



*Joseph C. High
of Owens Corning*

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"I saw it as a challenge. I had never helped a company through bankruptcy and back into the public equity market. It has been a very exciting process."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Some thoughts on last week's election results here and around the nation:

■ One really disappointing outcome was the failure of the statewide African-American candidates to do well in Ohio. You had to expect Blackwell to lose, but the margin of the loss was pretty emphatic. And the Barbara Sykes' loss was certainly unexpected. Sykes had much more experience in her resume than did her opponent but ended up being the only Democratic cabinet defeat. She lost even though polls had shown her to be ahead just as they had shown Marc Dann trailing Republican Betty Montgomery. Dann won his race. Why were likely voters telling pollsters they would vote for Sykes and then reversing their positions once they got into the booth?

■ It was really heartening to see the voters not get too confused about the smoking issues. The R.J. Reynolds-backed Issue 4 was handily defeated as Issue 5 – the strong ban – won easily. Some local bar owners are skeptical of the effect on their businesses, but in our opinion, smoking bans are going to continue around the nation. This one puts Toledo restaurateurs and bar owners on a level playing field with their suburban counterparts. And as the first state in the middle of the country to adopt a strong ban, Ohio will set the tone for others in the region.

■ Congrats to both Joe McNamara and Ben Konop for running energetic campaigns chock full of ideas for creating jobs and for upgrading the lifestyles of Toledoans, especially young Toledoans. McNamara was an unendorsed Democratic candidate and Konop ran his campaign without any help from the Democratic Party – which was undoubtedly to his advantage.

■ Kudos likewise to Anita Lopez, a veritable pit bull on the campaign trail. She beat an entrenched Republican office-holder and managed to upgrade her political profile considerably. Lopez, McNamara and Konop present a formidable trio of young, bright political talent on the local scene. We can expect, or at least hope for, bigger things from all three of them.

■ What ever happened to the Lucas County Democratic Party? They totally screwed up the City Council race for the at-large seat largely because of their vindictive attitude towards the remnants of the "A" team. They have now established a solid pattern of ineptitude with recent botched campaigns for Santiago and Taylor Balderas. They are, of course, claiming victories in the Konop and Lopez races, but the best thing they did for those two candidates was to sit on the sidelines and watch a couple of real candidates in action. The local Democratic Party also earned no high marks from statewide candidates, which will not bode well for this area in general during the years of the Strickland administration. The Montana Democratic Party – who knew there was such a thing? – outperformed its Lucas County counterpart.

■ Lots of folks are dismayed by the victory in Michigan of the affirmative action ban. We will be writing more on that issue in a couple of weeks but for right now we are not overly concerned. Institutions that place a value on diversity will find a way to do so even when the law places obstacles in their path. Some years ago, the State of Texas passed a ban on affirmative action and Rice University managed to adapt to the new realities and continue their efforts to have a diversified student body.

■ Kudos to President Bush on his gracious acceptance of the Democratic victories. In the aftermath of the sweep of both houses of Congress, Bush said all the right things about working with the opposition. Putting aside our usual cynicism, we are cheered by the prospect of comity and cooperation in the nation's capital. Getting rid of Rumsfeld was certainly a step in the right direction. We loved Rumsfeld's parting shot that the Iraq debacle he helped to create was so complex that it was beyond the understanding of most Americans. We think most Americans understood that the history and complexities of the Middle East are most certainly beyond Rumsfeld's comprehension – if his performance is any indication.

■ And we applaud the Democrats in Congress as well for saying that they want to work with the opposition and are willing to reach across the aisle. But before we get too carried away by the strains of Kumbaya emanating from Congressional offices, we are sobered by the fact that the 2008 race for the presidency is on. About 10 percent of the Senate will be running for the highest office in the land and, interestingly, the two early front runners – Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican John McCain – have often exhibited the desire and ability to work with members of the other party. How long can we expect that to continue?

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Community Calendar

November 16

• League of Women Voters Public Town Hall: "Now that they're elected, can we keep them accountable?" Reception at 5 pm; discussion at 6 pm; Wyndham Hotel: 419-215-9367

November 18

• All That Jazz: Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc. presents 17th Biennial Emerald Ball; The Hilton Hotel; 8 pm to 1 am; Attire – Formal
• Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry: Cancer Awareness program; 11 am; Speaker Ruby Franklin
• "Poetry and Partying:" Presented by Alternative Directions Counseling & Wellness Center; MarSyl's Restaurant; 8 pm to midnight; Featuring some of the hottest spoken-word artists of NYC: 419-490-5122 or 419-471-0094
• Amazon Lodge No. 4: 17th Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast at Warren AME; 9:30 am to Noon: 419-276-0223
• Church of the Living God: Thanksgiving dinner; 11 am to 2 pm: 419-242-3839 or 419-242-9475
• Fall Community Church Fellowship: United Missionary Baptist Church; Sponsored by Women's Ministry; Cobbler Contest and Spiritual Talent Hour; 11 am to 1 pm: 419-242-1455

November 19

• Collingwood Arts Center Jazz Concert Series: Gene Parker and Nate Gurley; Show at 6 pm; Pre-show reception at 5 pm: 419-244-2787
• 49th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair: "Stylishly Hot;" Hosted by AKA Sorority, Inc; Benefit for scholarship and community service; 5 pm; Stranahan Theatre: 419-385-8376
• Grace Temple COGIC: 5th Annual Men's Day Celebration; Guest speaker Walter Jordan of Mansfield: 419-242-9321
• True Vine MBC: Women's Day; "No Matter What Our Past, Faithful Women Walking, Working and Living for God;" First Lady Jeanette Barnes – 10:45 service speaker; First Lady Marketa Mack of Cornerstone Metro, Detroit – 4 p.m. guest speaker: 419-539-9104

November 23

Thanksgiving Day!!

• Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission: Thanksgiving morning breakfast; 7:30 to 9:30 pm: 419-241-6579

November 25

• Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner; 5 pm: 419-241-6579

December 2

• Start After-Prom 8th Annual Holiday Craft Show: Start HS; 10 am to 4 pm: 419-344-0466

December 16

• Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit: Featuring Toledo's Ramona Collins; 9:30 pm; With Bobby Jones, Glen Oliver, Bobby Welch and Donald Byrd and the Blackbirds
• Greater Harvest MBC: Choir Director and Musicians' Musical; "Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord;" 6 pm: 419-474-3811

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

The COSI levy, one of the losers on election night, might have won if ego had not reared its ugly head.

The week before the election, I offered to appear jointly with Mayor Carty Finkbeiner to support the COSI levy. I thought that a Finkbeiner-Ford press conference would generate a good turnout of press people and gin up a few more votes for COSI.

The word came back that City Hall was not interested even though the levy backers thought it would help. COSI lost by less than 1,600 votes. That was really a shame. Now COSI is asking the city and the county for \$400,000 in order to survive. Uncontrolled ego is always bad in politics.

The question I raised last week on why no voter registration effort was undertaken looms even larger given that both black Democrats, Barbara Sykes and Ben Espy, could have won but for the lack of an additional 100,000 voters. A strong voter registration program in Ohio can garner 200,000 to 250,000 new

voters easily. Sixty percent will turn out of 200,000 newly registered voters and that gets you more than the additional 100,000.

