distant past?

Evidently, this kind of paternalistic rhetoric still occurs in Toledo nearly 40 years after the end of the Civil Rights Movement but is being passed off as community activism. What is equally puzzling is that none of the several African Americans who witnessed last week's effrontery put that nonsense in check.

Perhaps, the poor souls are insult-hardened and did not recognize that they had been spit upon. Or maybe, this derogatory declamation was accurately seen as merely a self-directed egotistic pep talk as part of a campaign for a city council, county commissioner or mayoral staff position.

While it is true that a large number of disadvantaged youth in Toledo suffer from the effects of poverty, the simplistic "White Shadow" theory – that white males are the answer to turning perennial losers (code for underprivileged people of color) into winners – is racist myth.

A more relevant theory for the quickly approaching post-Bell leadership era, is that of the late, great entertainer James Brown – "I don't want nobody to give me nothing, just open the door and I'll get it myself."

Equal opportunity and mutual respect are at the heart of a wary black community's concern as the "full speed in reverse" transition is being

made to the "Collins and two bros" – (Finkbeiner/Ford) - triumvirate.

The community is already giving the stank eye to the mayor-elect for his shady treatment of police chief Derrick Diggs. The chief has received several high-profile job offers from communities across the country and also enjoys enormous positive public sentiment locally.

He has changed the morale on the force as well as in the streets for the better, and can hardly walk down the halls of the Safety Building or One Government Center without subordinates approaching him in tears and begging him not to leave the department.

Diggs also knows how to relate equally to blacks and whites, the wealthy, poor or just average citizen. Although Diggs possesses the sophistication and proficiency in 21st Century technological policing methods, a primary reason for reduced crime in Toledo has been the affection and respect that the inner city youth and even gang members have for him as a competent black man in power.

Word on the street is that the community will hold the "tripartite ruling bosses" accountable for how Diggs is treated. They will be watching to see if Collins is allowed to demote him or cut police department funding for cameras or data-driven policing in order to undermine Diggs' effectiveness.

Another area under the community's microscope is the city's Affirmative Action department. As a result of the department's efforts, Toledo is now spending nearly \$20 million annually with minority businesses out of a total of \$135 million in purchas-

es. This compares to the comparative stingy minority purchasing practices during previous administrations. Street talk suggests that the community is determined not to lose the gains we've recently made.

It is a federal requirement that the Affirmative Action Office sign off on all federal funding therefore the city risks losing or returning funding if it does not comply with equal opportunity mandates.

The department works with the Civil Rights commission to settle many under the radar incidents such as when the mostly black solid waste drivers lost all of their seniority in their transfer from one union to another during the privatization of Toledo's trash collection.

The employees were told that "The only way you keep your job is if you go to the bottom of the list." There were employees with 20 years of experience who lost all of their seniority. In comparison, there were several white employees in the Sewage department with one, two or three years experience who were managing black employees with 20 years on the job who were required to train the inexperienced supervisors.

With director Perlean Griffin set to retire, the community will scrutinize the decision to hire her successor in order to ensure that the department and its work is not watered down by

someone only interested in marching to the tune of the mayor-elect, as occurred at various times in the past.

A worthy replacement can only be someone who values diversity and has a strong background in civil rights investigations and an understanding of federal and state EEO requirements. Without a strong background of either working in the field or for a university or similar institution, they risk being run over by an administration that is insensitive or unknowledgeable about equal opportunity laws.

The one person who meets these requirements and is acceptable to the community is Alan Bannister, current Toledo Affirmative Action manager. Bannister has worked for both ex-Mayor Jack Ford and former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and has developed an extensive network of federal and state contacts.

I am confident that Al also has the backbone to bring minority issues out of the shadows and place them front and center so that the city of Toledo can retain the honor of being an equal opportunity employer.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at drdlperryman@center-ofhopebaptist.org

The Sojourner's Truth

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Artisha Lawson – Reporter
Carla Leonard – Social Editor
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Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

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Community Calendar

November 27

United Community Church Annual Thanksgiving Dinner: Noon to 2 pm

November 28

Thanksgiving Day!!!

Pilgrim Church 10th Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal: 11 am to 2 pm
Andrew's Free ThankZgiving Feast: Paddy Jack's; Noon to 3 pm; Courtesy of Andrew Z

Thomas Temple COGIC Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm: 419-255-3447

December 1

Ebenezer MBC 19th Annual Pastoral Appreciation Service: 3 pm; Guests Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC congregation

December 3

"GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays:" 6:30 to 8 pm; First Presbyterian Church of Maumee; Why the holidays are rough – managing relationships – preparing for the holidays – what to expect, etc: 419-893-0223

December 8

St. Stephen's COGIC "Jubilee of Praise Celebration:" 4 pm; Toledo area gospel artists
New Prospect Baptist Church Annual Candlelight Service: 4pm; Guest Rev. Jerry Boose and Second Baptist congregation

“Ignut” Is as “Ignut” Does ..

