



*Minnie Sebree & Claudia Sebree-Brown
of Aunt Minnie's Food*

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*“Although it’s nice to pay compliments to one another,
businesses need more than words to stay alive. We also
need to support one another by buying the products
that black businesses are selling.”*

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

If you don't have a scorecard, you're going to have to get one. In fact, you won't be able to tell the players in the upcoming elections without one. Toledo, you see, has become the home for more political parties than you have fingers.

In the beginning, of course, there were two, just as there were in most places in this country from about the beginning of time or, at least, from about the time of the writing of the Constitution. We used to call those two parties the Democrats and the Republicans.

But a few years ago, the local Democratic Party split into the "A" team and the "B" team. The "A" team being those in power, until they were unceremoniously dumped, by those who wanted a new mayor.

So the "B" team took over party headquarters on Madison Avenue, but the "A" team remained intact. The "A" team won the battles during the ensuing elections but lost the war. And one of the reasons they lost the war was because of defections in the ranks.

Keith Wilkowski, former chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party and then-Mayor Jack Ford supporter, decided to run for mayor himself. That certainly did not help the "A" team's cause.

Now we have, in the space of the last week, the descent from the sublime to the ridiculous. Toledo City Councilmen Michael Ashford and Mike Craig have announced that they will run their own slate of council candidates in the upcoming election.

Wilkowski, former Lucas County Democratic Party Jim Ruvalo and Toledo City Councilman Joe McNamara have formed a coalition and have announced that they want to take control of the party ... *which party you might well wonder.* And the leadership of the Party itself, the "B" teamers, are blithely wondering what all the fuss is about.

And, there is still a faction, represented by Toledo City Councilman Frank Szollosi, for example, who appear to be part of none of the above political entities. We might see the formation of yet another set of parties here. And since we are running out of names, we will probably have to dust off such long-forgotten terms such as Whigs and Tories.

The immediate result of this fragmentation is the loss of Toledo City Council president to the Republicans, specifically, the failure of the Democrats to unite behind City Councilwoman Wilma Brown several weeks ago. Instead, they decided to permit Republican Rob Ludeman to remain in that powerful office, the office that doles out committee assignments and is next in line to the mayor's office.

Truth be told, Brown was not even close to being elected president. Three of four Democrats voted not to re-organize council and she ended up with just four votes to do so.

In the aftermath of that most recent debacle, various Democratic councilmen have noted that they did not have their act together or that they did not get the proper assurances from Brown that they needed in order to make a change. But the upshot of it all is a matter of personal ambition and the inability to harness that ambition for the greater good.

What happens next is the stuff that makes excellent newspaper copy, and lousy government, unfortunately. It's election season. It's always election season, of course, but this one is the one with the focus on City Council. All six district seats are up for grabs.

Districts 1 and 4, Brown and Ashford, respectively, seem certain to remain in the hands of the incumbents. Districts 2 and 5, being vacated by Ludeman (term limited) and Grachek (tired of all the political infighting) are anybody's guess at this point. And Districts 3 and 6, occupied by two neophyte incumbents, Craig and Joe Birmingham, will be hotly contested.

Democrats have a better than even chance to take District 5 away from the Republicans and they have a fighting chance to prevail in both District 2 and District 6 as well. It's entirely possible that, despite the lack of unity - which may be overrated anyway - the Democrats could enhance their majority on City Council. They presently have an eight to four edge and it could very well be, come January 2008, a nine to three or 10 to two majority.

And we all know what that means?

Well, in reality, we will have nine or 10 Democrats who will all belong to about four or five party subsets. And with such an overwhelming Democratic Party majority, Republican George Sarantou, now chairman of the Finance Committee, is virtually guaranteed to be the next president of Toledo City Council.

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

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Community Calendar

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 26

- St. Paul MBC Faith Friday Program: Guest speaker Pat Sullivan of Friendship Baptist; 7 pm: 419-246-2886

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 28

- Third Baptist Church: Guest Musician Glenn Jones, founder of Tehillah International Ministries; 10:45 am service: 419-248-4623

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 5

- "Boys Booked on Barbershops:" Blendz Barbershop; For boys ages six to 10; Free books, pizza, pop and cookies; Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Blendz Barbershop and Ruth Court #6: 419-244-7062 or 419-578-9400

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 12

- Toledo Lucas County Library Kent Branch: Black History Film Series: *Rising from the Rails: The Story of the Pullman Porter*; 6:30 to 8 pm: 419-259-5381

February 17

- Toledo Lucas County Library Kent Branch: Black History Month program; *Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas*; African drummers and dancers, speakers, a storyteller and a marketplace full of vendors: 419-259-5381

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

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Toledo Fire Chief Mike Bell has submitted his resignation, effective March 22, 2007, for the mayor's acceptance. By that time, Bell will be eligible for a package that includes the special pension program that was put in place a few years ago in order to hold off the retirements of fire and police officers.

Along with accumulated sick leave, cash and other benefits, Bell will be well-positioned at a relatively young age. Bell said emphatically that his resignation was not the result of any problem or blow up at Toledo City Hall. However, others dispute this by pointing to a very loud argument between the fire chief and Mayor Carty Finkbeiner which occurred several weeks before Christmas.

Regardless of what triggered the resignation, the loss of Mike Bell will represent the exit of a tested, veteran leader. Bell had quietly achieved the distinction of the longest serving fire chief in Toledo's history. He is one of the most well-liked persons in Toledo. His broad smile and Boy Scout-eagerness to help is known to many and deeply admired. And, he

is a hero.

He was a sturdy ball player for The University of Toledo Rockets during part of their glory years and he has been a fire fighters' chief for his department. As a matter of fact, my only problem with him while I was mayor was that he was way too quick to side with the rank and file of the fire department each and every time an issue would arise.

And Chief Bell showed uncommon courage during the north Toledo disturbance. He waded into the mob to help settle them down and to prevent an out and out clash with the police.

I hope Bell does go through with his retirement because he deserves it. He has greater things ahead and many organizations and cities would clamor for a Mike Bell as a leader. I think he can go much farther than most folks can see right now. He has turned down offers before in order to stay in Toledo.

Now, he may just want to stay and use this as a gambit to push through a pay raise for firefighter executives. Or, he may want to just test the market and see who wants

him. Maybe he wants financial independence. Maybe he wants to be mayor or governor in 2012. Who knows what the future will bring for this very capable leader?

The Blade political party is making a push for Keith Wilkowski. Looks like Wilkowski, former chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party and a one-time mayoral candidate, is going to get several years of favorable PR—the kind of publicity that Ben Konop and Joe McNamara received in the run-up to last year's election—as 2009 approaches. Maybe this fourth party (two Dems, one GOP, one Blade) will clear the field for Wilkowski.

An early test for The Blade team will be the south Toledo seat soon to be vacated by Rob Ludeman. If Ludeman's daughter does indeed run for the seat, she will be the third Ludeman on the ballot in the past number of years. That's a lot of south Toledo name recognition and the GOP needs a few new stars to get past the Tom Noe situation.

The mayor is doing a good political job of having the tax increases appear to be the handiwork of Chief of Staff Bob Reinbolt or Dave

Moebius, assistant chief operating officer in charge of the budget. Anybody but Carty Finkbeiner!

But it is Carty who is raising not one but three taxes—assessments, property and water rates. Do you remember my question to him during a debate? Are you going to raise taxes? He said no. Like the Carty of the past 30 years, he is hoping that vot-

ers forget what he has promised at least for one more time.

The galling thing about this deficit, now raised to \$11.9 million and growing, is that Carty was handed a balanced budget with a small surplus when he came into office. He, on his own, decided to hire 17 new forestry folks and to pile up a huge unallocated debt in the pick up of the total fire

and police pension.

Finally, one last Mike Bell comment. After the funeral of the seven children who died in the apartment fire several years ago, their coffins were lowered into the ground late in the day. No one but the workers at Forest Cemetery were present. I am told that Chief Bell came to the site and watched as each coffin was placed into the ground.

Democrats!! – Don't Celebrate So Quickly...

By Johnny Mickler
Guest Editorial

Recently, I've briefly given attention to the many news articles written—both statewide and locally—on last November's mid-term election results in Ohio. With a Democrat in Ohio's governor's office for the first time in 20 years, not to mention a new Democratic majority nationally in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives—many people proclaimed Election Day 2006, a "Democratic Sweep!"