The question of vote totals was raised recently around the old issue of gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is the name given to odd-shaped legislative districts carved out by political operatives for the purpose of securing preferred status or numerical superiority in legislative caucuses. This process of shaping districts for political purposes is as old as the history of the United States. It goes back to 1804 when a Massachusetts assemblyman, Elbridge Gerry, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation, re-drew a district's boundaries in order to place his party in a controlling position in Massachusetts state politics. Gerry wrought his scheme by shaping a district that ended up looking like a salamander. A pundit dubbed the odd-looking district a "gerrymander" in mock

honor of its creator.

This Thursday, Nov. 16, the local League of Women Voters will host a forum at the Wyndham Hotel to discuss the issue of redistricting. The League has repeatedly called for moving this process of designating legislative line boundaries from the political arena into the non-partisan arena with an independent commission calling the shots.

Now, with Ted Strickland as governor and Jennifer Brunner as Secretary of State, the Dems are in position to control the drawing of the lines in 2001, assuming that both Strickland and Brunner win in 2010.

The five-member commission, which consists of the governor, auditor, secretary of state and a legislator from each party, will redraw district lines after the census count of 2010.

The League of Women Voters will look for support from Strickland and Brunner to march down the non-partisan aisle and support an independent commission. I hope the League does not

hold its breath for too long. Partisan politics is too strong a pull for the party in power during a census year. Note to Judge Brunner: don't screw up in 2007, 2008 or 2009 because the GOP will be keeping count.

And, to auditor-elect Mary Taylor, I would count up everything between now and 2009 because the Dems will be looking to knock you out.

Now is the time to consign the legacy of Elbridge Gerry to the dustpan of his-

tory and stop the shenanigans of political district "salamandering" which frustrates the will of the voters but keeps political party bosses happy.

Of course, I was delighted with the outcome of the vote on issues four and five. In 20 years or so, we shall see thousands of Ohioans healthy and enjoying their families who would otherwise be dead or in the throes of lung cancer. That alone is justification for the vote.

As to the matter of being



Jack Ford

a little ahead of my time, so be it! That's politics.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Democrats Did Not Win, RINO's Lost Control

By Jan Scotland
Guest Columnist

A good friend of mine introduced me to a term that I had not heard before R.I.N.O. (pronounced rhino) Republicans in name only. This is appropriate for describing how the Republicans lost so badly in Ohio.

First of all, we have Bob Taft who during eight years in office raised taxes and spending by the billions. Add to this his willing accomplices in a Republican-controlled legislature and you have the very essence of the RINO movement that started the demise of Republican control.

Taxes and spending extend to the very core of Republican philosophy. The blatant disregard for this philosophy burned in the hearts of Republicans as they went to the polls. How long did our elected officials think that they could campaign at home on controlling spending and vote in Columbus for something totally opposite?

How long did they think that party loyalists would hold their noses and vote Republican because the alternative might be worse? We have a two-party system because there is a distinct difference in philosophy. When elected officials become representatives of Columbus instead of representing their constituents, it's time to send them home. Add to this the specter of corruption that seems to accompany absolute power, and the Democratic land slide was on.

Despite what many may think, Taft's indiscretions along with the much publicized Tom Noe trial were not major contributors to Republican losses. However, when added to what I have already detailed, cor-

ruption counts for a few nails in the coffin.

Conservative voters recognize the convenient timing of the Noe trial along with deaf ears and blind eyes afforded the Democrats who lost big bucks in questionable Ohio investments. I also find it hard to believe that Republicans were significantly affected by Taft's misdemeanors. RINO's may want to hide behind these excuses but I hope they know better.

A similar diversion that may comfort RINO's would be the excuse that President Bush's approval rating was the cause. But I would submit that RINO's on a national level were more significant in local defeats than the impact of the war in Iraq. RINO's in Washington increased the feeling of betrayal and fueled the fire to throw the bums out.

The biggest and most unfortunate casualty in the self destruction of the Ohio GOP was Ken Blackwell. Blackwell was not a part of the Taft-led policies of the last eight years. Blackwell was labeled a maverick by the party insiders for having the nerve to stick to his basic party beliefs.

In 2004 he led a successful effort to repeal the governor's sales tax increase stating that he's "following through on a philosophy of lower taxes and smaller government." He pointed out that his Republican colleagues in the legislature had forgotten these doctrines. In 2005 he supported a TABOR amendment. TABOR stands for Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, which would regulate the spending of state government. Once again the governor and Republican-led legislature were at odds with Blackwell.

On both of these issues Blackwell gained prominence among conservatives but

many RINO's amongst us responded by saying "he's not a team player." They said this even after he spent years playing the good soldier and agreeing not to challenge previous governor George Voinovich and current governor Bob Taft in their primaries.

Blackwell had served his time and was the obvious choice to lead the Republican ticket. The state party however did not see fit to clear the way for an uncontested primary. Bob Bennett, Ohio GOP chairman, had to know that a highly-contested primary would do significant damage to the eventual winner. Everything pointed to the party unifying behind Blackwell and marching forward with one front. Instead what happened is that the RINO's got together and put up one of their own in Jim Petro and forced Blackwell to spend a large portion of his resources to secure the Republican nomination. This added to GOP woes by crippling their ticket leader. The Petro supporters never fully supported Blackwell after he beat their man, and all was lost.

I hope GOP leaders and office holders learn from this election. You cannot forget the people who support you. You cannot appease the people who despise you. You have to deliver on the promises you make. You have "stand together or you will fall separately." Republicans need to be what they propose to be, or their base will continue to turn their backs on them as they did in 2006.

Ed. Note: Jan Scotland was the co-chairman of the Lucas County Blackwell for Governor campaign

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With a little help from our friends and sponsors—such as Jack's Men's Wear, Glass City Black Brothers United, The House of Day and NTS/American Business, we are going to announce the winners on November 22, just before the holiday shopping season starts

Theological Professor Speaks in Women and Religion Lecture Series at UT

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Surprised at how cold it is already in Ohio, the Rev. Dr. Traci C. West visited Toledo as a guest lecturer of the Women's and Gender Studies Department of The University of Toledo, Friday, December 1, 2006.

Part of the department's lecture series on women and religion, West's lecture centered on issues related to Christianity. Previous lectures have been given by an expert on Native American spirituality, a professor of philosophy and Jewish Studies and a Buddhist priestess. The last lecture in the series will be on women and Islam.

West is an Associate Professor of Ethics and African-American Studies at Drew University Theological School in Madison, New Jersey. She is editor of *Our Family Values: Same-Sex Marriage and Religion*, which is part of a three-volume series, *Defending Same-Sex Marriage*; and the author of *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics and Disruptive Christian Ethics: Where Racism and Women's Lives Matter*.

In the 'preface' of the last piece, West states that her book "focuses on topics that a lot of people don't like to discuss, like racism and the sexual violation of women... Too often I hear comments about these topics along the lines of, 'You people really need to get over it already!' Or in academia, this sentiment might be expressed more subtly as, 'In post modernity, haven't we actually moved beyond such simplistic discursive frameworks?' I refuse to 'get over it' because the idea that we've 'moved beyond' our society's need for concretely identifying these concerns is a costly lie."

Women's and Gender Studies Department Chairman, Jamie Barlowe, Ph.D., echoed West's words in her introduction of the ordained elder in the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

"The Department of Women's and Gender Studies also refuses to 'get over it' and thus to deny the history of the individual struggles and collective resistances of women who were literally tormented, sometime to death, by violence and oppression, some of it in the name of Christianity, which was certainly the case during the hundreds of years of slavery in this country and in other Western nations," said

Barlowe.