By Lafe Tolliver
Guest Comment

You know, when you cruise the Web and see what is happening in other parts of the country and what antics and silliness people are up to and into, how could one overlook the following two items as simply being, “ignut” (short hand for the word ignorant as “ignut” is about an ignoramus or a person who doesn’t know history but wants to front on you as if he does).

ISSUE ONE: Bring out good ol’ Charles Barkley and spin his top and watch him self- destruct with his foolishness and pure gibberish. Now Sir Charles is claiming a defense of using the “N” word.

This recently happened when a fellow athlete was rightfully fined \$25,000.00 by the NBA for using the “N” word about a fellow black athlete.

The fined player apologized (probably at the insistence of his PR firm) but what does Sir Charles do? He rants on the sports network on which he is a commentator and says that he will forever use the “N” word with both black and white friends!

First of all, if you assiduously study Sir Charles and his remarks you will notice that this man is totally goofy and his comments have no redeeming value.

Charles Barkley, like too many people black and white, are woefully lacking in any historical study of the black experience in America and about one of America’s greatest sins...slavery and its ongoing progeny (Note: the other one is the systematic and near decimation of the Native American aka:

Indian).

The genesis of the “N” word, as it was practiced and used in slavery times by white folks, was to totally demean, demoralize and humiliate black people. Period. Nothing of any positive value was meant by using the “N” word.

It was a verbal whip laced with glass shards and fueled by a cruel and corrupted view of humanity that would assign to a particular class of people such degradation and contempt and hatred that would rival the smell of sulphur arising out of a dung hill.

Is that descriptive enough for you to slightly understand the culture out of which the use of the “N” word was used as a tool of brutal submission?

But, in spite of the psychological rape that the “N” word was used to ravage a people and their history and culture, we have the likes of Charles Barkley, among others, who think it is hip and cool and “with it” to banter the word around like it is being redeemed by their repetitive usage of it.

To view such woeful ignorance by Sir Charles and others of his ilk is sad.

Sad to see that we have so called intelligent people who will fight for the right to continually debase themselves and want you to join them in their verbal cesspool.

Any white “friends” of Sir Charles who would put up with this heinous use of the “N” word in their presence are contemporary accomplices to

this postmodern verbal slavery and debasement.

Since Sir Charles does not have enough mother wit or common sense to know when to say no to the “N” words, his “friends” need to do him a favor and tell him in no certain terms that they do not want to be associated with that word.

Sir Charles needs to quit playing the role of a buffoon and clown and sit down and read some history and get his crooked thinking straightened out. (Note: yes, I detest the use of that word by black folks among black folks and about black folks... no exemptions or waivers needed or granted!)

ISSUE TWO: Here is one for the books. Some black churches are resurrecting the erroneous use of a person being a New Testament armor bearer. You know, the person who thinks it is of high exaltation that they are chosen by a pastor to carry his Bible to the podium while the pastor trails behind. Or, this church member thinks he is getting glory or is being humble by fetching the pastor’s dry cleaning or getting his daily double latte from the local Starbucks.

Maybe, by driving his pastor’s fab car through the carwash or mowing his lawn, the armor bearer is thinking that he is racking up points with God for being such a humble person.

Hogwash! For the record, in the New Testament, there is no such person or office known as an armor bearer. It is spin or takeoff from the Old Testament wherein an armor bearer was an as-

... continued on page 13

African Art Has Arrived!!

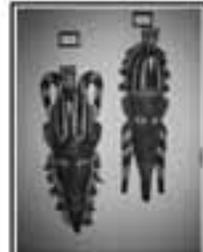
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Larry Sykes Moves Ahead of Adam Martinez for Last Council Seat

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

A count of the outstanding 504 provisional ballots concluded on Monday, November 25 changed the outcome of the race for Toledo City Council as Larry Sykes edged ahead of Adam Martinez by five votes for the sixth and last at-large seat.

Democrat Martinez, the incumbent, had led Sykes, also a Democrat and a long-time member of the Toledo Board of Education, by 34 votes after the November 5 general election count for sixth place. Theresa M. Gabriel, an independent, finished in fifth place after that initial count with 75 more votes than Martinez.

Monday's final tally places Gabriel still in fifth place with 19,370 votes, Sykes with 19,282 votes and Martinez with 19,277.

Or, we should say almost final tally. Since the vote difference is less than one half of one percent of the total, it is subject to recount which will be conducted by the Lucas County Board of Elections on December 5. Re-counts, however, rarely if ever change the results of the final tally in Lucas County.

"I'm humbled," said Sykes of the turn-

around. "It really hasn't settled in yet. This has been a long run and has been a stressful situation for our team but we have forged ahead."

