



Deborah Rivers
Principal of Robinson Middle School

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“I want to help expose students to as many opportunities as possible, especially those they might not see in their home life. I want to make these middle grades work. I feel it is a great tragedy that many of these children have never experienced success.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

"These are the times that try men's souls," wrote one of the Founding Fathers, Thomas Paine, in *The Crisis*.

And it is during such times, such times as the present, when the difficulties we face try our souls as well as our commitment to the Constitution, particularly the First Amendment of the Constitution.

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech," wrote the founders in that first amendment in order to guarantee to Americans the right to dissent and the right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Over the years, the right to dissent has been championed by all during the easy times, during the times when dissent could be appreciated merely as an intellectual exercise of that particular right. During the trying times, the times for example, as now, when we are at war, dissent is marked as disloyalty, or worse, as treasonous. Dissent, we hear from the far right and we hear from the White House, gives aid and comfort to the enemy and renders a disservice to our troops in the field.

And therein lies the conundrum. The war is being waged to bring democracy to Iraq and the Middle East region. Democracy, of course, has been something of an anathema in the Middle East as Islamic fanatics and tin-horn dictators such as Saddam Hussein forbid dissent and clamp down on discussions that embrace the idea of granting people the freedoms outlined in our own Constitution's First Amendment.

And now, as we wage a war that the White House sees as a struggle for democracy, we are told that during that struggle we should not exercise the very freedoms that we want to spread around the world.

Just recently, Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut issued a statement that a non-binding Senate resolution expressing disagreement with the president's execution of the war would undermine support for our troops there. Vice President Dick Cheney immediately seconded that notion. Ah ... politics.

Not so, said the man who should know better than most. "There is no doubt in my mind that the dialogue here in Washington strengthens our democracy ... period," said Marine General Peter Pace who will shortly be confirmed as the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In the run-up to the War in Iraq, many in the nation had thought that we had put the dark days of the Vietnam War behind us – the unending parade of body bags, the fight for which we had no stomach, the rampant political egos that determined that legacies were more important than lives, the adherence to outmoded ideas of how to win over hearts and minds in a part of the world with which we have no experience.

But with every day that passes and with every month in which the casualties pile up, we are reminded more and more of that unfortunate and disastrous conflict.

Why do people dissent?

It's easy to say that Americans do so just because they can. But in the larger picture, they do so because they believe that it is incumbent upon them to exercise their ability to protect the nation from their elected leaders' folly.

There is a strain of historical revisionism, embodied in such nonsense as the *Rambo* movies, that holds that we lost a war in Vietnam that was easily winnable. The civilians let the military down, goes the refrain.

That rewriting of history ignores the fact that we should not have been there in the first place. Sound familiar? Lest we forget, we were in Vietnam, President Lyndon Baines Johnson frequently said in the mid-1960's, to contain the spread of communism. The large picture that he and other less-than astute students of the Far East promoted was one of a row of dominoes falling one after the other.

Well we left Vietnam to its own devices, after a war that was responsible for the deaths of as many a million Vietnamese, along with more than 50,000 of our own and no one in a position of power has since mentioned the words "domino theory."

Johnson was wrong, Robert McNamara was wrong, Dean Rusk was wrong, Nixon was wrong, Barry Goldwater was wrong as were 98 Senators who voted for the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution granting Johnson his war powers.

That's why we dissent.

Not just because we can but because we cannot permit leaders to continue unabated on policy paths that are doomed from the start.

That's where we stand today. Given the choice between remaining silent in order to save face for the Bush administration or raising a voice in protest against the senseless slaughter of human beings, we have to be grateful that the First Amendment allows us to exercise our freedom of speech.

"One lesson that I've drawn from my life is the value and necessity of the freedom of debate, and that's what I really want to focus on ... if you accept Vietnam as a tragedy, and certainly I believe the majority of Americans today do, you should ask how it came about." – Robert McNamara.

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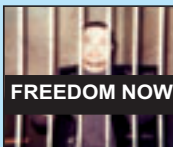
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Community Calendar

February
Black History Month!!

February 15

• Fair Housing's Mardi Gras Party: The Pinnacle; Fundraiser to benefit the Fair Housing Center; Cajun food; Music by KGB; Costume contest: 419-243-6163
• Greater Toledo Urban League Young Professionals: "Urban League Thursdays" Networking Forum; 5:30 to 7:30 pm; 20 North Gallery; discussion of the Civil Rights Movement and the role that young professional can play in the lives of youth in Toledo: 419-297-3664

February 15-18

• Singles and Marriage Ministries of Bethel Apostolic Temple: Annual Weekend Conference Retreat; Services at 6:30 pm nightly and Noon and 6 pm on Sunday; Evangelist and Prophet Elder Robbi Warren of Baltimore, MD: "Evening of Elegance," a semi formal dinner at 6 pm on Saturday at the Park Inn Hotel: 419-473-8933

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
• Citywide Afro-Ball: "Back in the Day;" Gladioux Meadows; For high-school students; Formal attire; Dinner, dancing, entertainment
• Relatively Real African-American Singles Group: Presents "Real Talk;" Discussion of relationship issues; 7 pm to Midnight; Heather Gate (next to HJ Prime Cut); Role playing, 50/50 raffle; 419-466-5265 or 419-320-7303

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
• Third Baptist Church (Holland): Mass Choir sponsors 20th Annual Black History Musical; 4 pm
• Majestic Praise Ministries: Family and Friends Day Service; 10:45 am; Elder Louis Self, pastor: 419-535-3317
• St. John's Jesuit High School: Forum on issues facing today's teenagers – rap, gangs, relationships, leadership and decision-making; 2 to 6 pm; Open to the public and free: 419-309-0165 or 419-309-0164

February 19

• UT 27th Annual MLK Benefit Dinner: Guest Speaker Dr. Alvin Poussaint, professor of psychiatry and associate dean for student affairs of Harvard Medical School; 7 pm: 419-530-2508 or 419-383-3609
• United MBC: Black History moments every Sunday this month

February 23

• Scott High School class of 1977: Meet and Greet session at the Community Club; 7 to 10 pm; Preparation for 30th year reunion in October: 419-351-1339

February 24

• Mt Nebo MBC Annual Black History Banquet: Genesis Dreamplex Hotel and Conference Center; 6 pm
• United Missionary Baptist Church Nurses' Guild: "Healthy Hearts: A Health and Wellness Workshop;" 11 am to 1 pm; Topics include – heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol: 419-242-1455

February 25

• St. Martin de Porres Black History Month Celebration: "Sing Hallelujah;" 5 pm; Chelsea Tipton and the Mosaic Singers of Detroit: 419-241-4544

February 26

• United MBC: Black History moments every Sunday this month

March 9-11

• Women With Purpose: Clarion Hotel; Guest speakers Dr. Wanda Davis Turner and Evangelist Yvonne Drake: 419-243-6101

March 17

• Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc Beta Phi Chapter: "Hats Off to Aspiring Young Artists;" Annual artist of tomorrow scholarship fundraiser luncheon; New Life Center; 12:30 to 3:30 pm: 419-367-3234

The Sojourner's Truth

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A Family That Eats Its Young

By Jan Scotland
Guest Columnist

A family that eats its young does not grow. Eventually that family will die out completely. It does not take a Rhodes scholar or a rocket scientist to figure that out. It is a basic premise that goes unchallenged.

Then tell me why our mayor and certain city councilmen have not figured this out. How in the name of responsible government does competing with tax-paying businesses make sense? What is the message that they think is being sent to hardworking Toledo businessmen. What do they think the message is to businesses looking to relocate to our city?

Of course I am referring to the recent debate on whether the Toledo fire fighters should supplement the city's revenues by making emergency service runs. These runs would be in competition with existing emergency service providers. Apparently they think this is a great way to maintain fire fighter strength and to fill downtime at fire stations. They point to "the great success" in the police department of running a police towing storage lot that

raised "significant funds for the city."

Well let's tell it like it is. This is a sign of city government that is losing the battle to increase our tax base. As citizens and businesses are moving out, their solutions to increasing revenue have been: fees for police and fire fighter runs, garbage fines, sewer assessments and the takeover of the tow lot storage business.

Think for a moment of the entrepreneurs who sink their life savings into a business. They survey the competition and accept the risk of the head-to-head challenge with other entrepreneurs. They work hard on their investment with a combination of elbow grease, marketing and service. Taxes are a continuing expense for them. If they do not pay on time it could become too costly or even put them out of business. They calculate that impact on their business as well. They look for, but quite often don't get, all that they expect for their tax dollars. But that's OK, it's part of the risk of doing business. You pay a competitive wage to your employees be-

cause if you didn't you would lose them to the competition. They are solid, honest workers who pay taxes to the city and are contributors to the neighborhoods.

Now the city you pay taxes to announces that they are your competitor. They are using the resources derived from your taxes to take business from you and threaten your existence. There is no way to calculate the impact on your income and you feel helpless and betrayed.

Let's look at the so-called successful tow lot storage takeover by the city.

The city claims millions in income without properly assigning labor cost to the effort. I guess they think that since your tax dollars pay for the police and other personnel anyway, why minimize their numbers for the sake of honesty.

Why also mention that no less than four tow companies went out of business displacing about 45 employees in the process. Forget that these entrepreneurs lost their life's savings because they could not compete against a entity that was not worried about



Jan Scotland

labor cost. Who cares about the families of these employees who were financially distressed because the employer shut down? Let's just celebrate numbers that tell only part of the story while doing nothing to solve our true economic woes.

In the past I have asked for this city to put together a comprehensive economic plan. I have asked about support for our existing Toledo businesses while pursuing outside entities. We need to firm up our image in the national community. We need to grow our economic base to find true solutions to our deficits. This is the acceptable way of keeping police and fire fighter strength at needed levels. We must stop eating our young or we will die the slow death that is the only logical outcome of the current approach.

