

A CITY REMEMBERS . . .



In This Issue

Truth Editorial
Page 2

My View/Jack Ford
Page 3

Tabernacle of Faith
Page 4

Phantom Captivates
Page 5

AKA's Balance Budgets
Page 6

Truth Business

Learners for Life
Page 7

Vince Davis
Page 8

Big Boy Construction
Page 9

Bill Harris
Page 10

MLK Special

Alpha Scholarship Breakfast
Page 11

Temple-Congregation
Shomer
Page 12

White Rapper Show
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

During his speech this past Monday at The City of Toledo/The University of Toledo's Unity Celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mayor Carty Finkbeiner launched an impassioned call for action with respect to the War in Iraq and he did so in the name of Dr. King himself.

The mayor called for the public and for politicians to give voice to their opposition to the war, much as our own U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur has from the onset of this fiasco.

We applaud the mayor for his speech and his very correct recollection of the courage it took for Dr. King to give voice to his own opposition to the Vietnam War during the 1960's.

As the mayor noted, when Dr. King spoke out against the Vietnam War, it was against the advice of his close associates who, like most observers and critics during that time, thought that Dr. King had entered into a discussion of which he had little knowledge, no expertise and certainly no business. Dr. King, however, as he had noted several years earlier in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, had long ago become "cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states." He also had become well aware of the futility of the war and the cost in human lives on both sides.

Dr. King set an example that Mayor Finkbeiner urged those in attendance to emulate today with respect to the War in Iraq. In doing so, the mayor made reference to the troop surge that President George Bush has proposed and how important it was for Americans to speak out against sending even more men and women into battle.

Again, we could not agree more with the mayor.

We cry out in opposition to the surge for a number of reasons, but foremost amongst them is the fact that we find it hard to believe that the disastrous mismanagement of this war on which the Bush administration has so misled the public can be corrected by a mere 21,500 additional troops. What, if anything can a total of approximately 160,000 troops do in Iraq that 140,000 could not? We recall the fact that these very same men who now call for more troops, practically ran General Shinseki, Army chief of staff at the time, out of the Army when he said in the run-up to the War that several hundred thousand troops would be needed in Iraq in the aftermath.

According to the administration, the additional 21,500 gives the U.S. the opportunity to secure Baghdad, along with the stepped up involvement of the Iraqis whose leadership Bush said over the weekend he told that it's "time to get moving." Better late than never.

Bush doesn't need congressional approval to send the troops, only to continue funding them. And he doesn't need the approval of the American people for such a move. But his appeal last week to the American public certainly had all the earmarks of a request for support for his plan. And that support will not be forthcoming.

The public is opposed, members of both parties in Congress are opposed and officers in the Pentagon of general rank are opposed. All with good reason. For a start, Bush has scant credibility left among the American public.

As for the Pentagon brass, most of those folks in the top ranks entered the military during and shortly after the War in Vietnam. They started moving into the middle management ranks of the military during the 1980's when Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and his protégé, Colin Powell, were beginning to formulate what would in later years become known as the Powell Doctrine.

Military officers were steeped in the tenets that formed that doctrine. Some of the points of that doctrine have come back to haunt those in the Pentagon who, for the sake of their careers, have rolled over while Bush and Cheney blithely ignore any semblance of a plan of action.

"Have a clear attainable objective," "have a plausible exit strategy" and "utilize overwhelming force" are three key points of the Powell Doctrine that have been flouted during the Iraq debacle. And because of the damage caused by that blatant disregard for the lessons learned in Vietnam, a fourth point has also come into play - "is the action supported by the American people?"

At one time, Bush most certainly had that support but it has been squandered over recent years by both the ineptitude the administration has demonstrated in conducting this war and by the misinformation it has disseminated.

Bush has stated that he is committed to this course of action - the troop surge - regardless of what anyone else might think. He says it is the right thing to do.

We believe that he is more interested in his presidential legacy than in doing the right thing. For the record, that legacy is already in the toilet.

The Sojourner's Truth

616^{1/2} Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700

Published weekly on Wednesday

Printed by Webco Graphics

Advertising deadline: Friday at noon

Subscribe to The Truth Today!

26 Weeks - Only \$40.00 52 Weeks - only \$70.00

Name: _____ Phone# (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send your check or money order to:
The Sojourner's Truth,
616 1/2 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604

Community Calendar

January 17

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Writing a Business Plan;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

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

January 20

• American Association of University Women: 5th annual Transitions Conference; Lourdes College; Keynote speaker Anita Lopez; Daylong conference to inspire and motivate through workshops in balancing life, work and school: 419-474-4226

• G-Creations Vendor Networking Luncheon: Noon; Genesis Dreamplex Hotel & Conference Center; Contact Glenda Brown @ 419-870-2483 or gcreationsevents@yahoo.com

• Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc: Local chapter's Prayer Breakfast; 9:30 am; Gladieux Meadows; Theme "Women of Excellence, Empowering New Growth;" Speaker Charlton Dewberry, Esq: 419-466-5260

January 24

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Marketing Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

January 27

• Second Annual Black Bridal Expo: Genesis Dreamplex Hotel & Conference Center; Noon to 5 pm; Open vendor display; Fashion show; Marriage renewal ceremony: 419-870-2483 or gcreationsevents@yahoo.com

• 23rd Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth: Sponsored by UT EXCEL; Student Union Auditorium at UT; 8:30 am to 1:30 pm; Free Admission and lunch; Guest Speaker Sharon Draper: 419-530-3830, 3820 or 3822

January 31

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Financing and Record-keeping for Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

February

Black History Month!!

February 4

• Ridgewood Church of Christ: A Celebration of Black History Month; 12:30 to 5 pm; Blood pressure checks, health screenings, crafts, ethnic food, free haircuts, manicures, games, door prizes, among other activities: 419-726-2210

February 10

• End Time Christian Fellowship: Adult Singles and Couples Valentine's Dinner; night of love, laughter and inspiration; 6 pm; Dinner, music, entertainment and more: 419-729-1027 or 419-346-7426

February 11

• Calvary Baptist Church: Annual Culinary Heritage Food Taster; 4 pm

February 18

• Ridgewood Church of Christ: A Celebration of Black History Month; 12:30 to 5 pm; Blood pressure checks, health screenings, crafts, ethnic food, free haircuts, manicures, games, door prizes, among other activities: 419-726-2210

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Kevin McQueen
Fletcher Word
Becky McQueen

Publisher
Publisher and Editor
Business Manager

Alan Abrams
Geneva J. Chapman
Tamir A. Shaw
Artisha Lawson
Ashlee Austin
Jack Ford
Carol Chehade
Michael J. Hayes

Reporter
Reporter
Reporter
Reporter
Political Columnist
Columnist
Entertainment Critic

Jennifer Retholtz
Aida Maxsam
Pamela Anderson
Kathy Sweeny

Layout Designer/Webmaster
Sales Representative
Sales Representative
Ad Creation

A Certified MBE, 2006

The Sojourner's Truth, 616^{1/2} Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700

thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Back in the 1960's, a lot of news stories focused on personalities within the Civil Rights Movement.

One guy named Bull Connor, the police chief of Birmingham, AL, got so ticked off over a story run in the New York Times that he sued the paper for libel. The case ultimately came down on the side of a free press with the legal doctrine delineated that a public official or figure can be written about even to the point of "reckless disregard of the truth."

Why? Because a public figure by the very nature of their actions generally thrust themselves out into the vortex of humanity.

What in the heck is a vortex?

Well, for our purposes here, it is simply the mix in which anyone who makes news or policy or has the kind of job that people want to hear about or read about in the media finds him or herself. For that reason alone, I have always known that anything I did as a public official

or figure is fair game for the press. Even if it involves something minor to my duties or is an extension of my household.

The press, if they want to do a story, will pounce upon anything. And, it is from that standpoint that I do not understand the jail visit episode in which Mayor Carty Finkbeiner recently became embroiled. Take the hit and come back the next day!

It is reported that Bob Bennett will remain as chairman of the Ohio Republican Party. Probably no one else wanted it right now, but the GOP will certainly rebound and Bennett has savored his share of victories over a good long run. In fact, his term as a successful chairman was beginning to rival that of Ray Bliss, the Rhodes-era GOP leader of almost legendary status, in "how to" politics.

We see The Blade/Keith Wilkowski party rearing its head a little early for 2009. Wilkowski's Saturday essay on regionalism was a thoughtful piece designed to place him as the thinking candidate

for the future. No new ground was covered but several predictable political markers were noted - that we are in a crisis so let's act now.

Actually, this is not a budget crisis, this is a budget boondoggle! The city is in the hole only because the mayor has paid off the unions with a fully paid-up pension plan.

Everyone in city hall knew that there was no money for the settlement, including George Sarantou, chairman of the City Council Finance Committee. As they say, no one said a mumbling word! Too scared of the police and fire unions. Now, you get to pay for it.

Wilkowski also argued against the divisiveness of "unigov." I think that was a direct slap at me. Well, regionalism does not work by committee of a myriad number of agreements. At some point, the regional approach works when you change the structure and roles of government, streamline the decision-making and speak with a clear voice.

Interestingly, the next day, a big local story appeared about the possibility of a water war if Toledo raises its rates to surrounding locales.

First, Toledo will raise its rates, it is just a matter of how much. Second, a modest rate increase will still find the cost for outlying areas to be a bargain compared to other users near or in big cities. The real gouging, if that is what it is, involves the rate-setting by some of our sister cities, down to the townships.

But all of this misses the key point. The real concern here is that Toledo signed agreements without annexation years ago. That horse got out of the barn a while back. White, middle-class flight from Toledo to Oregon, to Perrysburg, to Sylvania, to Maumee, to Bedford and beyond, has long been a reality. And there ain't a damn thing any mayor or Port Authority or anyone else can do

about it because there is no substitute for new land.

So, what is the answer? Cut our losses. Re-organize our city and county. Change our boundaries. Give up some real political power and gain a new political landscape. It's all quite simple, is it not?

Someone in the Ohio House or Senate should copy cat the "Duke Cunningham Act" presently making its way in the U.S. Congress. Cunningham was the congressman from California who got caught receiving expensive gifts, furniture and other goodies from lobbyists hoping to influence him.

If Ohio had had such a law on the books, you can bet that no public official would have dared to get involved in the Bush conduit scandal.

As it turned out, none of those involved in that scandal who are or will be eligible for a pension from the state



Jack Ford

had it placed in jeopardy.

* * * * *

Last week when I wrote of Sean Logan being tapped for the position of Director of Natural Resources, it was misprinted here that I had worked with Rep. Gene Krebs on legislation on land use planning. It should have read that Logan worked with the Republican Krebs on such legislation and thereby displayed his ability at cross-aisle partisanship which will be important given that the House and the Ohio Senate remain in Republican hands.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com



INSURANCE BUSINESS PLANNING ESTATE PLANNING EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Isn't it time you had a Quiet Conversation™ with Kevin McQueen?