Sykes, who ran as an unendorsed Democrat, faced opposition from organized labor for statements made as a member of the school board that were perceived to be anti-labor, a charge he has vehemently denied. However, Martinez was also the object of labor's ire, particularly when he ignored their wishes and those of the Ohio and Lucas County Democratic parties and endorsed Mayor Mike Bell for re-election. That move probably sealed his fate given Bell's landslide defeat.

One significant aspect of the Sykes victory is that for the first time in history, five of the Toledo City Council seats will be filled with African-Americans. Former Mayor Jack Ford, who finished second in the at-large voting, joins newly-elected Sykes and Gabriel on Council. District 1 Councilman Tyrone Riley and District 4 Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson, also council president, are the other African Americans.



Larry Sykes

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Celebrates with Annual Banquet

By Artisha Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Near the intersections of Dorr Street, Junction Ave, and N. Detroit Ave. is the shopping plaza where the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union operates. The credit union opened on July 21, 1996.

Scores of credit union supporters gathered on Saturday, November 23 to celebrate the growth and vision of the credit union during their annual meeting and appreciation banquet held at the Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio. The banquet acknowledged 14 individuals who have supported the credit union and featured keynote speaker, Laura Lloyd-Jenkins, current Lucas County Administrator and first African-American to hold this position.

Valerie Robinson served as the mistress of ceremony, and Pastor Cordell Jenkins of Abundant Life Ministries opened the program with a warm prayer: "Thank you for this night, thank you Lord for leading us and keeping us. We gather to honor those who've done commendable work for this credit union, which benefits the community."

Board member Edwin Mabrey welcomed guests, and Teresia Watson presented a soulful selection. First and only Credit Union CEO Suzette Cowell addressed attendees about her financial banking background. "If you lived in certain zip codes you were turned down for a loan. When God has a plan it's all worked out," she told the guests.

Cowell shared how Bishop Duane Tisdale's words

from the Friendship Baptist pulpit spoke to her and, after various community engagement activities, the credit union was established. "We had 700 members, and then (Mayor) Carty [Finkbeiner] asked if we would move to Dorr Street, and by January 1997 we had two staff members. The people we serve need us. They need a financial institution. The board and the staff know it's needed."

The 2013 honorees: John C. Bates, Sarah J. Bates, Deborah G. Beyer, Charsena D. Braswell, James Hoffman, Robert W. LaClair, Richard D. LaValley Jr., Jan K.M. Scotland, Stephanie W. Turner, Shawn Cowell, Richard Grant, Dawn Hefner, Richard H. McCray and Charles Turner. Each honoree received a token of appreciation and warm reception from Cowell and the audience.

Honoree Grant is active in local community organizations and an avid support of the credit union's annual golf fund-raiser: "I never thought I would receive this honor. I want to thank my wife, my mother, and my beautiful children." Honoree McCray is responsible for spear-heading the credit union's tax preparation program: "Suzette approached me to assist customers with their taxes. She convinced me there was a need, and I stepped in to help."

The Toledo Urban Credit Union founders are: Ken Anderson, James Cobham, Bishop Terry

Cook, Suzette Cowell, Pastor Robert Culp, Roosevelt Gant, Minister Rick Hunter, Alto King Jr, Edwin Mabrey, and Bishop Duane C. Tisdale. Toledo Urban Credit Union board of directors: Suzette Cowell, Edwin Mabrey, Leo Martinez, Frances Smith, Charles Welch and Fletcher Word.

The purpose of the Toledo Urban Credit Union is to achieve economic empowerment through education for its members to be active partners in the community.



Mistress of Ceremonies Valerie Robinson



TUFCU staff - Enjoli Henry, Shantae Neely, Eric Cowell, DeLise Simmons, Suzette Cowell, Shawnise Simmons



Banquet soloist Teresia Watson



Keynote Speaker Laura Lloyd-Jenkins (seated, center) with (top left and clockwise) Charles Welch, Suzette Cowell, Edwin Mabrey, Adele Jasion and Frances Smith



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Kids Unlimited Hosts Fundraiser at The Pinnacle

Special to The Truth

"Kids Unlimited gives children another chance and creates opportunities for them," wrote Mike Gibbons, board chairman in preparation for the event the tutoring non-profit group held on Monday, November 11 at The Pinnacle.

The dinner, which Gibbons called part fundraiser and part thank-you to supporters, brought together more than 550 attendees.

"It can and does change lives," he continued. "We hope that after this evening you will see the good being done and that it prompts you to get involved with the program. Together we can help thousands of children achieve happy and successful lives."

Headlining the evening as keynote speaker was Detroit Mayor Dave Bing who praised the group for its work in

enhancing the educational experience for those children in challenging circumstances.

Kids Unlimited takes a holistic approach to educating and mentoring children. While working within inner-city elementary schools, the program specializes in three critical areas: academics, character development and self-discipline.