African American Church Call To Buckle Up Project

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 7,500 lives have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 20 years. Yet, motor vehicle crashes still remain the number one killer of children ages 4 to 14 in America. The reason? Too often it is the improper use or non-use of child safety seats and booster seats.

That's why the *African American Church Call To Buckle Up Project* is joining with NHTSA and other state and local leaders around Valentine's Day this year to commemorate Child Passenger Safety Week, February 11-17, 2007.

"In 2005, an average of five children ages 14 and younger were killed and 640 were injured in motor vehicle crashes every single day," said Shryell Owens, AACCTBU Project Coordinator. "That's why we'll be working hard during Child Passenger Safety Week and

throughout the year talking to parents and caregivers about the importance of restraining their children properly in their vehicles." "What better way to show you love your child(ren) on Valentine's Day than to make sure they are secured properly."

Mrs. Owens said, "Many parents are familiar with child safety seats or car seats, for infants and very young children. But few realize that seat belts are not designed for young children who have outgrown child safety seats. Youngsters should "graduate" from a child safety seat to a booster seat until they are big enough to safely use a regular seat belt."

The three most common mistakes in installing a child safety seat are (1) not attaching the seat correctly and tightly to the car or truck, (2) not fastening the harness tightly enough, and (3) not using the chest clip or using it incorrectly.

(Continued on page 7)

Isn't it time for a Quiet Conversation™ about estate planning?

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It's time for a Quiet Conversation.™

The University of Toledo's MLK Scholarship Benefit Dinner

Dr. Alvin Poussaint, professor of psychiatry and faculty associate dean for students at Harvard Medical School, will discuss "Breaking Down Segregation and Disparities in Health Care: A Life and Death Issue" at The University of Toledo's 2007 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Benefit Dinner Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

Tickets for the scholarship dinner are \$60 or \$30

for students. Tables with seating for 8 are available for \$480. Tickets purchased and table reservations with payment are handled through the Office of Institutional Diversity or the Office of Multicultural Student Center; donations made payable to the UT Foundation/MLK and mailed to University of Toledo Foundation; P.O. Box 586, Toledo, OH 43682-4000.

A raffle drawing will be held Feb. 19 for a 37.5-inch by 29.5-inch watercolor painting of Dr. King produced by Toledo art-

ist Aaron S. Bivins with all proceeds going to the MLK Scholarship fund. Raffles will also be available during the evening program.

For more information, or to make your reservation for tickets for the dinner or securing table for your organization, please contact: Sandra Rivers in the UT Office of Institutional Diversity, at 419.383.3609 or 419.530.2508 or Ella Armstead in the UT Office of Multicultural Student Center at 419.530.2261.

My Journey Through KENYA: Its People, Culture and Beauty

Join Dorcel Dowdell, Main Library Manager, for an exciting pictorial presentation titled, *KENYA: Its People, Culture and Beauty*, from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, February 15 at the Sanger Branch Library, 3030 W. Central Ave.

Dowdell recently spent two weeks in Kenya, where she visited the capital city of

Nairobi and went on a three-day safari through Amboseli and Lake Nakuru National Parks.

"You can not fail to notice that Kenyans are quick to laugh and are never reluctant to offer a smile. I often heard the phrase, 'Welcome, you have come back home'," said Dowdell.

She also visited a beach resort in Mombasa, a city lying

on the Indian Ocean, and visited an orphanage for children whose parents have died from complications due to AIDS.

Dowdell will offer attendees a geography lesson to learn about Kenyan culture and people. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact 419.259.5370.

The Toledo Chapter of the Links, Incorporated Tackles Issues Affecting Women at 12th Annual Health and Wellness Luncheon

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Elegant women dressed in cashmere and agora wool sweaters, tailored suits, winter semi-formal wear, full-length minks and stiletto heels poured into the Zenobia Shrine Temple, retreating from sub-zero wind chills, Saturday, February 3, 2007, for a luncheon sponsored by The Toledo Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Despite all of the finery, this was not a society ladies affair, although many of Toledo's African-American community's social elite were present. The 12th Annual Health and Wellness Luncheon sponsored by the local Links, Inc. chapter, ProMedica Health System and Buckeye CableSystem had a mission. That mission was to provide a "Community Forum for Healthy Living," discussing the issues of domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and teen prostitution.

Three panelists were on hand to expound on each of these topics, each of them an expert in her field. First was Lynn Jacquot, director of the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter. "You have made this work that we do possible," said Jacquot, acknowledging assistance provided by The Links following a devastating fire at the shelter. "And I just want to say thank you."

The Battered Women's Shelter, established in 1978, not only provides shelter for women who've been victimized by domestic violence, but also for their children. "Last year alone, we sheltered 421 women and children," said Jacquot. "Fifty percent of the time, children who witness abuse in the home, grow to abuse or become abusers."

She said guilt, anger and shame felt by these children needs to be addressed to prevent the cycle from continuing. One of the things the shelter staff tries to do is help battered women see the effect domestic violence has on their children. Often women are reluctant to leave a batterer because of their children. Leaving a batterer may pose a threat to both mother and children.

"One of the most dangerous times in a domestic violence situation is when you're trying to leave," Jacquot said. "Seventy-five percent of the time that results in death." She added that the saddest thing is that people don't know that help is available.

"Last year there were 12 victims in this community," stated Jacquot, referring to

the dozen women killed as a result of domestic violence in the Toledo area in 2006. "Women generally have tried to leave 12 times," said Jacquot, citing a startling statistic. "One of the things we do in safety planning is helping them to see what their options are."

There are other factors that make the decision to leave a batterer more difficult for some women. "Many times women who are victims of domestic violence — particularly women of color — are discriminated against when it comes to housing," admitted Jacquot. "One of the things we try to do at the shelter is to maintain a relationship with housing agencies."

Sherita Evans, HIV-Risk Reduction Specialist at Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio was the second panelist to speak. "HIV/AIDS is the number one cause of death for black women between the ages of 25-34," she said. "We need to be tested and we need to end the stigma."

Evans said we're already wearing the red letter 'A.' "If we continue on this path, we will no longer exist," she said ominously. "Black people make up 12 percent of the U.S. population. We represent 50 percent of the people with HIV/AIDS."

Evans cited low-income, family responsibility, limited health care and biological susceptibility as factors that put black women at high risk for HIV/AIDS. "We can beat this," she asserted. "All of these issues we've dealt with here in America, but we don't want to talk about HIV/AIDS."

Evans observed that no one needs to be told how the virus is transmitted any more because we all know by now. "We have to fight HIV/AIDS here in Toledo, in America and globally," she said. "You'll see Alicia Keyes on BET talking about HIV/AIDS in Africa and Bono will over there and do a song and dance, but no one is singing and dancing here. Why aren't people over here doing songs and dances? Because we haven't made any up."

Tracing the origins of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African-American community, Evans said the belief that it was a 'gay' disease has made HIV/AIDS a taboo subject in the black community, adding that men go on the 'down low' because they are ashamed of being gay; so they pretend to be straight to be

accepted by other African-Americans.

"It is time to un-teach that thinking," declared Evans. "It's important to know that black women are being exposed to HIV/AIDS through heterosexual sex." Evans said this could very easily be prevented with safer sex practices.

"Condoms are 98 percent effective if worn correctly during sexual contact," she said. Women do get HIV/AIDS most frequently through heterosexual sex, men through homosexual sex."

Evans also offered another startling statistic regarding HIV/AIDS and the African-American community. Nationally, the percentage of cases of HIV/AIDS being transmitted to fetuses is two percent; but it is 30 percent in the African-American community.

According to Evans, this is largely due to reluctance on the part of African-American women to get tested. She said the test is an oral swab, not a blood test and that it is anonymous. "We need to know that our silence will not protect us," she said.

Evans also shared some other ways the HIV/AIDS virus may be contracted that are not as well known, including through steroid use and getting tattoos. These are in addition to the ways most people already know about: exchange of body fluids through sexual contact, sharing of needles and from mother to unborn child.

Evans reminded everyone that HIV/AIDS is not contagious but said that it is infectious, making it a disease that is spread, not through casual contact, but through intimate contact or contact with blood-borne pathogens. "The only way you can protect yourself from HIV/AIDS is to know your ABC's," she said. "Abstinence, Be monogamous and Condom use."

The final panelist, Celia Williamson, Ph.D., The University of Toledo Professor in Social Work, has done extensive research on teenage prostitution in Toledo. Williamson stated that there are 17 FBI task forces on teenage prostitution in the United States and one of them is in Toledo.

"For Toledo to warrant its own, this has to be a major problem," she said. "This is their recruitment city. They're shipped off to Atlanta, L.A. and Cincinnati." Williamson

said once young girls are 'used up,' they're returned to our streets as adult 'crack heads.'

"The adult women we drive by — those are just the kids we missed." Williamson shared that 40 percent of the children in our jails have been involved in prostitution. "The African-American community is really hit hard by prostitution," she said. "Seventy-seven percent of those kids trafficked will go on into adult prostitution."

Williamson pointed out that the emergence of crack cocaine has disrupted African-American families that have had to sever connections with relatives who will rob them to support their habit. The Second Chance Program sponsored by Toledo Area Ministries provides that lost connection.

"I'm here begging," Williamson admitted, receiving approving applause from the service-oriented members



Johnetta McCollough

of The Links, Inc. Williamson said there is a place for victims of prostitution to be housed, also. "Rahab can house up to 16 women and children," she said. "We can't put one person in the house. We have no funding. We can't pay the light bill. We can't pay the gas bill."

Commenting that the house's name is the name of a reformed 'harlot' mentioned in the Old Testament,

Williamson added, "I've interviewed 117 women and 97 percent of those women talk about their relationship with God and how they want it to grow."

Williamson said it's not just the predators online that parents need to worry about; they're in the 'hang-out house' and the mall. "We think pimps look like Huggy Bear from the 1970s," she said.

