



Dr. Karen Adams-Ferguson
Ob-Gyn

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“To be able to partner with God in bringing life into this world and make sure it comes here with full potential, is the best as it can be.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

As we close out the year, and pray as always for things to go so much better during the new one, The Truth would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what went right – and wrong – during 2006. Here are a few of the key stories of the year.

The War in Iraq:

Nothing quite sums up what happened during our War in Iraq, other than the death tolls, than a statement of President George Bush last week in which he admitted that we weren't winning the war. Just several days before the election, he had said we are "absolutely winning" the war.

After that last iteration of how things were going, of course, the Republicans lost control of Congress, the Iraq Study Group released its report detailing all of the things that were going wrong, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was forced out and more and more retired military and civilian leaders were piling on with denunciations of the administration's conduct of the war.

Political Scandals:

Sometimes politicians just have streaks of bad luck. That happened to the Republican Party this year at the highest national and state levels. Majority Leader Tom DeLay forced to resign, Congressman Mark Foley's inability to keep his mouth shut around young boys, Tom Noe's Ohio Coingate debacle. Those were the big ones. Those were enough to spell defeat on a grand scale.

Couple the scandals with the way the War in Iraq was going and we have a recipe for an election night disaster for the GOP, Karl Rove's prognostications notwithstanding.

Ohio Election Results:

The state's executive branch was virtually cleansed of Republican influence. With the exception of Mary Taylor's victory over Democrat Barbara Sykes, the Republicans were shut out.

But the story in the state's election results, in our view, lies in the fact that the three African-American candidates fared so poorly. Gubernatorial candidate Ken Blackwell lost in a landslide, doing much worse than the final polls might have indicated. The Sykes' loss to Taylor was a surprise in light of the polls and the fact that, in general, Democratic candidates, such as Marc Dann – who many would have thought would lose to Betty Montgomery in the Attorney General contest, were surging in the last moments before Election Day.

Indications are that so many voters, once they were in the voting booths, just could not pull the trigger for black candidates as they had indicated they would.

Local Election Results:

It's hard to imagine that in this year of war and scandal, the Lucas County Democratic Party could prove to be so ineffective. They started the year by maneuvering to get a Republican elected to the presidency of the Toledo City Council.

Then, in another savvy move, they placed Taylor Balderas on Toledo City Council and lifted not a finger to get her elected in a special election against unknown Mike Craig.

So, naturally, after Democrat, and "B" teamer, Bob McCloskey was removed from City Council, and lost his freedom, the party, irate over the possibility of having to pick a former Jack Ford ally, Bob Vasquez, to replace McCloskey, selected a Finkbeiner loyalist, Lourdes Santiago, and could not get her elected. Another unendorsed candidate, Joe McNamara, stole the show.

McNamara and Ben Konop, who won the race for Lucas County Commissioner against Councilman George Sarantou, represented a much-needed youth movement for a city that has been plagued for years by a "brain drain" among its young people.

The stunner, in local election results, was the Anita Lopez victory over entrenched Republican incumbent Auditor Larry Kaczala. Lopez, who will relinquish her County Recorder's post, won that election handily.

Education:

It's embarrassing just to think about education in this town, isn't it?

At a time when all indicators pointed to the fact that the Toledo Public School system was on the upswing academically, the school board disintegrated into dissension, the superintendent and virtually his entire staff bailed out for larger, if not greener, pastures and a big gaping hole of a deficit appeared.

And in all of the talk about who should make decisions and how they should be made, not once did we hear anything about what might benefit the students academically. Worst of all, the achievement gap between the poor and the middle class, between black and white has not narrowed noticeably in the wake of "No Child Left Behind."

Sports:

Whew! Thank goodness for sports, eh? What would we do without the Ohio State Buckeyes when the rest of the year is going to hell in a hand basket. And congrats to the Wolverines, as well, for all you UM fans out there.

Other notable events of the year involved the best performance ever in a single game by a football player when Vince Young played Superman against USC in the Rose Bowl, the resurrection of Tiger Woods and, best of all, a 20-point performance by Jason McElwain, the autistic manager of the varsity basketball team at Greece Athena High School in Rochester, NY. Jason was put into the contest during the last few minutes of the team's final home game of his senior year – his first appearance. Nothing but net for the next four minutes.

Books:

Thomas Ricks – *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*. The title says it all.

Community Calendar

December 26 to January 1

• KWANZAA!! Wayman Palmer YMCA; 5 pm each day; sponsored by the Toledo Kwanzaa House Committee; 40th Anniversary

December 30

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

January 1

Happy New Year!!

January 1-6

• Mt Zion Baptist Church: 21 Days of Blaze a Prayer and Fasting Explosion: 1st to 6th – week of prayer/sensitivity at 6 pm nightly: 419-246-1850

January 5

• Amazon Lodge #4 Fish Fry: 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079

January 13

• Mt. Zion Baptist Church: NAACP MLK Youth Explosion; 11 am to 1 pm; Open to any youth group: 419-246-1850

January 15

• 24th Annual King "Oratorical" Contest: The "Ghanaian" Foundation Honors Dr. King; Civic Center Promenade; 9 am to 3 pm; K through 12 grades may compete in their age group: 419-868-8396

January 18

• Spirit of Faith Adoptions: Informational meetings for domestic and international adoptions; 7 pm; 3315 Centennial Rd., Ste A-2: 419-843-5355

January 19

• Amazon Lodge #4 Fish Fry: 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079

The Sojourner's Truth

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Kwanzaa in the 21st Century: Katrina, a Word to the Wise

By *Rahwae Shuman*
Special To The Truth

As we enter the 40th anniversary of Kwanzaa and stand at the dawn of a new millennium and century, it is time for some serious reflection on the part of every African-American living in America today. Kwanzaa affords us just such an opportunity. This article is not to summarize or define Kwanzaa. Most of us are well past that. However, I would strongly suggest that you read Maulana Karenga's original book on Kwanzaa.

What will be presented here are the insights and analysis of one who considers himself a true Kwanzaa pioneer.

Kwanzaa is nothing new to our community. Self-determination and self-reliance were forced on us, if we did not choose them on our own, by institutionalized segregation. One of the great contributions Dr. Karenga has made to our culture is that he *codified* our values into a coherent system.

Kwanzaa has witnessed exponential growth in the last 20 years. Now that the grassroots work has been done by many, it is critical that we move from conceptualization to implementation on a daily basis.

We have had many great

leaders who have warned us about the need for *Kujichagulia*, or self-determination, from Martin Delaney, the Honorable Marcus Garvey and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, to El Haj Malikel Shabazz (Malcolm X). We can no longer afford the luxury of ignorance. We are living in perilous and rapidly changing times. And we are our only salvation economically and politically.

Kanye West was correct. The government does not care about people who look like you and me. If you disagree, may I refer you to the criminal and inhumane lack of response to Hurricane Katrina.

Not only are African-American and poor people subjected to acute, and sometimes fatal neglect, but there is a chronic catastrophe looming on the horizon. The fact is that America has seen her best days. Her economy will never recover its world dominance of manufacturing. 80 percent of all manufactured goods that you purchase today are made in China or elsewhere.

For African-Americans this means that good paying unskilled or semiskilled jobs have left and have left America never to return. I see this country moving to a class society

of haves and have-nots with the middle class shrinking. "God Bless The Child Who's Got His Own."

Kwanzaa provides a blueprint for our economic and cultural salvation if we embrace and practice the Nguzo Saba or Seven Principles. Here's show.

Umoja, we must begin to practice more unity on all levels, primarily at the family level. African-American men must take care of their families. The majority of our social problems can be traced directly to the breakup of the black family.

Kujichagulia or self-reliance/self-determination, we must speak for ourselves and not let others speak for us. We must name ourselves. And most critically, we must choose our own leaders. Those who do not have our best interest at heart understand this better than we do. A very effective strategy employed by the government and its allies and agencies, in its efforts to thwart the Black Rebellion of the 60's, was to kill or prevent the rise of any black leader they could not control. And conversely, they bought or appointed Negro leaders that would be gatekeepers on their own people. This strategy is

still being employed to this day.

Ujima, or collective work and responsibility, means you are your brother's keeper. We must help each other along the way.