My focus at the moment, however, is on the statewide election because there is strong evidence confirming that whatever happens at the state level—will have a direct impact on Toledo's local decisions and thinking. And as a "numbers person," after reviewing the official results from the general election, I'd like to challenge your thinking about the glaring results.

To paraphrase one of our public officials who, eight months ago, empathetically said "Let's not pat ourselves on the back so quickly"... with all due respect, I'm asking all Democrats to NOT celebrate or pat yourselves on the back so quickly.

Why? Ohio's recent voting results speak for themselves:

1) Sherrod Brown (D) won Ohio's hotly-contested U.S. Senate race with 2,257,369 votes, against two-time incumbent Mike DeWine (R) with 1,761,037 votes.

2) The governor's race was won by Ted Strickland (D) with 2,435,384 votes, while Ken Blackwell (R) finished with 1,474,285 votes.

3) Ohio's Secretary of State's race was won by Jennifer Brunner (D) with 2,104,010 votes, over Greg Hartman (R) with 1,546,417 votes.

4) The Attorney General's race was won by Marc Dann (D) who had 2,035,757 votes, while a beleaguered Betty Montgomery (R) finished with

1,833,796 votes.

5) The State Treasurer's race was won by Richard Cordray (D) with 2,223,169 votes, versus 1,618,581 votes cast for Sandra O'Brien (R), a relatively unknown "long shot."

6) The State Auditor's race was won by Mary Taylor (R) who had 1,940,611 votes, while Barbara Sykes (D) finished with 1,891,785 votes.

7) The Ohio Supreme Court Justice race was won by Robert Cupp (R) who had 1,712,519 votes, compared to 1,505,186 votes cast for Ben Espy (D).

The above candidates were ALL endorsed by their respective parties.

After we reviewed and assessed Ohio's official numbers, a glaring disparity surfaced: Ken Blackwell, who ran for governor, received fewer votes than any other Republican who ran for a statewide office in the Ohio General Election. Even Betty Montgomery (R) in her losing effort, who many believed had direct ties to Tom Noe, received 1,833,786 votes—(over 350,000 more votes than Blackwell). What's more, Mary Taylor (R) who won the auditor's race, had 1,940,611 votes (over 466,000 more votes than Blackwell), despite the fact that many considered Taylor "an unknown player" in the world of politics.

But, that's not all. Another glaring conclusion surfaced: of the seven statewide elections, five were won by Democrats and two were won by Republicans.

Food for thought: If Republicans voted for Republicans, how could there be such a wide disparity in vote totals for Ken Blackwell and the other Republican candidates? Seriously, how could Blackwell receive fewer votes than the other six Republican candidates who ran for statewide offices? And, if Democrats voted for Democrats, how could there be such a difference in the number of votes cast for Barbara Sykes

and Ben Espy in their losing efforts? And since many declared Election Day 2006 in Ohio a "Democratic sweep," why didn't it extend to all of the Democratic ticket's endorsed candidates? Sadly, based on the numbers, we see an entirely different scenario.

Barbara Sykes, the endorsed Democrat for Auditor of State, lost the race to a Republican, who was "relatively unknown" according to some in the Republican Party.

Ben Espy, the endorsed Democrat for Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, lost his race to a Republican.

Since the Greater Toledo Urban League, Inc. is also a "civil-rights organization," we're always proud when an African-American and/or Hispanic/Latino enters the political arena. However, a glaring reality surfaced with this past statewide election, when reviewing how African-American candidates performed in the State of Ohio. Simply stated: We had a Republican (African-American) candidate for governor; a Democratic (African-American) candidate for State Auditor; and a Democratic (African-American) candidate for justice of the State Supreme Court. THEY ALL LOST!!!!

So, from where I sit, this past state election was a sad day for African-Americans—Democrat or Republican. Either way, we still lost.

In closing, since many of us in the African-American community are Democrats, I repeat: *Democrats! Don't Celebrate So Quickly...*

We are not where we were, but God knows, we are not where we want to be...

As always, we thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve.

Johnny M. Mickler, Sr.
President/CEO ~
Greater Toledo Urban League, Inc.



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The 10 Commandments of Prostitution

By Carol Chehade
Sojourner's Truth Columnist

If Biggie Smalls had lived, I would imagine he would have undoubtedly broken down the prostitution commandments with as much bluntness as he broke down his "10 Crack Commandments." Like any multi-billion dollar profitable activity, prostitution has its protocols. Ten are only the beginning of how deep the game runs.

1. *Let poverty reign.* Whereas emotional trauma keeps people in prostitution, poverty is what keeps them knocking at the door of the game. It is no accident that predators look for future prostitutes in poor areas of the world. Promises of a better life, independence and acceptance feed on the damage brought down my poverty. When confronted with little choices for survival, the choice of selling one's body to feed the family is a matter of practicality. Re-routing the lives of ex-prostitutes is dependent on re-routing the distribution of our economic resources, or else ex-prostitutes may see that going back to the streets as the only way to make it. The fact of the matter, little of the money goes to the street prostitute. One pimp said, "My woman will never leave me if she's leaving with my money. She will leave with less than she came with to me." Economic hierarchies must be maintained for prostitution to profit. Whereas street level pimps and prostitutes are hustling in alleys for survival, the businessmen hustle for more profits from their plush offices.

2. *The younger the better.* Child prostitutes perform at least two needs: They yield more money and they supply a demand for pedophiles looking to fulfill their forbidden attraction. Many of these children have been sexually groomed by family members, so the street is a continued nightmare of that has become their reality. Also, in a game that is about power and control, children are easier to control and over power. Exploiting prostitutes' history with sexual

abuse is one of the weapons used in the game, especially given that the majority of prostitutes were sexually exploited as children.

3. *Race Matters.* Wherever in the world there exists a racial hierarchy, one group of people is designated, in the words of Law Professor Derrick Bell, as "Faces at the Bottom of the Well." In the United States racism has been diabolically vengeful to African-Americans. The glare of racism is stunningly seen on the street corners where black women and men are sold auction-block style. Whereas poor white men and women are also sold on the same street corners with as much cruelty, they often yield higher prices than their black counterparts. Even lighter-skinned black women are sold at higher prices than their darker-skinned sisters. Furthermore, despite media stereotypes, street pimps' stables consist mostly of prostitutes from their own race and class. The higher you get in prostitution, the whiter it becomes in the upper echelon where owners of legal brothels, porn companies and escort services follow the capitalist racial rules where whiteness controls the bigger game. Whereas white prostitutes getting out of the life must face classism and sexism, black prostitutes have to face that plus racism. As long as the people remain racially divided in the struggle, then the exploitation of race against victims of prostitution will remain.

4. *Sexism reigns.* Like the mainstream world, women in prostitution rarely make more money than those who control them. Sexism in larger society plays out on the grimier street level with deadly consequences. As long as people do not want equal relationships, then johns will always visit the most exploited street prostitutes. Also, going to street prostitutes who have been exploited by race, poverty, and/or class, means that the

equality scale is off-kilter. Johns who contribute to the imbalance of the social scales, subconsciously do not value equal relationships with women. Of course, many johns will reason that the prostitute choose that form of labor. This reasoning is akin to a master saying that his slave mistress was not forced to be his mistress, but rather a woman who freely choose to sleep with him. It is a matter of survival and not choice. This form of sexism also visits disempowered and exploited young male prostitutes who are used by mostly married, older men.

5. *Make sure prostitute doesn't follow Biggie's "10 Crack Commandments."* Addicted prostitutes are working prostitutes. The motivation of chasing a high will keep them working all night on streets that are dangerous. Drugs and alcohol keeps prostitutes self-medicated so that they do not face the horrors inflicted upon them. There's a fine line though: It's OK if prostitutes do drugs and alcohol, but if they look used up from the substances then her street worth is worthless.

6. *Find one with Stockholm's Syndrome.* The best prostitutes are ones who defend the game better than those who brought them into the life. Many street prostitutes will have more loyalty for their pimps than they will have for themselves. They will actually convince themselves that their pimps are the only ones who love them. Instead of escaping the abuse, she will stay. This blind loyalty to an abuser or captor is called Stockholm's Syndrome. People trying to help will experience wrath from victims of Stockholm's Syndrome. Victims form a one-sided relationship with their owners, often trying to prove their love and loyalty in order to be the favorite. As a result, opportunities to get out of the life are not taken because they are working to fill a void of a pimp, another person who is lost in his own personal hell.