The program picks up where school leaves off and assists teachers in providing homework help, positive adult role models, tutoring, field trips, among other tasks. The program works within schools in order to minimize transportation issues.

Created seven years ago by Director Chris Amato, the lives of over 2,000 children have been touched by the program.



John C. Moore with Kattie Bond and Samuel Hancock, Ed.D.



Mayor Bell with parents, Ora and Norman Bell



Terry Crosby, Former Mayor of Detroit Dave Bing with Shawn Reid and Todd Mitchell



Shawn and Sonya Reid



Sam Nugent and Chief Derrick Diggs



Todd Mitchell and Danielle Hall



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Hair Expo 2013

By Carla Yvette

What started out as a few women getting together in a living room has grown into the third annual Hair Expo, which was held this year on October 12 at the New Life Center.

Megan Davis' passion for educating people about natural hair care began in 1998 with a group of stay-at-home moms in her home town of New Orleans who provided support for one another and developed a sense of community on their journey to natural hair.

Davis, who wanted to keep that sense of community alive when she moved back to Toledo, started by having talks and discussions about hair care, primarily on a one-on-one basis. Then in 2007, she decided to start a website called the Kitchen Salon where she would provide information that she had gathered over the years about natural hair care.

This led to more social and engaging workshops and meet-ups with more and more people becoming involved. After a couple of years of holding meet-ups, Davis had the idea to do an expo where people could

come and learn not just about natural hair care but also about different aspects of healthy living and beauty while shopping for fashion, art and other unique items that celebrate the African-American culture.

In speaking about the expo Davis says: "This has become what's known as the largest black vendor market place in Toledo now, and many people are excited about coming and being a part of it." Although most of the participants are from Toledo, Davis says she has vendors who come from Detroit, Indianapolis, Cleveland and Columbus to participate.

Davis, who currently holds workshops at different locations throughout the city, says her vision is to one day have a stationary location, a Kitchen Salon where people can come and get information at any time. She says she will have ongoing workshops and would like to have a store where people can not only buy things but also where they can actually become well informed and educated about the things they're buying.



Megan Davis of The Kitchen Salon and Sheila Everette-Hale of Everette's Natural Hair & Beauty School Detroit MI



Marian Blanton and Rachele Gilbert



Roshonda Woodley



Katrina Adams and Tosha Easter



Racquel Armstrong and Searius Addishin



Maya Hugley and Hunter Prey



Kim Sutton Lurena Hearn Gionna Jones Orlandria Hearn and Pearlana Holston

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I AM: A Tribute to Black Women

By Carla Yvette

On November 2, I had the privilege of participating in the "I Am" video shoot, a project created by Readius Maximus and Elevated Thinkin of Indisoul REY for their single, "I Am".... an uplifting song for the black woman, featuring Leah Williams.

The Video Release and Forum will be held at The United Way December 13, 2013, from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. Footage for the video has been gathered over a four-month period and features women at work, pushing strollers, shopping with their children, older women leaving church, ladies in the beauty salon, etc.

For the final shots, the men sent a public invite to all "positive sistas" inviting them to come and be a part of the final shoot which took place in front of the "Community In Jazz" Mural on the corner of Junction and Belmont.

Amelia Gibbon, executive director of the Friendly Center, and Toledo City Council President Paula Hicks Hudson stepped up, rallied the women in the community and made the final shot possible.

I initially went to capture the experience for my article but found myself caught up in the positive energy exuded by all the women there; young, old, mothers, daughters, friends and sisters. In this day and age of side chicks, jump-off's, baby-mama's, b**** and h***, I found it refreshing that these men would put so much time and energy into encouraging women to find the beauty in who they are, AS they are and wanted to find out why they did it . . . here's what they told me:

"The concept of I AM was birthed from the "natural" movement and black women finding beauty in who they are. We are the only culture that requires a movement to be comfortable in our own skin. Due to this the song was written to let the sistas know that we as black men have your back. You are and have always been beautiful. The current state of pop culture, music and media portrays our women in such negative tones that we felt obligated to shed light on the types of women that we know and were raised by. The video for the song "I AM" includes women of all ages from all over the city

doing what they do on a daily basis. The video illustrated who we know we are, not what the mainstream portrays us as.

"By producing this video, we hope to accomplish a natural resistance through awareness of how these negative images of black women are eating away at self-image, self-definition, families, healthy sexuality and much more. We also hope to influence the artists who make music and other works that degrade women to be more conscious of the effect that they are having. The members of Indisoul REY are: Elevated Thinkin, Readius Maximus, DJ Sid Deluux and PRIME .

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Audrey Johnson



Robin Reeves



DJ MPRESS, Lagik, Elevated Thinkin, Readius Maximus and Chuck Moyer (Soul Hustle Band).