"We are pleased to have Dr. West here because she not only faces and exposes racism and violence against women, but also because she 'argues for a liberative, transformative method of Christian social ethics' that focuses on the material, lived realities of women and other groups who are socially, economically, politically and legally disadvantaged by racism, sexism, heterosexism and other forms of discrimination, oppression and violence. "We are pleased to have Dr. West for a number of reasons. She is an advocate for social change in the church, in the community and in the university."

West's brief lecture titled, "Christian Public Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter," focused on "method." West said she wants more attention paid to "marginalized, silenced women."

After encouraging the students and members of the community who attended the lecture to interrupt her when necessary, West proceeded. "What I want to talk about is both theory and concrete social practice," she said, adding that she would endeavor to illustrate how theory influences concrete social practices.

"When it comes to morality in public life, we are accustomed to the method being pre-determined for us," she said. "It's already been chosen by whoever wrote the newspaper headline, whoever wrote the political speech, whoever created the TV drama. We may disagree with the content, but we accept what it has to offer."

West says this acceptance deadens our spiritual capacity and advised her listeners to seek a thought process that is more liberating. "The social problem of the sexual assault and violation of women is where my focus is," said West, after her brief discourse on method, then delved into a topic that's al-

most become taboo in the 'diverse climate' of 21st Century America.

"How are assumptions about race used to inform a social ethic?" she asked. "The universalities and the particularities inform each other. They shape the meaning of our common concept of justice."

West used racism as an example of a particular, a major feature of which is denial of race. "Racism can get in the way of how we think, how we conceptualize," said West. She said this filters our thinking and "may lead us to be dismissive."

She said often a "universal, neutral language" is sought rather than dealing with the particular issue of racism. "It's the relationship between particular moral concerns and universal moral principles that we must study," said West.

She said the particular mission in Christianity is the ministry of Jesus, which is the basis for Liberative Christian Ethics. In Liberative Christian Ethics, it is essential to hold to universal principles like justice, while linking them to the particular.

"I am not calling for a Christian social order," West reassured her audience. "There is a shameful history of Christians imposing their beliefs on Muslims and Jews. Sometimes I hear liberal Christians say, 'We have basically the same values.'"

While denouncing this paternalistic and patronizing view, West admits, "there are universal principles that are shaped by particular realities," but is concerned that certain beliefs are held to be universal when they are actually the fundamentalist beliefs of a specific group or groups.

"We hear leaders like our President George W. Bush make a statement regarding marriage that it is between a man and a woman, and his position on same sex marriage is stated as a universal moral position," said West.

"It is an assertion of heterosexual marriage as a universal good. This is contrary to what actually happens in actual incidents of women in heterosexual marriages who are brutalized and sometimes killed by their husbands."

West said that often those killed have an Order of Protection. She contended that a moral definition of marriage is needed that accounts for how marriages are actually lived and concluded her lecture "specifically about the moral concerns about rape and same sex marriage."

During Q&A after her lecture, West brought up several interesting points. "We have a serious 'femicide' cultural problem," she said when asked about the recent rash of mass killings of girls in the U.S. and Canada. "What is it in our culture that's nurturing this?" West pointed out, however, that these deaths are far less common than violence in intimate relationships. This point was proven by a dis-



turbing statistic offered in the discussion: in 2005, all of the women murdered in Toledo were killed by husbands or boyfriends.

"Focusing on the sexual orientation of marriage is not the issue we need to look at," West pointed out, adding that perhaps gays should be careful in modeling heterosexual 'marriage'.

"We don't want [them] to reproduce the heterosexual way that nurtures domestic violence."

"I'm concerned about narratives," said Carmen Gillespie, Ph.D., "that create the ideas of marriage that are contrary to reality. How can we combat that extraordinary narrative force?" Addressing

the question posed by a fellow academician, West said she was so excited to have had the chance to address a serious women's studies program in which to present theoretical ideas.

"The problem is we are so sleep in the theory part," she said. "One issue is the malaise—and it's not because we don't talk about morality."

Another UT faculty member, Pat Murphy, read a compelling piece that stated, in essence, that the only way her heterosexual sister could accept her as a lesbian is if she is in a relationship that legitimizes her sexual orientation in some way as 'mainstream' and not 'alternative' or aberrant.

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ASSETS Toledo Brings the Stars Together for a Dance Competition

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Members of the community gathered at the historic Civic Center Promenade, in downtown Toledo, to enjoy a dance competition hosted by ASSETS Toledo.

The Friday, November 10 event, simply named "Dancing Under the Stars," featured several ASSETS graduates and various local dancers who competed for a trophy. "Well actually, Moria Evans, my administrative assistant, came up with the idea," explained Olivia Holden, executive director of ASSETS Toledo. "She decided that we should try something differ-

ent, because we always held banquets in the past."

Channel 13 news reporter Lissa Guyton served as the vibrant mistress of ceremony and continued her praise of the dancers in the event. "I am so proud of all the dancers, they make it look easier than what it really is."

Detroit Toledo Salsa Dance Company opened the dance portion of the event with two featured routines, one included their salsa class and the second was a romantic duet by the co-directors Raymond and Jessica Emerson. Twelve-year old

Tatum Bires and her partner, 11-old Clifford Jelinger of Alfredo's Dance Studio, opened the dance competition with a festive swing routine, while the audience cheered them on.

The second competitors were neophyte tango dancers Monica Eastway and her partner Andre' LeBlanc. "Our main goal for tonight is to have fun, raise money and make the community more aware of ASSETS Toledo. The entire event includes current students and recent graduates of ASSETS Toledo," said Holden.

Included with the evening's entertainment were current ASSETS Toledo students Shanda Gordon, Katrina Barnhill and Dale Barnhill. Gordon inspired the audience through her four solo selections that resulted in a standing ovation. While Ms. Barnhill reached the audience through two heartfelt saxophone selections, and Mr. Barnhill kept the audiences' toes tapping by serving as the event DJ.

Mr. Barnhill, a recent

graduate of ASSETS Toledo, said that he gained inspiration from the program. "Mostly, I took away the inspiration to start my own business. I know what I can do, I want to produce all kinds of music. It seemed like things just started to come together as soon as I graduated. I already have several great talents lined up, and I'm looking forward to reaching my goal."

Dance competition judges, David Saygers, the artistic director of Toledo School of the Arts; Terry Wagner, an instructor at Alfredo's Dance Studio; Sandra Rivers, a former Alfredo's student and recent ASSETS Toledo graduate Kelly Norwood decided that the pre-teen dancers from Alfredo's were the first-place winners of the competition.

Following the competition, the dance floor was opened to all to dance the night away.

ASSETS Toledo is a non-profit organization serving small business owners with self-employment training and support. It has served Toledo



Katrina Barnhill

proudly for several years. For further information on the services provided by ASSETS Toledo visit their website www.assetstoledo.com or call

419.381.2721. The staff and students of ASSETS Toledo are looking forward to their 21st commencement ceremony on December 7.



Clifford Jelinger and Tatum Bires

Project ABC Opens Arts-Based Pre-School

Project ABC is opening a new arts-based pre-school in January of 2007. Project ABC is a child care licensed literacy and arts program that is dedicated to the idea that young children thrive when they have early experiences in the arts.