7. *No need for health insurance.* Because prostitutes are viewed as expendable, protecting their health is deemed unnecessary. Therefore, why waste money on health when their shelf life is short. Their shelf life may be short, but what may be transmitted to all of society has far-reaching consequences. The majority of street workers are inflicted with many types of STD's, the most detrimental one being HIV/AIDS. Many of these johns are married so when they come home they may be coming home with a very deadly gift to their unaware partners.

8. *The whip is the way.* Violence is an overused tool in prostitution. If prostitution was a choice, as many critics claim, then violence would not be necessary. This belief of choice for the majority of prostitutes is false. It is again the same argument used in slavery when masters believed slaves liked being slaves, while at the same time using the whip because they feared uprisings and escape. Prostitutes are broken in

(Continued on Page 6)

Dear Editor,

I find it interesting some of the words used by former Mayor Jack Ford in his column of January 17, 2007. Regarding our city, he wrote, "this is not a budget crisis, this is a budget boondoggle!" He should know. He set the tone for the 2006 labor settlements with his administration's settlement of the AFSCME Local 7 contract in September 2006.

Historically, the Local 7 contract is bargained and settled first, and then the other seven labor union contracts follow. Jack Ford's staff negotiated the Local 7 agreement in 2005 and brought forward their recommendations to City Council in September 2006. City Council accepted their recommendation and unanimously passed the labor agreement.

Now we move ahead to 2006. The current administration negotiates and brings forward their recommendation for settlement of the labor agreements with police and firefighters. As in the past, the labor package mirrors the Local 7 contract. Local 7 has had a fully paid pension plan since 1995. Naturally, the recommendation came forward for both police and firefighters to have a fully paid pension plan too. Call it parity if you want, but this is a commonly used tool in labor negotiations.

I felt at the time that if City Council would have rejected this administration's recommendation to settle the agreements with police and firefighters and turned the matter over to a fact finder, we would have lost the argument based on the Local 7 contract settled in 2005 under then-Mayor Jack Ford. I also felt that the total benefits package offered to our police and firefighters stacks up as average when compared to other cities our size.

As chairman of City Council's Finance & Budget Committee, I have and will continue to fight for a balanced budget while delivering the services that Toledoans have come to expect.

Respectfully submitted,

George Sarantou, Councilman

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Contact 419-241-7332 or 419-241-3330

Aunt Minnie's Foods

By Linda King
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

[Ed. Note: This is the second part of a two-part series on a local African-American-owned food company. Part one was published last week - Jan. 17 - and chronicled the decades-long journey that Minnie Sebree and her daughter, Claudia Brown, undertook to get to the point at which they had managed to accumulate over \$500,000 in product orders only to find that food processors would not work with them if they could not put up cash prior to delivery of the items.]

Part Two
Stunned because they knew that the purchase order from WalMart was in many ways as good as cash, Minnie Sebree and Claudia Brown scrambled to find someone, anyone, who could meet the demand for the orders that

were already guaranteed. They found no takers.

What they did receive were many excuses, suggestions, and advice that boiled down to 'you have to have the money before we will do this.' They were confused because they had seen other companies, who were not even close to where they were in terms of guarantees, receive not only the funding that they needed but also support from the very people they sought to back them until they could get their product into the stores. Sebree and Brown knew that they had to restructure. They realized that what they'd believed about the business did not apply to them. They realized that if they were to get in they had to get there through another door.

The team had to regroup.

They had to manufacture their own food. But this would take a precious amount of time. More time than the promised orders could wait. But Brown's persistent character would serve them well. "She would not take no for an answer," says Sebree. Still determined not to be defeated they pressed on toward the mark. With money they had had previously and with the help of a private investor who had been watching them over the years from the sidelines, the women began looking for a building where they could make their own food. Little did they know the search would bring them full circle to their former landlord.

Hearing about a building that he owned in Perrysburg, the two approached him with a proposal. Striking a deal led the duo to their Williams Road location. They'd completed another goal.

Along with the blessing came many requirements - building inspections, codes to be met, equipment to be ordered, to name a few. But the women, who never gave up, never lost hope and didn't take no for an answer kept a steady pace and now the building that they occupy stands as Aunt Minnie's Frozen Food Company. The building not only serves as an office for the team, but is also a warehouse that lodges the line on which Aunt

Minnie's food is assembled and packaged. It also has a freezer that holds enough of Aunt Minnie's product to fill present and future orders. Aunt Minnie's seems ready to take on the next task.

Today Aunt Minnie's food graces the shelves of more than 10 companies including those of six area Meijer stores, Churchills, Family Food Center, Bassett's Supermarket, The Pharm, Monnette's, Broadway Food Center, Seaway Market, Save-A-Lot, Food for Less, and of course WalMart. And although the mother/daughter team sometimes have differing views, they have never forgotten the goal. "We complement each other" Sebree says about the sometimes differing perspectives they have, a point that Sebree uses to emphasize the importance of community support and partnership.

The lessons that the ladies have learned they eagerly share with the hope of helping someone to not have to go through what they did.

Both stress the importance of support for minority businesses. "Although it's nice to pay compliments to one another," says Sebree, "businesses need more than words to stay alive. We also need to support one another by buying the products that black business are selling."



Minnie Sebree & Claudia Brown

Brown offers her own perspective on community support. "I invite people to answer the question, where will your children go to get jobs in the future, and who are their examples out there?" She continues, "Supporting minority businesses is really investing in the future of our children and our community." Brown also expresses concern about the black communities acceptance of common practices.

"It's also about accountability," she stresses. "We as a community need to make our money work for us by making the leaders of this community accountable to the community. Why do we have to buy only what is offered to us? Why can't we dictate to the stores what we want to see on the shelves?" she says. But despite the frustrations they encounter everyday, the two remain focused on the true purpose of Aunt Minnie's.

"Aunt Minnie's goal is to carve a path for others," says Brown. "When we began there was really no one out there to help us with advice. We want to be that example. That help that we never had. We want Aunt Minnie's to be a prototype for others."

With five employees Brown sees Aunt Minnie's as being a source of income for at least 30 more. And though they are not quite

there yet, what they have now they freely offer. Practical advice from the many experiences they've incurred throughout the years.

"Never give up," offers Brown. "Know who you are and where you want to go. Don't be afraid to voice your weaknesses, and remember that it takes money and or collateral in order to make it. Especially as a minority business owner."

Sebree adds her own insight to others. "My most valuable lesson to offer is to always leave something for others." That something includes for her, a pride in her accomplishments.

"Through it all we have stayed true to our product. These are our recipes. And at the end of the day you know that it's yours. You have ownership."

With that Aunt Minnie's seems ready to take on the next task. And it is highly likely that this team will accomplish all that they set out to do. The pictures on the wall not only reflect their past journey but also provide some insight into the thinking that will help propel this team into the future.

Out of the box!

For more information on Aunt Minnie's call 419-872-4396 or email www.auntminniesfood.com



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.
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Plenary & Parent/Educator Session Speaker: Ms. Sharon Draper

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Advance reservations will be accepted until Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.
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Black Bridal Expo Vendors Prepare Final Touches

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Second Annual Black Bridal Expo vendors are prepared and ready for this Saturday's event at the Genesis Dreamplex Hotel and Conference Center.

The vendors spent last Saturday at a pre-event workshop going through their paces and learning what to expect during the extravaganza, the inspiration of event planner Glenda Brown of G-Creations Event Planning.

The doors open at noon. The first 50 brides who register will receive a gift bag from the event's sponsors. The fashion show, featuring some of Toledo's top-notch designers, starts at 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Alvin and First Lady Rolinda Dawson will renew their vows at 3:00 p.m.

Among the vendors who will be showing their services or products are Affordable Insurance, Artistic Impressions, Beauty of Mary Kay by Alicia, Blessed



Olivia Holden of ASSETS Toledo and Marie-Dunlap-Ali of M-Sews-It



Rev. Alvin and Rolinda Dawson, their son Arthur and Glenda Brown

Blossoms Florist, Genesis Dreamplex, G-Creations Event Planning, Henry's Jewelry, Hummer4Hire, Mike Witty Entertainment, Motivations Salon of Beauty, M-Sews-It, NeVaeh Salon & Spa, Paradise Shoes, President Tuxedo, Revelations Photography,

RRT Images, Scarves and Such From Diann, Sounds From Heaven Soloist, Tea Cakes Southern Bakery, The Sojourner's Truth, Threads by Balinda, T-Town DJs and Two Steps Up Dancing.