Ujamaa, or cooperative economics, simply put this means buy black. This principle is absolutely key to our survival and prosperity. We must seize economic control of our community. This alone would cut our unemployment 40 percent at least. For every foreign-owned carryout in your neighborhood count 10 jobs that we do not control.

You do the math.

I call for a new generation of African-American businessmen and women. It seems that the word has gone out around the world that if you want to get rich set up a store in an African-American neighborhood. At last count we controlled \$59,000,000,000 in disposable income. Let's make our money work for us.

Nia, or purpose, our first purpose is self-improvement, then make your home, community, nation, and the world a better place. *Kuumba* or creativity, means using what you have to get what you need. It

means coming up with creative solutions to problems we face. And finally *imani*, or faith, without which none of the other principles are possible. We must maintain and strengthen our faith in God. It is the only thing that brought our ancestors through the worst treatment one human being ever received at the hands of another. We must have faith in our parents, teachers, and leaders. And very importantly, you must have faith in yourself. Faith is the invisible glue that binds all of mankind to each other and to God. Happy Kwanzaa!

TOLEDO YOUTH, Take A Stand For What's Right... A message to minority youth in the urban struggle!

By: *Bishop Stephen Ward*

There is so much violence going on with our youth in Toledo and, unfortunately, it is primarily with our African-American young brothers and sisters. The behavior, I believe, is a direct result of our youth being angry.

Why are our youth angry? When you grow up not knowing who your father is, you become angry. When your mother is strung out on crack and selling her body, you become angry. When you are continuously racially profiled ... and the list goes on and on - you become angry.

Many of our urban youth are faced with circumstances beyond their control. Broken homes, families, poverty ... these are all contributing factors to the madness. People want to feel loved. When

there is a lack of love and coping skills ... our youth will act out to get attention. It is a cry for help. A cry for freedom. A cry for love!

Young people please hear me. It is time to take a stand for what is right. Stop imitating what you see on TV. There is more to life than BET and MTV. Don't you realize many of the songs you listen to are just poison corrupting your mind? Many songs that you grind to are nothing but lyrics that degrade you, your family and your women.

My brothers and sisters, too many people have fought to the death, lost their lives ... so that we can have equal rights. Please don't let their efforts be in vain. Understanding the new crises in African-American culture that have come about in my generation's lifetime - high



Bishop Stephen Ward

rates of suicide and imprisonment, police brutality, the generation gap, the war of the sexes, blacks selling black self-hatred as entertainment, among others - I often wonder what life will be like for the generation of African-Americans that follows. What will be our generation's contribution to the centuries-long African-American struggle for liberation, and how do we redefine this struggle for our time?

(Continued on Page 12)



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Is School Board Discord to Blame for the Low Number of Superintendent Applicants?

By Tamir A. Shaw
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

When Toledo Public Schools last conducted a search for a superintendent in the year 2000, the district was in what Toledo Public School board member Larry Sykes describes as dismal shape.

According to Sykes at that time the district was in academic emergency – the lowest grade on the State of Ohio's report card, the overall graduation and attendance rates were low and there was not a building program in place.

The result of that search provided TPS with an effective leader, Eugene Sanders, Ph.D.,

who helped to move the district into continuous improvement category before accepting a contract buy-out in May in order to move on and become superintendent of the Cleveland Municipal schools.

Sykes says that the Toledo Public Schools District has drastically changed since the last search and is

now recognized nationally for its achievements and leadership which is why he can not understand why the search process has yielded only eight applicants.

"Six years later we are leading the nation in school building and we can't get 10 applicants," Sykes asked.

"There are 18,000 education systems in the U.S. that educate 53 million students. In Ohio, there are 605 districts and at any given time there may be a quarter of those superintendents looking for a job and we get eight applicants?"

Those who have applied for the position are a good indication that a search conducted by the search firm, Proact, has been conducted nationwide producing diverse candidates from Michigan, Kentucky, Texas, Indiana, Florida and Ohio.

Sykes did not say that he was concerned with the quality of the applicants, but did

speculate on the low interest in the position.

Among the causes Sykes lists is the poor relationships and communication among the members of the school board; a projected budget deficit; declining enrollment, seven upcoming union negotiations and the perception that a successful superintendent was terminated from the district as a result of his poor relationship with some of the board members.

One TPS critic and watchdog Steven Flagg has stressed the importance of having the community involved in the selection process and said that the untimely departure of Sanders has caused a rift between members of the board and has also criticized Sykes for being so vocal and publicizing the district's problems in an attempt to undermine the search for a new superintendent.

Flagg said that he has consulted with industry experts and was told that ap-

pointing John Foley as interim superintendent of TPS for a 14-month period was a staffing strategy that was preparing Foley to take over the position and that the placement would have a chilling effect on the quality and quantity of applicants received.

Board President Darlene Fisher came under fire recently with regard to releasing the names of the applicants, adhering to the agreed upon deadline for accepting applications and keeping the rest of the board informed about the progress Proact is making.

"It's a problem when the board doesn't talk. When you have a president saying one thing and other board members saying something else it appears as if the president is not communicating with the board," Sykes said.

"You elect a president to communicate and divest the information to the board. To not release the names of the applicants to the board is lu-

dicrous," Sykes said.

Fisher agrees and said that she had no intentions of keeping other members out of the loop. She believes that more contention arose after a public information request was submitted to her by another media organization and a delay in her response was seen as a denial of information.

Fisher further explained that she had a personal issue which kept her from submitting the request for the list of names to Proact on the day when the information was sought.

When Fisher attempted to contact the search firm – which is located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – the next day, she said that the office was closed due to a snow storm.

Fisher did not attempt to reach the consultant, Nancy Noeske, over the weekend to make the request and by Monday several media outlets were reporting that Fisher had refused to release the information to the public.

Fisher says that it is important to have good communication on the board and that she never refused to release the information; it was only the timeliness of the request that led to a misunderstanding about the list.

Fisher has since been removed as the contact person for the search and replaced by board member Steven Steele who would not discuss the details of the search process but did say that it is important to have good communication on the board.

Fisher said the focus is now on continuing the search process and that is not concerned about the number of applicants interested in leading the 29,000-student school system, and said, "If we have a solid process with the search firm then we will get a solid superintendent."

Proact's Noeske was traveling and could not be reached for comment for this article.

Contact Tamir Shaw at tamir@thetruthtoledo.com

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ASSETS Toledo's 21st Graduation Ceremony

Sojourner's Truth Staff
 ASSETS Toledo, a faith-based, 13-week business training program for budding, or established, entrepreneurs, held its 21st graduation ceremony on Friday, December 8, 2006 at the Family Life Center of Bethlehem Baptist Church and 34 graduates left the program armed with a better understanding of how to start or manage a business.

Not all of the graduates, however, are new to the business world. Mother and daughter Brenda Kynard-Holsey and Kyna Kynard, for example, have been running their beauty salon, Sheer Innovations, for many years. Kynard-Holsey opened the salon, at 4212 Airport Highway, some 20 years ago and her daughter Kyna was there virtually from the start working a variety of jobs such as receptionist and shampoo girl.

Why, after all these years of running her own business did Kynard-Holsey feel as if she needed to take a business-training course?

"Because, I knew how to do hair," she says. "But not seeing the business grow as I had hoped, I felt I needed to



Brenda Kynard-Holsey received diploma from Holden

see if there was something I needed to do to help it. And there was so much knowledge [in ASSETS]. I could not believe it. ASSETS opened up a whole new world for me."

ASSETS (A Service for Self-Employment Training) Toledo was introduced to the area in the winter of 2000. The program was developed by the Mennonite Economic Development

Associates (MEDA), an association of Christian businesses and professional people. The executive director of ASSETS Toledo is Olivia Holden.

The keynote speaker for the recent graduation ceremony was Suzette Cowell, CEO/treasurer of The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union which was chartered in 1996.



Fifth Third Bank Employees Present Savings Bonds to Polly Fox Students

Special to The Truth
Members of the Minority

Leadership Council gathered at the Polly Fox Academy on December 20, 2006 to present seven students who had completed the group's Credit Smart program, a financial management class, with \$50 savings bonds.