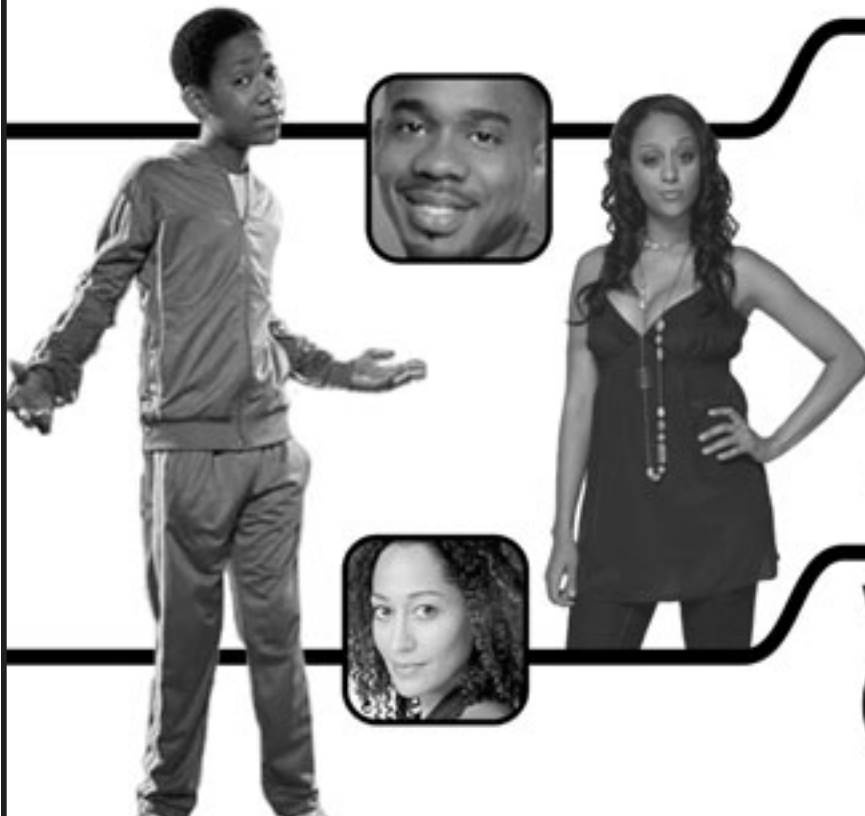
Project ABC began in 2002 due to a generous grant from the Kellogg Foundation. For the past four years Project ABC has worked with hundreds of children throughout the greater Toledo area bringing to them literacy and arts programming in order to

help them get ready for a successful transition to kindergarten.

Our kindergarten readiness program is for children ages 3 to 5 offered Monday through Friday from 11:30 to 6pm. Prices are \$4 per hour per child.

Project ABC has created an Arts Resource Manual that is now available for \$15. There are numerous unique lesson plans that have been created by teaching artists through a charitable donation by The Kellogg Foundation.

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Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir Holds "Women in Red" Concert at Greater St. Mary's

By Nadean Hamilton Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Are you ready to praise the Lord tonight?" asked Sister Joanne Cyrus as she welcomed several hundred men and women to Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 5, to celebrate the blood of Jesus.

The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir is comprised of one hundred men and women from 40 area churches, including one in Michigan.

Choir Director Derrick Roberts of Friendship Bap-

tist Church told members of the audience if they didn't come to praise the Lord, laugh, and have a good time then they were "in the wrong place, at the wrong time."

"I'm just going to say this [now], if you just came to see the red, well there it is, God bless you," Roberts said.

"You say why are we celebrating the blood, because we are now redeemed, and the word of God says let the redeemed of the Lord, say so," said Roberts

"So, if you're happy about it, if you're glad about it, you ought to wave your hands,"

Roberts told the audience.

"I'm going to tell you right now, I'm already on fire," said Roberts. "Red represents fire."

During intermission, TMIC acknowledged the receipt of several congratulatory proclamations including one from State of Ohio Governor Bob Taft, State Representative Edna Brown and Peter Ujvagi and City of Toledo Board of Community Relations.

Juanita Greene, director of the Board of Community Relations, told the congregation that she was pleased to be with them because she considered them to be her brothers and sisters, and that "being a director is a title, but being a child of God is more special to me."

"I bring greetings from the City of Toledo, and we have a proclamation that we want to give to The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir," said Green.

"This is such a special choir, and such special ladies. The 123 in red are very special," Greene said.

TMIC performed several songs, including several led by members of The Women in Red Music Ministry.

Joan Bolden directed the choir in "God Is Here," a slow-tempo song that merely hinted at the rejoicing that what was to come.

Antoinette Campbell led the choir in "He Reigns," a song that talks about the goodness and faithfulness of God.

The congregation responded by clapping, jumping up and down, exclaiming hallelujah, and stomping their feet.

When Beverly Tucker directed "Glorious is the Name of Jesus" with so much vigor and might, the congregation couldn't help but join in her praise.



Interfaith Mass Choir's Guest Clinicians



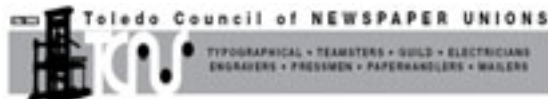
Pastor Robert W. Lyons and Larry Jones



The concert concluded with a stirring rendition of "Because of the Blood," led by Shirley Lyons.

During the song, a fitting ending to a night of musical

worship and praise, the congregation sprang to its feet, and began dancing in the pews, shouting, cheering, and shedding tears of jubilation.



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Joseph C. High: Building a Company's Strength Through Developing Personal Skills

By Alan Abrams

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Pink Panther has bounced back and landed squarely on its feet.

As the mascot of Toledo-based Owens Corning, a Fortune 500 company for more than a half-century, the Pink Panther has become the globally recognized symbol for the company's PINK FIBERGLASS home insulation and other innovations in glass fiber technology.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, the 20,000 worldwide employees of Owens Corning – including some 1,100 at the company's downtown Toledo world headquarters – will get a little surprise from the Pink Panther. That is unless they read about it here first.

Each employee will receive 100 shares of Owens Corning

stock as a reward and in recognition and gratitude for their loyalty during the more than six years the company spent in bankruptcy before emerging Oct. 31.

"We want our employees to see themselves as the owners of the company," says Joseph C. High, senior vice president, human resources of Owens Corning, and the only African-American among the company's 12 senior leaders who oversee all aspects of the global enterprise.

High spoke with *The Sojourner's Truth* from his office in the spectacular Maumee River waterfront structure designed in 1996 by Cesar Pelli, arguably the world's greatest living architect.

"I had never worked for a company in bankruptcy," explains High, who joined the company in Jan. 2004. "I did my due diligence. I met with CEO David Brown. And I saw it as a challenge. I had never helped a company through bankruptcy and back into the public equity market. It has been a very exciting process."

That's no surprise for High, who sees himself as an individual who leads change and takes it to the next level.

As vice president, human resources, High's responsibilities also include community relations and communications. He sets policy for the company which operates in 26 different countries and more than 300 locations. The company reports its annual revenues at \$6.3 billion.

"My responsibilities include compensation and benefits, staffing, employee relations, employee development and training, communications in all languages, employee safety and security and community relations, which locally includes the annual Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic," explains High.

He was born in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where his mother Clarence still lives. His father, J.C. High, is deceased.

High earned his bachelor of science degree in business administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his master of science degree in administration from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

"During high school, one



of the part-time jobs I held was washing dishes and bus- ing tables for the local Holiday Inn. I would often set up parties for big groups. That's when I said to myself, one day I'll be at the other side of this table," remembers High.