(Continued on Page 16)

Buckeye CableSystem celebrates...

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This month, spend some time learning about the extraordinary accomplishments of African-Americans and how they have overcome enormous obstacles throughout history. In recognition of these remarkable accomplishments, Buckeye CableSystem proudly promotes programming from The History Channel, Black Family Channel, TV One, BET, The Biography Channel, ESPN and many more. Please join us in our effort to bring national attention to the contributions of African-Americans.

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Hard Questions Deserve Good Answers: UT's Tech-Driven Green Technologies Capacity Building Program

By Warren Woodberry
Special to The Truth

When I was a boy, my grandmother had what she thought were good questions about why I was late getting home or why my pants were dirty. For some reason, probably out of fear, I never was able to give her satisfactory answers.

I knew why I was late, and I had a pretty good idea why my pants were dirty. If she would have just given me a little more time before sending me off to select a switch from our front yard crabapple tree, I could have come up with a good explanation. In those days there was no opportunity for me to call 911, and if I had even entertained the thought of seeking help, I would have not only gotten whipped with the switch, I would have had to endure an additional whipping with the telephone cord. Grandma did not play! But if she had sat down with me and given me more time to explain, maybe I would have been able to show her what I had accomplished. However, grandma was quick to judge and

whipped me before giving me a chance.

It appears that the "grandma syndrome" is again at work, as the Capacity-Building in Emerging Applied Building and Construction Technologies (CB-EABCT) Program, under the direction of Professor Ken Dobson at the UT Scott Park Campus, appears to be under fire before an analysis of what they have accomplished is undertaken.

There was a recent visit to UT on September 6, 2006 by a high-level team of 16 delegates from Shandong Province in the People's Republic of China (see *The Sojourner's Truth*, September 6, 2006 and *Toledo Business Journal*, Oct, 2006). The distance traveled was well worth it for the visitors, as the Chinese delegation were treated to advanced databases of sourcing and resource information.

These men and women from the Shandong Province can claim the likes of scholars and thinkers like Confucius, Mencius, and Lao-Tse; and

in spite of having 52 institutions of higher learning to consider, they chose the UT Capacity-Building Program under the tutelage of Professor Ken Dobson. The Chinese recognized that the Capacity-Building Program, in just about four years, has developed one of the most thorough and complete information pools of green building technology in the U.S., which is still under continual development.

Dobson assisted in exposing the high-tech home of a fellow professor and chairman of UT's department of physics and astronomy, Alvin Compaan, Ph.D., who gave a tour of his energy-saving abode to the Chinese delegation. The delegation was further impressed with the homes built by local "green" and energy-efficient builder, Bill Decker of Decker Homes.

The quality of the advance programs within the CB-EABCT Program are no surprise to those who know that UT is at the forefront on

emerging, sustainable technology in many fields, with the promotion of the technology corridor soon coming into play.

However, the underfunded Capacity-Building in Construction Program for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) and Workers was not really expected to make the strides it has made in a short 1,500 days. At its inception, many thought that it was a more-than-difficult task to take minority contractors who have apparently been targeted for exclusion from major contracts and not afforded the contracts, political clout or exposure to the emerging methods of the construction processes and have been left to compete without technical savvy or the qualifications necessary to share in the lucrative building projects scheduled for the city of Toledo and private building projects. However, I must acknowledge that not only are minorities shut out of the process, but many other non-minority contractors have also been shut out of the major building contract bidding procedures. It reminds one of the saying by Henry Ward Beecher who said,

"There is no greater crime than to stand between a man and his development; to take any law or institution and put it around him like a collar, and fasten it there, so that as he grows and enlarges, he presses against it till he suffocates and dies."

In attempting to develop modern technology and insure that the program and students at UT were on the cutting edge of tomorrow's technology, the Capacity-Building Program struggled to stay abreast of the requirements needed to keep funding in place, believing that those in position to see the great work they were doing would insure that the program was properly funded. After all, a contract was signed.

Knowing that necessity is the mother of invention, Dobson led the program forward and incorporated emerging "green" technology into the Capacity Building Program. This inclusion brought accusations that the program was diverting from its intended purpose, but in reality the program was looking far into the future of building technology.

Yet Dobson and his able staff did not abandon ship. They heard the accusations and the withholding of funds of much-needed funds and



Victor Ramsey, Ken Dobson and Hugh Riley

dedicated themselves to staying afloat. In spite of these obstacles, akin to that which was heaped on Noah for preparing for the future, the Capacity-Building Program loaded their classes with young men and women who are the future builders of the day after tomorrow. Today the Center is a beehive of activity as tours are conducted weekly and the praise and acknowledgement of its potential from professionals such as Bill Decker, Sr. (president of Decker Homes, Inc.), Thomas Hadley (president of Hadley and Associates), and Greg Vendena of the WARM Training Center (Weatherization And Retrofit Maintenance) echo throughout the halls of the fourth floor at the Scott Park Campus.

The following is only a partial list of the many groups and individuals who have toured the facility at Scott Park:

1. November 17, 2006: The program sponsored a seminar on "Building Sustainable 'Green' Buildings and Communities" where UT professors, city personnel, community business leaders, the Cleveland representatives, and students toured the facilities and were given an opportunity to listen to various speakers talk about sustainable "green" building technology and community and economic development strategies, which included Toledo representative from ONYX, Deborah Younger.
2. December 20, 2006: Councilman Joe McNamara.
3. December, 2006: Edna Robertson, Community Partner for the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls.
4. December, 2006: The ONYX Community Development Corporation.
5. December 30, 2006: WGTE Channel 30.
6. January 3, 2007: John Foley, Interim Superintendent for Toledo Public Schools, and NAACP's President Williann Moore.
7. January 22, 2007: Dal Lawrence, former president

of TTFT.

8. January 24, 2007: UT's John Fedor and Warren Davis.

9. January 24, 2007: Toledo city officials, Ken Neidert and Casey Stephens from the Environmental Services Department and Robert Davis, commissioner of Code Enforcement and Building Inspection.


January 25: UT Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Faculty Senate Carter Wilson, Ph.D.

On Monday, January 8, 2007, the County Commissioners, under the presidency of Tina Skeldon Wozniak, and members of the board honored Dobson, along with others, in recognition of the contribution that the CB-EABCT Program at UT had made, which sparked the idea for a county resolution that Toledo should go GREEN.

Back in 2002, there was no limit of high-profile individuals from the city and industry who supported the monumental task that lay before Professor Dobson, but eventually politics, lack of funds, egos and a failure by some to give credit where credit is due brought the program to its current state of obscurity. Although there were many questions about the program, I can guarantee you that those who, at that time, questioned the direction of the Capacity-Building in Construction Program never took the time to travel the 10 miles necessary to see and inquire for themselves. However, a young staff that could clearly see into the future, adopted the creed of George Bernard Shaw who said,

"Some men see things as they are and say 'why?' I dream of things that never were and say 'why not?'"

Today a tremendous amount of progress has been made in the short 1,500-day time span of the Capacity-Building in Construction Program in green technologies and techniques, even as we wait years for an arena, a ma
(Continued on Page 6)



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Hard Questions Deserve Good Answers: UT's Tech-Driven Green Technologies Capacity Building Program

(Continued from Page 5)

rina district, downtown development, jobs and a progressive school program.

In addition, we are still waiting for peace among those who share seats on the various boards and councils that we have selected to improve the condition for our future in the city of Toledo. During those short 1,500 days, over \$1.7 million in contracts have been reported, creating 186 jobs. One hundred nine students have graduated from the basic core competencies course while 40 participants continue to take specialized courses.

Over 150 people applied, while 50 were selected due to space limitations. Participants have been accepted into the electrician's apprenticeship program and the plumbers/pipe fitters apprenticeship training program.

In the first year, the CIBC Program generated \$46,000 public and private funds for Construction Engineering Planning and Design Scholarship funding, permitting nine students to enroll in various engineering-related bac-

calaureate programs at UT with scholarships totaling \$75,000 for the academic year.

A cohort of 150 students from Toledo Public Schools were engaged in the Youth Motivation in Engineering Program providing construction and engineering related hands-on experience activities, helping students to identify their affinity for a construction and engineer-related career, as well as explaining the importance of a GPA for those planning college careers. With all of this said, I would suggest that those in power take another look at the CB-EABCT Program and see what many others have seen. And that with just a little help from our friends, the Capacity-Building Program would be a win-win situation for UT, the City of Toledo and its residents.

According to the May 27, 2006 Blade, "in December 2005, City Council's Utilities Committee referred to council, without recommendation, an ordinance to allocate funds to the Center for Capacity-Building for Disadvantaged

Contractors, the fourth installment of a five-year contract under former mayor Jack Ford. At that time, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner asked council to delay taking a vote on the money, until his administration could review it." This request temporarily suspended the desperately needed fourth and fifth payment of funds contracted to be paid. The current mayor is quoted as saying, "I have talked to some people that have some degree of knowledge of it, and there is a general feeling that the Capacity-Building Center has gotten off track of its original mission."

The Facts From My Independent Study

The below-named students and other individuals have not only fulfilled the mission of the center and served in the position of apprentices in the building and construction trades, but several have gone on to start companies of their own. Without the Capacity-Building in Construction Program, this would not have been pos-

sible.

Hugh Riley graduated from the first class for the Capacity-Building in Construction Program for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Workers. He received a Capacity-Building in Construction Program Scholarship to complete his engineering degree. After assessing work history, accomplishments and opportunities available, he decided to return to college. Recently he was approved to build a sustainable "green" house under the auspices of ONYX Community Development Corporation in NIA Eco-Village, a sustainable education-driven community economic development project where the CB-EABCT Program is providing technical assistance for both the creation of the sustainable educational community economic development and sustainable "green" building components. Hugh is currently enrolled at UT-College of Engineering, majoring in Construction Engineering Technology.