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Local 500 Celebrates 25 Years

Special to the Truth

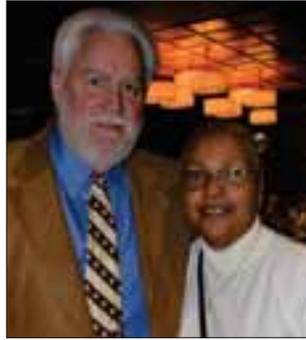
On Saturday, October 26th, The Retiree Council of Laborers' Local 500 commemorated their Silver Anniversary at The Premier Banquet Hall.

Guests celebrated by having dinner while enjoying the music of the JAMM band and Rejoice. The evening included several members being honored for their years of dedication and service, but the highlight of this year's event was the recognition and honor given to the "wives" of local 500 members by Business

Manager David Fleetwood. To their surprise, he presented them with plaques and bouquets of flowers for their tireless dedication and support for Local 500 and their husbands who were pillars in the success of this labor union.

City Councilmen Tyrone Riley and Paula Hicks-Hudson were in attendance to share in the celebration. Hicks-Hudson, president of Toledo City Council, presented a Resolution from Council acknowledging the

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Guy Daoust and Linda Gary



Annie Mars and Margell Campbell



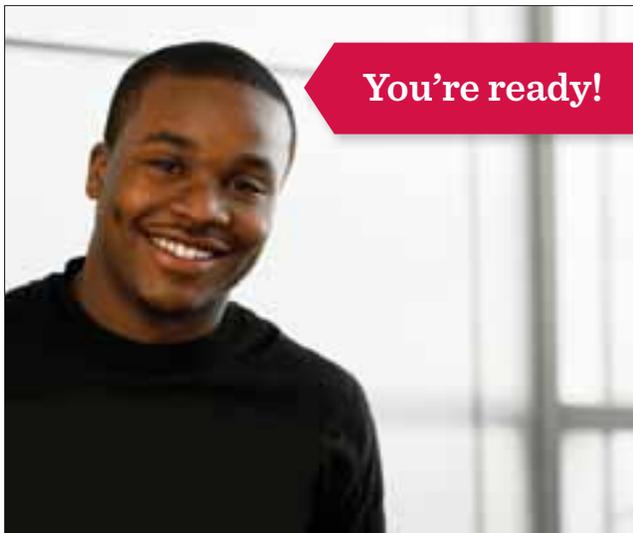
Ellie and Richard Peters



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Juanita Terrell Celebrates Her 90th Birthday Amidst Great Fanfare

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Dozens of family, friends, former co-workers and fellow congregants gathered to celebrate Juanita Terrell's 90th birthday on Saturday, November 23 at the Great Lakes Hall.

Terrell was born in Oak Grove, LA. She is the last of eight siblings and the last surviving sibling.

She attended public schools in Pioneer, LA and after high school worked at the Rossford Ordnance Depot. She eventually enrolled in beauty school and was for many years a licensed beautician.

She also attended and graduated from Owens Community College with a degree in early childhood development – graduating in the top 10 in her class of 357 students. She then earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from The University of Toledo in early childhood development. For more than 30 years Terrell was a lead teacher with Head Start.

She was married William Terrell, Sr. for 45 years before his death in 2001. The couple had four children – sons



Juanita Terrell with grandsons Jimmy and Jarod Terrell

William and Jimmie Terrell; daughters Bonnie Terrell and Wanda Galloway. In addition Terrell has three grandsons – Jimmie, Jarod and Jarrell Terrell and two great-grandchildren – Raina and Jarrell Terrell, Jr.

She has been a charter member of United Missionary Baptist Church for many years and is active in the Nurses Guild there.



Seated Guest of Honor Juanita Terrell with daughters Bonnie Terrell and Wanda Terrell-Galloway

... continued on page 11

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I AM.. continued from page 8

The "I Am" Video Release and Forum will feature a diverse panel that will be engaged in interactive discussion with those in attendance about the above mentioned issues, including but not limited to: Sexuality vs. Exploitation Self Image and Self Definition... Who is defining this? When and how did men become so comfortable degrading women? When did women buy in to the extent that they promote it? How can the black family be strengthened when the women are objectified? Is this a moral issue or a social issue or both? Is it simply

entertainment? How can we demand respect from other races and cultures when we are not policing our own and respecting ourselves? Sexuality has been equated with money. How does this affect men and women's views on relationships? Are these images reducing the number of quality candidates for relationships? Is pop-culture responsible for these things or just capitalizing on them? Have we lost respect for our women? Can you respect a women that carries herself in certain ways?

"Join us, December 13, 2013 from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. at The United Way. www.IndiSoulREY.com."