Along with the gift bags, there will be prize giveaways by Henry's Jewelry and several other vendors and after the event, there will be a party with music by T-Town DJs from 5 to 11 p.m. – music – food, dancing.

Advance tickets are \$5. Tickets at the door are \$10.

For more information on the Black Bridal Expo, call 419-870-2483.



Dean Hayes of Hayes Security, Victor Knighten of Two Steps Up and Alicia Mells of Think Pink Cosmetics

The 10 Commandments of Prostitution

(Continued from Page 4)

many ways and violence is so common it is normal in the life. Many of these women are actually programmed to expect some form of violence. In fact, prostitutes judge a man's character by not whether he hits or not, but how much and often he uses violence. One ex-prostitute said, "My man was decent compared to the rest. He only smacked me around, he never beat me." With violence comes the danger of ownership, which in its most extreme manifestation bubbles up into sexual violence. When a female prostitute is raped or killed, she is seen as a person who brought that upon herself.

9. To truly succeed in the prostitution game, all one has to do is follow the commandments of corporate, religious and media pimps. Prostitutes are forever chasing some type of high or escaping from memories of some low, while at the same time giving service to clients

who are trying to fill their own highs and lows. Larger society mimics this insane relationship. We give our money to whatever the media pimps to us. A bigger TV will make you happy, until an even bigger one is marketed by the media. We become corporate slaves to the plantations of Wall Street hoping to grow up and be like the golden-calf master we erected. A bigger house will make you happy, until you realize you are working a life sentence to pay off the debt. With the false golden-calf master fully possessing our souls, we turn around in the hopes of feeling better with some fast plan exorcism and give our money to ungodly religious leaders who pimp us into believing God is found through greasing their palms which will masturbate the lies of our golden-calf molded soul awakening. We pay to get things that never make us feel as good as promised. Makes you wonder who isn't

being pimped?

10. It's one of the oldest professions in history, so it's natural. It is one of the oldest professions in history, but so are wars, slavery, genocide, murder and mayhem. Just because something earned its place from being old, does not make it natural. Evolution, especially the spiritual kind demands we move up from our lower selves and not get stuck in the worst places we have developed. We cannot use this argument as an excuse to do nothing.

This is the second part in a series of articles about trafficking and prostitution. They will culminate in a February 2nd, 7 p.m. performance at Doerman Theater title, My Real Name, stories and performances from the underground lives of ex-prostitutes by the author of this article. All proceeds of the show will go to charity. Call or e-mail to make reservations: 419-242-7401 or tam@tamohio.org

Toledoan of The Year 2006 Awards

Presented by the City of Toledo, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner

Every community has those known and unknown heroes, whose actions, dedication and commitment impact and improve the lives of others. In order to give recognition to such deserving individuals in our community, The City of Toledo is putting together a campaign to select Toledoan of the Year 2006. Any individual whose actions have made an impact on the lives of the citizens of Toledo is eligible for a nomination. Citizens can submit nominations for 9 different categories - Humanitarian, Lifetime Achievement, Educator, Innovation, Community Investment, Sportsperson, Leadership, Youth and Toledo Pride. A panel of judges from the City of Toledo will pick the winners. They will be announced at a special awards ceremony in late February.

Nominations should be submitted by **March 20, 2007**. Nomination forms can be obtained at local libraries, Toledo Public Elementary Schools and on the 22nd Floor of One Government Center.

Forms should be mailed to:
Mayor Carleton S. Finkbeiner
One Government Center, Suite 2250
Toledo, Ohio 43604
 Or Faxed to: (419) 245 - 1370

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Lessons In Chamber Music And Their Own Possibilities for Students at Stewart Academy For Girls

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Three hundred and fifty eager young faces looked up in awed anticipation as the curtains on the stage at the Stewart Academy for Girls opened up on the Marian Anderson String Quartet, Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

"The first violin plays the melody," explained Marianne Henry, first violinist. "The first violinist plays what?"

"Melody!" yelled out the 350 proper young ladies dressed in blue and white and sitting cross-legged on the floor of the school's multi-purpose room, immediately resuming their polite quietness after an enthusiastic answer to a question many of them may not have been able

to answer a few moments earlier.

Henry demonstrated the melodic aspects of her instrument with a verse of "Twinkle, Twinkle," accompanied by the quiet voices of several hundred young girls singing along with her.

Launching into a lesson about classical ensembles, Henry, with the help of the other members of the quartet, gave the girls at Stewart a lesson that started out being about music but ended up being about much more.

Second Violinist Nicole Cherry explained that while her instrument could also play the melody, in her position as second violinist, it is her job to provide harmony.

"The second violinist plays what?" she asked.

"Harmony!" the girls yelled in answer.

Demonstrating how the two instruments work together, Henry and Cherry played a verse of "Twinkle, Twinkle" and again the instruments were joined by hundreds of sweet, young voices.

"There's something wrong with my violin!" exclaimed Diedra Lawrence, who plays the viola in the quartet. Cherry held her violin next to Lawrence's instrument to show how different they are in size, the viola being much larger.

"Mine also sounds sad," Lawrence said, then played a

mournful-sounding verse of "Twinkle, Twinkle," ending her 'solo' with an exaggeratedly sad face. Laughter and applause erupted spontaneously from the well-mannered young audience.

Lawrence then joined with the two violins to play a verse of "Twinkle, Twinkle," this time with three instruments and again with vocals provided by the girls of Stewart of Academy.

Lastly, cellist Prudence McDaniel introduced her instrument, which was much, much larger than the other three. Holding her cello over her head in triumph, McDaniel received applause from an audience full of amazed young girls, who were probably wondering how she handled such a big instrument.

She explained that the cello provides the base line for the quartet, and then demonstrated by playing the lowest note on the cello, as well as its highest note. All four instruments joined together to play a verse of "Twinkle, Twinkle," accompanying the now confident singers who happily sang along with them.

"You are a rare entity because you know what goes on inside a string quartet," said Cherry.

Music lesson over, a short concert began with a piece by African-American composer William Grant Still, a musical legend of the 1900's who was the first African-American conductor of a major orchestra.

Only able to participate as listeners at this point, some of the younger girls in the audience fidgeted a little, but most eyes remained riveted to the four musicians on stage,



Violist Diedra Lawrence

who were also women, role models, ideals and, possibly, images of their future selves. Looking at the sea of heads decorated with braids and barrettes, Cecelia Reagans, a teacher for 46 years, commented that looking at them was like looking at "a flower garden."

The delicate imagery befit the occasion and the audience, comprised of the delicate flowers of Toledo's African-American community, who are being molded and shaped at Stewart Academy for Girls by wise and wonderful teachers like Cecelia Reagans. Following the Still selection, the quartet allowed their recently-taught students to ask questions with the hope of increasing not only their musical knowledge, but also their appreciation of music.

A member of the Libbey Stringed Orchestra asked how long the quartet members had been together, leading to a brief history of the group. On September 30, 1989, the members of the Marian Anderson String Quartet, then known as the Chaminade Quartet, came together.

They became the first African-American ensemble in history to win a classical music competition in 1991, at the International Cleveland Classical Competition. Their confidence bolstered by this singular achievement, the members of the quartet asked permission of the great contralto, Marian Anderson, to use her name as their own and she gave her heartfelt approval.

The Marian Anderson String Quartet's artistic endeavors have brought them to such venues as New York's Alice Tully Hall, the Corcoran Gallery, the Library of Congress, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Kilbourn Hall, the University of Southern California and the Chateau Cantanac-Brown in Bordeaux, France.

The Quartet's distinguished history includes performances through the Da Camera Society, the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre. The Marian Anderson String Quartet performed at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Centre, January 20, 1993, as part of the presidential inaugural celebration.

They also have a long history of artistry in residence, that includes: Quartet in Residence at City College of New York (1990-1995), Ensemble in Residence at California State University - Los Angeles (1995-1999) and Ensemble in Residence at Prairie View A&M University (2001-2005).