Victor Ramsey

• Victor graduated from the

second class for the CIBC Program for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Workers. He received a Capacity-Building in Construction Program Scholarship to complete his engineering degree. After assessing his work history, accomplishments, and opportunities available, he decided to return to college.

He received a position with the CIBC Program as a Student Staff Researcher. He became a proficient Building Information Modeling (BIM) user and identified software useful to the construction industry.

Victor used his formal education and CIBC Program experience to land a position with the nationally known, SSOE, Inc., a major architecture and engineering corporation in Toledo. He is now the president and CEO of The Malachi Project at 1721 Bancroft Street. He plans to return to Dobson's program at Scott Park to introduce his clients (17 to 25-year-old students) to the same program that fulfilled

his dreams.

This is Victor Ramsey's response when asked what affect the Capacity-Building Program had on him:

"How has the Capacity-Building program helped me? That's easy! It saved my life! I am grateful that the Capacity-Building Program was there for me to take advantage of. I will never forget that they not only helped me on my way, but that they took a chance on me and gave me a shot."

Other students from the program have been successful in getting jobs as contractors, engineers, and journeymen. One is furthering his education by taking advanced classes at UT. The Minority Contractors Association has recently reopened talks with Dobson. Milton McIntyre, president of Peak Electric at 4901 Summit Street and Theodis Shelmon of Shelmon Concrete Company, stand as further witnesses to the ongoing efforts of the Capacity-Building Program.

(Continued on Page 16)

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9pm GIRLFRIENDS

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The Sojourner's Truth Education

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Deborah Rivers: Helping Students Succeed in the Pursuit of Excellence

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Sitting in her office at the spanking new Robinson Middle School, Principal Deborah Rivers, Ed.S., shares an anecdote about her life that helps explain why she is so successful at reaching out to young people.

"Back when I was attending Whitney Vocational School, girls like me couldn't cross the street to Macomber Vocational High School without a good reason," recalls Rivers. "And there was only one reason that was valid, if you were in music and played and marched in the band. Well, I played trumpet. But my real reason for crossing that street was to see those boys on the Macomber basketball team," she admits with a chuckle.

It obviously worked for Rivers, for that's how she met her future husband, Willie Rivers, a star player on the Macomber basketball team.

Deborah Rivers is now in her seventh year as principal of Robinson and her 33rd year as an educator in the Toledo Public Schools system. She says one of the greatest challenges she still faces is getting students to recognize how important education is to them. And to help convey that vital message, Rivers invites and encourages parents to become partners in their children's education.

"We have a very active parent group here. They are diligent and vigilant. They

help in the school, in the hallways, help out in the office, sell concessions at basketball games. They're working because they believe in the school," explains Rivers.

But she is still actively seeking to have more parents become actively involved in supporting the school. That takes on greater significance in the 2007-2008 school year when sixth graders – pupils aged 10 to 12 – will become part of the middle school mix at Robinson for the first time.

"I want to help expose students to as many opportunities as possible, especially those they might not see in their home life. I want to make these middle grades work. I feel it is a great tragedy that many of these children have never experienced success.

"If more people knew how much teachers have influenced their lives, we'd get a lot more respect," says Rivers.

Rivers is herself a proud product of the Toledo public schools system. Toledo born, she attended Gunckel and Pickett Elementary Schools; was a member of the first class of eighth graders at Ella P. Stewart School; attended Libbey High School; and is a graduate of Whitney Vocational Trade.

"When I was a senior at Whitney, there was a cooperative program and I was able to get a job with the

Lucas County State Bank. After graduation from high school, and before going on to college, I worked there fulltime for year-and-a-half. I also worked part time as a secretary at St. Paul AME Zion Church," Rivers says.

Rivers earned all three of her degrees at The University of Toledo starting with her bachelor's in business education; continuing on to her master's in guidance and counseling; and eventually her educational specialist degree in administration and supervision.

"When I first graduated with my bachelor's degree in June, I was hired in August as a business education teacher at Libbey High School. I stayed there for 17 years.

"I went back to school to work on my master's degree because I was inspired by Bunk Adams. He advised me to go into administration because a lot of the counselors were retiring soon," recalls Rivers.

As always, Adams was right on the money. That summer, a guidance job opened up and Rivers was tapped to fill in. Other promotions came her way but Rivers still realized that she hadn't fully explored other avenues of administration. She wanted to see if as a specialist she could become assistant principal of a high school.

"The only opening was at Robinson in a junior high school. Oh no, I thought, not with all those kids with raging hormones. But I knew the school and its history back when my son was here and I was playing an active role as a parent. This was in the fall of 1995. I still thought this was a great mistake, but I stayed as assistant principal for a year and a half," recalls Rivers.

When a position opened up as the assistant principal for instruction and curriculum at Libbey High School, Rivers accepted it. "Although I was the instructional leader at Libbey, I still wanted to be a principal. When the post as principal of Robinson opened up in 1999, I knew it was finally my chance to be in my own building. And I already knew the school.

"It is wonderful to be able to follow students from their seventh to their eighth-grade year and see the growth in students. I know so many of the parents and grandparents. And now we are in a brand new building," says Rivers.

She is the daughter of Rosa Lee and James Holmes, Sr. Her mom, who just turned 80 last Friday, Feb. 9, lives in Toledo.

Rivers has three brothers: Ron, who lives in Dallas, Larry, who is in Columbus; and James, who lives in Newport



Deborah Rivers

News, Virginia. She has one sister, Barbara, who is deceased.

Deborah and Willie have two adult sons, Lamont, who lives in Toledo, and Lamar, who lives in Cleveland. They also have four granddaughters: Alexis, Jhane, Lia and Laila. Alexis, who turned 14 on Feb. 11, is an eighth grader at Robinson.

Her faith is very important to Rivers, and she is active in the Church School and Intercessory Prayer ministries at Walls Memorial Chapel A.M.E., Zion Church. Rivers also serves as conference director of Christian Education, in which she is responsible for coordinating, supervising and programming the educational ministries for churches in Toledo, Detroit, Indiana, Chicago and the Western

Michigan districts.

She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the National Alliance of Black School Educators and the Educational Leadership Association.

Rivers is serving her first year as a mentor in the Miniya ("much is expected of her") Program, a mentoring program for African-American female students at UT.

Even after 33 years as an educator, Rivers continues to hold high expectations for all children. "I believe that all children can learn and should be afforded the opportunity to pursue excellence. When you teach, you touch lives," she says.

Rivers believes in her heart that this is her place of ministry, helping students and giving them direction.

Buckle Up...

Continued from page 3

For maximum child passenger safety follow the 4 Steps for Kids:

- 1) For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds;
- 2) When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach

the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds);

- 3) Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall);

For more information about Child Passenger Safety and the proper use of booster seats, please contact Shryell

Owens, AACCTBU Project Coordinator at 614.231.9564 or sowens@1stchurch.net.

AACCTBU Project is a faith-based initiative developed to increase seat belt usage, provide awareness and education on the risk involved with impaired driving and excessive speed, a major cause of death for African American males between the ages of 15-24. The Project church partners in the Toledo area are: Braden United Methodist, Grace Temple Church of God In Christ, United Missionary Baptist and Warren A.M.E.



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Owens Community College Board of Trustees Named to Leadership Positions

Owens Community College has named Ronald A. McMaster, Ph.D., and John Moore to serve as the chairman and vice chairman for the college's Board of Trustees. McMaster and Moore were re-elected to their positions by their fellow colleagues during the recent Owens Board of Trustees meeting and will serve one-year terms.

"Owens Community College has an outstanding group of Board of Trustees who value the importance of providing access to a quality college education," said Christa Adams, Ph.D., president of Owens Community College. "Each individual is passionate about higher education and engaged with the college's faculty, staff and students. We are fortunate to have such dedicated leaders devoting their time and energy to furthering Owens' mis-

sion and vision."

Appointed in March 1993, McMaster is the President of McMaster Motor Co. and McMaster Fuel Ltd. Retired from GlassTech Inc. as vice president of Corporate Development, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from The Ohio State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan, all in mechanical engineering. McMaster resides in Perrysburg.

A graduate of the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Moore spent 30 years in banking and 10 years in higher education at Bowling Green State University. Appointed to the college's Board of Trustees in April 2000, he now serves as a consultant and authored a book on surviving stress. He resides in Holland.

The college's Board of Trustees is comprised of nine community leaders from Lucas, Wood, Hancock and



John Moore

Sandusky counties who are appointed by the Governor of Ohio for six-year terms.

In addition to McMaster and Moore, Owens Board of Trustees members include John G. Ault of Perrysburg, Allan J. Libbe of Perrysburg, RJ Molter of Woodville, Carl R. Patterson of Findlay, H. Richard Rowe of Findlay, Jack T. Sculfort of Perrysburg and Diana H. Talmage of Toledo.

Advocating For Your Child: Choosing a School That Matches Your Child's Needs

By Sharman Dennis
Guest Columnist

When your child is very young and you are looking for child care you may choose a center that is close to your home or close to your workplace. There are many things you look for in the center. What is the ratio of adults to children, i.e. are there enough adults in this room to take care of my child's needs?

You may look to see if the children in the center are clean, are their noses wiped and are their diapers changed? Is there a chart that shows what the children have eaten today? Is there a schedule posted of daily activities? Do the teachers greet you when you arrive and do the teachers talk to the children? These are some of the questions you may think about as you look around the center. You as a parent want what is best for your young child.

But what happens when your child turns five or six? If you choose a private school and you are paying you may ask some of the same questions listed above and add some. You may want to

know: What is the school's curriculum? What is the teacher to child ratio? What do the grades look like for children who have attended this school? How this school is ranked in the Private School Review - Profiles of USA Private Schools or other private school reviews?