Rhonda Sewell



Amelia Gibbon and Alicia Smith



Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene

Birthday Pictures.. continued from page 10



Delores Bates with Barbara Tucker and Gwendolyn March - Jones



Hakim Muhammad and Jeanese Hawkins



Joyce and Stephen Terry



Jillian Highsmith and Kay Lewis



Jessica Bankston and Erika Drake



Oscar and Leola Haynes



Laveyanna and Corleatha Butler



Jimmy Terrell and Wanda Terrell-Galloway



Ann Watson with daughter Caroly Smith



Lena Davis Clara Brank and Bea Kimbrough with Brenda Price and Debbie Dean-Mitchell

Local 500.. continued from page 9

event and their many successes. The Retiree Council leads in the affairs concerning the activities of the retired members of Local 500. The Executive Board and membership of the Retiree Council keeps the retirees educated on issues directly affecting their members such as changes in healthcare.

They also meet monthly to organize bus trips for various sports and entertainment venues, engage in community and political activities, and volunteer for various community projects. This is done all while supporting the Local 500 general membership activities.



Letitia Scott with her father Herman Scott



Kendra and Kareem Grant



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27: A History of the 27 Club Through the Lives of Brian Jones, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, and Amy Winehouse by Howard Sounes

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You remember the first time you heard it. Was it the guitar that first touched your soul and called you to dance? Or maybe the bluesy tones made you sway, or the sitar, the drums, the listen-to-me voice.

You were so young, and so were the performers who brought you to that point. Was it coincidence that they all died so early, or was it something more sinister? Read *27: A History of the 27 Club Through the Lives of Brian Jones, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, and Amy Winehouse* by Howard Sounes, and find out...

Call it tragic, call it a shock, but it was probably no surprise to most: Hendrix, Joplin, and Morrison. Brian Jones. Cobain and Winehouse – each, arguably, a genius in the musical industry and each dead at age 27. What is it about rock & roll and that age? Is there something mysterious afoot?

No, says Sounes. The 27 Club is a coincidence - a major one, true, and terribly sad, but a coincidence nonetheless. Statistics show that dying at age 27 is not uncommon, especially when it comes to hard-living, drug-taking rock stars.

Still, in addition to commonality of age, Jones, Hendrix, Joplin, Morrison, Cobain, and Winehouse experienced other parallels.

All, says Sounes, seemed to be “weary of life by the end.” As children, they were intelligent, and five of them naturally gravitated toward music. All had rocky (or nonexistent) relationships with their par-

ents. All six suffered from mental illness or depression and were substance abusers.

Jones had been “living dangerously for years” before drowning in his swimming pool. Hendrix died under mysterious circumstances and ever-conflicting stories. Joplin signed a new will three days before her death, perhaps contemplating suicide. Morrison, fearing a jail sentence in Miami, flew to Paris, where he eventually overdosed on heroin. Before he committed suicide, Cobain expressed hope that his toddler-daughter wouldn’t follow in his footsteps. And Winehouse literally “drank herself to death.”

And though Sounes indicates that most of these six musicians “had a horror” of being alone, alone is how they died.

The first time you heard “Light My Fire” or “Me & Bobby McGee,” it was probably from a scratchy record and cheap speakers. *27* brings those memories back – with a lot less static.

This is, in fact, almost a read-in-one-sitting kind of book, so thoroughly fascinating is author Howard Sounes in his method of storytelling. We start with the death of the most recent inductee into the “club,” then travel around and back. Along the way, Sounes explains what led each to the (often bitter) end, then he gives readers a shock: the *27 Club* is a mega-coincidence, but the six here are the tip of the tragic iceberg...

I very much enjoyed this book, not just for its musical history but for the sounds it put inside my head. I think that if you’re a fan of classic rock or blues, or if you just want a good look at stardom gone wrong, *27* gets five stars.

c. 2013
Da Capo
\$26.99 / higher in Canada
360 pages



NAACP Statement on Filibuster Reform

Special to The Truth

The NAACP responded to the United States Senate’s vote to change Senate filibuster rules and lower the threshold for approval of executive and judicial nominees from 61 votes to 50.

“This rule change is a victory for democracy,” stated Lorraine C. Miller, interim president and CEO of the NAACP. “We have been frustrated and outraged by the obstructionist and counterproductive actions of Senate extremists in recent years. Doesn’t the President of the United States have the right to his choice of nominees to fill positions within his Administration? This is an important step toward reform.”

“The NAACP appreciates and commends Majority Leader Reid for taking courageous steps to allow straight up-or-down votes on the nominations of highly qualified individuals,” stated Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP sr. vice president for Advocacy and Policy and director of the NAACP Washington Bureau. “The NAACP is no stranger to obstructionist tactics: they were used to block key civil rights legislation throughout history, including anti-lynching legislation introduced in the early 1900’s.”

Recently, four of President Obama’s appointees failed to meet the 60-vote threshold: Congressman Melvin “Mel” Watt, Patricia Millett, Cornelia “Nina” Pillard and Judge Robert Wilkins.

The NAACP works closely with the Democracy Initiative, a group that promotes reform in money in politics, senate rules and voting rights.

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Today's Music Sucks ... Or Does It – Part 2

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Don't get it twisted.