Credit Smart is a Freddie Mac program. The program's curriculum is designed to provide life-long money and personal credit management skills. The students attended classes for eight weeks during which they learned to set goals, to understand the difference between needs and wants, to save for the future, to develop budgeting skills and to learn the importance of managing personal credit accounts. The bonds are issued in the name of the student's

children. Polly Fox Academy is a school sponsored by Toledo Public Schools and is a school for pregnant and parenting teens.

The seven students – Briana Jelks, Deondra Louis, Chrishonda McGlown, Stacey Oswald, Adidasa Scott, Timea Whitaker and Jasmin Wilson – also received certificates of completion.

Fifth Third employees have been facilitating the class at Polly Fox for two years. Reginald Temple, financial center officer at the bank's Swayne Field location and Terri Ellis, financial center officer of the Lagrange office are team captains for the program.

The Minority Leadership Council consists of a group of minority managers who offer

this program and other financial literacy programs to churches, non-profit organizations and schools throughout the communities Fifth Third serves. The group also offers home ownership and a variety of investment programs.

The mission of the Minority Leadership Council is to enhance the awareness of minority employees' professional and developmental needs within Fifth Third bank's work environment.

The Council collaborates with other groups, such as the Greater Toledo Urban League's Young Professionals and The University of Toledo, on a variety of projects to enhance professional development.

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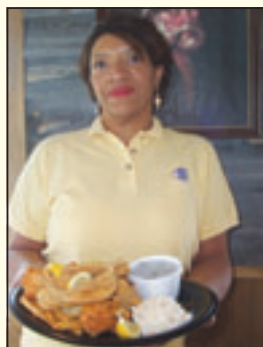
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Karen Adams-Ferguson, M.D. – She Delivers Every Promise

By Alan Abrams

Sojourner's Truth Reporter
 "How many babies have I delivered in 20 years of practice? Let me think about that one," says Dr. Karen Adams-Ferguson.

We are seated in her office at A Woman's Answer on Monroe Street with a view overlooking the throngs of holiday shoppers at Westfield.

She walks her visitor to an adjacent office corridor where the walls are filled with 10 oversize picture frames – each one loaded with photographs of babies Adams-Ferguson has delivered during her career as an OB-GYN.

"It is truly a blessing to be delivering babies. You never know what potential they may have. I could be delivering the next Einstein. Or delivering the next president. Or delivering another obstetrician, God forbid, that's just what the world needs," she laughs.

"To be able to partner with God in bringing life into this world and make sure it comes here with full potential, is the best as it can be," she adds.

Adams-Ferguson is a member of Toledo's renowned Adams family. And not by coincidence, that is

also the name of the family's popular gospel group. Her mother is Dr. Samantha Adams, the first female African-American chiropractor in Toledo and a former president of the Toledo School Board. Her father was Paul L. Adams, and her distinguished siblings include Toledo Public Schools administrators Cecilia Adams, Ph.D and Denise Adams Onyia. Indeed, Adams-Ferguson and one of her brothers are the only siblings not to have pursued a career in education.

"I was blessed by the family I was born into, a family that valued education and is still so deeply involved in it," says Adams-Ferguson.

Born in Toledo, Adams-Ferguson graduated from DeVilbiss High School and went on to The University of Toledo and The Ohio State University, where she graduated from medical school. She did her residency at the then-Medical College of Ohio.

After all these years, Adams-Ferguson is back in school, and as a student. "I am in my third year at the Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay where I



am working on my masters in divinity degree," she explains.

Does this mean there is a career change in Adams-Ferguson's future?

"Christianity is not about a career," she replies. "It is about a way of life. Everything I do should reflect what I believe. Even if I never have a pulpit, everything I do should be a sermon and point the way to the Lord.

"I'm already a ministry," says Adams-Ferguson, adding "should He lead me off

there, I will follow."

She has been married for 22 years to Nathaniel Ferguson, Jr. They have three children, Joseph, 21, is a junior at UT where he is studying nursing; Daniel, 18, is a freshman at OSU with a double major in linguistics and theater, and Cecilia, 16, who is a junior at Springfield High School.

"Many people do not know it, but my mother's name is actually Cecilia Samantha Adams," says her daughter.

She also has four stepchildren: Nathaniel Ferguson, Jr.,

and Julia, Kenetha and Nicole. All four live in Columbus.

Adams-Ferguson's first office was on Sunforest Court. She later moved to an office near Executive Parkway and has been in her current medical suite for 12 years.

"I am blessed by my staff. We have 11 women – counting myself – working together here and we have a blast. We all laugh and talk real loud and act rowdy. I think the most blessed thing is to have a baby, something that should be really enjoyed. I enjoy our patients, and they enjoy us. We laugh and we giggle. We have a lot of fun in this office, and we share it," says Adams-Ferguson.

But there is another more serious side to Adams-Ferguson. One of the issues that most concerns her today is the increase in out of wedlock births, particularly in Lucas County. "I have seen the stats. It is not a racial issue. It is not a socioeconomic issue. It is crossing across all socio-economic demographics. It is a moral issue.

"I know it is not politically correct to say this, but things are out of control. We have lost our respect for God. It has taken us down a horrible path. When you have to propose giving vaccines to nine-year-old girls ostensibly to prevent cervical cancer but as a preventive before they become sexually active, there is a major problem.

"Our society is facing disintegration from within," says Adams-Ferguson. She believes part of the problem is caused by "people who have bullied into not speaking out. If they say anything is wrong, they may offend some small group. But you have to make a stand," she says.

"I also feel that our society has turned our back on our children. How else can you explain why it is so hard to pass a levy for Toledo Public Schools? This is our future. The only time people will support the levy is if you threaten to take sports away from the schools. We need to better prepare our children, to educate them so that they can have a better life," says Adams-Ferguson.

Church's Opens Lima Operation with a Bang

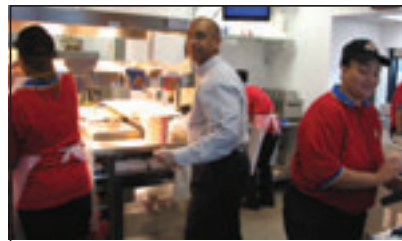
Sojourner's Truth Staff

Church's Chicken arrived in Lima last week in a huge way. Paul Hubbard, who also has a Church's franchise in Toledo and is a partner in a Toledo Captain D's Seafood Restaurant, opened his newest restaurant on Lima's Main Street on Sunday, December 17.

During the first full day of operations, Hubbard reported that revenues were three times the franchise average for an opening. Cars wound around the block while customers waited patiently for their first taste of Church's chicken in Lima.

For the first several weeks of operation, a number of Hubbard's Toledo team have come down to assist in the Lima opening including Mo Rahman and James Adams. Lima native Brenda Copeland is the general manager of the Lima store. She will oversee 35 employees.

Also on hand to help with the opening was Myron Ball, senior director Franchise Operations, East. Ball, who is headquartered in Alpharetta, GA, is the highest ranking African-American executive with Church's.



Myron Ball (c.) helps with Lima Church's opening



James Adams, Mo Rahman and Jessie Ranson



Paul Hubbard with store manager, Brenda Copeland

Kwanzaa Celebration & Open House

The Padua Center Advisory Council and Staff invite you to a celebration of Umoja (Unity) and to enjoy the Christmas season.

Date: December 27, 2006

**Time: 4:00-7:00
 Candle Lighting: 6:00**

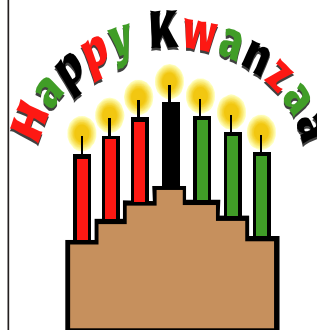
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Broadside Press brings African American Literature to a New Generation

By John Dorsey
Special to the Truth

The poet Dudley Randall led a life full of intellectual exploration, service and literary entrepreneurship. He started writing poetry at an early age and filled notebooks throughout his years drawing on the civil rights movement, work experiences, travels, and personal experiences for inspiration.