Kevin S. McQueen
Financial Representative
Northwestern Mutual
Financial Network - Toledo
3950 Sunforest Court, Suite 200
Toledo, OH 43623
(419) 407-8656 | (419) 473-2270
kevin.mcqueen@nmfn.com
www.nmfn.com/toledofinancial

For more than 145 years, Northwestern Mutual and its products have quietly earned a most enviable reputation. Visit www.nmfn.com for more information.



Northwestern Mutual
FINANCIAL NETWORK®
It's time for a Quiet Conversation.™

05-2321 ©2004 The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., Milwaukee, WI. Northwestern Mutual Financial Network is the marketing name for the sales and distribution arm of The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates. 4064-158

Letter to the Editor:

Over the past couple of weeks, there has been ongoing controversy about the vote for the President of City Council. Since my position has been misrepresented by the Mayor and others within the Democratic Party, and these misrepresentations have made it into The Blade, I wanted to correct the record.

The fact is that I support Wilma Brown to be the President of Council. I supported her in 2006, and I supported her again when we voted on January 2, 2007. I was one of four council members who voted to open nominations so that Council could vote on a new President.

I'm disappointed that the Mayor and party officials are misrepresenting my position and my votes. Everyone knows that it is an election year for district members of council, and apparently they have decided to get an early start on the campaign.

These are the same people, of course, who supported a Republican to be President of Council in 2006. I urge voters not to be fooled. The record shows who supports the principles of the Democratic Party.

Sincerely

Michael Ashford

Dear Editor,

At the City Council meeting Tuesday, January 2, a motion to elect a new Council president was made. A majority yes vote was required to pass the motion so the floor could be opened to receive nominations. It was disappointing to have a council of eight Democrats and four Republicans kill the motion as a majority yes vote was not achieved. The reason given by Frank Szollosi was that the Democrats didn't have their "act" together and therefore had no business electing a president. He further explained there was a previous meeting with some of the Democratic council members to discuss the position but a consensus was not reached. It was a choice between Frank and Wilma Brown. I was so hopeful Wilma would be selected. She has had a career spanning over 40 years which has required diplomacy, negotiation and dialogue. If there is anything we need right now, it is diplomacy, negotiation and dialogue between the split Democrats, the administration and the Republican representatives. By killing the motion, there was no chance of electing a Democrat as president of Council and it indicates a belief by some of the Democrats that a Republican president would be better than a qualified Democrat, Wilma Brown. I would be concerned with Frank at the helm; even further division would yield conflict between the Administration and council which would hinder progress in Toledo. Frank would be in a no win position as president as any action he would take would be deemed anti-administration or buckling to the administration. At this juncture, we need at least a fighting chance of having an empowered Council. Frank has a future in this city, but this is not the time for him to lead as Council president and I doubt he really believes he would have any success in working with the Administration.

Sincerely

Karen Shanahan

An Opportunity to Teach

By Jan K. M. Scotland
Guest Columnist

The passing of a Toledo icon has brought African-American history to the forefront for me. Edrene Benson Cole was a graceful, articulate force in this city. She represented a generation of trail blazers that we can only get glimpses of from the news reels and books of their time.

Born in Marks, Mississippi, Edrene came from modest upbringings to break many barriers. She graduated from The University of Toledo in the 1950s with a bachelor's of arts, masters of education and education specialist degrees. She was a teacher, administrator and creator of opportunities for thousands of underprivileged students.

As a poor boy from New York City, born in Harlem, I thought I saw the worst that life could offer in the ghetto streets, but traveling to my wife's home town of Calhoun City, Mississippi was scary.

Years ago, as we traveled through the neighborhood her relatives pointed out the tin-roof shacks their families had lived in and told stories of how old Sammy was beaten to death because he was fooling with white women. And how Jackie was lynched on a tree that used to be over there.

I was amazed at how people growing up with the threats and violence of that time were able to educate themselves, feed their families and become successful role models. These were the roots of Edrene's life experiences.

I am just as amazed that so many youth of today rationalize their hardships by saying it's simply because they're black. The Toledo youth, who find saying the "N" word, fighting in the mall, and just barely getting through school is all part of "being real," need to understand the "real" battles that were fought for them, just a few generations ago.

Edrene Cole never accepted social economic backgrounds as a reason for



a student to accept failure. Edrene never accepted coming from a single parent family as an excuse to wear your pants down like a prison inmate. She would never allow a student to claim freedom of expression to speak in Ebonics. In short, she would accept nothing but excellence from any young person she met. Edrene and others from her generation understood what real discrimination and oppression looked like. Edrene faced it, fought it, rose above it and persevered.

I remember growing up in New York City, eating liverwurst and crackers for lunch, wearing holey shoes with cardboard to keep the dirt and moisture out. We weren't the best dressed but we were always neat. We weren't the best spoken but no one would let us speak slang in the presence of adults. We were not the smartest but we understood the importance of education. We were just short of the real civil rights generation but we knew our responsibility to those who carried the torch before us. There were no excuses taken because we understood that life didn't have to be fair.

During this month of Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr's birthday and the beginning of Afro-American celebrations next month, we need to remember the contributions of people like Edrene Cole. We need to pass on the lessons their lives teach us. More responsibility needs to be placed on our youth to carry on the traditions of their ancestors. They need to leave the world better for their children as people like Edrene left it for us.

Goodbye, Edrene. We will miss your smile, we will miss your articulate voice, we will miss your leadership, we will miss your education and we will miss your immaculate dress. I hope all of us will use your life as well as many past and present like you to tell the youth of today that they have no excuse for not making the best of their lives.

Pastor of Destroyed Church Believes That God Has Everything under Control

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Tabernacle of Faith Church was destroyed in an accidental fire last week. Nevertheless, by the end of the week, the pastor of the 42-year-old church, Rev. James C. Williams, had offered his opinion that the mourning for the structure had ended.

"I can't bring myself to be sorry," said Williams. "If I believe that God has everything under control, that we can't always understand his plans, then we have to believe in the fact that in the long run, this will do us good."

"We believe in new beginnings and we're excited about the future," he added, noting that he became the senior pastor of the church just a few months ago, in June 2006 and that it won't be long before the congregation has both a new leader and a new building.

And with those sentiments uttered, Williams was off to start a round of meetings in anticipation of narrowing the church's search for architects and builders. The Tabernacle of Faith, which moved to its present location about 20 years ago at 743 N. Detroit Avenue, will be rebuilt on the same location, he told The Truth during a visit to this paper's offices last Thursday afternoon.



Rev. James C. Williams

The church was founded 42 years ago by Williams' father, Rev. James C. Williams, Jr., on Miller Street near Indiana Avenue. The church also housed the James C. Williams Center for Advancement, a nonprofit organization that provides services to children of inmates and helps released ex-offenders find housing and employment. Fortunately the staff of the center had just about completed a move to offices at 3540 before the fire razed the church building. The offices of the church will be temporarily located at the same place.

Church services will be conducted, at least for the next few weeks, at the Clarion Hotel on Secor. After that time frame, Williams and his staff will sift through the offers from around the city from other churches that have extended offers to house the congregation over the next

year and a half or so that it will take to rebuild.

Ideally, Williams would like to keep services as close to his 175-member, central-city congregation as possible.

In the meantime, the church is seeking help in the form of computers and desks. Money can be donated through a rebuilding fund set up at Key Bank.

It's going to be a busy period for Williams, his family - most of whom are active in either the church or the center - and his congregation. But neither he nor his flock are dejected by what is to come.

"We've been ministering for a good while that whatever comes into your life, whatever's on the other side of pain, whatever's on the other side of hurt, whatever's on the other side of suffering ... there's always a brighter day."

REALITY HAIR & NAIL SALON
1818 N. Reynolds Rd.

\$35 For BOTH
Eyelash & Eyebrow Arching

Also Permanent Cosmetics
(Eyeliner & Eyebrows)

By Appointment
Call Caroline 419-944-3573
Free Booth Rent Available

The University of Toledo, **TOLEDO EXCEL**
The Joint Committee and Sponsoring Organizations present

The 23rd Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth
(for Toledo-area 7th - 12th graders and their parents)
"Improving the Human Condition through EXCELLENCE in Education"

Saturday, January 27, 2007
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The University of Toledo, Student Union Auditorium
Doors open promptly at 7:15 a.m.
-----Free Admission and Lunch-----

Honorary & Parent Educator Session Speaker:
Mr. Sharon Dotson

Professional Educator, Public Speaker and Author
of such titles as *Tears of a Tiger*, *Forged by Fire*, *Copper Sun*,
the popular *Daddy series for children* and many other titles
(see list on website at www.utoledo.edu)

Current Student Session Presenters:
Leland and Shelia Brock, Co-Directors, good news of EOC
Presenting a series of short films on integrity, self-image and respect

Advance reservations will be accepted until Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.
Call now for your reservation!
(419) 530-3830, 3820, or 3822

Other guests: Musical Member voices will perform Mr. Rodney Jordan, Vocalist and recording artist

Phantom of The Opera Mesmerizes Audience With Its Brilliance

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Drama Critic

The moment I walked in and saw the stage, I knew I was home. I have always loved lavish musicals, since I was a little girl watching "The Wizard of Oz" every Easter Sunday at 6:00 pm on my grandmother's Texas ranch.

Even put on my own little 'shows' every Friday when I was in the fourth grade and had a teacher, Mrs. Naomi Johnson, who was insightful enough to allow creativity to flourish in her classroom.

I always dreamed of doing a big, lavish stage show one day.

Well, Andrew Lloyd Webber must have had the same dream. Only, his came

true. Walking into the Stranahan Theater, Friday, January 5, 2007, I saw the most lavish set I think I've ever seen on a stage. The facsimile of the outside of The Paris Opera House, circa 1881, was complete in every detail. Then with great pomp and circumstance, the set transformed, seemingly effortlessly, into the interior of the opera house. This transformation was preceded by a loud pop and flashing lights as an object on the floor suddenly was afire with lights and unfolding like butterfly wings emerging from a cocoon to become the largest chandelier known to man.

The audience watched this metamorphosis mesmerized, but there was more to come. Alit and bedazzling, the gargantuan chandelier lifted itself up and out over the heads of audience members in the first few rows, finally resting on the ceiling of the theater.

And so began "The Phantom of the Opera," Broadway's longest-running show, celebrating its 19th anniversary on the Great White Way this month. After such a dramatic beginning, there seemed to be very little that could top the spectacle of seeing that chandelier rise from the stage.

However, fabulously opulent costumes, singing so beautiful you wanted to close your eyes but didn't for fear of missing any of the fantastic special effects and enough comic and dramatic action to keep even casual theater-goers amused and entertained made the performance one of the most memorable theatrical excursions I've ever had.

The story, first told in a novel at the turn of the last century and later made into a silent film in 1925 starring Lon Chaney, is one of love and redemption, the perfect tale for an opera.

Webber's "Phantom" is a modern opera in the tradition of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." It has all of the melodramatic and comedic elements of classical opera while maintaining its pop culture accessibility for the masses. Yet, all of those performing in the four-week run of "Phantom" in Toledo possess the musical skills to perform at The Met in any classic opera.