They completed a graduated fellowship at the acclaimed Shepherd School of

(Continued on Page 8)

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Lessons In Chamber Music And Their Own Possibilities for Students at Stewart Academy For Girls

(Continued from Page 7)

Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas (1999-2001). They are currently the Ensemble in Residence at Texas A&M University and Quartet in Residence with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra in Bryan/College Station, Texas.

They have brought their craft to countless children across America under the auspices of Young Audience, Da Camera of Houston and Project G.R.A.D. (Graduation Really Achieves Dreams). Their mission is "to create new and diverse audiences for the field of chamber music."

The Quartet received the

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Excellence in Arts and Culture from the Congress of Racial Equality in New York City in 2006. Hearing the auspicious origins of the group prompted a question about their individual educational backgrounds. Each member gave a list of colleges attended and degrees earned, eliciting applause from the educationally-motivated group of girls.

"Anything that you want to do well needs to be done with a lot of educational energies," said Lawrence, moving on from teaching about music to teaching about life. "How many of

you knew that you could go to college and get a degree in playing an instrument like this? You can get a degree in anything you want to do. So, don't think that your choices are limited."

The quartet played one more selection, again receiving enthusiastic applause. However, the 'lesson' didn't end there. "If you want to be a nurse, you have to stay in school," Henry said, after thanking the girls for their courteous attention as the group prepared to leave. "If you want to be a musician, you have to do what?"

"Stay in school!" shouted the Stewart Academy girls unanimously.

"If you want to be an astronaut, you have to do what?"

"Stay in school!" the girls shouted one last time. "Any-

thing you want to do, you have to stay in school."

Music and life lessons over, the quartet took one last bow before leaving for their next appearance that day, at Jessup W. Scott High School. However, there was still one more teacher to hear and one more lesson to learn.

"When I sat where you are sitting today, I never imagined I would be standing where I am today," said newly elected TPS Board President Deborah Barnett. "I was a little girl who had trouble in school."

Barnett talked about recent changes on the national political scene, specifically California Representative Nancy Pelosi becoming the first female Speaker of the House in the history of the U.S. Congress, that have impacted women all over the country.

"You can be anything you want to be," she said emphatically. "Take advantage of what your teachers have to share with you. Take advantage of what your par-



ents have to share with you. Be the best that you can be."

Barnett also emphasized the significance of the weeklong celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., expressing concern about recent reports of girls fighting at a local mall.

She advocated to the girls at Stewart that they should seek peaceful solutions, following the example of Dr. King. She also reiterated her original statement about possibility. "You can be anything you want to be," she said. "The doors have been kicked open for you. We might have a president of the United States right in this room. I think we have."

The room became silent as 350 girls considered this very real possibility before applauding yet another female role model, ideal and possible image of their future.

Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, Mercy Health Partners, St. Anne Mercy Hospital Mission Services Committee and the St. Anne Mercy Hospital Diversity Council Subcommittee sponsored The Marian Anderson String Quartet's appearances in Toledo, which also included performances at Lourdes College, St. Anne Mercy Hospital and Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, January 15 and 16.



Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson

February 23-May 20, 2007

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Museum of Art opens the free exhibition *Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson* on February 23, 2007. Robinson – a Columbus, Ohio, native and MacArthur Foundation "Genius" – relates poetic stories of the people and places in her life using materials that are readily available, including buttons, beads, fabrics, twigs, bark, and a homemade media she calls *hogmawg*. By "making do," as her ancestors did, Robinson creates works of art that defy categorization, but are grounded by history, personal experience, and spiritual essence.

The retrospective exhibition *Symphonic Poem* spans more than 50 years and features more than 100 of Robinson's works of art, including paintings, sculpture, prints, journals, and her extensive *RagGonNons*-which she



researches and creates over years and continuously refines. The *RagGonNons* are elaborate mixed media works that Robinson describes as *Button-Beaded Music Box Pop-Up BoOks* [sic]. They combine the needle and button work she learned from her mother and the craft of bookmaking she learned from her father. Regardless of her chosen media, Robinson's works of art mir-

ror the people and places that have influenced her and serve as the perfect vehicle for the eloquent stories she tells-all connected by references to the past, present, and future.

Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson is organized by the Columbus Museum of Art and Arts Midwest in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council.

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The Gift of Song: Bowling Green's Fourth Annual Gospel Fest

(Continued from Page 9)
pleasant, doing an excellent job of singing, as well as being the main attraction of such a successful event. Much planning goes into this event and Bowling Green State University Gospel Choir and their committee contributed a lot of time and creative thought to make this event such a success.

The festival brought together a multitude of choirs to voice their love of the Lord. Besides Bowling Green's choir, the others who were in attendance were the choir from The Ohio State University, The University of Toledo's Restoration Praise Choir, Kent State University's Voices of Testimony, Akron University's Gospel Choir and Wright State University's Choir appropriately named "In His Presence." Each choir did a tremendous job of keeping the crowd entertained, leaving no doubt about the crowd's satisfaction, as the majority of the audience stood for the entire show.

It was this reporter's pleasure to have the opportunity to speak with Vice President Sabrina Williams of The University of Toledo's Restoration Praise Choir and get her comments on the transition and



growth of the choir. She also gave insight on the impact that the Gospel Fest has had over the years. Williams, along with fellow students, Darnell Ray, president, and Dave Gully, director, has trudged through adversity that plagued their inactive choir to instill passion back into lackluster organization. The movement proved inspirational, as they utilized their restoration process to not only bring back the spirit within their choir, but also to find a new name to emphasize their hard work. Befitting for the obstacles that the choir faced, they have managed to generate a choir of 15 dedicated members. Their main focus now is to train new leaders and to teach the members how to become more of a unit and a ministry rather than just another organization on campus.

When I asked Williams how the choir prepared for the Gospel Fest she stated, "First

and foremost we wanted to focus on the importance of prayer and praying for one another. We maintained our weekly practice schedule for an hour and half. On the week of the Gospel Fest, we scheduled a few more practices just to ensure that we are well prepared."

As May 2007 approaches, both the president and vice president of the choir will be graduating from UT. It is their hope that the choir will continue to do great things on campus, as well as, in the community.

At the end of the night, as they filed out, the entire audience seemed to be left with thoughts of peace and contentment. They departed the auditorium discussing the passion and charisma of the various choirs and how the members have blossomed over the years in their full possession of the gift of song.

Owens Community College to Host Spring Semester High School Writers Workshop Program, Jan. 24 - March 28

Special to The Truth

Area high school students interested in developing their creative writing skills are invited to attend a new High School Writers Workshop Program during the Spring Semester at Owens Community College, Jan. 24 to March 28. The free workshop is open to all high school and home schooled students and will meet weekly to discuss and critique writing with college faculty, their peers and several published authors.

The Spring Semester High School Writers Workshop Program will take place every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. in Owens' Student Health and Activities Center Room 165 on the Toledo-area Campus.

"Owens Community College's High School Writers Workshop Program is a great opportunity for

area students to seek advice from several highly successful authors and college faculty and enhance their knowledge and skills related to creative writing," said Lynda Hoffman, Owens Manager of the Writing Center. "Individuals will be able take away some great insight into creating, refining and recasting their work in the areas of fiction, poetry, nonfiction and lyrics. The program is also designed as an outlet for young authors to expand and explore their creative writing on a personal level."

Attendees will work on their own writing projects while receiving input from several notable published authors, including performance poet Abigail Cloud and the editors of Bowling Green State University's literary magazine "Mid-American Review". Students will

also be able to work with Owens Adjunct Faculty members and poets Nick Strickland and Stephanie King. Additional guest authors will be on hand to discuss creative writing and publishing throughout the program.

Classes will address a diverse selection of topics related to creative writing, including how to become a published author, poetic language, point of view, revision work, character development and alternative publishing options. Participants in the workshop will also have the unique opportunity to have their work published in the program's annual literary magazine, "Belles Lettres".

For more information, call (567) 661-7385 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7385.

A Look at Three Black Films

(Continued from Page 9)

in an actual classroom doing work...but hey.

Speaking of two hours, yeah - this is one long-ass movie.

But it entertains the whole way through.

My only major complaint was the actual writing of the dialogue between characters.

The storyline is compelling enough that it truly exposes flaws in conversations between two people because the depth just isn't there.

Other than that, this movie deserves to be the number one movie in America for the second week in a row.