In addition to serving his country in the Pacific theatre during World War II, Randall worked for Ford Motor Company, the U.S. Postal Service, and several libraries. In the 1960s, he built one of the most important presses in American history, and went on to publish scores of African-

American authors, as well as several books of his own poetry, including some truly classic pieces.

For four decades Broadside Press has promoted the written word as a vital art form intimately related to self-determination, and used the publishing of literature as a vehicle for building communities and promoting cultural critique. Founded in 1965 by Dudley Randall, a librarian by profession and a poet whose expression of human compassion is unparalleled by mainstream publishers.

In 1981 Randall was named the first poet laureate of the city of Detroit and

in 2001 the university of Detroit Mercy McNichols campus library where he served as a reference librarian for many years was awarded a Friends of the Library USA (FOLUSA) National literary Landmark designation in his honor.

Broadside authors would go on to achieve national and international prominence, including Audre Lorde, Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez Etheridge Knight and Haki Madhubuti. Broadside Press also became the publisher of choice for Pulitzer Prize winners Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, Sterling Brown, Robert

Hayden and many other poets of Randall's generation. In addition, Randall published works of literary criticism by prominent black scholars, and served as the U.S. distributor of books by writers based in other areas of the African diaspora.

One of their most recent releases, *A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press* is a retrospective study of major Broadside poets, Brooks, Knight, Lorde, Madhubuti, Randall, and Sanchez, with accompanying audio CD. This title was selected by the Library of Michigan as one of Michigan's Notable Books of 2005

More recently, Broadside also released *Poet in the House!* a collection of poems by the poets and participants in the Poet-In-Residence program of Broadside Press and the Detroit Public Library; representing 10 years of collaboration.

The year 2005, marked Broadside's 40th Anniversary as one of the oldest operating black-owned presses in the United States. Broadside Press has served the Detroit metropolitan community by offering a wide variety of programs and events that foster the creation and enjoyment of literature.

Broadside's current programming includes the



monthly Broadside Poets Theatre, which provides a setting for young poets to cultivate their talents and the Young Writers Institute for Teens, sponsored in partnership with the YMCA.

For 10 years, the Poet-in-Residence Program, a collaboration with the Detroit Public Library, placed 25 of the area's best poets in local libraries, rehabilitation sites, senior and juvenile centers to coach children and adults as they pursued their creative writing aspirations. Through such programs, Broadside Press has enhanced the lives of thousands of Detroit metro area residents of all ages and ethnicities.

Randall once told *Negro Digest*, "Precision and accuracy are necessary for both white and black writers.... 'A black aesthetic' should not be an excuse for sloppy writing." He urged African-American writers to reject what was false in "white" poetry but not to forsake universal concerns in favor of a racial agenda.

Randall's most famous

work was "Ballad of Birmingham," written in response to the 1963 bombing of a church in which four girls were killed, was set to music and recorded.

Randall established Broadside Press in 1965, printing the poem on a single sheet to protect his rights. The first collection by the press was *Poem Counter-poem* (1966) in which he and Danner each thematically matched 10 poems on facing pages.

Broadside eventually published an anthology, broadsides by other poets, numerous chapbooks, and a series of critical essays. These publications established the reputations of an impressive number of African-American poets – now well known – while providing a platform for many others whose writing was more political than literary. Following the 1967 riot in Detroit, Randall published *Cities Burning 1968*, a group of 13 poems, all but one previously uncollected.

While Dudley Randall's reputation as a pioneer in independent African-American book publishing is secure, he is sure to be remembered for his poems.

Broadside Press has become the most important black press in America. It was a labor of love and vision, continued by Hilda and Donald Vest (who took over the press in 1985), and currently by the African World Educators since 1998; all look back to Randall as a role model. Dudley Randall passed away on August 5, 2000 at the age of 86, leaving behind him an inspiring body of poems, as well as a tender legacy of work in the service of writing.

For more ordering information, as well as news regarding upcoming releases from Broadside Press, visit www.broadsidepress.org



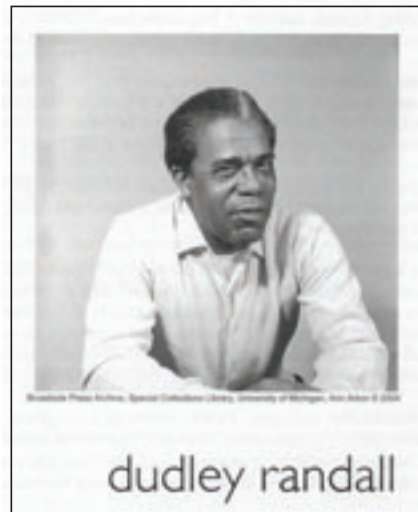
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The Toledo Museum of Art Displays the Visual Stories of Jacob Lawrence

Jacob Lawrence Prints: A Comprehensive Survey, 1963-2000

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Museum of Art opens the exhibition Jacob Lawrence Prints: A Comprehensive Survey, 1963-2000 on January 26, 2007.

The exhibition consists of more than 80 works of art that tell visual stories drawn from Lawrence's interest in African and African-American history and heritage.

Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) is recognized as one of the art world's most gifted storytelling artists. Lawrence's art reveals a distinctive, personal style of bold colors and overlapping shapes influenced by modern art and jazz. Much of Lawrence's work looks at life in Harlem, celebrating its people, music, and buildings. He also chronicled historic events like the life of Harriet Tubman and the Great Migration of African-Americans from the South to the cities of the North. Lawrence was quoted as saying:

"I am dealing with struggle throughout my [work]. Sometimes that struggle is apparent, sometimes it is not apparent. I think struggle is a beautiful thing. I think it is what made our country what it is,



starting with the Revolution. The people in general have always gone through this. Of course black people have continued this struggle also.

I would like to think of this symbol [of struggle in my work] as being not just a black symbol, but a symbol of our man's capacity to endure and to triumph."

Lawrence often described his work as a continuation, constantly growing and building on itself, many of his prints rework themes and compositions from his paintings. From his first published lithograph in 1963 until the end of his life in 2000, Lawrence produced a dynamic body of prints exploring universal issues of equality, unity, and hope.

FREE DOCENT-LED TOURS

Jacob Lawrence is free to the public and is on view in TMA's Works on Paper Galleries. Free public tours of the exhibition are scheduled as follows:



Friday, February 2, 6:30 & 8 P.M.

Saturday, February 3, 2 P.M.

Sunday, February 4, 2 & 3 P.M.

Friday, April 13, 6:30 and 8 P.M.

Saturday, April 14, 2 P.M.

Schedule is subject to change. For additional dates, please visit www.toledomuseum.org.

This exhibition is organized by the DC Moore Gallery, New York.

Denise Black Poon Thrives as an Artist

Sojourners Truth Staff

Denise Black Poon, Toledo native and community activist, is first and foremost an artistic being – painter, singer, dancer – you name it. Black Poon, for nearly all of her years has been involved in a variety of artistic endeavors.

This fall her art has been on display at RRT Images Gallery of Art at 6423 Monroe Street in Sylvania.



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School Board Members Larry Sykes and Steve Steel (far r.) and Councilmen Michael Ashford and Wilma Brown

The Phantom of the Opera Arriving in Toledo

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"Before I took the role, I don't think he was considered to be that nice," says actor John Whitney about his character, Piangi, in *Phantom of the Opera*. Whitney, who has been performing with *Phantom* for the past two and a half years, was speaking with The Truth from his hotel room in Philadelphia where the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical will run through New Year's Eve.

"People come up to me on the street and tell me, 'you are the nicest Piangi, we've ever seen,'" says the featured actor with a chuckle, admitting that he must have infused the part with a bit of his own personality.

Based on the classic novel by Gaston Leroux, *The Phantom of the Opera* – set in the 19th Century – tells the story of a deformed, demented, masked figure, Erik, who haunts the Paris Opera House. He falls in love with the young soprano and manages to enhance her talents through his coaching. He eventually kidnaps the girl and, well ... the play will be arriving in Toledo on January 3 at the Stranahan Theater and will run through January 28.

Whitney, a New Jersey native who was educated in Philadelphia, found his calling for the theater at an early age. He eventually entered New York University to pursue his education and hone his Thespian skills.