Those skills are most manifest in the principles: John Cudia (The Phantom), Marni Raab (Christine Daae'), Michael Gillis (Raoul), Kim Stengel (Carlotta Giudicelli) and John Whitney (Ubaldo Piangi). Each one has an exquisite voice, but Cudia and Raab excel in their singing roles, as well as in their acting.

Directed by Broadway legend, Hal Prince, "Phantom" has so many thrilling scenes and moments, it's hard to describe them all. I am often told that when I write about events, people feel as if they were there. Well, this time you have a chance to go and see it all for yourself, so I won't take you there with mere words.

"Phantom" is something you have to see in person, because, in this case, a picture really is worth a thou-



Whitney as Piangi

sand words. I sat next to Kevin McQueen, one of The Truth's owners, who said he and his wife, Becky, have seen "Phantom" twice in Toronto and once in Detroit. He said the January 5 performance in Toledo was the second-best performance of the show he'd seen, the best being his first time seeing it in Toronto.

It was definitely the most spectacular musical I've ever seen, although my favorites still remain Webber's "Evita" and Michael Bennett's "Dreamgirls." Highlights of "Phantom" were many and included, in addition to the grand opening of the show, the chandelier suddenly dropping from the ceiling and returning to rest there at the end of Act I, a masquerade ball complete with a winding staircase, a spooky gondola ride into the depths of the opera house, an appearance of The Phantom above the audience and his later disappearance on stage.

Returning to Toledo for a month-long engagement, "Phantom" debuted here December 13, 1992. No one should miss the spectacle, the splendor, the experience of "The Phantom of the Opera"

while it is here. I highly recommend it to all audiences, but particularly anyone who aspires to or is already doing theatre. This is how it's done. Musical theatre is that exquisite blend of music, drama and dance that provides entertainment on so many levels. Anyone who wants to or is doing musical theatre in the area should sacrifice the price of a ticket to see "Phantom" while it's here. It will be an evening you'll never forget. (The movie version is also on cable this month, but the singing is not nearly as good.)

Performances are Wednesdays through Sundays until January 28, and tickets, ranging in price from \$22.00 to \$67.00, are on sale at the Stranahan Theater box office, all Ticketmaster outlets and ticketmaster.com or by phone at (419) 474.1333.

Discounts for groups of 20 or more are available by calling toll free 1-866-31GROUP. The northwest Ohio return engagement of "The Phantom of the Opera" is presented by arrangement with Theater League and is part of the 2006-2007 Broadway Series at the Stranahan.



These students are successful in the classroom, on the fields and courts, in the music and art programs...
...and in LIFE!

College scholarships are waiting for them.

Your student can be a part of this success story!

QUALIFY FOR FREE TUITION!



Ohio Voucher Program
Makes a Central Catholic Education a Reality

Ohio EdChoice Scholarship (Voucher) Program
Informational Meeting
Sunday, January 21
4 p.m. – Sullivan Center
Central Catholic High School
2550 Cherry Street

Students in their 8th grade, freshman or sophomore years are eligible.

You must live in one of the following districts: Robinson, Leverette, McTigue, Libbey, Scott or Woodward.

Parents and their students should attend this meeting. Learn how you can become a member of the CCHS family.



2550 Cherry Street • Toledo, Ohio 43608 • phone: 419-255-2280
fax: 419-259-2848 • www.centralcatholic.org

Get a Quote/Grab a Meal

come to

Vince M. Davis Insurance
712 Sherman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43608

Free Fish and Fry at Captain D's
when you get a quote on Auto, Fire, Life or Health



Phone: 419.244.2904
Fax: 419.244.4105



UNDERAGE PROSTITUTES

By Carol Chehade
The Truth Columnist

High heels, short skirts, lip gloss and 24-hour wanton availability are some of the symbols that accompany a prostitute. Those may be the symbols for the glossy, elite call girl who brings in porn-star Jenna Jameson's kind of money, but that type of prostitute is the minority.

The majority of prostitutes' high heels are worn down until they are shredded from walking so much, their short skirts are ill-fitting and their lip gloss is rarely re-applied because why bother applying something that will be removed off their lip by dozens of johns per night. Most of all though, unlike the *Pretty Woman* version of hookers, most prostitutes are underage, with many working in Toledo.

One does not have to travel to the underage brothels of Thailand to see underage children being sexually exploited. The underage trading of flesh can be seen by those who choose not to turn a blind eye right here in Toledo. "I know the FBI is concentrating on Toledo, and I know Toledo is one of the top cities in the country for teen prostitution," said Celia Williamson, Ph.D., a University of Toledo professor known nationally for research of prostitutes.

According to various research projects, the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old. The Council for Prostitution Alternatives found that 85 percent of prostitutes and clients were sexually abused in childhood. Prostitution for many underage girls is a continuous replay of childhood nightmares, meaning that every time a john buys an adult woman, he is indirectly continuing the rape and molestation that brought his purchase onto the streets in the first place.

Lisa (who declined use of her real name) started selling herself at 12 years old when she ran away from home because her step-father had been molesting her since the age of eight. Now 22, she is out of the life and trying to turn herself around. "I didn't look like a 12 year old who could pass for 19. I looked like a 12 year old that could pass for 10. These men knew but didn't care. In fact, I got more business for looking so young. As I started looking older, I made less." Apparently, these pedophiles like being called "Daddy" in a freakish and illegal way.

How does this go on? Part of it has to do with economics - underage girls fetch higher prices than older ones. As in any business, supply only exists where there is a demand. Johns know that they are

buying are underage girls but oftentimes claim ignorance upon being caught. Like many people who purchase goods, they feel entitled to get their money's worth no matter how exploitive and damaging their investment may be.

Once the use of these young kids has expired, they are thrown out like society's disposable garbage. What follows is entry into adulthood that is a cyclical hell of drugs, homelessness and poverty. What is the solution? It is a question debated and worked upon everyday. It is a problem that cannot be solved by a few people or select organizations. If it takes a village to raise a child, then certainly it takes a village to turn that child into a prostitute. In other words, it is all of our responsibility.

The next few weeks will feature articles about trafficking and prostitution. All this will lead up to the February 2nd, 7pm performance at Doerman Theater titled My Real Name - stories and performances from the underground lives of ex-prostitutes. All proceeds of the show will go to charity. Call or e-mail to make reservations: 419-530-4084 or celia.williamson@utoledo.edu

AKA's Tutor Children in Ways to Manage a Budget

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Volunteers from the Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. spent a day last week at the Grace Community Center tutoring 18 youngsters in the art of managing a budget.

The sorority's Connection Committee - Brunetta O'Neal, chairman - spoke to the children about the differences between needs and wants, the value of preparing a plan for expenses and income and the importance of writing such plans on paper.

"Money has a way of dis-



appearing for it is easy to buy things that you see," O'Neal told the students at the onset of the program.

The Grace Community

Center offers after school programs, as well as tutoring and mentoring, to their students, most of whom attend Fulton Elementary of Rosary Cathedral. They bring in guest speakers, such as the AKA's, about twice a month.

Members of the AKA Connection Committee include: Morgannia Dawson, co-chairman, Leola Haynes, Joan Harris, Sherry Overton, Muriel Williams, Kim Alge and Angeline Murry.



Captain D's Seafood Restaurant

2060 W. Laskey Toledo, OH 43613
419.473.0227 fax: 419.292.0227

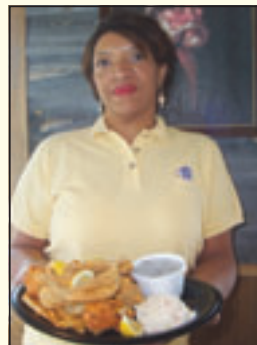
CATERING

We Can Cater For As Low As \$4.59/Person

-or-

Conduct A Children's Birthday Party for \$2.29/Child On Site

All your favorite tastes are here at Captain D's



Pathy Davis
Catering



For more details call 419.473.0227 ask for Pathy, P.J., or Marcus



HOUSING
SERVICES
ACTIVITIES

offer Independent and Supportive Housing that is subsidized for those 62 years or older. We're located in the Three Meadows section of Perrysburg. Questions? Call 419-874-4371 or 419-872-3510



The Sojourner's Truth Business

Business Section • Business Section • Business Section • Business Section • Business Section • Business Section

Aunt Minnie's Foods

By Linda King
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The building at 12265 Williams Road contains one of Ohio's best kept secrets. It houses two women who have endured the trials and triumphs of starting and maintaining a minority-owned business in Toledo. It houses the legacy that they want to leave behind. It houses Aunt Minnie's Food Inc.

Minnie Sebree and Claudia Brown are Aunt Minnie's. A mother/daughter team separated by a generation but united for a common purpose – to bring comfort food back into the lives of people. A simple concept that would evolve into a mountainous undertaking and propel these women into a world that they never imagined.

In fact, as the women sit in comfortable chairs inside of the office/factory that they've occupied since October 2005, and prepare to tell their story, there is no indication of the battle that has taken place in order to get here. Ironically the only hint of the history of Aunt Minnie's lies in the portrayal of its own product – the pictures that hang on the walls. The pictures display succulent reflections of Aunt Minnie's creations: mouth-watering servings of sweet potato pie, peach cobbler and cornbread dressing. The twist, the pictures are tilted and on an angle. A point that even co-owner Claudia Brown failed to realize. "I didn't want them straight," she explains. "So I put them at an angle, they look better." Better perhaps because they



help to illustrate the story of who Aunt Minnie's is and where they've come from.

Sebree's journey began as a teenager when she was employed at St Luke's hospital. "I worked in the kitchen, and didn't know anything about cooking," she says. That is until she began watching some of the older women in the kitchen. "Those women could make sauces, soups, gravies," she exclaims. With attentiveness and determination she too soon mastered

those same skills that they had.

Sebree stayed on at St. Luke's throughout the hospital's move to its current location on Monclova Rd. where she became head cook with a staff of young cooks who were much like she was in the beginning. But eventually the hard work and small pay in a hot kitchen was not enough for her. She wanted more.

She applied for a job in the
Continued on Page 10

Learners for Life Child Development Center Offers More Than Play

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Learners for Life Child Development Center opened this week at its facility at 3750 Monroe Street offerings, as its founder, Ann Harris, says – "safe, nurturing and cost-effective child care."

But be warned, prospective parents, if you want your six-week old or your 12-year old to attend a child care center in which he or she only has to watch video games, play tag and eat and sleep, Learners for Life is not for you.

Learners for Life, says Harris, is not a "play-based" day care. The center offers a "developmentally appropriate curriculum for infants, toddlers and pre-school children" that is ideal for school preparation. And for those of school age, Harris and her staff will offer homework help and tutoring.

"Our unique curriculum recognizes that every child learns differently, says Harris. "We provide a rich classroom environment where children are encouraged to explore and are challenged to learn, while making friends and devel-



oping self-confidence."

