



*Derry Glenn
Lima City Councilman*

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Q. Who is one of the busiest men in Lima, Ohio and still getting far more than his share of business done?

A. Derry Lynn Glenn

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

An ordinance to hold parents accountable for their children's actions ... fines and possible jail time for a fourth degree misdemeanor offense.

We just don't know where to begin as we dissect this gem of an idea.

Fortunately, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner informed the public that the revival of the parent accountability law was not a knee-jerk reaction to events of recent weeks, during which a police detective was shot and killed by a 15-year-old youth. And we're glad he reassured us on that point because we had presumed, on first hearing the details, that it was exactly that ... a knee jerk reaction.

Thus reassured, we take a fresh look at an idea whose time has clearly not arrived, if it ever will.

There are so many problems with the parent accountability law that we don't really have enough space in this column, or in this newspaper, to list them all, so we are going to focus on the two problems which irk us the most—the definition of criminal behavior and parental effort.

As the law has been explained, the police department will notify parents if the police perceive that the parent's child is on a wayward path. And if that waywardness continues, then the child's parents can be charged with an offense.

We are trying to count how often and in how many ways, such discretion on the part of the police can be abused and it boggles the mind. If a child has broken the law, why not arrest him or her?

If you don't like who a child is hanging out with, however, why would you accuse a parent of an offense for which there is no underlying crime, only the perception of bad behavior. And how do we ultimately define bad behavior?

Is it merely hanging with the wrong folks? Is it wearing sagging pants and caps tilted on an angle? Or what if a 15 or 16 year-old black boy whistles at a white woman in a store? Ask Emmitt Till's mother how she could allow such aberrant behavior to fester in her child and if the punishment for him or her fit the crime.

Who defines parameters of bad behavior for which the child's parents may be held accountable? Do we need to write a whole new code of unacceptable juvenile activity?

But here's the issue that really gets us boiling—the definition, as the police chief put it during a recent press conference, of what constitutes "trying" on the part of parents.

If parents are "trying" said the chief, no problem.

The very idea of police officers—trained to combat crime—being let loose on the streets to determine which parents are giving maximum effort in their child-rearing duties is a bit Kafkaesque sounding, isn't it?

Walk through this scenario with us for a minute, please. You have a single mother (some 70 percent of African-American households are headed by single parents in case you have forgotten) who is trying to raise three children on her own. She works full-time, perhaps in two jobs to make ends meet.

Two of the three kids are doing just fine, thank you. But the third child is in and out of trouble ... you know, hanging with the wrong people, wearing pants that sag and whistling ... well, he does more than just whistle at women he shouldn't be whistling at, he gives much greater offense than that.

Mom gets her warning in the mail from the police that she is not trying hard enough and, finally, she gets hauled off to family court to pay a fine which she can ill afford.

See any problem with this scenario?

We do. What happened to dad? Oh, say the cops, he's not the caregiver and we have to blame the caregiver.

Wrong, we say. You have got to find that father if you want to pretend to display any semblance of evenhandedness. You are going to charge the caregiver and give a pass to the absentee parent, who is much more responsible for the difficulties the child is experiencing than is the parent who stayed to fulfill her responsibilities?

So all we are asking, Mr. Mayor and Mr. Police Chief, is to do it right. Start a mandatory DNA bank in which you enroll every, and we do mean every, resident past and present of the City of Toledo. Then, when a child goes crazy, you can track down not only the resident parent, but the scofflaw who reneged on his responsibility for one reason or another. A Department of DNA, we will call it.

Yes, we will admit there is a certain amount of cost associated with such a venture, but why do things by half measure. Money isn't an object these days, is it?

The Sojourner's Truth

616^{1/2} Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700
Published weekly on Wednesday
Printed by Webco Graphics

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Community Calendar

March 4-11

• The City of Zion, Mt. Zion Baptist Church: Pastor Talmadge J. Thomas' Seventh Year Appreciation; Sunday (Mar. 4) at 10:30 am, Bishop David Thomas from Temple of Deliverance in Cleveland; Friday (Mar. 9) at 7 pm, Pastor Raymond Bishop and the Mt. Pilgrim Church; Saturday (Mar. 10), Banquet at the French Quarters at 6 pm; Sunday (Mar. 11), Pastor Michael Harrison and Union MBC

March 7-10

• Phillips Temple CME Church: "Leadership Training Retreat" – Mar 7-8 – and "The Cleveland/Pittsburgh District Conference" – Mar 8-10: 419-242-7906

March 9-11

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

March 10

• LoSalem Baptist Church: Men's Prayer Breakfast; "The Power of Prayer;" Kitchen of the Poor; Breakfast at 9 am, Service at 10 am; Speaker Bishop Duane Tisdale of Friendship: 419-241-8871