"I learned that most of the theater work was in musical theater," he recalls. So he began an earnest attempt to hone

his own musical, and dancing, skills in order to maximize his opportunities to find work in the field. It has paid off handsomely. Over the last 15 years, Whitney has worked steadily, and while he has not

found the celluloid stardom he might have hoped for, he certainly recognizes that earning a living at his craft is a rare enough achievement in the theater business.

The Lloyd production of *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in October 1986 in London winning every major British theater award. The New York production debuted in January 1988 and went on to sweep the 1988 Tony Awards, winning seven, including Best Musical. The play also won seven Drama Desk Awards and three Outer Critics Circle Awards. The musical has been on tour for the last 15 years and there are currently 11 productions in various cities around the globe.

For Whitney, this is not the first time he has been involved in a Lloyd work. "I wouldn't have a career without Andrew Lloyd Webber," he says with

another laugh. Whitney has performed in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Cats*. And the actor/singer made his Carnegie Hall debut in Webber's *Requiem*.

"He writes wonderful melodies," White replied when asked why he was so attracted to Webber's art. "He'll have a beautiful melody and weave it throughout the show. He takes a musical journey with a melody."

Whitney plans to stay with the tour for another three years. He just purchased his first house in Yonkers, NY, so a steady income to manage a mortgage is more than a plus. After that, he would like to make a stab at the concert world and, perhaps, try his luck with television.

Phantom lovers can catch Whitney as Piangi at the Stranahan Theatre starting Wednesday January 5.



John Whitney as Piangi

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Album Review

Nas *Hip Hop Is Dead*
(parental advisory)By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

For you to understand what Nas is to hip-hop, you first have to understand what hip-hop was intended to be to the people. I think it was Chuck D who called rap music "The Black People's CNN" and that only meant that our true story has never been told by the media so hip-hop was our way of having information in our own hands to spread amongst each other.

"The Message" by Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five told an entire planet what life was like in the ghetto and it didn't even glorify it. It was strictly informative. Hell, it was damn near an outcry. Just like everything else in pop culture, our genre of music has exposed a generation gap even though hip-hop's formal age is only about 35 years old. If that.

That's barely two 15-year generations, but if you asked enough rap fans about the current state of their favorite music you're likely to get answers that demonstrate four or five distinctly different viewpoints. Nas addresses this entire phenomenon on *Hip Hop Is Dead*.

And when you have a year like 2006 when you have Jay Z, Nas and Busta Rhymes all taking the time to make social commentary on hip-hop's fragmented existence, you know something is wrong. Nas has a song called "Carry On Tradition" in which he talks about hip-hop pioneers who are literally the age of the typical grandfather in the U.S.

We're talking about men hovering around 50-years old who might rock a gold chain or let their pants sag or whatever because they were around when hip-hop culture was up to them, and only them, to define.

Those are your Kool Moe Dees, your Stetsasonic, your Kurtis Blows ... those guys are from an era where everything they did affected how the world would view our music and they didn't even know it. Grandmaster Caz and The Sugarhill Gang might be the some of the most visible from that age group of rap pioneers but they are just a piece of the architecture built by founding fathers. Founding fathers who might turn on B.E.T. these days and witness hip-hop in a form that doesn't look familiar or even respectable.

In order to understand Nas

you've also got to understand Rakim.

Eric B. and Rakim to be exact. See, the DJ was really the man. The MC was secondary which is why a lot of groups back then had the DJ's name first (even ya boys DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince). Sure, there were many talented rhyme spitters before Rakim, but the original god MC forever changed the way the world and hip-hop looked at rappers.

Among all the Cest Coast gang bangin', the East Coast party records, the Miami booty music ... Rakim emerged as a figure known for potent delivery and heavy wordplay in a time when rap lyrics were still very elementary in rhyme and content.

Rakim was like the people's voice, he was an MC's MC who still had street cred and mainstream appeal without losing his identity. Actually, most folks probably didn't understand the Queens references and the Five Percent Nation wisdom embedded in his rhymes back then but his artistry and intellect were unsurpassed at that point in the industry.

The Industry. That's right, by this time our founding fathers were just starting to give way to the Run DMC's, the Big Daddy Kanes and the Rob Bases.

Rap music was a full-fledged industry.

Major label deals, tons of videos, national headlines on Time and Newsweek (usually very negative) and exposure. It was the beginning of the Golden Era and at a time when every style imaginable was sharing equal popularity and success, Rakim got all the respect for being original and true. This is the late 80's when being a hip-hop fan was pure bliss because the market was full of diverse artists and meaningful content.

Teenagers at this time were all about Big Daddy Kane, MC Shan, Ice T, Sir Mix A Lot and Rakim. But as the Golden Era got even more crowded and gangsta

rap from California eventually eclipsed the entire industry, hip-hop lost its variety.

Hip-hop lost that intellectual appeal.

Hip-hop traded its originality for even greater exposure to the masses.

Even if it wasn't intentional shock value, it was quite a sight for America to see young black men dipping in low riders, throwing up gang signs and clutching an arsenal of automatic firearms on posters and magazine/album covers.

It was all good for the West Coast.

It was even all good for Hollywood because hip-hop's new direction provided some ill visuals. Crazy enough that entire motion pictures were based around California's rap world.

I remember it so vividly because I was 10-12 years old and finally old enough to go and buy some tapes or whatever (ahhh - tapes! LOL!) and because the Kid N Plays and the De La Souls were being replaced by the MC Eights and the Spice Ones... my moms was starting to get concerned about what I was listening to.

And for those of us who were pre-teens, we were eager to get our hands on whatever rap music we could.

But those cats who were grown and had known what hip-hop was like just a few years earlier, a lot of them were hurting for something real.

The West Coast's heyday was great for some people, but it was like the black plague for others. A time period so bland and dark and devoid of what many believed was 'that authentic hip-hop sound.'

I mean yo, Coolio sold like five million records during the gangsta rap era.

Coolio. Five Million records sold.

W.T.F., right? Hip-hop was more profitable than ever because white executives were pimp-



ing this violent thug rap image to the masses by repressing any artist that wanted to uplift the people or even make listeners think.

Just like hip-hop's current state, New York was in one hell of a drought and everybody was holding their breath to see when it would end. Everybody was ready for hip-hop music to matter again. Everybody was missing Rakim like hell and growing more and more frustrated with the lack of substance in our music.

Then came Nas.

Nas was heralded as the second coming of Rakim.

In hip-hop circles far and wide (even on the West Coast underground scene), Nas' debut album *Illmatic* is considered one of the best hip-hop releases of all time!

Why?

Because just like Rakim, he was a breath of fresh air

that broke through the monotony.

And it wasn't hype.

Columbia records did about as much promotion of Nas as Nas does self-promotion of himself ... very little.

At a time when no one, when even Ice Cube was talking about "Bop Gun," and lyricism was at an all time low, here was an MC who made you think.

Here was an MC who made you rewind that tape to hear what he had said because the wordplay was so layered and the subjects so profound that you were gonna miss something even if you were paying the closest attention.

The delivery ... you can't imagine what it was like to hear someone spit like he spits back in 1994. All my heads out there, ya'll feel me.

The way rock music fans go wild over a crazy guitar solo or whatever, that's what a rap verse is to us.

We dissect it. We absorb it. We memorize it.

Nas' rhymes represented for black men in the urban trying to find a way to cope with the world around them. Musically this debut album by hip-hop's newest poeti-

cal force was to become the blueprint for New York's resurgence in the industry.

Of course, that year also had Wu Tang and The Notorious B.I.G. and all that helped to swing the momentum back to the East Coast ... but even more importantly people were happy that hip-hop had some nutrition for the soul again.

Now let's fast forward two years later and Nas' sophomore release, *It Was Written*, only furthered claims that he may actually be the best emcee on Planet Earth. Period.

Trust me, even with all that happened to his status and in the industry as a whole after *It Was Written*, there are still legions upon legions of people who will insist that Nas is the dopest rhyme writer dead or alive.

At the time his second album was passing the two-million sold mark, his first album was still hovering around the 200,000 sold mark - but the critical acclaim achieved by his insertion into the game was so powerful that no one could undo it.