The opening of Learners for Life fulfills a lifelong dream for Harris, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in early childhood education and has over 30 years of experience in educating young children. "I still continue to see kids going into the school year unprepared," she says. "I know what children need to know before they enter a formal school [environment]."

Harris was a teacher with the Toledo Public Schools while also serving as an Intern Consultant, mentoring and evaluating intern teachers. She became a part-time Praxis Assessor for the Ohio State Board of Education, responsible for pre- and post-interview sessions with intern teachers and was a Literacy Support Teacher for the American Federation of Teachers where she received extensive training in Scien-

tifically Based Research Strategies in the organization's Education Research and Dissemination Program. That training will be put to good use at Learners for Life.

Harris has constructed a curriculum that she says will offer her charges a "print-rich environment" along with the verbal communication that youngsters need at a very early age.

"Parents don't talk to children as much as they should," she acknowledges. "We are going to provide a lot of reading to the children, a lot of conversation, a lot of praise and encouragement and a lot of positive reinforcement."

The Learners for Life Child Development Center opened its doors this past Monday and has a capacity of 137 students. The building has been completely remodeled and is spacious, spotless and extremely well lit.

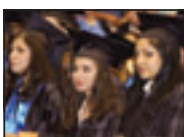
The center hours of operation are from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information, call 419-475-7800, fax 419-475-7801 or visit online at www.ChildExcellence.com.



TOLEDO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH

Building a Bridge to College



EARN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND COLLEGE CREDITS FREE. Toledo Early College High School

is accepting applications for new freshmen for 2007 - 08 school year. If you are: first generation to attend college, or minority, or low-income or English language learner, please plan to attend one of the informational sessions listed below at UT Scott Park Campus Auditorium.

Thursday, January 18 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, February 3 from 9 - 11 a.m.

Enrollment criteria and applications will be available at that time. Questions contact us at 419-530-3003

Business Ownership: The Last Frontier Who Are We? What Are We? Where Do We Go from Here?

By Vince Davis
Guest Columnist

Run brother run. "They" love to see us run, sing, dance, and jump and entertain. We are "after all so funny and rhythmic and colorful, aren't we. They are also comfortable with us fighting their wars, fetching their cars, their tea or their coats.

"They" love to talk to us about our old sports accomplishments, as "they" hand us the keys to valet. We love to talk and listen to our old sports accomplishments. I still have people ask me, "Remember that time in high school when you scored 40 points or ran that touch down?"

No, quite frankly I do not. Additionally I would prefer you forget about it too. Glad I did not waste too much of my time in college trying to be the next "JIM BROWN." There is only one Jim Brown. Statistically your kid has as much chance being the next LeBron James as the proverbial "camel has of passing through the eye of a needle."

In the history of Toledo we have one Jim Jackson. We have one man who has made it to the upper crust of professional sports. That's right, before Jim's injury he was one of the top scorers in the league. So why in the world will we allow our children to be deluded by the images that they see "as successful black men"?

The media sells an image of the successful black man running, jumping, singing, fighting, preaching or teaching. If he is doctoring. He is doctoring to black men. We want to be the next Jay Z or LeBron. They are in the boarding schools being

groomed to own the whole team.

Less than one tenth of one percent of African-American youth will be going on to the sports and entertainment fields. It looks like a lot of us have made it in sports and entertainment, but that is not true. It is that it is the only image of us they show. However 25 percent or so will be going on in something else. Quickly their naive dreams of "being like Mike" will be crushed. In place of it will be, dealing with "metro vice", and doing "big Ben".

You cannot live in the past or change the future. All we have is the right now, the next 15 minutes, hour, a minute.

"We have only but a minute; only 60 seconds in it; did not seek it; did not choose it; I will suffer if I loose it but it is up to us to use it; give account if I should loose it, just a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it, a minute" Author Unknown.

If we allow others to define our existence, than we will be frozen in the stereotype that they have assigned for us. We are, "what we think, dream, obsess and pray about".

It is not OK that we have allowed ourselves to be "pigeon holed" into the career choices that society has dictated. Sports and entertainment have opened the door for us.

Two things happen when whites and blacks play sports together. Whites realize that the color will not rub off and that we are not all that different. Additionally, when we go to war with whites, they

recognize our valor. Those two experiences validate us as men, to whites. Arguably, meaningful interaction between blacks and whites might not have existed had it not been for the integration of sports and the military. Our dominance in the boxing ring, football field, and the killing fields of Vietnam once and for all dispelled the myth that we are both athletically and intellectually inferior. The exploits of Jack Johnson and Muhammad Ali cleared up any misconceptions about our bravery and sinew. The feats of Colin Powell in Vietnam and his ascension up the military ladder let folk know that we could fight. Jackie Robinson let them know that we could hit a baseball. Willie Mays let them know that we could run it down.

I watched The Florida Gators basketball team play. Corey Brewer's mother is apparently a school teacher. The commentator said: "Corey Brewer had every reason in the world to turn pro last year. All of the other starting basketball players at Florida were all set since their parents are already athletes or entertainers."

Poor Corey, it was suggested, struggled financially since his mom is "just a school teacher. The commentator specifically used the words that the other parents were "already entertainers and athletes." Essentially he was saying that if they were successful and they were people of color than they had to be entertaining white people.

Like we have been doing

for the last two hundred years. Where has it gotten us?

We used to own, at least own the stores, apartment building, and homes in our neighborhoods. Now we do not even know that. We are too busy waiting for our kid to get that big contract or, better yet, hit the lottery. That way we could go to the corner store that we do not own and buy a forty and a lottery ticket simultaneously.

I am out, but before I go Instead of hating on one another; instead of robbing one another; instead of lying to each other; instead of getting a fraudulent case on one another; instead of killing one another; instead of bouncing the ball to one another; we might want to redefine ourselves.

Freedom starts in the mind. It is possible to be a slave without shackles. Slavery is about control, not laws. Two hundred years later we are still not free. We are still like little scared



slaves hurting one another so that we and only we "will be apples of master's eyes."

Ed. Note: Vince Davis, MBA University of Toledo, B.A Rutgers University, en-

trepreneur, is the owner of vince Davis State Farm Agency at Cherry and Sherman and is also a partner in the Captain D's Seafood Restaurant franchise at 2060 Laskey.

The House of Day Funeral Service
"Locally Owned And Operated"
"Our Family Serving Your Family"

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King, Jr.

MAY WE "FOREVER" REMEMBER THE "WORKS" AND THE SACRIFICE OF LIFE GIVEN BY MARTIN LUTHER KING SO THAT WE COULD HAVE A BETTER LIFE. WE THANK YOU MARTIN LUTHER KING. LET US REMEMBER HIM BY VOTING, EDUCATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD.

2550 Nebraska Avenue - Toledo, Ohio 43607
Phone: 419.534.2550 - Fax: 419.534.2570 www.houseofday.com

BLACK BRIDAL EXPO
THE DAY'S EVENTS
Saturday, January 27, 2007

Genesis Dreamplex
2429 S. Reynolds Rd.
Toledo, Ohio

Bridal Registration
1st 50 brides registered will receive gift bag

Vendor Displays
Open vendor displays showcasing products and services to make your special day complete.

Fashion Show
Rhonda Sewell, Commentator
Showcases latest wedding fashions, and accessories for bridal party and guest.

Vendor Prize Giveaways
All brides must be registered and present to be eligible to win a prize giveaway.

Musical Entertainment
Showcasing dancing, musicians and soloists.

Marriage Renewal Ceremony
Pastor Allen & Rhonda D. Daniels
Celebrating 20 years!

Reception After
Dinner & Drinks at Toledo, Ohio

Contact G-Creations 419-870-2483

Engaged couples—Buy one advance ticket for \$5.00 and get one free for fiancé
Advance ticket \$5.00 and \$10.00 at the door
Tickets available at the following locations.

Genesis Dreamplex 2429 S. Reynolds Rd. 419-381-8765	Hair It Is Salon 1703 W. Bancroft St. 419-870-2307	Mitinations Salon of Beauty 2131 Monroe St. - Suite B 419-531-3321	Ne'Veah Salon & Spa 4903 Dorr St. 419-378-0945
---	--	--	--

Big Boy Construction and Carpentry Plus Work their Way to the Top

Sojourner's Truth Staff

You can see Big Boy Construction crews at work throughout the city, usually the central city, and most often perched on the tops of residences repairing roofs.

And if you spot the Big Boy Construction sign, then you will probably see the Carpentry Plus sign in the vicinity. They go hand-in-hand these days.

Carpentry Plus was formed in the late 1980's by Stan Harper. Most of the company's work is residential home improvement, says Harper. But he also does commercial remodeling and construction as well.

Carpentry Plus is also a general contractor that secures some of its work from the Senior Emergency Repair Program which provides services to senior citizens and the disabled. The program is funded by the City of Toledo's Department of Neighborhoods, which receives its monies from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA) administers the program, says Weldon Douthitt, project director for EOPA Home Rehabilitation.

And Big Boy Construction, founded in 1995 by Leon Jackson, is one of Carpentry Plus's subcontractors. That company was formed not just to repair homes, says Jackson, but also to provide work for inner-city youths.



"My main focus is to keep my guys out of trouble," says Jackson.

The Big Boy's owner knows trouble ... first hand. Jackson, a former drug dealer, spent a few years in prison for the trouble arising from his previous career. But before he was incarcerated, Jackson had already laid the groundwork for his current vocation. His nighttime gig aside, during the day he was buying homes and repairing them.

While in prison, Jackson vowed that he would not repeat the mistakes that brought him there and decided that home construction and remodeling was his ticket to an honest living ... and the means by which he would help others. Especially his own sons.

"When I got out, I said I don't want my sons going through what I went through," he says. As it happens, both sons, ages 21 and 19, are part of the Big Boy crew, along with about a half-dozen other young men who stay busy and gainfully em-

ployed, thanks to Jackson.

And he and his crew, he says, owe it all to Harper.

When Jackson was released from prison, he immediately started his company and found work just as quickly. Too quickly, he would find out from City of Toledo inspectors.

"I was fixing houses and people would say 'I want mine like that,'" he recalls. "During a roof job one day, a city inspector pulled up on me and said 'this is illegal.'"

But the quality of Big Boy's work had also caught the attention of Harper, a licensed contractor for years at that point, who approached Jackson and offered to work with him on obtaining the appropriate licenses and educating him on preparing the necessary paperwork for the fledgling company. It was a marriage that would benefit both parties.

"From day one, he did such a fantastic job," says Harper, "and we have been rolling ever since."

"Without this guy, all of this wouldn't be possible," says Jackson of Harper and the assistance he has provided Big Boy over the years.

Both companies are definitely rolling. As The Truth stopped on a side street near Cherry last week, we counted four Big Boy trucks and six employees working on a roof top performing a home repair job for a senior citizen - just one of several jobs under way for the subcontractor.

The scene presented an important lesson for neighborhood youths who watched the men at work. You can go out of your way to find trouble ... or you can do something constructive with your lives.

Dear Readers,

I am getting a lot of e-mails about the New Year and asking how to get started on a work-out program. Everyone wants advice on what exercises they should do and what they should be eating.