What happens if you choose a chartered or public school? Do you ask the same questions you did when your child was younger? Do you ask the same questions a parent would ask if their child was in a private school, or do you assume you have no right to ask such questions because you are not paying tuition for your child to attend this school?

Parents must remember that your tax dollars are paying for these schools and to ensure that your child receives a quality education you must advocate for your child by asking questions to determine if this school or classroom matches your child's needs.

There are standard questions you should always ask:



Sharman Dennis

- How is this school ranked in the school district?
- How has this school performed under NCLB No Child Left Behind - ED.gov
 - o Are tutoring services under NCLB easily accessible?
- What is the curriculum that is used by this school and the classroom teacher?
- Are weekly lesson plans posted?
- What steps are taken if the child/student is not performing up to the standards dictated by that grade?

(Continued on Page 9)



Stephen Ward, Juanita Greene, Deborah Barnett and John Foley address truancy issues

Local Truants Grab the City's Attention

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The City of Toledo and the Toledo Public Schools announced last week a collaborative effort to reduce the problem of student truancy.

"One of the reasons Toledo was voted one of the Top 100 cities for youth was because of the low dropout rate," said Mayor Carty Finkbeiner at a press conference announcing the new crackdown. "One way to reduce the dropout rate is to reduce truancy. We will begin very shortly to step up the vigor and number of [truancy] sweeps."

According to the mayor and Toledo Police Department Deputy Chief Derrick Diggs, truancy sweeps during 2006 re-

sulted in an increase of 17 percent in the number of area students picked up for being absent without reason from school. They expect to increase that number by the more frequent use of unannounced truancy sweeps. There will be no additional cost to the police department, said Diggs. "We will prioritize truancy enforcement and will do so until we know that every kid is in school," said Diggs.

Standing with the deputy chief and the mayor at last week's conference were TPS representatives, Interim Superintendent John Foley and Board of Education President Deborah Barnett, who expressed their intent to cooperate with the City of

Toledo's action in order to improve the attendance rate. Foley noted that the attendance rate has hovered around 93 percent for the past two academic years.

"We have many programs that will assist us in keeping our kids in school," said Barnett. "We look forward to working with the mayor and parents to keep kids in school."

Last week's conference was also a plea to area parents to assist in the effort to increase school attendance rates.

"Could you help us save our future?" asked Juanita Greene, director of the Board of Community Relations.

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Hollywood Comes to T-Town

By Naki Akrobettoe
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The 36th Annual Black Student Union Fashion Show was held on the campus of the University of Toledo, Friday February 9, 2007. The show was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. but due to a record number of attendees, long lines delayed the show.

This year's theme of the show was inspired by the idea of Hollywood and the various fashions that are portrayed on the red carpet. The title "Hollywood: Glitz and Glam" fit the show perfectly.

As the auditorium filled up and it got closer to show time, the nervousness showed upon the faces of the models. Before the introduction scene, the antsy crowd was greeted by the MC's who set the tone for the show by giving shout outs to all the cities represented in the audience. There were many guests from all over the State of Ohio who came out to support this event. As the show started, a young lady sang the Negro National Anthem moving the audience with her beautiful voice.

The introduction scene

was set up like a red carpet event giving each model the opportunity to shine. Everyone was dressed, for the first scene, in evening wear. Various other scenes from the show were: "Gothic/Leather," "The Male Review," "Tokyo Couture" and "International." The clothes from each scene represented each scene perfectly. It was said by many of those who saw the show that the attire that was worn by the models was more appropriate than that of previous years.

In addition to the fashions on display, other entertainment included the Bowling Green State University's dance team, and the University of Toledo's Fire Squad dance team. Both groups delighted the audience and performed with such enthusiasm and pizzazz.

The Truth had the opportunity to sit down and speak with the president of the Black Student Union about his thoughts on this year's fashion show. Brandon Tucker, who is a senior expecting to graduate this May



2007, is what many of his peers would call a Renaissance Man. He is employed with the Lucas County Job and Family Services, he is majoring in Organizational Management and Development and he is also a member of the U.S. Air Force National Guard, not to mention his other roles of responsibility in other student organizations on UT's campus.

"The show was amazing. We had a record number in attendance and the show ended up being sold out. That was big for the Black Student Union," said Tucker.

"The choreography, the ambience, decoration, and creativity showed through each scene, the clothes, as well as the models. The director and co-director, Mariesha Cummings and Christine McAlpin, of this year's put a lot of heart and determination behind the show. I told them along with the other members of the BSU, that this year I wanted the show to be a success. In everything that is done we strive for excellence."

The show itself would not have been a success without the models and their dedication and hard work. As with most shows in the past, there is always a conflict when it comes to working with peers and trying to structure a schedule that is consistent. In addition, it is a challenge to find

models who will commit their time to showing up to practice. What made this year's show different was that in the end all their hard work resulted in total satisfaction. Cherrise Gayle, one of the models in the show stated, "It was a wonderful experience. It was hard getting to all the required practices due to my schedule but I was able to balance everything in the end and it all paid off. It was worth it and I had the opportunity to network and meet some great people."

There is a process in place in order for the show to go according to plan and for all the preparation to pay off. The Black Student Union executive board picks a select group of individuals who have a written proposal. They look for creativity, innovative thinking and hardworking individuals who they feel can handle the pressures and strenuous planning. Some of the duties include auditions for models, finding sponsors, planning a budget, getting decorations and seeing the show to fruition.

It is evident that as the years pass, the Fashion Show continues to grow and becomes an even greater success than the previous years'.



Skaters Jordan Greer, Marissa Avery and Emily Scherrek

Young Skater Marks King holiday in Own Way

Marissa Avery found her own way to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day last month.

On the Jan. 15 holiday, the 10-year-old Avery became the first African-American skater in Bowling Green to pass a U.S. Figure Skating judged test. The test was the first of eight "Moves in the Field" tests, plus a free skate test at each of the eight levels, that individual skaters ultimately must pass to compete at the senior level.

Marissa, a fifth-grader at Crim Elementary School, skated for the first time just a little over two years ago, when her mother, Kelly, took

Marissa and her three sisters, none of whom had ever been on skates, to an open-skating session at the Bowling Green State University Ice Arena.

"When she got on those blades, she just started whipping around the ice," recalls Kelly, a sprinter on the BGSU track team in the early 1980s and currently a secretary in the University's psychology department.

Marissa is now taking lessons three days a week from local coach Shelly Bressler, who also worked with Bowling Green native and BGSU student Alissa Czisny, the bronze medalist at the recent U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The advice that is passed down to the directors and models shows and demonstrates the support that the students have for one another. Black History Month at the University of Toledo would not be as outstanding without the presence of the ongoing event of the fashion show. This show is the melting pot of the culture of African-American students at the Uni-

versity of Toledo.

As the audience filed out, many expressed pride at their association with the Black Student Union and the Fashion Show.

Some of the sponsors for this years show included Forever 21, Cache, Scarpe, Hot Topic, Torrid, Shi, 346 Brooks Brothers, Tuxedo Junction, Paradise Shoe Store and Nevaeh Salon and Spa.



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Advocating For Your...

Continued from page 8 Child:

- How is it determined that the child/student is not performing well?
 - o Are children/students six months behind, one year behind, or two years behind before their learning is considered an issue?
 - How are you informed of your child's progress or lack of progress?
 - o If the information is on the school's website, is it current?
 - How does the teacher present information to the children/students?
 - o Does she/he have only on style of teaching?
 - Has the teacher determined the learning style of your child and the other students?
 - Is the teacher able to

teach to students who are **visual learners, auditory learners and/or tactile/kinesthetic learners?**

- Has the teacher discussed your child's learning style with you?
- Is your child's teacher receptive at meetings that you initiate?
- Does the teacher have a classroom management system?
- Is the teacher able to challenge students in an effective way to enhance their learning?

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to obtain the best education possible you as a parent must be aware of what occurs in the classroom. Advocate for your child and join your school's PTA : Find Your PTA and use your voice on behalf of your child.

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Milestones in African-American Education



1750
Anthony Benezet led the Philadelphia Quakers in opening the first free school for African-Americans. It was an evening school taught by Moses Patterson.

light, educator, preacher and legislator, became the first-known African-American to graduate from an American college when he earned a bachelor's of art from Middlebury College (Vermont).

1837
The Institute for Colored Youth was founded by Richard Humphreys. The Institute later became Cheyney University.

1849
Charles Lewis Reason became the first black faculty member on a white college campus—Central College in McGrawville, NY. Reason was named professor of mathematics, literature and French.

1850
Lucy Ann Stanton became the first black woman to graduate from an American college when she earned a bachelor's of literature from Oberlin College.



1823
Alexander Lucius Twiss

1854
Ashmun Institute, the first

school of higher education for young black men, was founded in Pennsylvania by John Miller Dickey and his wife, Sarah Emlen Cresson. The school later was renamed Lincoln University after President Abraham Lincoln in 1866.

1856
Wilberforce University, the first black school of higher learning owned and operated by African-Americans, was founded in Ohio by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

1867
Howard University became the first black college to establish undergraduate, graduate and professional schools.

1876
Meharry Medical College, the first black medical school in the United States, was founded by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



1881
Spelman College – the first college for black women in the U.S. – was founded by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles.



1907
Alain Leroy Locke, educator, interpreter and promoter of black culture, was the first African-American Rhodes scholar. Locke studied at Oxford from 1907 to 1910, then at the University of Berlin.

1922
William Leo Hansberry teaches the first course in African civilization at an American university—Howard University.



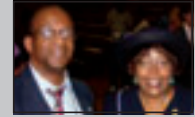
1944
Frederick Douglass Patterson establishes the United Negro College Fund to help support black colleges and black students.

1954
The landmark case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*, is decided and the Supreme Court rules unanimously that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

1957
President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops to ensure integration of the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.