"That was a critical moment for me. That was when I realized you had to set your objectives of what you want to do with your career. So I entered the University of North Carolina and majored in business," he adds.

Coincidentally, that was also a critical moment for the civil rights movement. "In the South, we integrated during 1971, my senior year. Up until 1968, when it was declared unconstitutional, we had the so-called freedom of choice act in North Carolina. Reflecting upon it, I did a lot of work in helping integrate the university. When I first enrolled, it wasn't very fashionable for African-American students to go to the University of

North Carolina," High recalls.

After he graduated from college, High's first job in manufacturing was as a first line supervisor. That exposed him to the role of a human resources department in developing interpersonal skills. Working for Union Carbide at a site which manufactured batteries gave High an unprecedented opportunity to learn a business from the bottom up.

He prepared for his role as human resources director of Owens Corning through a "collection of value-added experiences. I have worked in plants, subsidiaries, joint ventures, corporate headquarters and global industries," says High.

Before joining Owens Corning, High served as vice president of the energy giant ConocoPhillips, where, from a human resources perspective, he says he played a key role in the merger of the two

(Continued on Page 8)

"I was a walking time bomb."



It was 22 years ago. I was playing handball and had a funny sensation on my left side. I sat out and watched for awhile. Eventually, I felt a tingling in my left arm. I didn't think it was a heart problem because I'd always led a very active life. But I wanted to be sure, so the next day I called my family doctor.

I went to have an EKG performed, which came out fine. My doctor wasn't convinced my heart was okay, so he referred me to St. V's to have a stress test. That was the test I flunked . . . badly. I had a cardiac catheterization and it showed three bad blockages. I was scheduled for open heart surgery immediately.

I am now 83 years old. I still snow ski, I walk five days a week and I work part time. You expect to live a long time, but why jeopardize it by doing bad things? I watch my weight and eat properly. I'm having fun and enjoying my great-grandkids!

Bob, open-heart surgery survivor

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Terri Ellis Promoted at Fifth Third Bank

Special to The Truth

Terri Ellis has been promoted to Financial Center Officer, according to Robert W. LaClair, president and chief executive officer, Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio).

As Financial Center Officer, Ellis will continue to manage Fifth Third's Lagrange Banking Center, 3028 Lagrange Street. She is responsible for managing the daily operations of the office, customer retention and developing new relationships for the Bank.

Ellis joined Fifth Third Bank in 2005 and has over 5 years of banking experience and 20 years of business to business sales experience.

She attends Lourdes College and resides in Springfield Township. In the community, she is a member of the Neighborhood Housing Loan Committee, Northwest Ohio Black Chamber of Commerce, Greater Toledo Urban League and Fifth Third's Minority Leadership Council and Senior Diversity Team. She also serves as commu-



nity Relations Director of Grace Temple Church of God in Christ and Chairman for the Faith Based Committee of the United Way African American Initiative. Ellis resides in Springfield Township.

Joseph C. High

(Continued from Page 6)

oil companies. He also served as a vice president at Rockwell Automation and Cummins Engine Company.

High is a member of the prestigious Executive Leadership Council, the national organization of senior level African-Americans in large corporations. Through his membership in the ELC, he helps mentor lower and mid-level African-Americans in large corporations, where he now sees more African-Americans playing key leadership roles in human resources.

"Working in human resources is part of my existence. I'm a businessman first,

and nobody in the world loves HR like I do," says High.

"We all know the cliché used by many companies who say 'people are our greatest asset,' to which I would add the word 'maybe.' I do believe that people, our most important asset, doesn't show up on our balance sheet. But people could also be your greatest liability. That happens if you allow people to make decisions that are unethical, and that puts the entire enterprise at risk," cautions High.

He has been married to his wife, the former Kathleen Cullins, for 28 years. A professional social worker, the



couple met at Chapel Hill. She is originally from High Point, North Carolina.

They are the parents of one son, Joseph Coleman, 15, who lives at home, and two daughters, Kourtney and Kristin, both in their twenties. One is at Duke; the other is a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania.

High is an active member of the First Church of God where Pastor Robert Culp officiates.

Toledo Women's Club of The NANBPWC, Inc. Welcomes New Members

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. welcomed five new members to its organization. The new members inducted were:

Brenda Price, Yolanda Durden, Stacey Turner, Lillie Watkins and Jacqueline Harris-Dennis.

There was also one reclaimed member, Lorraine Bartley.

The induction ceremony was held on November 7, 2006 at the Girl Scouts Headquarters on Collingwood Blvd. Each new member was given a yellow tea rose, the official flower of the national organization and given a sisterly welcome by all Toledo Club members present.

The evening included a delicious dinner catered by Chef Les. The menu consisted of fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, sweet potatoes, hot rolls, tossed salad and



*Back Row (l. to r.): Donnetta Carter, membership director; Clara Brank, president; Wanda Terrell, vice president; Leola Haynes, second vice president for youth activities; Barbara Tucker, vice governor; Mary Dawson, financial secretary; Carrie Jackson, chaplain
Front Row: Brenda Price, Yolanda Durden and Stacy Turner*

assorted cakes.

The mission of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. is as follows: To promote and protect the interests of African American business and professional women; to serve as a bridge for young people seeking to enter business and the professions; to improve the quality of life in the local

and global communities; and to foster good fellowship.

Donnetta Carter is the membership chairman and Clara Brank is the club president.

Upcoming events sponsored by the Toledo Club are: Women's History Month Program, Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists, Founders' Day and the Annual Debutante Cotillion.

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Photography Came by Chance to Local Businesswoman

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Preparation and planning are absolutely the keys to success in the business world. You need the proper business plan, the right training in operating a business, enough capital to see you through the difficult times ... except on those rare occasions when being in the right place at the right time with the right concept just sort of happens and sheer luck trumps proper planning.

Just for the record, however, don't try this one at home.

Sheila Mosby, a photographer and the owner and operator of the successful Revelations Photography Studio on Robinwood in the Old West End, started taking pic-

tures about 18 years ago during an argument with her husband.

"Whenever we got into an argument, I would go shopping ... just to blow off steam," recalls Mosby of an incident that would change her life. "At that time, I didn't have a camera and I had wanted to take a photo of my son. So after one argument, I went to a shop and told the people to give me the most expensive camera with all the fittings they could."

Mosby's reach on that particular occasion exceeded her grasp by more than the length of a well-placed zoom lens.

"Unfortunately, when I got home, I didn't know how to work it, so I had to go back for

them to show me," she says.

Shortly after learning how to turn the camera on and off, Moseby attended the wedding of a niece and, to her amazement, her photographs of the event turned out better than those of the professional photographer who had been hired. A career born of anger was launched even as her marriage would eventually expire.

Years later, Mosby is ensconced in her Old West End home office running Revelations Studio. She does portraits, events and functions, school pictures. Business is bustling enough that her son, David Bethany, who is now 21, has started working for her as a part-time assistant.

What makes Mosby unique is that she has remained entirely self-taught, both in her craft of photography and in the business skills she has assimilated over the years.

Those skills have served her well in the photography business but she has also developed, over the past few years, another successful enterprise - Revelations Day Care.

A number of years ago, Mosby did a little baby sitting to help out a friend. One child under her care turned into five even though she felt that her facilities were not, at that time, stocked to care for such a number. Over time she dropped her baby-sitting responsibilities.