No one, except Nas himself.

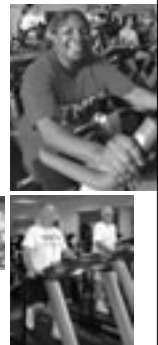
(Continued on Page 13)

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Darfur: The Color of Genocide

By Carol Chehade
Sojourner's Truth Columnist

The pleading and grimy intensity of pain can never be properly measured in front of the interrogating and sterile eyes of international governments. Although the silent screams of pain are immeasurable, our racial preference as to whose screams we select to hear can certainly be measured by our reaction to the genocide in Sudan's province of Darfur.

The United States is in the midst of fighting a war that is supposed to bring freedom to Iraqis. If the U.S. truly believed in freedom, then it would not have allowed the situation in Darfur to get this far. Clearly, our world governments are more interested in freeing oil than they are in freeing civilians from the

spiked chains of annihilation.

Limited accessibility into Darfur makes estimating exact death tolls hard, but recently the United Nations projected that around 350,000 people have died with an additional two million people displaced, thus creating the world's largest refugee problem. Couple that with disease, lack of medical care and famine and these numbers will surely increase.

Darfur, meaning "land of Furs," is the namesake after the land's original inhabitants, the Furs, who when joined along with several other black ethnic groups, such as the Massaleit and Zaghawa, make up the large majority of the non-Arab Sudanese. Before the indif-

ferent sword of colonization incorporated Darfur into the Anglo-Egyptian map of Sudan, this province existed as a successful self-governing Sultanate State of Kayra. With the increasing migration of Arabs into Darfur, tensions between the African pastoralists and the Arab nomads started showing itself in various degrees. Because nomadic lifestyle is often unstable and hostile, nomads are always fighting their way through harsh elements and foreign territories in the effort to carve out niches. Unfortunately some of these places where these niches are carved displace the people who lived there before them.

The subtle tensions amongst the various ethnic groups have been exploited by corrupt powers that have little interest in the people. Despite the tensions, Arabs and Africans have long co-existed and intermarried creating the racial composite we see in Darfur today. The blurring of physical identity between Arabs and Africans has challenged outsiders who usually de-

termine race through the limited Western eyes of black and white. With over 500 ethnic groups in this cradle of civilization, Sudan is too genetically rich to narrow people down into a basic Western racial paradigm. In Sudan, "Arab" refers less to the appearance of which we usually affix stereotypical Arab physical identity, and more to what James Baldwin described when referring to whiteness which is a "state of mind." For there are many Arabized populations within Sudan who may or may not look Arab but are completely Arab in loyalties. Although observable racial traits play a role in Darfur, if the non-Arab population submitted to complete Arabization they would have more of a chance to be accepted than African-Americans have in the United States.

Unlike the conflict between the North and South Sudan, the Darfurian conflict has nothing to do with religion, for the executed and the executioners are all Muslims. Part of the problem is that the executed are not Arabized Muslims. Many indigenous Darfurians maintain their core cultural ties with their respective ethnic groups. Despite years of Darfurian support of Northern policy against the South, many non-Arabs started seeing that Islam's racial tolerance was not always applied by the Arabs. As a result, feelings of betrayal have been expressed by many Afro-Darfurians.

With Khartoum granting preferential treatment to Arabs coupled with years of ignoring the overall need of this remote region, rebels within Darfur subsequently organized. Two of the largest rebel groups are the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Khartoum claims that through the African Union, the SLA and JEM are being armed with U.S. backing.

Ending "the world's largest humanitarian crisis" cannot be accomplished through the training and arming rebel groups such as the SLA and JEM, especially when the latter is controlled by Hassan al-Turabi. In the past, Turabi used to be one of the most powerful men behind Khartoum's military regime of Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir. Since his falling out with the Government of Sudan (GOS), Turabi has used Darfur as his headquarters in order to reclaim power in Khartoum.

It is important to note that Turabi was the Speaker of Parliament in GOS and led the Khartoum-supported National Islamic Front (NIF)



which aimed to apply sharia law to all of Sudan including upon non-Muslims of the South who are predominately black Africans. If the U.S. decides to intervene through military might by backing Turabi, they will be funding yet another rebel who will turn on them in the same way as did Osama Bin Laden.

In response to the rebels in Darfur, Khartoum admits to mobilizing militias to counteract insurgencies but have denied any relationship to the most notorious of these militias, the Janjaweed. Janjaweed derives from the Arabic word jinjaweit which means "horse and gun." The convoy of cloaked men on horses, carrying guns loaded with the bullets of racial bigotry evokes images of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

Like the KKK, the Janjaweed are powerless alone but their bigotry is exploited by the GOS who makes sure these otherwise poor Arabs are equipped with expensive arms. The semblance of power allows the Janjaweed the authority to deem weapons as more deserving of admittance into Darfur than food, water and medicine. The Janjaweed are the third arm of the GOS.

Like anyone born with a third arm, the Janjaweed are viewed as a freakish outgrowth that extends itself out of a government body that is trying to hide its less desirable parts. It is equivalent to the U.S. government denying culpability in places like Abu Ghraib where the naked humiliation of Iraqi prisoners by Americans is excused as isolated incidents that in no way reflect the regime.

Throughout history, the so-called renegades who represent the power are used as tools who eventually take the fall. Just as would most corrupt governments, the GOS has denied ties with this renegade group citing the violence is random. Random violence does not propagate a scorched earth policy that burns specific people from their land so that they are open to systematic rape, slavery and murder. Random violence does not grind customs, social structure into extinction. Random violence does not have pogroms that destroy the indigenous Africans of Darfur.

While random violence

cannot account for any of these horrendous acts, genocide does. The word "genocide" comes from two ancient cultures: the Greek geno, which means race, type, and tribe and cide which is Latin for murder. The U.N. defines genocide, "as an act committed with intent to destroy, in whole or part, a national, ethnical, or religious group." The phrase "in whole or part" has the international community debating how much is too much, as if we are waiting for the whole to be fulfilled with no regard to the part that has already been achieved. Compared to the South Sudan, Darfur hasn't lost as many civilians. Are we waiting for Darfur to catch up? The killing in Darfur is fulfilling the meaning behind genocide which is to destroy cultures and/or re-induct the survivors into the image of the conqueror through language, education, and customs.



If we factor in genocide with the construction of an 850-mile oil pipeline, which begins in the Melut Basin in the South and ends at the Red Sea, then the agenda to reach peace has become even more complicated. Sudan is quickly replacing Nigeria's title of possessing the largest amount of untapped oil reserves in all of Africa. With untapped oil reserves, the negotiations over Darfur are manipulated by oil companies vying for contracts to drill and pump oil into the international markets. As a result, corporate conglomerates are fighting a war inside a war because they are all reaching the final peak of oil production.

My brothers and sisters in my Middle-Eastern and North African motherland are not doing a much better job with their weak reaction to Darfur than my new brothers and sisters are in America. After all, the Darfurians are as pious as the Muslims in Mecca. Incidentally, those inhabitants of the Middle East and North Africa who are Christian and Jewish also have bloody hands when it comes to their exploitation of Africa. Like Muslims Arabs, they have yet to mobilize a powerful united front to help Darfur. Despite all of the differences between the Arab World and the Western

(Continued on Page 12)



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Darfur: The Color of Genocide

(Continued from Page 11)

World they have one thing in common: both sides have enriched themselves from Africa by exploiting every imaginable resource, most notably slaves. Where they didn't exploit and enslave; they colonized. Where they did not colonize; they set up segregated communities where they exploited the mercantile aspect of economics. Afterwards, they never bothered to close the gates of hell they opened. Since then, the devil himself has come out of those gates and found a new home amongst international political criminals.

Given what the world has done to Sudan, Khartoum doesn't want U.S. interference and cites the fact that the U.S. is not in a position to talk about human rights and especially in the area of race. Given that the U.S. has built refugee camps called prisons that house a large number of African-Americans, Khartoum may be right. Seemingly the superpower of the world is slower to act when the victims resemble the faces of the very population it enslaved for hundreds of years. Meanwhile, the Arab world seems to act on genocide only when the oppressed resemble Palestinians and Iraqis. Yet, this isn't about whose racial record is worse. It is about stopping genocide.