If you get a chance, go ahead and see *Stomp The Yard*... it will be worth it.

The true grade for *Stomp The Yard* is B-

The Last King of Scotland starring Forest Whitaker

An often overlooked spectrum to the black experience on film is just straight

up history. Idi Amin's reign of terror over Uganda in the 1970s affected the entire planet.

Not only did he seize power in a military coup (basically Debo-ing an entire nation from someone), but he also murdered hundreds of thousands of people, his people... his beloved Ugandans. This film takes place just as the balance of power is shifting and the new king is still getting settled in.

Dr. Nicholas Garrison (James McAvoy) is graduating from med-school in Scotland when the film begins and he soon finds himself having an incurable scratch for some adventure.

Obviously not getting along with his dad, young Garrison aims to get as far away from home as he can



Forest Whitaker

and Africa is the perfect place.

The film achieves a very down-to-earth yet light-hearted feel.

But it's hard to perceive at the offset just how much trouble Dr. Garrison will really manage to get himself into.

Once in Uganda, Dr. Garrison befriends Idi Amin (by chance) and quickly leaves the outskirts where he and two other white doctors had been providing free medical care.

First he wants to appoint Dr. Garrison to the position (Continued on Page 11)

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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

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-Tony Brown

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The Chosen Few Bowling Club Honors African-American Bowlers

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Chosen Few Bowling Club took a moment between frames to honor four African-American bowlers on Sunday, January 14, at Bowlero Lanes as part of the kick-off for this year's Black History Month celebration.

The honorees – Sharon Brooks, Melvin (Uncle Mel) Hayes, Frank (Scoop) Langston, and Patricia McFarland received plaques commemorating their service in the cause of promoting bowling in general and being the trend setters for area African-American bowlers.

Toledo has quite a bit of black bowling history, says George W. Hayes, Jr., president of The Chosen Few. Part of that history includes the formation of The National Bowling Association in 1939 of which the Toledo chapter was one of the founding five.

And the history continued even though white-owned bowling lanes were pretty much off-limits for black bowlers until 1959. In fact the United States Bowling Congress had a whites-only clause in its by-laws until the late 1950's.

Brooks, a Toledo native, has been bowling since the early 1960's. She started bowling at the Belmont Enterprise on Ne-



Frank Langston, Sharon Brooks, Melvin Hayes

braska Avenue and was a member of the Charlie Mae McIntosh Women's League and the Three and Two Mixed Bowling League – both now defunct – for many years. She currently bowls in a women's league at Bowlero.

Her career high game is 280, her high series is 657. Brooks is secretary of the Toledo Bowling Senate.

Hayes, a Libbey High School graduate, has bowled on the Medical College of Ohio's Mixed League for 29 years, with the Mon Nite All Stars for eight years and with the Jeff Schaaft-Town Boys for six years. He has been secretary of the Belmont Sportsmen Bowling Club for the past 30 years and has been the treasurer of the Toledo Bowling Senate for the past five, among his many bowling activities.

Hayes has bowled three 300 games, two 299 games, two 298 games and many 700 series.

Langston, a native of Mississippi, moved to Toledo in 1951 and has been bowling ever since. His team won the TNBA, Jr. Tournament in 1954 and in 1955 he bowled with the "Ray Robinson All Stars Traveling Team."

In the 1960's Langston bowled in such tournaments as the Peterson Classic, the Hamtramck Citizen's Classic and the Toledo Aubendale Classic. He is currently bowling in the Vet Ames Bowling League and the Men's Progressive (George Hackney League). He has bowled a 300 game and several 700 series.

McFarland also began bowling over 50 years ago at the former Belmont En-

terprise Bowling Lanes. She holds a certificate as a Junior Bowler Instructor and is a director for the U.S. Bowling Congress. She is a TNBA Life Member and is a member of the TNBA Chorale and Souvenir Yearbook Committee.

McFarland was a member of the first ladies team admitted to a men's league, the first lady secretary to hold that office in a men's league, a member of the first ladies team to bowl 1000 (single game) at Varsity Lanes and the first black female to carry a 180 average in Toledo. She still bowls in two leagues.

The names of all of those who have been honored by The Chosen Few Bowling Club will be on display at Mott Branch Library during Black History Month.



Girl Scouts Participate in the Guinness Book of World Records Largest Dance Class to Kick Off Cookie Program

Special To The Truth

Over 900 girls and parents kicked off the beginning of the 2007 Girl Scout cookie season by participating in northwest Ohio's largest cookie rally. The Cookie Rally took place Friday, January 12, 2007 at Gladioux Meadows, located at 4480 Heatherdowns Blvd. Toledo from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Girls had the opportunity to try some hands on activities, crafts, fun games, dancing and even cookie taste testing! Girl Scouts along with Dance FX danced to break the Guinness Book of World Records largest dance class!

The theme this year is Step It Up! Success Through Energetic Participation. Area organizations have partnered in kicking off this year's cookie activity such as Key Bank who sat girls up with savings accounts, American Heart Association promoted healthy lifestyles, Mercy Health Partners offered

blood pressure checks, and also appearances from local mascots including Rocky the Rocket and some UT cheerleaders to get the girls pumped up. COSI had a science experiment and more! Beck Minger, Miss Northwest Ohio was there to sign autographs and promote good self-esteem and a special guest appearance from Shenekwa Stratford, NBC 24 News anchor.

"This event was a great way for the girls to have fun, exercise and learn new things. It's a great learning experience," states Nicole Minadeo, marketing director for the Girl Scouts of Maumee Valley Council.

Girl Scouts of Maumee Valley Council's mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

For more information please contact Nicole Minadeo at 419-243-8216.

be impossible to hate because of his intellect and charm. Yet he completely needs to be menacing as well.

They don't just hand Golden Globes out to anyone, Forest did his thug thizzle on this one and he deserves all the accolades.

I won't tell you anymore, but trust me ... this is an all-

important film.

Go see it and tell me what you think.

The true grade for *The Last King of Scotland* is A+

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A Look at Three Black Films

(Continued from Page 10)

of personal physician to the president.

What makes the movie even more interesting than the main plot itself is how Garrison deals with needing a father figure...but not one that's a mass murderer.

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Forest Whitaker, congratulations, sir, you have finally found that one role that NO ONE could've done better than you.

Idi Amin is transformed onscreen to a man who might

All-Male Panel Gives Polly Fox Students A Reality Check At "Lunch & Lecture" Series Sponsored by The Links, Inc.

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter
A lab at Polly Fox Academy, doubling as a lecture hall, quickly filled up with students, who were invited to take a healthy snack from a table covered with fruit-laden trays, Wednesday, January 17, 2007, before taking their seats.



Richard Brown, Richard Jackson, Det. Raynard Cooper

It was the third Wednesday of the month – the day that members of The Links, Inc. come to the school for their "Lunch and Lecture" series.

"We bring in all types of speakers," said Pat Hogue, The Links, Inc. member and professor at UT-Medical. "We also mentor." Hogue gave an example of the kind of mentoring The Links, Inc. members provide. Last year a Polly Fox Academy student had all of the requirements for graduation except for her physical education credit. Links, Inc. member Joan Coleman refused to accept defeat.

"Joan had her up every morning," said Hogue. "She met her requirement." This kind of commitment is needed by the students at Polly Fox Academy, who face one of the biggest challenges of their young lives: to complete high school after getting pregnant or having a baby.

Committed to finishing high school, the students at Polly Fox Academy are eager to acquire the skills they need to improve their lives and the lives of their children. The Links, Inc. assists the school in providing them with the opportunity to get those necessary academic and life skills.

"We have made a three-year commitment to Polly Fox Academy, because we know there is greatness in every one of you," said Lee Sandra Davis, who directs youth programs for The Links, Inc. "Today we have a panel of young men who are going to talk to you about some things that are important to you."

Davis introduced the panel to an admiring group of young ladies. Members of the panel included Toledo Police Detective Raynard Cooper, Richard Jackson, Jr. and Richard Brown, III. "And two of them are single!" said Davis,

getting a few catcalls in response. "Young ladies, one day you're going to want a young man like all of these young men," she continued. "They're going to tell you how to go about making that happen – down the road – after you get your education."