But luck, good luck, intervened again. Several years ago, Mosby, after having sold most of her household goods in preparation for a move to another city, changed her mind about leaving her hometown of Toledo. When she had to re-stock her home, she decided to make it kid-friendly and ... another enterprise was underway.

These days, Mosby has four employees helping her with her day care and pre-school business and 16 youngsters under her care.

And the photographer and day care operator has a few more ideas up her sleeve but this time she is planning to be more than merely the recipient of good fortune. Mosby would like to develop a complete wedding, one-stop shop facility where a couple can find every element of suc-



The Hand that Rocks the Cradle by Sheila Mosby



cessful wedding planning.

She also mentions that real estate and the restaurant business are several ventures she would like to take a stab at in the future.

For the here and now, however, she has her days are full enough ... in the studio, in the day care center and around town at a wide range of events.



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Caring For Elderly Loved Ones From Afar

By Bill Harris
Guest Columnist

There was a time when family members – grandparents, parents and children alike – lived in close proximity to each other, often in the same house. But that was then and this is now. And now, it's becoming increasingly common for family members to live in different parts of the country. That trend is fast colliding with care-giving for the elderly.

According to the MetLife Mature Market Institute's *Since You Care* guide, there are some 34 million Americans providing care to older family members. And 15 percent of these caregivers, or 5.1 million, live one or more hours from the person for whom they are providing care.

According to MetLife, these "long-distance caregivers," in many instances, are caring for a parent or other older relative and are also employed and have dependent children of their own. Because of this, they are often referred to as the sandwich generation. "In some circumstances, due to actual physical distance and/or other constraints, the long-distance caregiver may be unable to provide the direct, everyday, hands on care, but is responsible for arranging for paid care and coordinating the services that are provided."

And that's no easy task. In many cases, long-distance caregivers must often juggle the demands of two households. Often, they have to rely on reports from others about daily events. Just as

often, they have to arrange and then rearrange work schedules, business trips and doctors' appointments. In short, the task can be difficult, stressful, and time consuming, according to AARP. But there are a number of steps you can take to make the task more manageable.

Gather information and assess the need. Adult children should determine with their parents (and other family members) what help is needed. In some cases, adult children should consider hiring a professional geriatric care manager who can assess a family member's needs and who, if need be, can provide ongoing case management. Geriatric care managers are often familiar with the services that are available to aging parents. Finding a professional geriatric care manager is easy enough, say experts. The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers has a Web site that provides links to association members, many of whom are former nurses or social workers (www.findacaremanager.org). A professional geriatric care manager might charge \$100 to \$500 for an assessment and \$60 to \$90 an hour for on-going care. If you choose this option, work with geriatric managers who are licensed or certified by the states in which they work and be sure to conduct a full background check before you hire. Many states and municipalities typically have benefits and resources that can be used by qualifying individuals to help cover the

costs of some of these services. Another resource, the *Eldercare Locator* (800.677.1116) can tell you which local agencies provide services and will refer you to the area agency on aging in your parents' community.

Be prepared. Before a crisis occurs, caregivers and older family members should complete and distribute widely a "caregiver emergency information" kit. That kit should contain all necessary medical, financial, and legal information, including doctors, medications, insurance information, assets, and Social Security numbers, wills, living wills, durable powers of attorney and health care proxies. Adult children should ask their parents to complete privacy release forms, HIPAA compliant, and keep copies on file with their parent's doctor's office. That way, the parent's doctor can discuss an older family member's health. MetLife has a caregiver booklet that can be downloaded from its Web site, www.maturemarketinstitute.com. AARP also has useful long-distance care-giving resources at its Web site, www.aarp.org. Caregivers might also consider using a personal medical alert emergency response system.

Develop an informal network. Experts say adult children should establish an informal support network composed of family, neighbors, friends, clergy, and others who might help. Adult children, when visiting their parents or older family mem-

bers, should introduce themselves to neighbors and friends and keep their phone numbers and addresses handy. If an adult child can't reach a parent, calling that informal network can provide peace of mind. Plus, they may also be able to help with some needed tasks.

Visit as often as you can. Long-distance caregivers should visit their older family members every few months to check for signs of trouble – which might include changes in personal hygiene, old food in the refrigerator and chores not done. Long-distance caregivers should note, however, that such care can be expensive. According to MetLife, caregivers spend an average of \$193 per month on out-of-pocket purchases and services for the care recipient and another \$199 per month in traveling and long-distance phone expenses.

It might make sense to consult your financial planner early-on, to ensure that your loved ones are properly cared for in the future.



Bill Harris

This column is produced by the Financial Planning Association, the membership organization for the financial planning community, and is provided by Bill Harris, Financial Advisor and a local member of the FPA. Bill Harris is a financial advisor with Informative Financial Services of Toledo, Ohio. Securities and advisory services offered through Mutual Service Corporation, member NASD/SIPC. Informative Financial Services is not affiliated with Mutual Service Corporation. For seminars and speaking engagements, Bill can be reached at 419-885-8384.

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Bethlehem Baptist Church Honors Minister of Music Alvin Jones For "Faithfulness"

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" could very well describe the service of Bethlehem Baptist Church's Minister of Music Alvin Jones. In appreciation for his years of service, Bethlehem honored the church's devoted minister of music, Sunday, October 29, 2006.

A marquee of Toledo's top gospel talent gave musical tribute to Jones and the highest praise to the Lord in a program that rivaled any broadcast of BET's "Bobby Jones Show" while the marquee in front of the church was emboldened with Jones' name, announcing the celebratory event.

Escorted in by his sister, Tammy, Jones traded his usual seat at the organ for one in the front pew. Long time friend, Kim Hueston, welcomed everyone to the celebration, evoking the name and spirit of deceased former Bethlehem pastor, Rev. Blanton, when intending to acknowledge present pastor, Rev. Derek A. Arnold. "You can tell I'm nervous," she said. "I wanted to say something funny. I guess that was it."

The humor continued throughout the program, only upstaged by some of the best gospel music in Toledo. Kellie Williamson's "History of Big A" listed all of the musical heavyweights' many names.

"Alvin Jones, senior - I mean, junior," she said, herself a little nervous. "Also known as 'Tank,' 'Big Cheesy' and 'Cheesy Weesy,' was born to Helen and Alvin Jones, Sr, March

12, 1968, on a Monday afternoon in the middle of a snow storm." Williamson said Jones was once called 'Road Runner' by his maternal grandfather because he ran on his tippy-toes.

She listed his various achievements at Waite High School, singing in talent shows and performing the national anthem at school events. "His love of music developed at the age of four," said Williamson.

Jones' musical affiliations have included the Imani Project and the UT Gospel Choir. "I've known Big Al, since I moved here when I was seven and I ain't never seen him run fast," said long-time friend and emcee for the program, Robert Blanton, marveling that anyone would nickname his friend 'Road Runner.'

Blanton said Jones couldn't move away from home to go to college after graduation because he would have missed his mother's legendary good cooking. Moving from place of honor to place of service, Jones sat at the organ to accompany Bethlehem's choir, which was first on the program.

The choir was followed by Molly Williams, who gave a testimony about being healed. Then Art Johnson, another musician played and sang "Jesus Is the Center of My Joy," after giving his own tribute to Jones.

"The brother came to me about 12 years ago and said, 'I want piano lessons,'" said Johnson. "I don't know why, because he can PLAY." Charles Chandler, minister

of music at Union Grove Baptist Church, said he had several invitations for Sunday, October 29, but had to come to Bethlehem, because he heard Jones "go way back."