March 10-11

• Jerusalem MCB Second Pastoral Anniversary: For Pastor W.L. and First Lady Monica Perryman; Prayer breakfast Saturday at 8 am, program at 10, guest speaker Pastor James Willis of St. Paul MBC; Sunday 4 pm, guest speaker Pastor Johnny Hobbs of Greater St. John COGIC: 419-461-1789

March 11

• St. Paul's MBC: Annual Men's Day; "Christian Men Rising to the Occasion;" 10:45 am; Guest speaker Minister Emmanuel Brown of New Birth, Columbus; 4:00 pm service featuring First Creation:

• Toledo Kwanzaa House: Lighthouse Community Center; 3 pm; Grand opening: 419-471-1912

• Benedict College Gospel Choir: Mt. Nebo MBC's 11 am service

March 16

• Fundraiser Dinner and Dance: BGSU Generation Next Award; Wyndham Hotel; Honoring two generation next leaders from Cornerstone Church; Silent auction; 6:30 to 10:00 pm: 419-372-0343

• Amazon Lodge No. 4: Fish Fry; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

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

March 24

• Auditions for "Toledo Idol." A talent search for first to 12th graders: Frederick Douglass Community Center; Registration from 8 to 8:45 am for elementary students, from 12:45 to 1:30 pm for junior and high school students: 419-244-6722

March 25

• Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministries: Ministry workshop "Ministering in a Nursing Home;" 9 am to Noon: 419-297-3530

March 29

• YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women; SeaGate Centre; co-sponsored by the YWCA, WTVG and ProMedica Health System: 419-241-3235

March 29-31

• Second Annual Women of Worth Conference: "Called to be Doers;" Genesis Dreamplex Hotel & Conference Center; Thur and Fri evening open session at 7 pm; Friday 8:30 am to Noon; Saturday 9 am to 1:30 pm: 419-472-2316 or 419-944-1033

April 14

• Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: "Yesterday;" Stranahan Theater: 7 pm: 419-241-7332 or 419-241-3330

April 27-29

• Calvary Baptist Church Women's Retreat: Deadline for registration is March 11: 419-865-0019 or 419-531-9443

The Sojourner's Truth

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Owned and Operated Newspaper

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A Certified MBE, 2006

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

The city budget saga is now front and center because of the mayor's plan to cut services, shift personnel and pass a garbage tax worth \$7 million a year.

Clearly, the mayor must do something because the costs increase each day that nothing is done. However, much of the deficit was self-inflicted when the mayor and city council gave too much in pushing up pension costs for police and fire, in addition to the hiring of 17 new people in the forestry division, some of whom were campaign workers during the last mayoral election.

And while the projected deficit for 2007 is \$12 million it will balloon to \$18 million in 2008 unless something drastic is done.

All of this comes in the wake of a balanced budget the Ford administration handed off to Carty Finkbeiner in 2005. In one year, he has "managed" Toledo into near bankruptcy.

We have been warning our readers for months that the city was not owning up to the deficit—its origins or its magnitude. Now that the budget

issue is in the forefront of the news, there are a couple of aspects cry out to me on this fiasco.

Chief of Staff Robert Reinbolt's admission in The Blade that he warned Council President Rob Ludeman about the pension pick-up for police and fire goes straight for the jugular. Did he offer the same advice to Mayor Finkbeiner?

Why not since he is the chief of staff to the mayor and it is his responsibility for the union negotiations?

If he did tell the mayor, why did not the mayor just veto the pension pick-up if he knew that it could not be paid for within the limits of the budget? Do we really think that Reinbolt told Ludeman but not his controlling boss—Mayor Finkbeiner? No, this whole deal, which is what it was, was an attempt to slip in the pension fund pick-up, and the forestry hires, with a lot of other actions. They shuffle the cards well and then a few months later exclaim "we've got a deficit!"

"Oh my, what ever will we do?"

"Got it, let's pass a new tax, lay off 124 folks and close the pools."

Some of this sounds worse than it is in reality. For example, the city loses around 100 to 150 employees a year anyway. So much of the 124 layoffs will be eaten up with vacancies or soon-to-be-leaving employees. In the end, many of the folks will keep their jobs.

Regarding the swimming pools, the city has wanted to close some for a long time. Cracked linings, leaking water pipes and other maintenance costs make the pools a very expensive service feature for municipalities.

Cutting the affirmative action function will be a popular move with the conservative element in the city... and there are many of them... so where is the loss? Those who are progressive and support AA will lick their wounds and remain quiet.

As to merging the police and fire chief functions under one person—a bad idea for several reasons. The overriding reason is the strong traditions within each safety department. Simply put, you

need a trained firefighter at the hem of the fire department.

In the end, the layoffs will peter out to less than 20 people put on the streets. The pools may be closed for a while but if we hit a hot patch of weather in July or August, the city will open up a few pools to get through the summer. The big change will be the new tax on garbage—that is the end game here, a new source of income.

In the future, no union deal should be approved unless the money is identified up front to pay for it. This is why we are in this fix right now.