I want to stress the importance of getting your mind right and then letting everything follow. You have to know that you are going to succeed at any cost. You need to set realistic goals and meet them one challenge at a time. Most people go wrong by setting too many unobtainable goals and setting themselves up for failure before they even get started.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that as soon as you get into the gym you're going to be running a half an hour on the treadmill and lifting enough weight to set world records. You need to have the mind set that you're going to go in and just get moving and start a new healthier lifestyle.

Go through your cabinets and get rid of the stuff that doesn't fit your new eating plan. Throw it away or give it to your skinny friends to eat, but just get rid of it!

Do not underestimate the power of you! You can do whatever you truly desire to do. If you want to be successful at getting in shape then you must visualize yourself in shape. When you look in the mirror, see your improvements not your flaws.

Put a picture of how you want to look on your fridge or in your wallet or purse and look at it often. Guys, if you look like Bruce Bruce from comic view, don't put up pictures of Denzel. Be realistic and the same goes for the women, keep it real.

Don't bite off more than you can chew because it will discourage you and you will quit before January ends.

Now after you have set a realistic goal then you must plan your attack. Figure out the foods you like and that you will eat. So many people try to go on a new eating plan and try to eat things that they don't like just because it's on the new diet you found.

If you don't like broccoli then do not try to eat it! Find something else that you do like. Forcing yourself to eat foods that do not appeal to you will result in absolute failure. Now you have to begin your work out routine.

Start easy with three days a week with a total body workout. After a few weeks add another day or start to do more exercises per day that you train.

I hope that this helps you all and that you have a happy and healthy New Year. Also if you want to email me I will send you a great food list.

I am offering specials this month. Bring a friend and you both receive 30 percent off. Call for more details!!

Also, be sure to mark your calendars for March 24 and come see my bodybuilding and figure contest at the Maumee Indoor Theatre.



Ryan Rollison
Dream Bodies
1240 Sylvania Ave.
Toledo, OH 43612
419-476-3494
mydreabodies@aol.com

MARTIN POPE
BAIL BONDS

"We'll Come Get You"
419-241-POPE
(419-241-7673)

24 Hour Service
All Ohio
& Southern Michigan
Courts

ALL YOU CAN EAT!
\$9.95

MARSYL'S SOUL FOOD RESTAURANT
GREAT SOUL FOOD 7 DAYS A WEEK!!

Featuring
MarSyl's Soul Food Buffet
Thurs, Fri & Sunday

- Hot Water Cornbread
- Mashed Potatoes
- Fried Whiting
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Homemade Collard Greens
- Fried Chicken
- Sweet Candied Yams
- Black Eyed Peas
- Baked Chicken and Dressing
- Maple's Famous Pound Cake
- Fountain Drinks Included w/ this Coupon Only

Save \$1.89
"And much more!"

Coupon expires 11/30/06
Two buffet meals per coupon

Sit down and enjoy a comfortable dining experience while we cater to your every need.
Menu Specials 7 Days a Week

Fall Special
Deep fried whole chicken wings
Regularly \$1.25 **Now 50c**
Hot & BBQ Available
Minimum order 10 wings Menu subject to change

We serve to please, and are pleased to serve!
2633 West Bancroft Av
Toledo, Ohio 43607
One Block East of UT Entrance
Phone: 419-531-8327
Visit website: www.MarSyls.com

Is Conventional Planning Right for You?

By Bill Harris
Guest Columnist

Do online interactive financial planning models really help people in deciding how much to save, to insure, and to invest in stocks and other asset classes? These models vary in complexity and in level of detail, according to a recent Boston University School of Management Conference on the Future of Life-Cycle Saving & Investing.

Many of these models are available for free on the Web sites of financial institutions. The simplest are "calculators" that tell the user how much to save each year at an assumed rate of return in order to accumulate a desired future sum at an assumed retirement date. They make doing sensitivity analysis quick and easy. The more ambitious ones perform Monte Carlo simulations and take into account a relatively large number of factors, including household size and composition, income, wealth, desired retirement date, expected inflation rate, expected asset returns, attitude towards risk, etc. A Monte Carlo simulation is an analytical tool for modeling future uncertainty. In layman's terms, it's a computer program that first examines thousands upon thousands of market environments and market returns and then spits out ranges of possible outcomes or success rates.

But many of these models, at least from the perspective of economic theory, are seriously deficient according to Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Professor of Economics, Boston University and President, Economic Security Planning.

In his recent paper, "Is Conventional Financial Planning Good for Your Financial Health?" Kotlikoff notes that economics teaches us that we save, insure, and diversify in order to mitigate fluctuations in our living standards over time and across contingencies.

While the goals of conventional financial planning appear consonant with such consumption smoothing, the actual practice of conventional planning is anything but. Consumption smoothing is the notion that consumers will spend on average 70 to 80 percent of their pre-retirement income per year once in retirement. Conventional planning's disconnect with economics begins with its first step, namely forcing Americans - in the absence of a financial planner - to set their own retirement spending targets. In many cases, experts say Americans are ill-equipped to establish how much they will spend in retirement.

Setting spending targets

that are consistent with consumption smoothing is incredibly difficult, making large targeting mistakes almost inevitable, Kotlikoff notes.

But even small targeting mistakes, on the order of 10 percent, can lead to enormous mistakes in recommended saving and insurance levels and to major disruptions (on the order of 30 percent) in living standards in retirement or widow(er)-hood.

There are many reasons why small targeting mistakes lead to such bad saving and insurance advice and such large consumption disruptions, according to Kotlikoff. For instance, the wrong targeted spending level is being assigned to each and every year of retirement. In addition, planning to spend too much (or too little) in retirement requires spending too little (or too much) before those states are reached. This magnifies the living standard differences.

Conventional planning's use of spending targets also distorts its portfolio advice. Given a household's spending target and its portfolio mix, standard practice entails running Monte Carlo simulations to determine the household's probability of running out of money. Most of these simulations assume that households make no adjustment whatsoever to their spending regardless of how well or how poorly they do on their investments. But consumption smoothing dictates such adjustments and, indeed, precludes running out of money; i.e., ending up with literally zero consumption. It is precisely the range of these



living standard adjustments that households need to understand to assess their portfolio risk. Conventional portfolio analysis not only answers the wrong question; it may also improperly encourage risk-taking since riskier investments may entail a lower chance of financial exhaustion thanks to their higher mean return.

In addition to exposing the general and generally serious shortcomings of targeting spending, Kotlikoff says online calculators typically offer remarkably simple advice geared to speed households through the planning process in a matter of minutes.

But quick and simple doesn't necessarily spell helpful, according to Kotlikoff. In fact, many online calculators lead to dramatic oversaving thanks to retirement-spending targeting mistakes ranging from 36 to 78 percent too high.

For his part, Kotlikoff suggests: "None of us would go to a doctor for a 60-second checkup. Nor would we elect surgery by meat cleaver over surgery with a scalpel. And any doctor who provided such

services would be quickly drummed out of the medical profession. Financial planning, like brain surgery, is an extraordinarily precise business. Small mistakes and the wrong tools can just as easily undermine as improve financial health."

At the end of the day, most experts suggest that using a financial planner can eliminate the need to use Web-based calculators and run the risk of saving too little for retirement or spending too much in retirement.

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.

Aunt Millie...

Continued from page 7

office of the hospital but was turned down. Not discouraged, she enrolled at Davis College where she received an associate's degree in Computer Technology. From there the future entrepreneur took a job at National City Bank, where she remembers days of working as a keypunch operator. After spending five years with the bank, the last few as head teller, Sebree's thoughts would return once again to food. "I began to visualize plans and menus," she says. She describes those times as feeling that she was being led by more of a "calling" than a dream or passion. While she can't quite describe what led her to pursue the business of food she says that she knows she was driven to do so.

Claudia Brown never dreamed that she would be part of a world vision company called Aunt Minnie's. But what she did know was that she was a self-starter and persistent. In her twenties she knew that she wanted to work at a local factory, but was told that they were not hiring at the time. Acquiring the name and number of the person in charge of hiring, Brown called until she eventually got an interview and ultimately landed the job. Soon after facing a lay off with the company, she returned to school and became a licensed nail technician. She took a job at a salon in a major department store, where she enjoyed a steady clientele. After realizing that she wanted to be more in control of her own business, Brown left the depart-

ment store and opened her own booth. There her hard work and long hours resulted in a robust business.

Sebree began to run her catering ideas past her daughter, and mother and daughter formed a partnership with Sebree taking orders from Brown's customers. Sebree baked cakes and pies, rolls and even wedding cakes from home. The duo began to cater events in the community and, through word of mouth, the business increased, and soon became too large for Sebree's kitchen. The pair needed a larger facility. Hearing about a new development on Reynolds Rd, the two met with the owner and was able to rent a space in the plaza. Sebree Restaurant and Catering was born.

With talent and determination, but not much money, Sebree and Brown were able to turn the one-room space into a showroom complete with live piano music. "What people didn't know then was that a lot of our things came from bargain stores," says Sebree. "And a lot of the work we did ourselves." The restaurant was an elegant site, providing breakfast, lunch, and dinner to many appreciative customers from single diners who sought delicious home-cooked meals, to church groups and families. Even celebrity Danny Glover graced its doors during a visit to Toledo.

As the pair continued to master the restaurant business, customers began to request items to take home and Sebree began to toy with

Continued on page 11

Hospice helped our family reach a final goal.

Having my dad at graduation made my wish come true, too.

"My husband, Willie, found out nothing more could be done for his cancer. He still had one last goal: to see our daughter, Joya, graduate from nursing school - which was nearly a year away.

"Hospice of Northwest Ohio provided care for Willie, right in our home. I believe their expertise helped him live to see the graduation, and made a lot more good days possible for him along the way."

Laura, Willie's Wife

"Whenever we had questions, Hospice explained every answer. They knew what to provide even before we knew what to ask for. And the staff connected on a personal level, too. My dad's nurse was like part of our family.

"Hospice made all the arrangements to get dad to my graduation, including the wheelchair and portable oxygen. Having dad see me cross that stage meant the world to me. Now that I'm an RN, I know great care when I see it. My dad had the best."

Joya, Willie's Daughter



HOSPICESM
OF NORTHWEST OHIO

Hospice can help make the end of life meaningful and fulfilling.

To learn more, ask for our FREE brochure series, "Hospice Answers."
Call 419-661-4001 or visit hospicenwo.org.

Answers for Living the Last Months of LifeSM

The Alpha Phi Alpha MLK Scholarship Breakfast

By Artisha Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Toledo held their annual scholarship breakfast on January 13, 2006 at the Zenobia Shrine.

The 15th annual event began with a feature speech

by WilliAnn Moore and Desiree Carn, who received a standing ovation from their appreciative audience because of their uplifting performances.

Then, 11-year-old Tanasio Loudermill of Toledo, gave a powerful rendition of Dr. King's famous "I



Have a Dream" speech to a silenced crowd. "He did a great job, it almost brought tears to my eyes because I remember when I first heard that speech," spectator Margie Pryce said.