Each member of the panel took a turn speaking to the audience of young mothers and mothers-to-be; first up was Detective Cooper. "I assume that all of you are pregnant or have been pregnant," he said. "I want you to look at that as blessings. I have five children. Once you bring a child into the world, it's a commitment you make to yourself, your child and God."

Cooper said, that at the age of 41, he has five children, all with different mothers; four of them are biological and one he is raising with his wife because of an absentee father. "The difference I made is that I was responsible for every one of them: I paid child support," he said. "As a man, you have to take responsibility."

The police detective's next statement caught some of the savvy young women by surprise. "Have you been told that you're loved – has anybody told you that they love you recently?" he asked, receiving either shocked silence or flippant replies. "Well, I want to tell you that I love you. It's a friendly love."

Explaining the differences in friendly love, godly love and romantic/sexual love, Cooper encouraged each of the teen mothers to always tell their children they are loved. "That's better than buying them some Air Jordans," he said. "You can over dose on that (love)." Cooper also encouraged them to treat others with respect and to respect them-

selves. "Carry yourselves as young ladies and demand that the young men that you do decide to talk to treat you with respect," he said.

In his role as police officer, he cautioned them about their public behavior, citing a recent altercation between some girls at a local mall as an example of the kind of behavior they should avoid. "It all started with two girls arguing over a cell phone call," he said, adding that the girls thought it was all a joke until they got downtown and he told them they'd probably be charged with a felony that would compromise their future prospects for employment.

Cooper continued with advice about relationships. "Never support a man financially," he advised. "Know the difference between a healthy relationship and an unhealthy relationship."

Asking for an example of what constitutes a healthy relationship, he received the answer "trust and respect" from one of the students. Cooper quickly agreed with the young mother, adding communication as a third component of a healthy relationship.

"Keep your dignity and know that you've got a child that you're responsible for," he said. "Don't ever be pressured to go to bed with a young man. They'll – we'll come up with all kinds of ways to pressure you. The number-one mistake young women make is going to bed with a young man too soon. Wait until you get to know the guy first. The difference between a man and a woman is that women are emotional, and men play on those emotions."

Cooper pointed out that some men might not want him to reveal these facts, but did not hesitate to continue (Continued on Page 13)

Monica Avery Named Staff Person of the Year

Special to The Truth

The Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities has named Habilitation Technician Monica Avery its Staff Person of the Year.

The award was presented Tuesday night at the Board's Annual Meeting.

Avery, who has been employed by the Board for 16 years, works at the Lott Industries plant on Hill Avenue.

"Ms. Avery has a wonderful rapport with persons served and her fellow staff, a credit to her calm demeanor," said a spokesman for the Board. "She is a strong advocate for consumers and it is obvious to those around her that she genuinely cares" Avery also assists with activities dear to her heart such as the Lott Employee summer picnics and the Holiday Happenings.

The Board citation read, "We are honored to have such a positive person employed by the Lucas County Board of MR/DD and



pleased to recognize her as the 2006 Staff Person of the Year."

The Lucas County Board of MR/DD provides services and supports that can span an individual's entire life, from Early Intervention Services for the very young and their families through adulthood.

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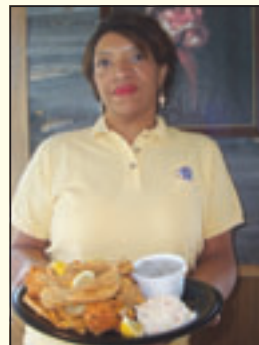
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All-Male Panel Gives Polly Fox Students A Reality Check At "Lunch & Lecture" Series Sponsored by The Links, Inc.

(Continued from Page 12)

enlightening his young, attentive audience. "Look at how they treat other women in their lives – their mothers, their sisters, even their ex-girlfriends," he said. "If he's spitting venom on her, he's probably going to do the same thing to you."

A sudden quiet fell over the large room as he revealed one last fact men keep from women. "Men think of themselves as hunters and you are the prey and once the prey is caught, the hunt is over," he said to a hushed audience. "Solidify your relationship in the beginning. If your relationship is not solid from the beginning, he will lose interest right after the act of sex – very fast."

Cooper ended his comments by telling the students how fortunate they are to have Polly Fox Academy available so that they can complete high school and have child care provided for them while they're in school.

"When my mother got pregnant with me as a teenager, she had to go to California to finish high school," he said, then gave one last piece of advice. "Bond with somebody positive. Somebody older, mature, who is going to be positive – who's going to tell you when you're wrong, not uphold you when you're wrong. From their life experiences, they will impart wisdom and knowledge. You're not going to get wisdom and knowledge in your teens."

Richard Jackson, Jr., a management associate at Westfield Shopping Center, started his brief talk with a question. "How many people have set goals for themselves?" Several of the students raised their hands and Jackson asked how many had

written their goals down on paper. "A goal is like a road map," he said.

Asking the four members of The Links, Inc. present to stand – Hogue, Davis, Deborah Barnett and Jackson's mother, Yolanda Jackson – Jackson offered them to the students of Polly Fox Academy as 'resources.' "A lot of times the goals or aspirations that you've set for yourself, there are others who've gone where you're trying to go," he said. "Never believe you have to get there by yourself."

Using as an example a job he lost shortly after graduating from The Ohio State University, with a company that eliminated an entire department and with it 20 jobs, Jackson talked about how having a vision helped him to overcome disappointment and change direction.

"You have a vision for your future – is your relationship meeting that vision?" he asked. "If it is, more power to you. If it's not, what type of goal are you going to set? Some goals can be large; some can be small. When you get home today, write down these goals. Write down what you want to accomplish by the end of the year. Write down the goals you have for your son or daughter. Write down your goals for a man. Take advantage of your teachers, mentors, your resources to realize your goals."

Richard Brown III started out telling the students from Polly Fox Academy that when he graduated from Morehouse University, he had not intended to come back to Toledo, but then his father died and he returned in 1999, to be with his mother because his sister, Kristian

Brown from 13ABC-News, was in school at the time.

"When I got out, I didn't want to plan on ever coming back, because I didn't see any potential in Toledo," he said. Now, Brown said later, he not only works in his hometown, but also is actively involved in working to improve the Toledo community.

"Reading is fundamental because reading will open the door to the impossible dream," he said. This emphasis on education was not lost on the determined students of Polly Fox Academy. "Reading will allow you to take the route you need to take when you read the road map," Brown added, harkening back to the metaphor used earlier by Jackson. "It's all about how you finish, not how long it takes."

Keeping it real, Brown echoed Cooper's cautions about being manipulated by young men. "Don't let anybody use you just for 'a piece' – you're better than that," he said. "Have some standards. If they really love you, they'll wait."

Drawing on his background in accounting, Brown asked the students to define assets and liabilities. After receiving several good definitions for each word, he continued. "A lot of you are hanging out with liabilities and they're bringing you down," he said. "A lot of you are spending your time with people who are not on your level and they're bringing you down. If you want to change your life, start looking at the people in your life. Look at who's in your cell phone. Anybody's who's bringing me down, I delete them from my phone. Anybody's who treats me like an ATM, I delete them

from my life."

Brown repeated that young women should look at how young men treat their mothers as an indication of character. He also restated that babies should not be seen as liabilities. "Babies are assets. They require love, care and time. We are the only people in creation who throw off the care of our offspring on others."

Brown, who is an associate minister at Friendship Baptist Church, ended his talk with a little preaching. "Don't let anybody put you down. I am looking at the faces of millionaires, doctors, lawyers, reporters, teachers. Be careful of the people you spend time with. No matter what happens – bounce back. Detective Cooper had four children out of wedlock. He didn't let that stop him. Your attitude determines your altitude."

A brief question and answer session afterwards included some insightful inquiries from students at Polly Fox Academy. One young lady asked if the three panelists saw themselves doing what they are doing now when they were teenagers. Each gave a brief history of his goals and how they've changed as the result of life experiences and talents and aptitudes they discovered along the way.

Another question was asked about The Links, Inc. "These are women who are working in the community," said Hogue. "We are committed to Polly Fox Academy and helping you." Seeing The Links, Inc. member Gina Thompson who came in late, Barnett related a story that involved Thompson. "One day I was in my office and Gina called me

and said, 'I found some money for Polly Fox!' This is a labor of love."

Other questions were practical with students asking about college scholarships, particularly designed for students with their special needs as young mothers. "The key to getting grants and scholarships is what you do at Polly Fox now," said Jackson, who at 27-years old, spoke with wisdom beyond his years. "You have to do your best now to show that you can take that next step, regardless of what happened in your life."