Last week's article wasn't a co-sign for every crappy major release to hit the shelves this past year. I try to be open minded but damn... Snoop Lion?

For every song or album that becomes a hit, there's exponentially more that become a miss. Some 2013 misfires include:

Snoop Lion *Reincarnated*, French Montana *Excuse My French*, Lil Wayne *I Am Not a Human Being*, 2 Chainz *B.O.A.T.S. 2*, Wale *Gifted*, and Big Sean *Hall Of Fame*.

I'm sure there are some die-hard Wayne fans who will want to debate how his recent disc could be seen as a flop when it still sold above gold, and I see the value in 500,000 units moved, I truly do.

Wayne ruled this industry just a few short years ago with two back-to-back albums that notched over a million units sold in less than 10 days. But now he's a no-show on the charts with sparse airplay and this last album took half a year to sell half of what he used to move in a week, so what should we call that?

In the case of 2 Chainz and Big Sean, they don't call it the sophomore jinx for nothing.

The music industry has been scrapping lead singles, re-shooting videos and all sorts of other maneuvers for years just to avoid the dreaded sophomore curse: when an act's debut album sells through the roof thanks to great reviews and multiple hit singles but the conditions leading to that success don't appear to be in place for the follow-up album.

In 2 Chainz' case, he and his team did all the right things. His lead single was produced by the hottest producer of the year (Pharrell); his exposure was on the upswing with key features and collabos leading up to his album dropping and still his second album has not made the impact his first one made.

Major record companies are quick to boot artists at the first sign of slowed momentum. Never wanting to throw bad money after good, it makes more sense for them to absorb the losses from that second album but end the risk taken at that point rather than invest in a third and fourth album that could flop just as hard.

They've still got that money coming in from the

first one so there's little-to-no incentive to keep giving artists the chance to turn it all around, especially when it's easier to sever ties. This is why mainstream music of all genres (hip-hop, r&b, pop and, yes, even country) is more and more formulaic.

In a "results now" business, an album that flops usually means SOMEBODY is getting fired. It could be the A&R, it could be the executive producer, the artist could get dropped, etc.

This is why artists go for catchy hooks that translate well enough on radio to connect with a listener, but not give them too much to think about.

The idea is to be embedded enough in their demographic to have core fans yet have enough mass appeal to crossover to potential fans.

Which, in turn, results in artists creating music as product to be consumed rather than expression to be viewed as art.

By the time the song/video makes it to us, we have the ultimate power to validate whether or not this particular artist and everyone behind them is going to get another shot next year or not.

Listeners hold the power that decides who gets a bigger budget and who becomes a tax write off. Music listeners decide the fate of the music industry every time a majority of us agree "yea, this song is dope... I need to hear this song again!"

Artists who have made it far beyond the sophomore level by consistently earning those "yes" votes one listener at a time, those are the ones who have now flipped the script on the record companies and industry business model.

Artists who have long resumes and hits way back to last decade, they are the ones in the best position to give us the very best of both worlds.

It takes the Justin Timberlakes, Jay Z's, Beyonces, Eminems, Kelly Clarksons, Pinks and Rihannas of the world to keep the whole thing in balance.

They sell enough every time out to not have to worry about getting dropped which in turn allows them to deviate from formula and focus on art.

You may hate on the established acts but they are the only ones in the position to challenge the system and not only create music that is more expression than product, but also experiment with ways to get the music to fans.



Michael Hayes

Then they kick those doors open for others, such as Jay Z signing someone like J Cole.

The end result is an abundance of quality music in the major music industry.

Sitting right there in the mainstream, right in front of your face.

Justin Timberlake *20/20 Experience*

Jay Z *Magna Carta Holy Grail*

J Cole *Born Sinner*

Drake *Nothing Was The Same*

Janelle Monae *The Electric Lady*

Fantasia Barrino *Side Effects Of You*

Kelly Rowland *Talk A Good Game*

Eminem *The Marshall Mathers LP2*

Kanye West *Yeezus*

Robin Thicke *Blurred Lines*

Pusha T *My Name Is My Name*

Also, notable mentions for Ciara, Juicy J and TGT.

Every one listed above is either a veteran artist or someone signed by a veteran artist with nearly a decade in the game and enough success to still warrant a major label release.

Whether it's up-tempo soul or atmospheric emo rap, these are the artists in the best position to deviate from the monotony surrounding our ears at every time.

And I have listened to most of those albums and I can tell you that it's the people with the longevity who are making the best music these days.

You just have to be willing to stop complaining long enough to start listening again.

Ignut... continued from page 3

sistant to the King when the King he went out to battle and the armor bearer assisted him in preparing for battle and taking care of his battle gear. In today's business parlance, that person would be known as a, "gofer."