1962
James Meredith is the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. He is escorted to class by United States Marshals.



1963
Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes at the University of Alabama despite Governor George Wallace's attempts to physically block their way.

1969
The Ford Foundation gives \$1 million to Morgan State University, Howard University and Yale University to help prepare faculty members to teach courses in African-American studies.

INTERESTED BIDDERS:

TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BURROUGHS ES, BYRNEDALE MS, CHERRY ES, KEYSER ES, LEVERETTE MS, MCTIGUE MS, NAVARRE ES, AND STEWART ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FURNISHINGS & EQUIPMENT BID

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on March 13, 2007**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor material and supervision necessary for the Garfield Elementary, Libbey Middle and Start High School Furnishings and Equipment Bid, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger Munger + Associates Architects, Inc., The Collaborative, Inc., SSOE Inc., and MacPherson Architects and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, The Construction Association of Michigan, and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **February 14, 2007** which can be purchased from **Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo Ohio 43615 Phone: 419-385-5303**. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **February 26, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions, or if you need additional information, please direct all questions in writing to LeShay Hadley, LGB-LLC fax (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No. 1 Burroughs ES: School FF&E	\$ 309,123
Bid Item No.2 Byrnedale MS: School FF&E	\$ 412,958
Bid Item No.3 Cherry ES: School FF&E	\$ 371,397
Bid Item No.4 Keyser ES: School FF&E	\$ 315,993
Bid Item No.5 Leverette MS: School FF&E	\$ 394,851
Bid Item No.6 McTigue MS: School FF&E	\$ 514,388
Bid Item No.7 Navarre ES: School FF&E	\$ 406,648
Bid Item No.8 Stewart ES: School FF&E	\$ 299,643
Total Estimate:	\$ 3,025,001

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Saturday, February 17, 2007

1 - 4 p.m.

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Refreshments provided by Club 300 Catering
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Miami Nice: Toledoan Sees Tony Dungy Win Super Bowl

By Yulanda McCarty-Harris
Special to The Truth

Jackie Robinson (Major League baseball player, 1947)

Constance Baker Motley (federal judge 1966)

Shirley Chisholm (New York Congresswoman, 1969-1983)

L. Douglas Wilder (Governor of Virginia, 1990-1994)

Sharon Pratt Dixon Kelly (Mayor of Washington, D.C., 1991-95)

Colin Powell (U.S. Secretary of State 2001-2004)

Condeleezza Rice (U.S. Secretary of State 2005 to present)

Thurgood Marshall (U.S. Supreme Court Justice 1967-1991)

Carole Mosley Braun (U.S. Senator of State of Illinois 1992-1998)

Barack Obama (President of Harvard Law Review)

Oprah Winfrey (TV host of own show, 1986)

What does Tony Dungy share with this list of notable African-Americans?

They are some of the first African-Americans to serve

or be elected in their perspective fields.

On February 4, 2007, Anthony Kevin Dungy (Tony Dungy) joined this select list, becoming the first African-American football coach to win the Super Bowl.

And I was there to witness it.

When I learned that my husband, John Harris, the former Toledo Blade sports columnist now with the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review was covering the game, I told him I wanted to go. Ticket or no ticket I had to be there. So I went online and booked my airline ticket. The difficult part would be getting a ticket to the game.

Well, we succeeded. I did not get my ticket until the morning of the game, but it was well worth the wait because I had a great seat – Section 107, Row 4 – just a few feet away from some of the television commentators.

As I flew out on Friday morning, the memories of traveling to Detroit for Rosa Parks' memorial quickly came to mind. In fact, Rosa

Parks was born on Feb. 4, 1913. How ironic? And even more so, February is a celebration of African-American achievements during Black History Month.

My Super Bowl morning began early. They told me it would cost \$100.00 just to catch a shuttle to the game from my hotel. I wasn't paying that amount, so I checked over at the NFL headquarters at the Marriott, which was just across the street from where I was staying. I was told that family or friends of the media could catch the shuttle free; however, you needed to get to the Miami Beach Convention Center. I thought about catching a cab, since it was just across the bridge but I drove instead.

As I got out to park, the rain started coming down. It was about noon, so I decided to grab a bite to eat before catching the shuttle. I had bought a ticket holder to hold my Super Bowl ticket, so when I approached the shuttle, the guy asked me if I was media. I told him my husband was, and he sent me

over to the media shuttle.

What was supposed to be just an 18-mile trek to the Stadium turned out to be an almost two-hour ride. (I am so glad I started out early.) The traffic was at a crawl – taxicabs, cars, trucks, Hummers, and limos were back to back. It would have been great if there had been a special express lane, but the police escort made a way for some traveling on the shoulders of the highway.

Now I could really feel the spirit of Super Bowl Sunday. Friday and Saturday had been pretty quiet – we waived on all the big celebrity parties. (Actually, we did not have any tickets, and we were not going to try and hustle and get any either.) A quiet two days with my husband was just as good. On Friday night, we went to the NFL Commissioner's Party. It was at something called the "Jungle Trails" – it looked like a big zoo on an island off the waters. It was beautiful. All kinds of food – shrimp, sushi, roast beef, hamburgers, etc., and unlimited beverages.

On Saturday, John had to write, so I decided to work out, and then strolled down to BaySide Park, which reminded me of San Antonio, Texas, with all the shops, and restaurants off the riverfront. Later on that night, we caught a bite to eat at an exclusive restaurant in Coconut Grove. The food was wonderful, and it was off Biscayne Bay.

Back to Super Bowl Sunday.

It was about 4:30 p.m. and as we got closer to stadium, people were getting out of their taxis and walking to the game. Perhaps they were afraid they were going to miss the kickoff, but I think it was more the cab cost. Cars were parked everywhere in the front and back yards of residential homes.

When we finally made our way through, I think it was about 5 p.m., we were dropped off right in front of the stadium. The huge Super Bowl XLI sign was displayed at the top. I tried to walk through the gate with the media, but I was quickly turned away because I did not have media credentials.

It turned out to be a blessing in disguise. With my ticket in tow (in my ticket holder) around my neck, I



Yulanda McCarty-Harris with Katie Holmes & Tom Cruise

walked up to another entrance and as I approached I spotted Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes. There was an entourage of people getting in line to get escorted in. I wanted to say, "hello," and I was only with arm's length of Katie when she walked through one of the gates.

I quickly decided to get in line with the rest of the crew, and as I made my way through there was another security check. As I was about to pass through with the crew, the security guard asked the bodyguards, "Is this all your crew? The bodyguard shut the line down just as I and another couple were about to pass through. "I'm with the crew" I said very confidently, and he let me through. I ran to catch Katie and Tom.

"Hello Katie," I said "I'm from Toledo, can I get a picture?" Tom quickly responded, "She's from Toledo and gave the camera to the bodyguard who took the picture."

I couldn't believe it. I had gotten a picture with the most-talked about couple in Hollywood. Hopefully, it would turn out because I had forgotten my digital, so I had bought a little disposable Kodak. (I also got a picture with Evander Holyfield but when I got the film developed that picture did not come out.)

When I got into stadium I spent most of my time looking for youth T-shirts for my sons. I finally found what I was looking for, but I missed the opening kickoff return for a touchdown for the Bears.

I found my seat. What a sight. I was so caught up in the moment that I really wasn't paying attention to the game. Most of the time, I was in and out of my seat trying to get out of the rain or buying some coffee or going

to the ladies restroom (Of course, the lines were long.) I was talking to this other African-American lady, and we could not believe we were out in the rain, but we quickly reminded ourselves that we were in middle of history.

With three minutes left in the game, I had had enough. Plus it would not be bad to beat the crowds. As I reached the tunnel I had second thoughts. I needed to witness Tony Dungy hold up the Vince Lombardi Trophy, and more importantly I wanted to hear what he had to say. Surely it would be momentous. More importantly, he was a Christian, so I knew he would be humble.

"It feels great. I thought about that as I was on the podium," Dungy said, after being asked how it felt to be the first African-American to win the big game. "Being the first African-American coach to win it, I have to dedicate to some guys before me – great coaches I know could have done this if they had gotten the opportunity. Lovie (Smith) and I were able to take advantage of it. We certainly weren't the most qualified."

I cheered, "Yea!" It was certainly a reason to celebrate. We had a come a long way. I don't know if most of the people around me, who were Caucasian, understood. I'm sure they said, "So what's the big deal?" "Or why does everything have to be about black and white?"

Why couldn't Tony Dungy be a guy who won the Super Bowl who just happened to be black?

Well, I wish it was that easy. But based on Tony Dungy's comments, he thought other wise. This was a day for all of us to say, "I'm black and I am proud," and to thank the many others who paved the way.

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Multicultural Leadership UJAMMA Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to The Truth

It has to be the ultimate rush for the true risk-taker. Across the massive board room table is Donald Trump. Your heart pumps its hardest to keep the tension in your body at bay as every fiber of your being stands at attention in the anticipation that he will look directly in your eyes and says "You're Hired!"

All of Lima/Allen County and the surrounding areas are invited to get an up close and intimate lesson in business development strategies as the second annual Community Enrichment Dinner welcomes keynote speaker Randal Pinkett, Ph.D. — the winner of the fourth season of the NBC mega-hit *The Apprentice*.

This event will also serve as a catalyst for the UJAMMA Award for Multicultural Leadership. *Ujamaa* means cooperative economics and is one of the seven principals of the NGUZU SABA on which Kawanzaa is based. The award offers both individual and business categories. Recognition will come to those chosen for their efforts to improve and support the economic conditions of multi-cultural and micro-small business economic development in Lima and Allen County.

The entire community is urged to nominate those who have demonstrated a commitment to diversity, devoted time and initiative to improving diversity, assisted minori-

ties in reaching their full leadership potential and have fostered inclusiveness in their work place and/or way of life.