The program continued with an update of the scholarships awarded last year, the product of the annual scholarship breakfast and the fraternity's annual scholarship golf tournament. As a result of those two events, a total of \$3,000 was awarded to six male high school seniors who are now attending area colleges.

"We were first inspired to hold the scholarship breakfast because we

wanted to host an affordable community event each year, that honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and provided scholarships," chapter President Joe Conley said.

Fraternity member Michael A. Blake served as the keynote speaker and based his speech on the checkers board game. Using the phrase "king me," he linked the Dr. King last name to the fact that African-Americans should start acting like kings and queens.

"When we examine the life of Dr. King, we have to focus on just a few good deeds every day, because there were so many. However, we as African-Americans can attest that we are living in this game called life, and we are blessed to become kings."

He continued with his speech by stating that in life, just like checkers, you win by eliminating your opponents' pieces or by cornering them and making them immobile. That is when you are able to win. In closing, he threw his hands to the air and said to the audience, "just king me."

After that, Williams announced the ground breaking of the Dr. Martin Luther King memorial in Washington, D.C. Donations can be made online at www.mlkmemorial.org.

The breakfast closed with the awarding of the Drum Major Award, named in honor of Dr. King's speech. Last year, former mayor Jack Ford was the recipient. This year the award was given to House of Emanuel.

"This award is to honor people in the community that are working hard, and this organization focuses on helping troubled youth. It is truly a positive organization and deserves the award this year," event Chairman Martino Harmon stated.

The event planning committee consisted of Harmon, Richard Brown III, Joe Conley Jr., Dan Dawson, Richard Earley, Nathaniel Young, Richard Jackson Jr., Robert Langford III, Keith Nelson and Andre' Page.

Aunt Millie ...

Continued from page 10

the idea of packaging some of the menu items to sell as frozen food. The idea was a success and would become the foundation for their current business. In fact, the trial and error that the duo experienced during those restaurant years would formulate the basis of their training for the future. They agree, "A lot of what we did at the restaurant prepared us for what we do now."

After five years of six-day weeks, and 18-hour days, the pair decided to close the doors of Sebree's and pursue an exclusive frozen food business. Little did they know what awaited them - invaluable and often painful lessons that would serve to strengthen them and make them even more determined to make it.

The first lesson involved obtaining financial support for the company. The promise of minority business funding was and continues to be elusive they both agree, "It doesn't matter what kind of program it is or what they tell you, it all still hinges on the banks approval", says Brown. They soon discovered that the same rang true when it came to government grants and that endless trail of paperwork and red tape. And although the pair received many promises of help from organizations they continued to face one excuse after another for not receiving financial assistance.

With little financial help, but a fresh perspective of 'the business,' the women relied on the word of God and refused to give up. "Your level of faith is so important," says Sebree. "You have to be certain that what God has for you will come to pass. Jesus is our substance. Faith is our substance." The pair sought to find a company to make their product and package it. Then they needed to find distributors and vendors who were will-

ing to place their food on the shelves.

They found a major co-packer company to make their products according to Sebree's own recipes, and ship them to the warehouses of their choice. Then with what the two describe as "persistence, perseverance, and prayer," the ladies broke through into six divisions of Kroger, Meier, Publics Food in the South, Dominic and Safeway.

But financing was still a hurdle that hindered the company's progress. Keeping up with production and getting into the black was the challenge of the day. They needed more clients and more exposure. With those in place the duo was certain that they would succeed. "Our product speaks for itself," declares Brown. "I know that we have a great product." What they needed was for others to know that, and to support it. They soon accomplished the first task.

In 2001 the ladies attended the Food Marketing Institute's food show in Chicago. There they displayed their product for sampling to hundreds of vendors. When the show was over the ladies walked away with over \$500,000 in product orders. One of those orders was from Wal Mart promising to put Aunt Minnie's on its shelves. If they could deliver, their ship had come in.

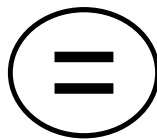
They rushed to the distributor they'd worked with for years now, excited about the future of the company and its impending success. They were convinced that what they'd worked so hard for all of this time was finally coming to pass, only to be told by the co-packer that they could not possibly make the orders without the cash up front.

This is the first of a two-part series on the growth of Aunt Minnie's Foods. Part Two will run next week - January 24.



The Greater Toledo Urban League, Inc.

*"Proudly Commemorating
The Legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



*"With this faith, we will be able to
hew out of the mountain of despair
a stone of hope."*



*James Murray, Chair, Board of Directors
James Hartung, Executive Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Johnny M. Mickler, Sr. President/CEO*

Food Pantry Relocates to Continue Fight against Hunger in the Inner-city

By Tamir A. Shaw
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

On Tuesday, January 16 New LightShining Star Food Pantry opened its doors to the public for the first time since moving

from its previous home inside Thomas Temple Church.

Now located at 1614
Continued on page 14

The Temple-Congregation Shomer Emunim Holds Musical Shabbat Celebration in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The familiar strains of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" rang out in the Temple-Congregation Shomer Emunim, Friday, January 12, 2007, as Bob Rae played a brief piano prelude to a very special service. "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Musical Shabbat Celebration," sponsored by the Afro-Semitic Connection was itself a prelude to the national holiday celebrated this year on Monday, January 15 (Dr. King's actual birthday), across the nation.

The spirit of brotherhood promoted by the slain civil right leader was evident in, not only the diverse program for the evening, but also in those gathered to participate in the annual event, representing Toledo's multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-faith community.

"This evening, we're having a Shabbat unity service," explained the chairman of the Afro-Semitic Connection in a brief welcome. "It has everything but the usual rabbi's sermon." Laughter followed this last statement from audience members of all faiths, seemingly relieved that there would be no sermon.

"Dr. King's dream still evades us," said Rabbi Samuel R. Weinstein, after reassuring everyone that he was indeed not giving a sermon. "His vision will remain only a dream unless all humanity unites to make his vision a reality."

A 45-minute Shabbat service in honor of Dr. King, led by the rabbi and Cantor Jennifer Roher, included prayers and singing. Kevin and Rebecca McQueen with their daughters, Kayla and Madison, came forth to perform a candle-lighting ritual as part of the traditional service.

Rabbi Weinstein also read portions of "Dr. King's Letter from the Birmingham Jail in 1963" during the service.

Following the Shabbat, a musical celebration that would have delighted Dr. King with its diversity and content, entertained and inspired those attending the celebration.

Thomas McCain directed and accompanied the Grace Temple Choir as they sang two numbers: "Emmanuel"

and "I Need You to Survive." "Dr. King had a dream that all nations would come together," said McCain from the piano bench, after the first number. "And today, I am looking at a dream that has come true." He waved his hand across an audience of some 200-plus people of all races, colors, creeds and religions, lifting it briefly from the keyboard during a brief interlude, and then began playing the choir's second number.

Audience participation made the song memorable, as black and white; Jew and gentile all grasped the full meaning of the words they sang. "I need you. You need me ... I need you to survive." Jerrica Whitlock danced to an abbreviated version of Nina Simone's recording of "Strange Fruit," demonstrating with her graceful and nimble body the anguish of the thousands who died victims of lynching.

"Southern trees bear a strange fruit. Blood on the leaves and blood at the root. Black body swinging in the Southern breeze. Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees. Pastoral scene of the gallant South. The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth. Scent of magnolia sweet and fresh. And the sudden smell of burning flesh! Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck. For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck. For the sun to rot, for a tree to drop. Here is a strange and bitter crop."

Written as a lyrical poem by a white Jewish schoolteacher from New York, Abel Meeropol, who later convinced Billie Holiday to record and include it in her act as her signature song once he set it to music, the song with its haunting words and devastating images seemed most fitting for an Afro-Semitic celebration; particularly one honoring the life of a man who fought against such injustices. Lifting the mood, the Children's Choir sang "Let the Heavens Be Glad" accompanied by Roher on guitar, then joined the Kol Zimbrah 'volunteer choir' to sing "Behold, How Good," directed by Roher and accompanied by Rae on piano.

Kol Zimbrah sang "Ruach Elohim," their melodic voices blending together in beautiful harmony. All three songs were followed by enthusiastic applause.

The David Carter Symphonic Choir sang a rather long and beautiful piece titled "His Light Still Shines," written by Moses Hogan and directed by Deborah Carlisle. The stirring cantata began as an image of Dr. King standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, mere moments before his death, loomed large on a projection screen flanking the choir.

"Dr. King would have been the first to admit that he was holding a torch that was lit long before," the narrator spoke, her eloquent voice resounding above the music. "The spirituals had a home in his heart. So it was no accident that Dr. King made his vow to the Lord and there was no turning back."

Using familiar spirituals, Hogan's piece painted a musical tapestry as the attentive audience listened and looked at the visual images of Dr. King's life scrolling across the nearby screen. Portraits of Dr. King by various artists occasionally flashed across the screen, showing how he was seen by others.

"Much has changed in the decades since Dr. King's death, although at times it seems much has stayed the same," continued the narrator. "He came to set us all free from the chains of bigotry and hatred."

The piece ended with a dramatic flourish from the narrator and a stunning crescendo from the choir, whose majestic voices and exquisite harmonies did justice to the finely crafted musical masterpiece, eliciting the loudest applause of the evening, bringing many in the audience to their feet.

Between musical numbers, members of the Afro-Semitic Connection read quotes from great people, including: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, President John F. Kennedy, Albert Einstein and Dr. King.

Finally, Craig Johnson sang the spiritual "Deep River" a cappella in his



breath-taking voice, then, accompanied by pianist Dwight Steele, Johnson once again brought members of the audience to their feet after he sang "My Soul Is Safe from Harm."

"In the African-American culture and the Jewish culture, there are some commonalities," said Johnson. "But those commonalities are so unfortunate – commonalities of suffering, loss, pain, being victimized. Strength, faith and hope rings through both cultures." Joined by

Calvin Lawshe, Johnson led the audience in the 'response' part of a traditional African-American 'call and response' song, "Give Glory to God, Saints."

The program closed with all of the choirs assembling together and joining with the audience to sing "We Shall Overcome." A multitude of voices sang the now famous words in unity, symbolizing the bond of brotherhood forged in such celebrations with the hope that this bond will extend well past the annual

recognition of the man who envisioned this dream of racial unity well into the future, until a time when such dreams are indeed reality.

A festive Oneg Shabbat, featuring delicious desserts, followed the celebration. The members of the Afro-Semitic Connection are Lynn Nusbaum, Roher, Marilyn Jacobs, Shelley Kahn, Lawshe, Carole Martin, The McQueens, Sheila Odesky, Janet Rogolsky, Donna Trail, Rev. Chet Trail and Bill and Joanne Treuhaft.

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library honors the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



419.259.5207
toledolibrary.org

The White Rapper Show on VH1 Toledo M.C. Gets His Chance to Shine

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

V.H.1 has this reality TV game on lock, no doubt.