The concept of an armor bearer did not translate over to the New Testament church but such a minor historical note apparently does not stop some from dusting off that concept and trying to embellish it with a lot of non-Biblical tomfoolery.

For personal experience, I once (past tense) attended a church in which the pastor "used" an armor bearer for small silly things and it was for show. The acts of the armor bearer were in my opinion ... silliness juiced up on steroids.

I have seen visiting churches come with their armor bearers in tow along with their pastor and these armor bearers were acting as if a president was visiting the church!

They had on personal headgear for communication purposes and they were stationed at the church doors as if some Al-Qaeda operatives were

about to launch an imminent attack. The armor bearers ran around as if their presence and duty was akin to Secret Service protection for their pastor.

If it wasn't so laughable, it would be sad...but having armor bearers gives the pastor a sense that they are somebody and that they deserve dibs on being first in line and we are to be in awe of they having enough clout to employ an armor bearer.

What a sham and what a show! No glory to God but only to themselves and their little kingdoms that they try to impress people that we are in the presence of an important spiritual powerhouse.

So, in closing, when you hearing the rantings of Charles Barkley trying to justify the use of the "N" word, just have pity on him and remember... "ignut is as ignut does!"

And, when you see a pastor trying to impress you with this armor bearer chatter, simply understand that you are in the presence of a person who likes make-believe theatre and wants to have the lead role.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com



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CLASSIFIEDS

November 27, 2013

Page 15

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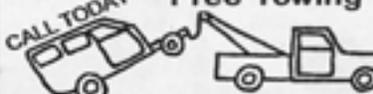
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Invitation for Bids Comprehensive Renovations to 926 Bronson Avenue

IFB #13-B010

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for Comprehensive Renovations to 926 Bronson Avenue. **Pre-Bid Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 5, 2013, 10AM ET - 926 Bronson Ave., Toledo, OH 43608.** Received in accordance with law until Thurs., Dec. 19, 2013, 11AM ET. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



Night Personality for URban Radio Broadcasting's WJZE-FM

URban Radio Broadcasting Toledo Ohio has an immediate opening for a Night Talent for WJZE-FM (HOT 97-3 Blazing Hip Hop and R&B). This position requires an experienced person who can motivate the Toledo audience while enhancing our street presence and overseeing Web presence. You must be very organized, extremely motivated, driven and have a burning desire to win. Working knowledge of digital equipment is a must. This position is now available and we will start an immediate interview process. Please get us all the details about yourself immediately, including an air check. You can overnight this information to:

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URban Radio Broadcasting
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or email your presentation along with your air check to rockeylove@urbanradio.fm

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Notice to Bidders:

Inquiry # FY14-35, (Project # 5007-14-1778) for Kobacker Center Renovation - Geriatric Psychiatric Unit - Phase I 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 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 10, 2013 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 Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Jim Price of Buehler Group Arch & Engr, Inc at 419-893-9021. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, 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: \$320,000.00.

Legal Notice

Bid packets will be received by Lucas County Department Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **3:00 p.m., January 29, 2014** for the selection of a Provider to provide **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Services** to eligible participants. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period for services will be from approximately **March 1, 2014** through **September 30, 2014**.

No bids will be accepted after **3:00 p.m., January 29, 2014**; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **December 9, 2013**. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from December 9, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. to December 30, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email at LUCAS_CONTRACTS@odjfs.state.oh.us by December 30, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on January 15, 2014. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of **December 9, 2013** at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

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

Carol Contrada - President
Tina Skeldon Wozniak - Commissioner
Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Bid: 48-14-RFP-05



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“Charming Our Daughters – Building a Bond”

Sojourner's Truth Staff

First Church of God hosted its second annual Father Daughter Dance on Saturday, November 23 at L'Ambiance Banquet Hall as over 130 guests – fathers, father figures and daughters – turned out to celebrate that very special bond.

Charles Waldon welcomed the attendees and organizers LaVonna Hicks and Do'Land Brown explained the theme for the evening – “Charming Our Daughters – Building A Bond.”

Entertainment in the form of a poetry reading, song and comedy

was part of the evening's festivities, along with door prizes and dinner.

Kelley Robinson served as mistress of ceremonies and Avery Cooper provided the musical accompaniment. The evening was presented by First Church of God's M.O.V.E. and Family Life Ministries.

The song “Daddy's Little Girl” served as the music for the first dance of the evening.

The event, which saw a turnout of more than 50 percent increase over last year's inaugural dance, will continue in the future, says Hicks.



Seated (L. to R.): Jera Stewert, Doris Robinson, Simone Mickles, LaVonna Hicks, Jackie Walton. Standing (L. to R.): Trina Willis, Judy Joseph, Bruce Williams, Kelley Robinson, Do'Land Brown, Don Hicks, Kyle Walton, Leona Lewis, Teresa Foreman

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Don Hicks with daughters Ania, Alanna, Aliya, Miriah, Simone Mickles and granddaughter Saniya