Outside intervention in Sudan must not further alienate Darfur and Khartoum from one another. Eventually, when the peacekeeping forces and military interventions come and go, the Sudanese will still have to contend with one another. Although only the people of Sudan can solve their national problems, the destruction of humanity is no longer an internal problem but a universal one.

Every nation that continues to do nothing to stop the genocide is as responsible as the GOS. We can implicate the much of the international community, including the European Union, the Chinese, the Indians and the Pakistanis, all of whom have more interest in excavating oil, even if it includes excavating the people who stand in the way of that oil. We can implicate the Arab League which has been unusually passive while watching Sudanese Arabs dishonor Arab identity with misguided agendas of Arabization and Islamization. We can implicate the U.S. which with all of its power and resources can bring an end to the genocide.

In a nation that has waged war for longer than the country has been independent, politicians and leaders have been promiscuous with fa-

vors on all sides. Sudan will not be able to broker peace in buildings built with the skeletal remains of civilians. At the most base level, the blood must stop flowing so that civil negotiation from all sides can come to the table to bring about peace, not only in theory, but also in practice. Brokering peace in the midst of genocide is like trying to see the humanity of a rapist as he is in the process of brutalizing his victim.

The quick response to genocide should not be determined by the color of one's race, but rather by the color of blood spilled for a demoted definition of humanity. We have every type of communication devices, broadcasts and articles just like this one reporting on Darfur, yet ironically we are as paralyzed as we were before the so-called information age. Virtually every nation on the face of the earth has condemned the genocide in Darfur, but condemning atrocities against civilians should hardly be something for which we deserve a peace prize. We need to scream with as much desperation as those Darfurians are screaming to be heard. Perhaps then we can finally hear each other to the point where stopping their pain is equivalent to stopping our own pain.

Owens Community College to Host Weapons of Mass Destruction Seminars, Jan. 4 and 9

Northwest Ohio first responders and campus law enforcement and public safety officials interested in acquiring information about weapons of mass destruction are invited to attend free one-day seminars presented by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) at Owens Community College. The seminars will occur on Jan. 4 and 9.

The weapons of mass destruction seminars will be held from 8 a.m. * 5 p.m. at the College's Fire Science and Law Enforcement Center Rooms 145-147.

"Owens Community College is proud to partner with the IACLEA and host an event focused on furthering first responder

training," said Julee Cope, Owens Chief of Safety and Security. "This seminar is a great opportunity

to provide vital information concerning public safety that will inevitably better prepare first responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel, and campus law enforcement officials for potential crisis situations involving weapons of mass destruction."

Topics discussed will include a general understanding and recognition of terrorist weapons of mass destruction involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives, and the defensive considerations and control issues associated with these types of incidents.

Participants will be trained to implement self-

protection measures, to properly and safely contain and secure the scene, to initiate and maintain appropriate control measures, and to assist with mitigation, preparedness, response or recovery operations.

Funding for such training initiatives is through a grant awarded to the IACLEA by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness.

The IACLEA is focused on advancing public safety for educational institutions by providing educational resources, advocacy and professional development to law enforcement and security officers. The organization provides a forum for mem-

(Continued on Page 14)

TOLEDO YOUTH, Take A Stand For What's Right... A message to minority youth in the urban struggle!

(Continued from Page 3)

Our youth can be our fate or our future. If young people embrace black culture, ground themselves in it, and feel compelled to continue the legacy, then they are our future. But if they turn their backs on their blackness, their history; if they have contempt for their fathers and mothers, if they do nothing but engage in self-congratulatory narratives and music about themselves and imagine that they are actually any threat to this society or that they have any future in it simply by talking negative, then they are not our future, they are our fate. My young brothers and

sisters it is time to call an urban truce. It is time to stop the bloodshed. It is time to take ownership and responsibility for actions, stand up and speak up for ourselves, our families and our communities. It is time to stand up for what is right. Let's stop the violence, and channel the anger into constructive efforts that will better ourselves. We can no longer look for handouts. Wake up, get up and do something positive with your life.

All of you have talents and skills and can be valuable leaders to our community. It's not in the older generation's best interest to cultivate a hip-hop genera-

tion of leaders. Old heads in power are threatened by the power of hip-hop. Given the ways we control the marketplace and dominate pop culture, they realize that if we ever turn that energy on to community and political activism, then it's all over for them.

Prisons are being built all across America for angry youth. I urge you, I plead with you ... don't do it! It is not worth your freedom ... stop the violence and channel your energy and time into making our community, your community, your home a better place.

Album Review

Nas *Hip Hop Is Dead* (parental advisory)

(Continued from Page 10)

And that's what makes Nas' story interesting.

How do you handle your career after you re-establish an entire coast with just one album?

How do you live up to the hype of being labeled as the next coming of Rakim?

How do you maintain the artistic integrity and deep thinking approach you've become known for while trying to stay afloat in the materialistic 90's rap game?

By the turn of the century, Nas was still a gifted MC with more platinum plaques than 90 percent of all the rappers you could find. But he was not a mogul with his hand in multiple business affairs, at that time he wasn't dating a female celebrity and even after a starring role in *Belly* he still wasn't a red-carpet type of rap figure.

After all of those al-

bums the legacy was tarnished in a big way.

I personally think he fell off with *Nasradamus* ... like, he was teeter tottering on the edge with some of the things he did but that one right there was it for me.

Ya'll already know the whole Nas/Jay Z beef from start to finish so I won't even go there.

But even though he's been through battles, even though he's labeled as a walking contradiction (which he speaks to in his recent article with *XXL* - a must read!), and even though he has to fight to be heard in an industry inundated with pure garbage that the 106 & Park crowd willfully remains addicted to ... even with all that, you've got to take it pretty damn serious when someone of Nas' stature names his album *Hip Hop Is Dead*.

That's deep.

That's serious.

That's... hell, it's actu-

ally understandable.

But when you come out like that, especially after joining the label headed by your former foe turned friend ... you've got to come with some material that's sure to please.

You've got to validate that claim by making an album guaranteed to resuscitate this culture's core elements as they lay dying on the floor.

This is more than just dope beats and dope rhymes.

This has to be what Jay Z called an "event album."

One thing I can say about Nas and Jay Z's albums this year is that they are better than anything out in 2006 even though they don't sound like what you'd typically expect from them. But that's a good thing.

Why would you expect 10+ year veterans to keep sounding the same way they did when they rose to the top of the game?

One thing I'm not happy about is that he didn't keep

his promise.

Street's Disciple (Nas' only double album and most recent release until now) had a song called "The Unauthorized biography of Rakim" and it was one of my most favorite hip-hop songs of the last 10 years - no doubt.

And at the end he says that his next album will have an unauthorized biography of K.R.S. One. You gotta really see why that's so legendary and I've been waiting for it but here is his next album and it's nowhere to be found.

Street's Disciple actually had more moving material than *Hip Hop Is Dead* even though this album seems to be based on a more personal platform.

However, this is Nas.

And this is a remarkable album with classic material.

"Not Going Back" is the first entire song I've heard where one of the kings of the rap game just blatantly

says that he refuses to ever back to the hood just for street cred.

"Streets keep trying to say, come back around this way... I've already gone that way, I won't go back again" - says the chorus

(with wifey on the hook sounding better than ever!)

This song is so ill he even talks about how embarrassed he is when he thinks back on his materialism.

One of the most interesting rap songs I've ever heard in my entire life is "Who Killed It?"

It's crazy... Nas goes into thespian mode and spends an entire song adopting the dialect of a 1950's detective from some 'who done it' type of mystery movie as he pieces together evidence to find hip-hop's killer.

On one hand, it borders on ridiculous but, then again, it's actually a perfect way to get his message across.

"Black Republican" with Jay Z is enough to make you



wish that they would collaborate far more often.

It's probably not as mind blowing as the minds of hip-hop fanatics have dreamt it up to be, but is a true joining of two of the best rappers of any and all time.

Hip Hop Is Dead is more than just a hot album... it's an important album.

I won't even go into further detail.

You need to learn if you don't know.