However, the touchy subject of "white rappers" has been addressed by Ego Trip's new show.

First, understand that if anybody tackled this subject ... Ego Trip would be the people to do it.

Ego Trip is a five-person progressive think tank made up of those from various backgrounds and ethnicities.

They've always tackled media stereotypes from a hip-hop perspective and VH1 has always given them perfect vehicles to make their point. But this is the first time it's been a full-blown series.

Hosted by M.C. Serch of 3rd Bass, you can already know it's gonna be a damn good attempt at bringing authenticity to the usually laughable notion of white rappers.

See, for those who don't know - M.C. Serch was like the official white emcee of the Golden Era.

All true heads will remember "Gas Face," "Steppin to tha A.M." and other classic bangers.

If the Beastie Boys were over the top in their whiteness, 3rd Bass was so hip-hop that not only did it not matter what race they were - you basically forgot about it.

M.C. Serch was among the most ill on the mic of all rappers out at that time.

The show introduces him as a host/hip-hop icon... I wouldn't say all that.

Not icon status, but he is a hip-hop legend no doubt.

The platform of the entire show goes like this.

Ten white rappers are chosen from thousands upon thousands of hopefuls to be on the show.

The finalists are moved into a house in the Bronx (you should already know the significance of that)

and in each episode they will have to compete in various challenges that relate to the hip-hop experience.

Winner gets some hard-earned respect and ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS!

Now, Toledo's own Dasit is a white rapper who actually made it on the show.

Actually, the debut episode gets underway with a hot flow from Dasit within the first five minutes.

Through our own role as music producers - The Undergodz (my partner and I) - we were approached by Dasit's management a few years back to do a few tracks for him.

But at that time he was launching this pointless beef with Eminem via the Detroit mixtape circuit so he wasn't really around much to sit down and hammer out the details.

But we've known of him for a while and he actually had a considerable buzz around the city at one point.

On The White Rapper Show, as soon as I saw him I felt that he was poised to take it all.

His delivery is actually tighter than his actual rhyme scheme, but he's more of the total package of an emcee than most of the other finalists who began the show with him.

He's on point, for the most part.

But reality TV has a knack for exposing flaws in just about everyone who steps in front of a camera.

What makes it really ill, is that you can tell that this experience is intended to expose and mend attitudes

about stereotypes and subversive racism that many white rappers have but aren't even aware of.

It's also designed to truly educate people about hip-hop.

This is NOT about glorifying white rappers or even giving them a shot (there's no record deal on the line).

This is about their place in hip-hop.

As an emcee... as someone doing this for a while, I can tell you that knowledge of hip-hop's origins is crucial. As a so-called minority, I can attest to the fact that many black and brown people feel that the hip-hop culture belongs to us and anyone else who partakes is just an invited guest.

Understand, black people have lost jazz... we've lost the blues, we've lost rock 'n roll.

So with hip-hop's roots being planted by blacks and Hispanics, its not that white folks aren't allowed - but we gotta check some credentials at the door - LOL!

This show is set up to weed out the white rappers who are frontin'. They are in the BX so it's really real with the accommodations. The place is called The White House, and it's only the bare necessities.

Many of these white rappers come from privileged backgrounds and this type of environment is meant to humble them. Speaking of being humbled, you can imagine that with a room full of white rappers, you're bound to get some pretenders. Reminds me of being in junior high at Old West End in the early 90's.

It was like 40 percent white and even though most were just white folks being themselves, there were plenty who tried to re-fabricate what they thought being black or urban was all about.

On the show, there's this one emcee John Brown who calls himself The King of The Burbs.

And he walks around talking about Ghetto Revival -

and as soon anyone asks him how he plans on reviving the ghetto, he stumbles through over-used rap clichés ("get ya weight up, not ya hate up" - "hollaback" etc.).

His Myspace page shows he does have skill, but his platform is wack because he's move fakin'.

Then there's the girl from Allentown, Pa named G-Child (there was already a female rapper with that name who was with Warren G in the 90's). She's pretty wack, but she's got that fake suburban anger thing goin' for her that some people find entertaining. Persia is an overweight white female M.C. who tries way too hard.

And that's saying a lot, because most of these peeps are reaching but she's just too extra.

Persia and Jon Brown get into a heated argument.

Funny how two folks with zero credentials are both calling each other out on their hip-hop credibility.

But as things got to the boiling point, Persia (a ridiculously fake white rapper) calls John Brown (another ridiculously fake white rapper) ... Persia calls John Brown a nigga.

No - Not Nigger ... but Nigga.

But from her mouth, it's still all bad.

Luckily our hometown boy Dasit chimed in saying that he'd never be caught saying either word.

And most of the rappers were appalled at her saying that.

When Jus Rhyme (probably the most intelligent of them all) called her out on using that word,

Persia replied "Well, I'm from the hood and in the hood we don't have a color."

That's some bull*#@#!.

M.C. Serch made her wear a huge ... I mean gigantic-sized necklace for her transgression.

A huge chain that looks to be at least 20 pounds and it says THE N WORD on it in huge letters to let the world know how ignorant her ass



is.

So in the midst of all this craziness, the white rappers were tasked with going around the boogie down Bronx and spitting for the locals as a way to test their people and rhyme skills. Their first challenge yielded a losing team of five and a winning team of five. The losing team of five rappers was given the elimination challenge of simply writing a verse about their time in the Bronx.

One half-hour. Sixteen bars. All they had to do was simply write a verse about the day they had.

Dasit from Toledo, Ohio was on this losing team and when it was time for him to show M.C. Serch what he had accomplished in that 30-minute time span ... ya boy revealed that he hadn't written one damn thing.

He started out the show as the most promising M.C. and ended by being the first one kicked off.

When M.C. Serch asked how he could possibly come up with a goose egg after spending an entire day on the streets of hip-hop's birthplace, Dasit said that he wasn't the type of artist to "just write a rap with no music."

M.C. Serch let him have it and rightfully so.

He reminded him of the thousands of people that would love to be in his spot.

He reminded him about Toledo by saying "what are the guys back in T-Town gonna say when the see that you blew a hundred grand?"

M.C. Serch took it seriously because as a credible white rapper hosting this show, he's the only one on camera with anything to lose.

And searching the country far and wide to find 10 finalists who have a shot at

earning an ounce of respect through hard work ... that's no easy task, but it must be embarrassing as hell to go through all that and then end up with someone who won't even take the time to write a verse.

How can you call yourself a rapper?

How can you call yourself an emcee?

Music or no music, anyone who does this seriously would already know how it feels to sit with a pen and a pad and a subject and come up with something to say.

Dasit kept saying how writing with no beat is just not what he usually does.

Well to me, that's wack as hell.

With \$100,000 on the line, trust me ... if I wasn't familiar with writing rhymes with no music, I'd get real familiar real quick.

Dasit didn't embarrass Toledo as much as he made himself look completely foolish.

He undermined a significant chance at hitting it big ... for nothing ... just blew it.

One big thing to keep in mind is that there's no record deal at the end of the show (at least so far).

See, with Making The Band and American Idol ... there's a record/management company involved that PREVENTS people who appear on the show from signing with any other companies.

The White Rapper Show doesn't seem to have any such restrictions, which means that anyone who shines on this show could very well go on to a lucrative record deal of their own choosing.

Dasit threw all that away. Because someone asked him to write a verse with no music.

That's some buuullllllll!



Dasit

DIXIE Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

5880 N. Detroit
Month to Month Leasing
419-476-8674

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

DR. JEAN HAS MOVED!!!

New address is
EDNA M. JEAN, D.P.M.
5705 Dorr Street - Toledo, OH 43615
Phone: (419) 537-9877
Fax: (419) 537-9878

Come See Us,
Feel Good All Over
Starting With Your Foot

Law Office of Jimmie L. Jones
Attorney at Law

A General Practice Law Office, including the areas of Criminal Law, Family Law, and Real Estate Law

520 Madison Avenue Suite 323 Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone: 419.245.3430
jjones3@sbcglobal.net

New Light Shining...

Continued from page 11

Fernwood Avenue, New LightShining Star has been in operation for more than six years under the direction of Imogene Lott, Alex Handley and Joseph Hutton.

According to Lott, the new location was needed due to an increase in the number of individuals in need of the

food and clothing the organization provides. The items are distributed on the third and fourth Tuesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. with proper identification.

She attributes the growth of pantry visitors to a large number of job losses, homelessness, increases in

the cost of medical care and limited public assistance.

Lott says that the new location provides additional space so that people will not have to stand outside in bad weather and at times when the need for assistance is great.

New LightShining Star is

a tax exempt, non-profit organization which relies solely on contributions from the public and volunteers to keep its doors open. It is different from some other pantries in that it provides families with the necessities to create complete meals. Each food basket contains items

from each food group to help families meet daily nutritional needs. Items such as chicken, sausage, eggs, potatoes, rice, green beans, spaghetti and sauce, macaroni and cheese, and fresh fruits and vegetables that are in season are typically included. Lott says that she is moti-

vated by a desire to end hunger and help other people make ends meet and is saddened to know that in the richest country in the world people are going hungry.

She also says that her organization attempts to reach out to as many people as possible.

Continued on page 15

The BlackMarketPlace

1023 Underwood Avenue
\$74,900
GREAT BUY
Very clean 3 bd home. Walk-in closets in both upper bedrooms. Large master bd on main floor
Bessie Humphrey * Cell 419.260.0215

1389 Grand Ave
\$38,000
3bd, newer furnace, private fence and fenced yard, great first home, buyer or investment property, one level, SOLD as is
Bessie Humphrey * Cell 419.260.0215

Gorgeous Home!
27 S. Centennial - Holland
Brick Ranch, 4 Bedrooms, Fireplace, Sunken Living Room, Patio, 2 1/2 Baths
Century 21 Kasten Realty
Dee Bates - Cell 419.367.7771

Kynard's Barber & Styling Salon
• 863 W. Central • Toledo, Ohio 43610
For Appointment Call 248-8317
Hair Stylist: Lynn • Clyde • Dell
Latest Techniques in Hair Styles for Ladies & Men

1206 Secor Road - \$89,900
Two BD possible 3 BD, Brick Home, Family Rm, Rec Rm, all furniture stays incl 69 inch flat screen TV, Neat private back yard.
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

DR. JEAN HAS MOVED!!
New address is
EDNA M. JEAN, D.P.M.
5705 Dorr Street - Toledo, OH 43615
Phone: (419) 537-9877 * Fax: (419) 537-9878
Come See Us, Feel Good All Over
Starting With Your Foot

4403 Bromley Drive
Kitchen has marble floor, 2 fireplaces, 2.5 baths, finished Rec rm, 4 bd possible 5, circular staircase - **MUST SEE!**
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

UNIQUE COLLECTIONS
LADIES & MENS DESIGNER CLOTHING
316 N. MICHIGAN ST. SUITE 103, TOL, OH 43624
STORE HOURS, MON-SAT: 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
(419) 244-0992
PHENON PHOENIX-BUMPUS OWNER FAX (419) 244-0997

1918 Peacock Lane
4 bd, step down living rm w/vaulted ceiling and skylight, first floor laundry, master suite with cathedral ceiling, walk in closet
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

ROCKET SHOP AUTO REPAIR CENTER
2631 West Bancroft 419-535-3258
1 Block East of UT Near Westwood
Lowest Auto Service Prices Available!
• Full Auto Repair
• Engine Diagnostics
• Towing
• Tires
FALL SPECIAL
10% OFF ANY SERVICE COUPON

GREAT BUY!
14 BIRKHEAD PLACE *
Brick, 4 bd, living rm w/Fireplace, new slate roof, finished basement w/bar, utility rm, cedar closets, 3 car garage,
Wilma Smith * DiSalle Real Estate Company
Office 419.866.5900 * Home Office 419.350.7514

6423 Monroe St - Sylvania, OH 43560
419.460.1343
Digital Art Photography, Posters, Business Cards
Owner - RAMON TIGGS

380 Pinewood \$159,900
Mint Cond 3 bd, 2 1/2 bath, 2 1/2 car gar/lovely sun rm. Quiet neighborhood. Private Show ing. Move in at closing! Call Grace 419-729-9494

705 Nebraska Avenue
\$38,000
Twin Plex/Town House. Each unit has upper and lower level. Fully insulated, new roof, separate utilities incl water, tilted windows
Bessie Humphrey * Cell 419.260.0215

THE MEDICINE SHOPPE PHARMACY
2105 W. Alexis Road (between Jackman & Douglas)
419.474.0605
Eloise A Norwood, R.PH
Black Owned and Operated
Serving Toledo & Surrounding Communities Since 1989
Free Delivery!