"It's very hard to find faithful musicians," he said. "Bethlehem, you have one of the best musicians here." Accompanied by his 16-year-old son on the organ, Chandler played a spirited saxophone. "This has been a long time coming," said Tabernacle Baptist Church musician Matt Brown. "He deserves it." Brown sang a 'jazzy' version of "He Looked Beyond My Fault" that he and Jones arranged some years ago.

"I was in the buffet restaurant last week and he caught me with a chicken wing in my hand and asked if I'd come and do a song," said Fred Hogue before he brought the audience to their feet singing "I Can't Complain."

"This is Cheesy Weesy's little sister," said Blanton, introducing Carolyn Jones-Knighten. "Big, younger sister," said Jones-Knighten, an international recording artist, who received a standing ovation after singing, *a cappella*, a song by one of Jones' favorite artists.

Following a hauntingly beautiful saxophone solo by C. J. Manning, a youth praise dance group from Bethlehem performed, getting Jones up on his feet to the amusement of his friends and family. But it was the Third Baptist young male chorus that got nearly ev-

erybody up on their feet with a quartet version of "He'll Work It On Out."

Pressed into service once more, Jones accompanied Doug Coley as he sang "No One So Worthy" in his beautiful, high tenor voice, ending the first half of the program.

Following the offering, Willie Cook got everyone up on their feet to "dance like David danced" as he sang "When the Spirit of the Lord Comes Upon My Heart," accompanied by his sister. The brother and sister duo got the second half of the program started in high spirit, their beautifully blended voices lifting up everyone's heart as heat descended on the crowded sanctuary like a heavy blanket, sending many people scurrying in search of those innocuous 'church fans.'

Brown returned with his niece and Darius Coleman to sing "Enlarge My Territory." After some beautiful harmonizing by the trio, young Coleman elicited shouts of praise when the Holy Spirit overtook him and he let loose with shouts of praise and some of his legendary runs.

"We're going to go back a little bit," said Cynthia Overton, "to traditional gospel." Backgrounded by her choir, she sang a foot-stomping, hand-clapping, old-time gospel that had those that weren't fanning themselves in the hot sanctuary - and a few that were - on their feet clapping and rocking.

A group of young people from Solomon's Temple sang just as the sanctuary started to cool off as day turned to



Bethlehem Baptist Church's Minister of Music Alvin Jones

evening. The fall night air lowered the temperature while the service continued to hit up in Bethlehem.

Filling in for Rev. Will Collier, Ella Picket gave a moving testimony and rendered an old favorite, "God Specializes." The chorus was sung by the audience as they wave in witness to the words.

"I didn't know what a blessing he would be in my life," said Helen Jones, as she talked about her son, Alvin. "He's a very loving man. He loves people. He loves his friends." Jones' mother talked about his generosity to her during financially difficult times, as well as his service to his church and his God.

"You were called by God to do His work and His service," she said, as she ended her tribute to her beloved son.

Following an invitation to discipleship by Pastor Arnold, tributes in gift presentations were made by LaVater Ross-Tarrant. The first was a bouquet of flowers from Chosen Generation on Behalf of Our Nation, a

youth group from Bethlehem. Jones-Knighten presented a gift from the family.

"I know he likes presents," she said, giving her brother a check, "but Alvin likes money - he shops like a woman!" Long-time friend Willie "Q" was overcome with emotion as he gave a presentation to his daughter's godfather.

"Thirty years!" he said. "I've known this man 30 years!"

"Ya'll best friends 'cause ya'll both cry babies!" yelled another long-time friend, Robert Lewis, from the back of the church, bringing some levity to the emotionally wrought exchange.

"Even though we were terrors in the church," said Blanton as he gave his presentation, "Alvin has remained the same." Blanton added that it was he and Robert Lewis that caused all the trouble because "Alvin and Willie couldn't catch us - that's why it was us!"

Giving a more somber tribute, Pastor Arnold pointed out that Jones' service to his church is not motivated by money. "I agree with your mother," he said. "You do have an anointing."

Arnold said "pound for pound, I cannot think of another minister of music in the City of Toledo or the State of Ohio that can touch you."

"You are a phenomenal being and I thank you," said Joyce Lewis, Servant Leader of the Choir. "I just want to thank everybody for everything they've done," said Jones in response to the outpouring of love.

Turning the tables, Jones presented long-time friend and fellow musician, Darnell, with a gift. Refreshments prepared by Jones' mother, Helen Jones, were served in the Life Center after the Program.

Contact Geneva Chapman at geneva@thetrutholedo.com

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An Interview With Local Hip-Hop Artist Dre P

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Michael: Peace, fam,
Dre P: What up?

Michael: Okay, let's get right into it — you're 21, what made you wanna start rappin'?

Dre P: My surroundings, I'm gonna keep it real. Everybody was doing it and started out as just a fun thing to do. High school, sophomore year, we bingin' on track cans in the hallway freestylin. Nahmean?

Michael: That's word. It was the same way for me.

Dre P: And everybody crowd around like 'I can rap, I can rap.' But I can rap too.

And then it draws attention. It's the drive, that adrenaline. Soon as you start everybody wanna hear you.

Michael: So what age was that?

Dre P: Sixteen.

Michael: So ... define your style for all the readers out there.

Dre P: I'd say fly and flashy and polished. I pop my collar to people.

Michael: There's a lot of people out there that are on that kind of style right now, what do you bring to the game that's different?

Dre P: A lot of people get misguided when they see me. I'm light skinned with braids and green eyes so ... they think I'm soft. I try not to take it too street because that's not really me. I grew up in the hood and all that, but my direction is to give you more of a message.

If you are somebody that gets misjudged I can give you music that you relate to.

I can give you examples of how I live and try to relate to your life.

That ice and that money don't come from the sky, you gotta work for it and do with it.

People need to see what road they need to go down and what others have already went through.

Michael: As far as the ice... on your CD — what's some of the subject matter you touch on?

Dre P: Moms! Listen to ya moms! I have a song on there about my mom how I was hard headed and didn't wanna listen to her and I was following my friends. Now five years later, and after a little bit of college, and all that I see that everything she was preaching she was right.

A lot of people listen to their friends but you might not even have the same friends four years from now.

Michael: Amen!

Dre P: A lot of people might cling to what you're doing but it's not really being themselves so you gotta be yourself in everything

you do and that's what's on my CD

Michael: That's what's up. Tell me about your opinion on hip-hop as an industry right now.

Dre P: TV makes it look easy. We need more conscious and situational type of rap out instead of just cars and money. All them rappers wasn't living like that before they hit that TV screen.

Michael: True. And they might not be living like that when the video goes off.

Dre P: True. So I think they mislead us young rappers to think that's what we have to do to make it. We need more realistic music, instead of 'money rules everything'.

Michael: So what you think about someone like Jay Z? He talks about the money, but then he gives us a lot to think about as well.

Dre P: I wasn't a real big fan of Jay Z, but he's super well respected because when he came out he was telling ya'll about that hustle and about that grind. He advises and inspires people.

Michael: What's the last rap album you bought and why?

Dre P: The last album I bought was The Carter, and I'm gonna buy anything that man puts out.

Michael: Yeah, Weezy is getting a lot of respect outside the South right now.

What's your opinion on the rap scene around Toledo?

Dre P: A lot of good talent around Toledo. But I will say that people need to stop rapping just because their best friend raps. We got a lot of rappers, but a lot of people doing it just so they can say "hey I was on that CD." There's only a handful of people in the city that's trying to get out the city and coming back from New York, maaan, you gotta get outta here.