You need to listen if you already know.

End the year on a high note and help save this music we love by supporting a true artist who has something to say.

The true grade for Nas' *Hip Hop Is Dead* is A-

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

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WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

Owens Community College to Host Weapons of Mass Destruction Seminars

(Continued from Page 12)

ber organizations to discuss their campuses. Space is limited to the first 50 applicants. For more information, or to pre-register for the event, call (567) 661-

7575 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7575. Area first responders must show a valid identification in order to be admitted.

New City Government Service

Starting January 1, 2007 Toledo residents will be able to call the city for non-emergency city services using one telephone number, 936 - 2020. They will also be able to do that 24 hours, 7 days a week. The city has 6 operators who are already trained and will work in three shifts to provide information and services. The city's main goal is customer service excellence and the operators are prepared to be friendly, efficient and knowledgeable.

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or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.
EOE.

**Assistant Director
Alumni Relations
The University of Toledo**

Job # 996720: This full-time position has responsibility for developing and maintaining alumni affiliates (primarily on the Health Science Campus) and some chapters, including planning, organization, record keeping, and on-going support and liaison services. A successful applicant must possess a Bachelor's degree; a Master's degree is preferred. Four or more years of professional experience in alumni relations, marketing, special event planning, public relations, or development/fundraising in a non-profit or for-profit sector also required. The success applicant must have the ability to work with and in front of large crowds and must be physically able to perform event set-up. The position involves frequent travel, including nights and weekends, and a valid driver's license. The salary for this position is approximately \$30,000 on an annualized basis.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job #), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by Friday, January 5, 2007.

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free legal assistance to low-income people, seeks a full-time executive assistant for its Toledo office. The executive assistant will provide administrative support to the Executive Director, including office support, scheduling, record keeping, communications, meeting planning, travel planning, support for Board of Trustees, and other related work.

Candidates must have a four or two year degree or equivalent experience. A minimum of five years of experience as an administrative professional or in a role supporting a senior executive or leadership team is desired. Excellent leadership communication, interpersonal, analytical, and time management skills. Demonstrated ability to work independently and with a team of professionals, determine appropriate priorities, and complete projects accurately, efficiently, and timely. Excellent writing skills required; must be able to prepare reports and internal and external communications. A high level of proficiency in office software systems; ability to work well with low-income clients. Salary depends on experience. Excellent fringe benefits. Send resume as soon as possible to Attention: ABLE Executive Assistant, electronically preferred in Microsoft Word format, to:

jobs@ablelaw.org or
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Equal access to ABLE offices is available. Those applicants requiring accommodation in the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator, at the address listed above. EOE

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**Director, Grants Development
The University of Toledo**

Job # 996754: The Director of Grants Development, reporting to the Vice President for Research Development, is responsible for organizing and preparing multi-investigator and primarily interdisciplinary grant proposals of high institutional priority. It is expected that most proposals will request in excess of \$1 million. These will include proposals to bring funding into the institution (as opposed to single investigator proposals) and major proposals from the faculty that require dedicated assistance from the University (such as proposals for Wright Centers of Innovation that are \$20-\$25 million proposals). The Director of Grants Development is responsible for supervising the University Research Awards and Fellowship Program and for managing the Research Council review process that results in the distribution of funds to faculty at the main campus to support research and scholarship. The Director of Grants Development will work with the Vice President for Research Development in organizing and preparing annual congressional research projects as well as the preparation of the Annual Congressional Briefing Book. The Director of Grants Development will also be available to review and comment on proposals from faculty to increase their probability of funding. The Director of Grants Development will work with the Vice President for Research Development and other key administrators to identify opportunities that must be a high institutional priority and develop a plan to organize work teams to prepare proposals for such opportunities. The person in the position will organize and supervise meetings of appropriate faculty and staff to respond to funding opportunities and serve as the central point of contact for the preparation of proposals. This will include bringing various sections drafted by other individuals into a coherent document, checking budget information against project plans and timelines, and pulling all information together in the approved format for Office of Research approval and submission.

The successful applicant must possess a Master's Degree with a doctoral degree preferred. The individual must have at least three years experience in an organization with success in grant proposal writing and submission. Also required is experience in writing grant proposals to federal agencies and awareness of federal granting opportunities and funding requirements. The salary range for this position is \$65,000 to \$70,000 on an annualized basis.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job #), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by Friday, January 26, 2007.

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

Public Notice

In accordance with Sections 329.06 (B)(3) and 5101.46 (D) of the Ohio Revised Code; and Section 5101:2-25-03 (D) of The Ohio Administrative Code, the Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services will hold a **Public Hearing** prior to the submission of the County's Final Social Service Profile to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

PURPOSE:

To highlight pertinent information regarding social services needs in the community through public testimony for the County's two year Social Service Plan.

DATE: January 9, 2007

TIME: 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**LOCATION: Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services
3210 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio
4th Floor, Toledo Room
* Please report to security upon arrival.**

Individuals and organizations wanting to provide testimony at the Public Hearing should register, via e-mail or phone, in advance to reserve a time slot. A written copy of your testimony must be submitted at the hearing. Testimonies should incorporate your name, organization (if applicable), a brief description of your testimony, and contact information.

To register, please contact Cheryl Wawrzyniak at 419-213-8809 or via email at wawrzc@odjfs.state.oh.us by January 2, 2007.

This notice is posted, as of December 21, 2006, at
<http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/SupportServices/BidNotices.asp>

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

Oldest African-American Fraternity Commemorates 100th Anniversary

Special to The Truth

On December 4, 1906, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity for African-Americans, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY by seven college men who recognized the need for a bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country.

The "Jewels" of the fraternity – Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle and Vertner Woodson Tandy – began a tradition that would serve for decades as support group for minority students. They succeeded in laying the foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity.

Over the years, men such as W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, An-



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

drew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson and many others have been member of the fraternity.

In 1928, Brothers Leo V. English, S.J. Flanagan, Herbert S. Goodloe, E.W. Johnson, Ivan C. McCleod and Herman Miller received a charter to establish Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in Toledo. That chartering took place at the Frederick

Douglass Community Center.

On December 16 and 17, hundreds of fraternity members of the northwest Ohio chapters participated in the Centennial Celebration at the Park Inn. The weekend highlights included a public forum consisting of a view of Alpha Phi Alpha's community involvement on Saturday. The evening brought a Black and Gold Centennial Ball – a black tie affair.

On Sunday, the fraternity hosted a Gospel Luncheon featuring vocalist Anita Sanders.

Local luminaries of the fraternity include Judge Charles Doneghy, TPS administrator Richard Jackson, retired University of Toledo professor Lancelot Thompson, Ph.D., Dr. Fred Guy, DDS and Eric Stockard of Central Catholic High School.



Joe and Jettie Sansbury



Martine Harmon, vice president of Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter; Emmanuel Brown, assistant Midwest Regional VP; Daryl Peal, Midwest Regional VP and Joe Conley, president, Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter



Clockwise bottom left: AKA President Julia Holt, Delta Sigma Theta President Bettina Shuford, Ph.D., Regina Peal, Ph.D., and Lisa Dubose

I Too Had A Dream

Eric Brian King, while a student at Keyser Elementary, dreamed of one day becoming a businessman. But like most teenage boys from a single parent home, it appeared his dream would never be realized. King states: "As a youth, I just did not understand the way the world operated (education, religion, and parenting) and I just didn't want to listen to those that did (my teachers, my pastor, and my mother)." King, the youngest of four siblings, could have never imagined the tragedy he would face in September 1996, when a reckless driver killed his mother Patricia Ann Sturdivant-King. This experience led King to become a personal injury lawyer, and that's why he states "To Others It's Just Business at KING Law Offices— We Take Your Personal Injury... Personal!" King continues: "My mother always told me: "Son, as a black man, you must work three times as hard... be honest, have integrity and take pride in your work." "Later in my life, I realized these are the simple keys to success, as blacks, we must learn to despise the 'free lunch' and we need to understand the concept of 'delayed gratification', which includes planting seeds to harvest in another season (education, prayer, and investing). I now know nothing in life is immediate, and only by my faith in God, have I had the patience to make my childhood dream a reality."



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