Mike's AutoWorld
Toledo's Premier Buy Here Pay Here
Cars from \$300 & Up
2440 Dorr near Westwood 419-754-1215
Bring This Ad In For **\$100 Off** on Your Next Purchase
We Can Finance You!

Powell's Barber & Beauty Supplies
901 Nebraska, Tol, OH 43607
Complete Line of Barber & Beauty Supplies
Phone: 419.243.7731 - Fax: 419.242.6390
Mon: 10 - 6 & Tues: Sat. 8 - 5
Calvin Powell

1127 Waite
Great Investment Property
Two Units, Separate Utilities, Large Rooms, Three Bedrooms Each, Good Condition
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

Better Care Lawn & Snow Removal Service
P.O. Box 351744 Commercial/Residential
Toledo, OH 43615 "Free Estimates"
Phone: 419-346-7963
Fax: 419-535-1218
info@bettercarelawnservice.com
Licensed and Bonded

IT'S MY BAG RELOCATION SALE!
Everything must go!
Designer handbags, watches, etc.
Monday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Everything discounted
711 N. Reynolds Rd. 419.534.2422

The Master's Touch
"Anointed Hands of God"
Sherry McLain
Haircuts, Quickweaves, Braids, Sew Ins, Loos
2565 W. Bancroft - Phone 419.534.6070
Website: www.hairballers.com

3441 Upton - \$76,000
Conventional well maintained home, enclosed front porch, central air, dishwasher, disposal, finished lower rec-room
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

Midwest Dental Center
Two Locations
1843 W. Alexis, Ste 4 2915 Lagrange
419.475.5450 419.244.1691
Our Mobile Unit also goes to nursing homes, retirement homes, MRDD homes, day care centers and schools
Ngo, Taiwo, DDS
Dental Director

This Home Is Waiting For You!
4330 Truxton Place Drive * \$110,000
Tri-level, 3 bd, 2 baths, Family Rm, Laundry Rm, Storage Area and Enclosed Sunroom
Alma Dortch-Gilbert * Whittington Group Realty
Office 419.297.2301

MARSYL'S SOULFOOD RESTAURANT
FALL SPECIAL
Deep Fried **Whole** Chicken Wings
Regularly \$1.25
Must have coupon Hot or BBQ Available
Minimum 10 wings
Now 50¢!

1717 Grand Ave
\$38,000
3bd, updated kitchen, new cabinets, a/c, brick fireplace, finished basement, roof needs repair or replacement
Bessie Humphrey * Cell 419.260.0215

3652 Maxwell Road * Reduced \$128,000
3 BD, 1 and 1/2 Bath, Move-in Condition and Beautifully Landscaped, Roof 2004
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

MARSYL'S SOULFOOD RESTAURANT
2633 West Bancroft 419-531-8327
1 Block East of UT
A nice casual sit down restaurant.
• Carry out available
• Large menu
• Delivery available
Voted Toledo's Best Soulfood Restaurant!
Try our famous Hotwater Combread!

Steven A. Parker
Barber Stylist at
Hobbs Barber Salon 419.514.7493
Call for Appointment 2777 W. Central
No Wait Toledo, Ohio 43606

GREAT BUY!
2403 River Road
Brick Ranch, 3 Bedrooms, Central Air, Full Basement
Century 21 Kasten Realty
Dee Bates - Cell 419.367.7771

THE C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, INC.
1629 NEBRASKA AVENUE 43607
419.255.7682
"WHEN TRUTH IN PRICING AND QUALITY MATTERS"
IN OR OUT OF TOWN

For Sale - Beauty Salon
2916 Stickney - \$89,900
Upscale beauty salon with 6 booths. Additional separate area for another business venture for extra income. New furnace & C/A.
WHITTINGTON GROUP REALTY
Call Nettie Jackson - 419-250-1895

Chair of the Visual Communication and Technology Education Department.

Twelve-month position at the rank of tenured, associate or full professor in a department that embraces digital media content creation and education, beginning July 2007. The successful candidate will provide leadership in the areas of program development, budget, personnel, instruction, facility utilization, scholarship, and securing external funding; will teach graduate and undergraduate courses in a program offered in the department (Advanced Technological Education, Technology Education, Visual Communication Technology, Career and Technology Education [MEd], and Human Resource Development & Training [PhD in Technology Management]); as well as represent and advocate for the department with related industries, government agencies, and university administration. A Doctorate or equivalent is required. Screening of applications will begin January 31, 2007, however position will remain open until filled. Submit a letter of application including your qualifications for the position, statements outlining your philosophies on administration, leadership, teaching and research; a current curriculum vitae; and the names and contact information for five current references **in paper, fax or electronic submission** to: Donna K. Trautman, PhD, Search Chair, College of Technology, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403, dktraut@bgsu.edu, 419-372-7613, fax 419-574-4014. BGSU is an AA/E/O institution. For a detailed profile of the college, please see: http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/technology/COT_Profile.pdf.

**Social Work
CASE MANAGER**

Unison is seeking Case Managers to provide community support services to adults with serious mental illness. Responsibilities will include providing assistance with the social, vocational, economic, and environmental needs of assigned clients and assisting in their ability to live in the community. Valid driver's license required. Ohio counselor or social worker license and experience preferred. Consideration will be given to candidates with four-year degrees in fields related to social work. Excellent salary and benefits package. Send or fax resume with cover letter to:



Human Resources - CSP
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBHG.ORG

EOE

RN

Full-time RN position providing direct medical services to consumers in a clinic. Other duties include providing medication education and health assessments. Qualified candidates must possess Ohio RN license. At least 3 years psychiatric nursing experience in hospital environment preferred. Send cover letter with resume to:



Human Resources - RN
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419 936-7574
Email: HR@UNISONBHG.ORG

EOE

Clinical Therapists

Dynamic outpatient facility committed to providing extraordinary care to children and families is seeking dedicated team players to provide clinical services. Masters degree in mental health field with Ohio license (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC); plus one year experience working with troubled children and families required. Must be computer literate and have word processing skills. Duties include providing diagnostic assessments, formulating client treatment plans and providing ongoing individual, family, and group therapy. Excellent organizational, communication, and documentation skills are essential. Commitment to excellent customer service a must. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 2/7/07, to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (22),
4334 Secor Road,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234
or fax to 419-720-6103
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

Clinical Therapist

Seeking a dedicated professional with a strong desire to provide therapeutic services to youth in a school-based program. Position requires a Masters degree in counseling or social work and Ohio license (LSW, LPC, LISW, LPCC). Independent licensure preferred. Experience working with a team and counseling youth with severe behavioral and emotional problems required. Duties include providing individual, family and group therapeutic services, plus development and implementation of treatment goals and objectives. Must possess strong skills in the areas of assessment and treatment, documentation, communication, and organization. Must have a valid driver's license and good driving record, plus the physical ability to perform therapeutic holds, CPR and first aid. Send resume and salary expectations by 1/24/07 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (MAP),
4334 Secor Rd.,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234,
or fax to 419-720-6103,
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

FREE TOWING

Attention Landlords or Property Owners, if you have abandoned cars (in any condition) Bad Boyz Towing will remove it for FREE.

Call 419-810-5879

**BEHAVIOR ASSISTANT/
CASE MANAGER**

Dedicated professional needed to work with emotionally disturbed youth in a partial hospitalization setting. Must have Bachelor's degree in social work or related field; Ohio LSW or PC preferred. Position requires valid driver's license and good driving record, physical ability to perform therapeutic holds, and willingness to work in a team setting in school-based program. Experience working with troubled youth preferred. Duties include providing support to students during the school day, managing behaviors in the classroom, implementing group and individual therapeutic activities, and facilitating regular contact with families and involved agencies. Must have good documentation skills, be proficient in computer use, and be able to assist with transportation needs. Send resume with cover letter and salary requirements by 1/24/07 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (BACM),
4334 Secor Rd.,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234,
or fax to 419-720-6103,
or e-mail harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**NORTHGATE
APARTMENTS**

Now Accepting Applications
1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older or Mobility Impaired.

Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included. Call (419) 729-7118 for details

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY/
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



FOR SALE

Single Family Home

3 Beds,
1 bath,
full basement

1535
Buckingham,
43607

For Rent

phone
248-250-0179

New Light Shining ...

Continued from page 14
sible and does not turn anyone away, but that the current trend of those visiting the pantry mostly includes individuals between the ages of 18-49 who have children and some senior citizens.

The pantry typically distributes more than 100 baskets of food during any given month and was able to help 107 families during the past Thanksgiving holi-

day thanks to additional monetary contributions from family, friends, and other church members.

"If everyone does a little bit, people like myself, it is amazing how much help you can give," Lott says.

New LightShining Star will be open again on January 23 from 1-4 pm. For more information or to donate please call (419)535-7331.

Job Developer

Seeking an energetic, team player to call on area companies to develop job opportunities for our clients. Requires Bachelor's degree in business, plus 1 year experience in sales/marketing; or Associate's degree and 1 year vocational rehabilitation experience; or 3 years sales, marketing, or job recruitment experience. Duties include marketing program and resources to area employers, actively developing job opportunities for clients, and providing job seeking skills training. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use and have a commitment to providing excellent customer service. Valid driver's license and good driving record required. Commitment to excellent customer service a must. Send resume, with cover letter and salary expectations, by 1/24/07 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (T-FT),
4334 Secor Rd.,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234,
or fax to 419-720-6103,
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