Michael: Talk to 'em. Because that's our whole platform with U.G.E. We don't even aim locally. We wanna go back to NYC so there's more folks there that have our music than there are here. I feel you on that whole concept.

Dre P: That's that hunger right there.

Michael: As far as doing ya thing in Toledo, speak about some of the barriers.

Dre P: I'm glad you brought that up. Maaan, DO NOT get distracted or discouraged.

When you first come out, nobody wants to hear and you nobody has heard of you.

Some people in Toledo

think you need that big name feature around Toledo just to get their name heard and my advice is ... quit caring about what everybody else think.

Because realistically, even when/if you do blow up you still gonna have those same haters.

You cannot get discouraged. You gotta be you.

So many successful rappers right now were just not afraid to be who they are.

You gotta set an example for something new and the only thing new is YOU!

Stop looking for something new and just look at you.

Michael: Instead of swagga jackin or just following trends...

Dre P: EXACTLY!

Michael: And a lot of that goes on. That follower mentality...

Dre P: That's right. Or people thinking 'oh, I gotta rap just like he did cuz he made it...'

BE YA'SELF MAN!!! Believe it or not, people like new stuff.

Michael: In addition to believing in yourself, what are other barriers you see peeps goin through? Like ... people complain about radio access or dealing with other artists etc.

Dre P: You have to set aside your personal views of other people, radio stations, other artists or whatever... from yourself.

Like, Andre Parr can't have how I feel about another cat affect Dre P.!

I gotta be on even ground with everyone if I wanna make it or get heard.

You don't have to be overly friendly to everybody, just be humble about what you do.

Michael: Let's move it back to your New York City trip.

A lot of people think since Lyfe went to The Apollo and now he's a platinum-plus selling artist that now The Apollo is being seen by many Toledo up and coming artists as their way to a record deal. You performed at The Apollo recently, what are your thoughts?

Dre P: But not necessarily man. The Apollo is a stepping stone, but it's crazy exposure.

Yeah it's a cool thing to say that I've been there and I've done that but bringin' it back to Lyfe — he won like five times!

I been there twice and I'm good to go back anytime but if I decide to do that it doesn't guarantee me a record deal. It goes back to what you were saying about networking and communi-

cating. I got numbers from everybody. BET people, network people, a camera man. There's nothing like getting your face seen.

Michael: So how did you get put down with The Apollo?

Dre P: Maaan, listen to this. I went to New York ... to shop with my moms.

Coincidentally my boy Russ from Danjarus Entertainment was down there at the same time with two of his artists: Bobkat and Rhythm. I got about 100 CD's with me and I'm goin' around and I'm passin' out free CD's because they don't know me, they don't know who I am. You know? So I'm going around and passing out my music and I walk in this store and this guy seen how hungry I was. He told me that I should go down and audition for The Apollo. Now this is God, man. The Apollo only has auditions every three months. ONCE. Every three months, it's a set date. You can't just go down there every Saturday.

I'm in NYC on a Friday night and find out Saturday



Dre P and The Minister of Culture

morning is the next audition.

This dude prints out the information and says I should go down there.

I go down there at 9 a.m. sharp.

I get out the car and it's 1,500 people in line. I hit up Russ on the phone and he's like 'Man, I'm in the front of the line'. That's God again, maan. Thank God for that.

Russ is number 30 out of 1500. Mind you, from 9 a.m. until 2 in the afternoon they only seen 75 acts.

And we numbers Thirty - one - two - and three.

Michael: That's slick as hell. Do they split up the rap and R&B yet or is it still all bunched together?

Dre P: Naw, I was hopin that they would but naw, man. But that's another thing, when you down there you gotta come with your A game. That's why you can't just say you rap and be a rapper.

You gotta know how to move on that stage, your image gotta be right, your sound, your delivery. Because you goin' up against singers, dancers, comedians, magicians and everything else you can name.

And if you can past that you can go to Showtime at The Apollo. If you don't get booted off the stage, and that's how they came at me like "At least you ain't get booted".

(Continued on Page 13)

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An Interview With Local Hip-Hop Artist Dre P

(Continued from Page 12)

Michael: Which says a lot.

Dre P: I was number four, and to be a rapper and get my whole rap down means a lot.

Because comedians were getting booed on their first joke.

I didn't see one rapper get past his first verse.

Michael: So what's next for Dre P.

Dre P: Just networking. I got a lot of numbers. I got a show comin' up in January.

It's gonna be on BET ... a talent show.

And I got into that when I went on the Apollo trip.

It's gonna be celebrities there performing but it's also gonna be real hot talent from certain cities. And they take them down there and give them a chance.

I just dropped a CD

but I'm working on the album and the mixtape and I'm just trying to keep myself out there.

Michael: That's what's up.

www.dre-p.com if the people wanna get at you right?

Dre P: Fa sho. It's a direct link to everything else.

Michael: Well good looking on sittin' down with me, fam... got respect for you and all that. People usually always runnin' up on me with CD's but you got my word, I'm gonna check yours out sooner than most.

Dre P: Thanks for having me.

That's how it goes down Toledo.

up with more area talent and I'm still ready to add to the list of Glass City Power Players. Be on the lookout for U.G.E. performing at Easy Street Café in B.G. this Friday 11.17.06 courtesy of Sistres Entertainment.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

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Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available on Monday, November 13, 2006, at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A non-refundable fee of \$20.00 will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2nd Floor conference room on the dates shown above, in the Modernization Department.

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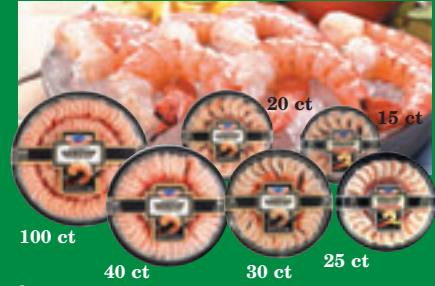


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"A Great Day to Be A Democrat"



State Representative Edna Brown, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and Toledo Board of Education Member Robert Torres



Lucas County Commissioners Tina Skeldon Wozniak and Pete Gerken welcome newcomer Ben Konop



Matt Scollosi



Anita Lopez greets supporters



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Lawyer Returns to His Roots

Eric Brian King, a graduate of Rogers High School defended our nation in the Persian Gulf War as a Petty Officer in the United States Navy. King an Ohio State Buckeye Alum and a Thurgood Marshall School of Law Graduate passed the Ohio Bar in 2001 and opened KING Law Offices in July 2001 in the state capital. King yet to start his own family faced a tragedy in September 1996, when a reckless driver killed his mother Patricia Ann Sturdivant-King. So, he definitely understands the pain and frustration that his clients endure when they are forced to deal with a personal injury case. This is why King became a personal injury lawyer, and that's why as he states "To Others It's Just Business at KING Law Offices— We Take Your Personal Injury... Personal!" King explains "Returning to Toledo is very personal to me. As a child I often noticed the absence of business leaders that look like me— black. Every other racial group has leaders they can be proud of and so should we. Blacks are much more than entertainers we are professional, intelligent and innovative. I don't just represent my clients, I represent my God, my Race, my Mother and my Self and if I can inspire one black child in Toledo to live a 'purpose driven life' and to not accept being called 'one of those people' my goal is accomplished."

Patricia Ann King
1947 - 1996



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