He stressed the importance of grades and good relationships with teachers.

"Everything you do now follows you," said Brown, reminding the students of the young ladies being charged with a felony after the mall brawl. "I couldn't get the job I have now without a piece of paper called a transcript."

Brown explained that when the Polly Fox Acad-

emy students apply for college funds, funding sources would only know them by what they read in their records. "All they have to go on is what you did in school – your grades, your attendance. It doesn't start with 'I want to go to college.' There's a reason there's a push on attendance and on grades."

A Community Charter School sponsored by Toledo Public Schools, Polly Fox Academy offers girls in grades seven-12 who are pregnant or already have a baby the opportunity to graduate from high school, as well as preparation for parenthood and future education, training or employment.

On-site support services include WIC and Help Me Grow. A nurse educator also provides health education with a focus on prenatal care. For enrollment information, call (419) 720-4500, ext. 1.

Contact Geneva at geneva@thetruthtoledo.com

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The Mark-etplace will host the *Saving Our Community Benefit and Artist Showcase* January 27, 2007 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at 749 Norwood Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43607. The benefit is to raise dollars to fund a range of children and youth services through programming targeting after school needs, entrepreneurship, artist development, family needs and travel explorations. The Artist Showcase will feature performances from children and youth of the local community and Art for Thought of New York, New York.

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Sunday, February 4, Toledo Knights vs. Buf-	Wednesday, February 14, Toledo Knights vs. Rochester Razorbacks @ Central	Saturday, February 17, Toledo Knights @ Sylvania Northview HS	Wednesday, February 21,	<i>All home games start at 7:00 p.m.</i>

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11th Annual MLK Classic Is a Slam Dunk at New Location

Special to The Truth

The Scott Bulldogs made a triumphant return the Martin Luther King Jr. Classic but the Libbey Cowboys suffered their first loss ever in the event Monday, Jan. 15 at Owens Community College's Student Health Activity Center.

The MLK Classic, which has been a scholarship fundraiser for the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association for the past 11 years, moved for the first time from a Toledo Public School facility to Owens Community College. Doug Allen, vice president of NOBMA, said the move created numerous challenges for the organization, but the games proved to be a beneficial experience for NOBMA and fans.

"Owens has a great facility and everyone from our fans, coaches, players and even the referees were pleased with how it went off," Allen said. "Our goal is to raise money for scholarships and we were able to do that."

The games were attended by nearly 2,000 fans, including Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Toledo School Board member Darlene Fisher, and University of Toledo administrator Sam Hancock, Ph.D. NOBMA recognized John Norwood, Ph.D., assistant superintendent of Performance and Athletics at Saginaw Public Schools and a Libbey High School graduate.

It was the first time three state-ranked teams participated in the Classic. Going into the games, Scott was 9-0 and ranked No. 7 in Ohio Division I. Libbey, also 9-0, was ranked right behind them at No. 9. Saginaw Arthur Hill (8-1), the defending Michigan Class A state champions, regained the No. 1 ranking in Class A the day of the Classic.

Detroit Consortium (5-2), hardly a pushover, came in as the defending champions of the Detroit Public School Academy League.

The day started with two junior varsity games, where

both Libbey and Scott walked away with victories. Little Portia Bills, a student at McKinley Elementary who performed the National Anthem at the city's Unity Celebration at Savage Hall in the morning, wowed the crowd with the song to open the varsity games at Owens.

The games started about an hour behind schedule because bad weather in Saginaw prevented Arthur Hill from leaving there in time.

But by the time Arthur Hill's varsity took the floor, the Lumberjacks had no problem warming up Owens' Student Health Activity Center. Arthur Hill's All-American Darquavis Tucker lived up to his billing, scoring 34 points on an assortment of seven dunks, including a flying 360 that sent fans screaming, to two long-range 3-point shots.

William Buford, Libbey's All-State performer, proved equal to the task, though, scoring 33 points, knocking down two 3-point shots himself while showing his dunking ability as well. Little freshman guard Maurice Jones, who scored 10 points, helped Arthur Hill to a 21-9 fourth quarter as the Lumberjacks pulled away in the game's final eight minutes.

In the second game, Scott used a 20-8 third quarter grab command of a close game and then fought off a furious fourth quarter rally by Detroit Consortium Cougars to hold on for the victory. The Toledo City League's leading scorer Chris Wyse tallied 25 points to lead the Bulldogs.

Dajuan Samples brought back the Cougars with 26 points of his own before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Consortium had cut the lead to one with two minutes left but the Scott made free throws and held on to the lead.

Tucker received the McKinley "Mike" Mims Most Valuable Player Award for the Classic and he was also given the Justin Chapman Sportsman Award by the referees. Other Justin Chapman Award winners included: Brad

Sandridge, of Libbey; Samples of Detroit Consortium, and Milo Warren, of Scott.

Other members of the Ben Williams All-Classic team included Buford, of Libbey, Jones, of Arthur Hill; Wyse and Kenny Hairston, of Scott and Samples of Detroit Consortium.

It was Libbey's first loss ever in the MLK Classic after winning 10 games in a row. It was Scott's first appearance in the Classic since the inaugural event at the Ben Williams Fieldhouse in 1997, when the Bulldogs lost in a "classic" triple-overtime game to Southfield Lathrup 93-92. In that game, Greg Grays, who went on to play at Penn State, scored 60 points, which remains the all-time Classic scoring record. Ironically enough, Southfield Lathrup, like Saginaw Arthur Hill, was the defending Michigan Class A state champions the previous year.

Tucker's 34 points were the most by a player in the Classic since Brian Swift, of Warrensville Heights, scored 35 points against Rogers in 2001. Tucker and Buford posted the third and fourth best scoring efforts in the history of the Classic.

Allen said the Classic is also about honoring those who have helped with young people and top students at each Libbey and Scott.

Between the Libbey and Scott varsity games, NOBMA honored the late Flute Rice and Dan McLemore with MLK Classic Community Service Awards. Rice, who served as the first African-American principal at Scott High School and was a long time Toledo Public School administrator, died last year. In his later years, he was involved in the Urban Coalition, a grassroots educational watchdog organization focusing on issues involving TPS. McLemore, a Libbey graduate, was a teacher for over 30 years and, as coach, rebuilt the Scott girls' basketball team into one

of the best programs in the Toledo City League.

NOBMA honored top students in academic and extracurricular activities at Libbey and Scott with its first-ever "Off the Court Scholastic Awards." Allen said the awards were a way to recognize students in the same fashion the basketball players are honored for the work they do in the classroom and in other extracurricular activities.

Libbey students who were honored included: Briana Funches, Brittany Funches, Richard Darnell, Peggy Moore, Ariel Warren, Henry Maldonado, Sonya Finchers, Krystn Davis, Angelica Huff and Michelle Campbell.

Scott students who were honored included: Sierra Flowers, Sharee Robinson, Tyisha Turner, Darkise Stubblefield, Brittany Buchanan, Bianca Bryant-Bey, Gabrielle Cornelious, Kristan Whitt, Tyler Watson, Tashana Myers, Brianna Lee, Crystal Esquelin, Brandon Sanders, Cheva Harmon, Jordan Johnson, Montrece Braddy, Alexander Staples, Brian McGlown, Shamika Taylor and Shamar Kynard.

The games were also televised by BCSN and shown on Buckeye Cable, and broadcast live on radio by WXUT-FM, the campus radio station at The University of Toledo.

Allen said the Owens Community College officials, led by Dave Wincowski, Derek Lentz, and Michael Rickard, made NOBMA feel at home. Owens security, organized by Chief Julie Coppe, and Toledo Police, led by Lt. John Preston, made sure everyone felt safe at the game.

He said NOBMA's faithful sponsored played a huge role in making sure the event went off well. Sponsors included Lourdes College, National City Bank, U.S. Marines, U.S. Army, Nationwide Insurance, the Toledo Newspaper Guild, Ohio Army National Guard, Buckeye Cable System, Urban Radio, Marcos Pizza, and the Toledo Youth Commission.



Libbey's Head Coach Leroy Bates



Tucker (end of the Arthur Hill bench) takes a breather



Libbey High School Scholars



Laneta Goings and Rhonda Sewell