The Community Enrichment Dinner will take place on Wednesday, April 11 at the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center in Lima, and is hosted by the Diversified Management Property and Support Services and the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce. Both entities have been working individually and collectively to bring inclusion to the business sector of the community.

The choice to bring Pinkett demonstrates just how serious the diversity issue is to the host groups. Winning the role of Trump's apprentice is not his first or only success.

He is the co-founder, president and CEO of BCT Partners, a multimillion dollar management, technology and policy consulting firm in Newark, NJ, as well as an executive with Trump Entertainment Resorts in Atlantic City, NJ.

Pinkett is a Rhodes Scholar and former college athlete who holds five academic degrees from Rutgers, Oxford and MIT. He has contributed to four books and published more than 20 scholarly papers. He is currently writing two books: *Campus CEO* and



Randal Pinkett

Black Faces in White Places. He speaks all over the county on several topics including diversity, entrepreneurship, and academic excellence. Still, with all these irons in the fire, he finds time to volunteer and give back knowledge, energy, and economic outreach to his community.

It is the belief of those involved in the Community Enrichment Dinner that there are people like Pinkett in Lima/Allen County. Nomination forms for the UJAMMA Awards can be found at the Chamber of Commerce on North Main Street in Lima, or downloaded from their website: www.limachamber.com. They can then be returned to the Chamber at 147 North Main Street, Lima, Ohio 45801 or e-mailed to George Ricks at george.ricks@nmfn.com. The deadline for submitting forms is February 20, 2007. Individuals and businesses of all cultures are eligible for nomination.

For more information on the event, the hosts, or ticket information, please visit the Lima/Allen County Chamber website.

Ohio Northern University has been commemorating Black History Month this February with a number of scheduled events:

Throughout February An Exhibit of African American Art ONU Multicultural Center The art exhibit is provided by the Findlay Black Heritage Library.

* Thursday, Feb. 15

An Evening with Dr. Jack Ford

7 p.m. - McIntosh Center Ballroom

Jack Ford, former mayor of Toledo, Ohio, also previous served in the Ohio House of Representatives for seven years and was Democratic Leader of the Ohio House for three. Ford also spoke at the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

* Saturday, Feb. 17

Annual Black Student Union Fashion Show

7 p.m. - McIntosh Center Activities Room

Come enjoy the annual fashion show sponsored by the ONU Black Student Union. For more information, contact Evan Roberts, President of the ONU Black Student Union, at e-roberts.1@onu.edu.

* Sunday, Feb. 18

Soul Food Dinner

6 p.m. - ONU Multicultural Center

ONU's Office of Multicultural Development and the ONU Black Student Union invite you to a dinner with soul. Participants can look forward to a time of good food and fellowship.

* Thursday, Feb. 22

Why Us, Why Now? Young Black Males and Violence: Cultural Conversation Hour, Part 2

11 a.m. - Dicke Hall Forum

This forum will examine the critical issue of violence and African American males. Lunch will be provided following the event.

* Date TBA

Black Student Union Skating Outing

Time, Place TBA

Enjoy an evening of fun with the ONU Black Student Union. For more information, contact Evan Roberts, president of the ONU Black Student Union, at e-roberts.1@onu.edu. For more information about the Black History Month activities or the Office of Multicultural Development at Ohio Northern University, contact Clyde Pickett at (419) 772-3145.

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Reel Review

Norbit

Eddie Murphy, Thandie Newton

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

First off, isn't it amazing how Hollywood can be making some of the worst movies in recent memory and yet it seems as if Black Hollywood is starting to hit its creative stride?

Forest Whitaker, Jennifer Hudson, Jaime Foxx, Will Smith, Tyler Perry and many others continuing to expand our horizons through their dedication to quality work ... it's a beautiful thing.

And I especially like seeing someone like Eddie Murphy continue to dominate.

Being that I'm a so-called 80's baby, I may have been to young to watch his *Raw* stand up routine when it came out but I do remember that before Jim Carey or Adam Sandler or Will Smith were multi-million dollar funnymen... there was Eddie Murphy.

Yeah, he told dirty jokes. Yeah, he seemed to be a little more of an outcast than the rest of his Saturday Night Live siblings at the time.

But he was so funny that it started to have that kind of Michael Jordan affect on his career ... where black kids still idolize you but white folks begin to embrace you because you're good at what you do. Of course, that latter group may turn on you as we've seen with how the media has handled Eddie Murphy's minor smudges on an otherwise spotless drama report card. Was the man hunting for transvestites during some lonely night cruising around Hollywood and Vine? I couldn't give less of a damn.

Eddie Murphy has spawned countless careers over his own two-decade career and he continues to be a force to be reckoned with.

Fresh of the heat from *Dreamgirls*, he's also got *Shrek The Third* coming out this year where he reprises his role as the wisecracking sidekick Donkey.

Okay, I'll admit his

filmography might have a few missteps in it (*Bowfinger*, *Holy Man* etc.) but I've watched just about all of his movies that most people say are flops and actually they are pretty decent flicks. *Showtime* and *I-Spy* are more or less a return to his white guy/black guy buddy comedy roots that made him a legend in the late 80's but even though that platform is still there, both of those movies are pretty funny!

Now that whole *Pluto Nash* madness, who knows what was up with that?

But the point is Eddie Murphy brought us *Coming 2 America*, *Harlem Nights*, *Boomerang* and the *Nutty Professor* installments.

Basically, his jersey is hanging from the rafters.

Norbit surpassed opening weekend box office predictions, some said it would make around \$25 million and it actually made close to \$35 million.

And this film has had one of the best promotional efforts I've seen in the new millennium.

The hype wasn't overdone, we weren't saturated with *Norbit* mania.

But they did get an early start.

I remember going to see *X Men The Last Stand* sometime around August and seeing previews for *Norbit* saying it would come out in February.

And we were all like 'dang, that's a long time to wait' - but sure enough it's February and *Norbit* is nearly everything we could ever hope it would be.

All right, I'm paid to critique so even though Eddie Murphy is a hero in my mind I've still got to talk real talk. The ending of this movie, just like many of his other break out hits, almost spoils the mood by descending into whacky territory.

When the situation between *Norbit* and his wife



have reached the absolute boiling point it's time for a stand-off, trust me - you'll notice that things have just somehow flipped from being comedy-driven to more gimmick-based whackiness.

From a cinematography standpoint and also from a script and story-editing point of view, the tone during the last five minutes of *Norbit* takes a slight turn that nearly dulls the high of the previous 98 minutes.

One thing that has always been Eddie Murphy's strong point is characterization.

Not just playing multiple roles (which is a lane he truly owns all by himself in Hollywood), I mean having those three roles be distinctly different yet hilarious people in their own right.

The character of *Norbit* has drawn some comparisons to Woody Allen by some critics, and I don't really know Woody Allen's comedy all that well to say it's a hit or miss judgment... but the critique has been made.

Rasputia could be seen as some as possessing some of the same DNA as Martin Lawrence's "Shanaynay" and perhaps Tyler Perry's "Madae."

She even has her own catch phrase which I won't divulge just yet because even though I'm speaking on some of the film's minor shortcomings, this is still the funniest thing I've seen in years.

Mr. Wong, Eddie's most diverse entry yet into his lexicon of split-personality movie roles, is hilarious the whole way through.

His old and cranky, he's Asian, he's just racist enough to be funny but he's an equal opportunity racist - LOL. He's feisty, too!

The beautiful Thandie Newton finally gets to be just the pretty-girl in a big movie for a change and she is a sight for sore eyes in her role as Kate.

She is part of probably
(Continued on Page 14)

The State of Black America

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Why do you listen to music?

Okay, let's make it even more real than that - why do you attend church (or whatever religious service you might go to)?

Why do you go? Is it habit?

Or are you trying to hear something ... something worth hearing.

A sermon during a church service can have the same validity as a conversation with a complete stranger as long as meaningful things are being discussed, as long as you walk away with a deeper understanding than you had before.

Why do you listen to anyone at any time?

Erykah Badu said "the man who knows something knows that he knows nothing at all" which means we all have to listen to someone at sometime.

If you happened to watch Tavis Smiley present The State of Black America on C-Span this past weekend, you will agree with me that it was just as powerful as any sermon you've ever heard.

"Don't ever confuse black leaders with 'leading blacks'" - just one couplet from

Rev. Dr. Julia Hare, one of the most outspoken members of a panel already packed with black America's best and brightest leaders, politicians and modern day revolutionaries.

On a personal note, I was fortunate enough to be live and direct in Washington D.C. for Minister Louis Farrakhan's Million Family March back in 2000, which was a much more inclusive and focused call to action than his speech at the Million Man March.

I plan on attending the Founder's Day event where he will be speaking again at the end of this month.

Why? Because, there is a need for balance.

If I can talk all day about my favorite basketball teams, favorite songs and what type of car I want... then I shouldn't have any problem joining in discussions about black unity and the need for more solutions to issues that plague us.

If I can make dozens of calls each week dealing with record company execs and listening to their advice on how

my team and I can enter the industry, then I shouldn't have any problem listening to tried and true leaders of the black community as they advise me on how to navigate my way through the institutionalized racism and classism that is part of the very fabric of our country.

Just in the same way not everyone hears each and every sermon at their church each and every Sunday, I'll admit that I don't seek out the wisdom of our current black visionaries as often as it's available. And just the same way that some of y'all only go to church on Easter and Christmas, I'll admit that there are those of us who only wanna think black during February.

The State of Black America was something that we all should listen to as often as we could. It as all so relevant and inspiring and ... nutritious.

Interesting choice of words, huh? But it really was.

Even when Astronaut Dr. Mae Jamison spoke about how our people seem to be comfortable with an admitted lack of technical savvy.

"My baby can program my VCR but I can't - that's not cute!" she said paraphrasing the sentiments of many black adults and her reaction to it.

I would say that's pretty damn relevant.

Omar Wasow, executive director of Blackplanet.com spoke about creating media and opportunities for our people to embrace the power technology can offer.

How relevant do you really want your commentary to be when it's time for luminaries of the national black diaspora to make themselves heard?

Do you even want to hear commentary from some of the greatest thinkers and doers of our race in these modern times?

See, as profound as everything that was said during this wonderful symposium Tom Joyner and Tavis Smiley brought into fruition, the only thing more important than all that was said is the question of whether or not black folks you (yeah, YOU reading this right now) actually want to hear what they had to say?

Which brings me back to the whole issue of a church sermon.

Do you let the knowledge

and insight seep down into your soul?

Do you act differently now that you understand something deeper about yourself?

Or do you nod your head and smile the whole time, go out to the parking lot soon as it's over and drive away letting it slowly slip away?

What's that parents always say... in one ear and out the other?

My dad has always told me that God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason.

It's obviously important to let your voice be heard, but it's of even greater importance that you listen to the voices of others.

With all the false prophets around leading people to nowhere.

With all of the entertainment we allow to baby sit our minds throughout the day leading us to nowhere that's really productive, why wouldn't you want to listen to what was discussed this past weekend?

The State of Black America.

The President's State Of The Union Address hardly ever addresses issues that mean anything to us as African-Americans.

Now we have a dialog that's for us.

And I don't mean just the upper-crust members of the upper echelons of black high society.

This is for EVERYONE.

College folks, factory workers, students, single moms, members of the hip-hop generation (we're still the hottest topic at these things), and elder statesmen who've earned stripes years ago... this is intended to unify black people in this country through a shared vision and purpose.

You know what, I won't even go into all that was discussed.

And I won't tell y'all about The Covenant for Black America.

I've said my piece and now I wanna know how many of you reading this actually watched C-Span this weekend or will go to the website to check out this program for yourselves.

Holla at me, then we go deeper.

Happy Black History Month, y'all.

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Reel Review *Norbit*

(Continued from Page 13)

the best love interest dynamic of any of Eddie's comedy roles I've seen.

You also don't wanna miss Cuba Gooding Jr. in a role that is more fitting for him than any role I've ever seen him in. It's like Eddie and Charlie Murphy (writers

and producers of *Norbit*) sensed that black folks don't care for dude that much and they incorporated that into his sinister role as Kate's fiancé.

Eddie Griffin and Katt Williams.... you've simply to got to see it to believe it.

All of that and I haven't even told y'all about Rasputia and how she gets down.

Run to the theatres to see this film, y'all.

Don't bootleg this joint.

Go ahead and have a movie experience with a Hollywood legend who's

still got what it takes to give us the goods.

Norbit is a wildly hilarious film that will actually leave your face hurting from laughing so hard.

The true grade for *Norbit* is A-

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Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (AC),
4334 Secor Road,
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or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

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 2-21-07 to

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Clinical Therapists

Interested in joining a company committed to providing excellent customer service? Opportunities available for dedicated clinicians to provide services to young children or adults. Requires Masters degree in counseling, social work or related field; plus Ohio license (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC). Duties include providing diagnostic assessments, formulating treatment plans, and providing consultation and training. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use.

Position "A" Therapist would provide clinical services to severely emotionally disturbed children and their families. Duties include providing individual and group therapy, and assessing children in childcare settings. One year experience working with young children and families preferred.

Position "B" Therapist would provide clinical services to adults and their families, who are experiencing a severe and persistent mental illness. Prefer licensed professional (LCDCII, LCDCIII, or LICDC) with a desire to work with adults experiencing coexisting mental health and substance use issues. Duties include providing diagnostic assessments, formulating treatment plans and managing caseload. Full and part-time opportunities available.

Must be capable of performing First Aid, CPR, and therapeutic holds. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume, indicating preference for **Position A or B**, by 2-21-07 to

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Community Support Provider

Progressive behavioral health care organization is seeking an energetic, dependable individual eager to provide support to severely and persistently mentally ill adults and their families. Requires Bachelor's degree in social work or mental health related field and experience working with SPMI adult population. Preference given to licensed candidate (Ohio LSW, PC). Duties include providing mental health services and crisis intervention, developing treatment plans, coordinating treatment with other providers, and providing linkage to community resources. Valid driver's license, good driving record, and ability to perform therapeutic holds required. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Submit resume, with cover letter and salary expectations, by 2-21-07, to

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Vocational Specialist

Energetic, dependable mental health professional needed to provide psychosocial and vocational assessments, and coordinate linkage between clients and employers. Requires Bachelor's degree in mental health related field plus 1 year vocational rehabilitation experience; or Associate's degree with 3 years vocational rehab experience; or 5 years experience providing voc rehab services to BVR, ODJFS funding sources. Preference given to licensed candidate (Ohio LSW or PC). Duties include assessing client readiness for employment, identifying client interests/skills, and evaluating worksite/employee job match. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Valid driver's license and good driving record required. Send resume with cover letter and salary expectations by 2-21-07 to

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Job Coaches

Progressive behavioral health care organization is seeking energetic, dependable professionals to provide job coaching and job development services to clients on a contingency, as needed, basis. Two years teaching/training experience required. Degree plus teaching/training experience preferred. Duties include analyzing jobs and work environments, training clients to perform their job duties, and actively developing job opportunities for people with disabilities or injured workers. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Valid driver's license, good driving record required. Send resume and salary expectations by 2/21/07 to

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The Toledo Chapter of the Links, Incorporated Tackles Issues Affecting Women at 12th Annual Health and Wellness Luncheon

(Continued from Page 4)

"They look like Yuppies now. They look like college students. They drive Saabs."

Williamson said these traffickers use women to recruit young girls and other young girls troubled teenage girls may meet in detention centers. "Men who pick up teenagers for prostitutions are not 'johns'; they're sexual predators. Children that are involved in prostitution are victims. We don't know that here in Toledo yet. We still



Edna Robertson

think they're delinquents. You don't incarcerate the victims."

A brief question and answer session followed that included questions about women who have had success at the Battered Women's Shelter providing mentorship for other women; the steps in a simple safety plan; issues related to housing and the effects of HIV/AIDS on infants.

The 200 or so guests attending the luncheon were then divided by tables to discuss several questions, including: which of the three issues was most important; what their individual organizations are doing to address the three issues; what should they be doing; what are the barriers that keep us from working together; where do we begin and what is the next step.

The Links, Inc. member and chapter financial secretary Sandra Davis' table decided that teenage prostitution was

the most important of the three issues.

"The teen prostitution is most important, because if we can catch them while they're young, we may be able to avoid some of the issues related to the other two," said The Links, Inc. member Billie Johnson. "Our mission really addresses the other two issues already."

Johnson, who is executive director of the Area Office on Aging, invited several of the staff from her agency who participated in the discussion. All agreed that education in schools, churches and the community at large is vital. During the table discussions, an announcement was made from the podium by The Links, Inc. member-at-large Rhonda Sewell that one of the tables answered the question where do we begin by collecting five dollars from each person at their table and brought the money up front and put it in a basket.

"They also issued a challenge to the rest of the tables," she said. "We applaud you." Suddenly, baskets were being passed around and money was collected for The Second Chance Program as The Links, Inc. members and their guests gave liberally to a worthy cause, putting into action a plan for tackling one of the issues addressed at the luncheon. "We wanted to bring you all together so we could start the conversation," said The Links, Inc. President Johnetta McCollough. "So we can start to solve the problems affecting our community."

The Toledo Chapter of the Links, Inc. has a long history of service in the Toledo community. Included in their many accomplishments are the annual health and wellness luncheons focusing on critical health issues for women and girls; mentoring at various local schools including Pickett Elementary, Scott High, Nathan Hale and Cherry Elementary,



Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls and Polly Fox Academy; as well as a number of cultural events and fundraising efforts on behalf of organizations such as the United Negro College Fund and the NAACP Emergency Fund.

The organization has also donated books to Grace Community Center in honor of JoAnn Brown Nash. Mistress of Ceremony for this year's health and wellness luncheon was Edna Robertson, chairman of the National Trends Committee. Linnie Willis gave the invocation.

Committee members include Cecelia Adams, Carol

Baker, Deborah Barnett, Neema Bell, Joan Coleman, Jovita James-Robertson, Billie Lothery, Brandy Marshall, Lisa McDuffie, Sheryl Riggs, Jettie Sansbury, Shawn Sansbury and Gina Thompson. Remaining officers are Laneta Goings, vice-president; Cecelia Peters and Barbara Selvey, recording secretaries; Yvonne Thompson, corresponding secretary; Norma King, treasurer; Barbie Harrison, member-at-large and Yolanda Jackson, program coordinator. Chapter organizers are Laura Palmer and Odessa Rowan.

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Hard Questions

(Continued from Page 6)

The CBIC for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Workers performance report dated June 30, 2005, submitted to the City of Toledo, documents significant construction contracts received

by the program's participants. There were 135 minority contracts awarded totaling \$6,043,836.00, an economic impact not documented by any other source.

With these testimonials

in hand, I hope that those in the seats of accommodation revisit the program and bring "those that have some degree of knowledge" with them. Toledo can ill-afford to lose such a dynamic program that is recognized for its high caliber even in China, which is over 7,000 miles away as the crow flies. Regrettably, "look and see" has not been given from the seat of power that is about 10 miles away. A standing invitation is extended to all members of City Council, building trades representatives, and various other related and interested individuals or organizations to come and see for themselves. The City Council Utilities Committee, Public Service Committee and the Economic Development Commission are also invited to tour the Scott Park facility as sustainable renewable energy sources is the mainstay of the Capacity-Building in Construction Program, and they will then have an opportunity to see what wise men from the east and many others have seen.

Here's hoping that the Capacity-Building in Emerging Applied Building and Construction Technologies Program is given a better opportunity to explain itself than was given to me by my grandma.

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