I am surprised in this era of democracy there is no voice raised for recall for those responsible for passing this deal with no money to back it up.

In another matter, State Representative Edna Brown has been on a roll this past year. She was hailed as the legislator of the year by an elections watchdog group. She was elevated to the vice presidency of the Ohio Black Legislators Caucus. She sponsored a bill on domestic violence and youth.

And so, Brown is now chagrined over the failure of Governor Ted Strickland to embrace her bill on HPV vaccine for young girls to prevent cervical cancer. I hope Brown will keep the fight going until the governor sees things differently.

Just before he left office, former Governor Bob Taft finally signed a mental health parity bill after an eight-year fight led by former Representative Lynn Olman (R.-



Jack Ford

Maumee).
Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

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Do you want free tax service? Would you like help filing your taxes this year?

You can get free income tax assistance at any of the following locations.

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- Adelante, Inc at 520 Broadway Avenue
- Margaret L. Hunt Senior Center at 2121 Garden Lake Parkway
- Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at 1339 Dorr Street
- Onyx Incorporated at 525 Hamilton Street
- Job and Family Services at 3210 Monroe Street

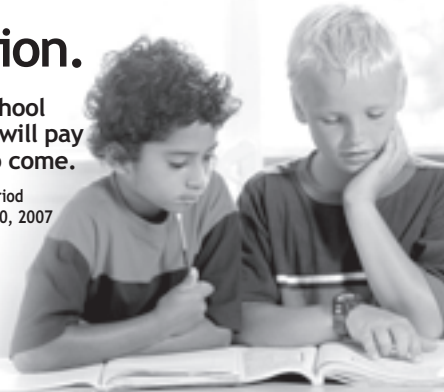
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Black History Month Is Over and It's Back to Business as Usual

Guest Editorial
By Marvin Milsap

This past Thursday, marked the end of Black History Month—for 2007.

And a whole lot of folks were 'sho' nuff' glad!

Not like a lot of us, glad because they did not have to see or put up with trying to find or wear—Afrocentric clothing for a Black History celebration.

But they were glad, because the heat was off! Glad, because they felt like they did not have to deal with the guilt, and the discomfort of mistreating you and me—at least not during Black History Month!

Isn't it strange how folk treat us good during Black History Month, but March 1—its back to business as usual.

So on last Thursday, right on schedule, the Mayor, who used a whole lot of black folk to get elected, decided, or is deciding (on March 1) that we no longer need an office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance as a separate, quasi-independent department. He also, has plans to demote, the African-American

female director of the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance department.

In addition, also for fiscal reasons, we are told, he plans to charge folk—even senior citizens—to collect their garbage. AND—he plans to cut 124 jobs. All of that was on March 1.

And on March the 2, miraculously after previously announcing the job eliminations and departmental cuts, was able to scrimp and scrape until he found just enough, to hire the brother-in-law of his chief of staff.

These announcements, I am convinced were—timed—to come out after Black History Month!

We desperately need to have an Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance department, one that is independent from strictly carrying out the political wishes of government. Frederick Douglass said "Power concedes nothing—without a demand!" Even in 2007 it is doubtful in this world of materialism and greed that fairness will occur without impartial oversight. How long will we con-

tinue to accept our political leaders' callous disregard and our spiritual leaders' negligent disregard, of the cries of deprivation and injustice from their own people? I am convinced that the cries of the poor must not continue to be stifled and the protests, the voices—of the disinherited must not be silenced. Yet they indeed speak as cemeteries AND prisons—continue filling up with our young people.

Dietrick Bonhoff, the German preacher who was jailed by Hitler in the Jewish holocaust said: "The sins of respectable people are revealed in their flight from responsibility." Dante, said, "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a crisis—maintained their neutrality."

And I am saying this: "The values that affect poor people and minority people are so malignantly neglected and poorly represented in the policies and practices of our government and will not change—without intervention on our part."

Mayor Calls for Garbage Fees and Employee Layoffs to Solve Budget Deficit

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner introduced what he called a new philosophical approach last week to the way the city will be handling its finances in the face of a budget deficit that threatens to top the \$12 million mark for the next fiscal year.

"A New Day ... A New Beginning" is the theme of the mayor's campaign to deal with the new reality that the continued increase in the city's operating expenses are not, and apparently will not be, matched by a similar increase in revenues unless drastic changes are made. Those changes, according to the administration's proposals, will take the form of a new fee for city services and layoffs of city employees.

The recommended revenue enhancement is a solid waste fee of \$6.00 for garbage collection services. Currently, Toledoans pay no fee for such services even though, as the mayor noted last Thursday "the City of Toledo provides the most extensive and complete solid waste collection services in Ohio.

"We are recommending that a \$6 per month fee for the continuation of what is the most comprehensive solid waste service in the state of Ohio ... hands down. It is the Cadillac of refuse removal," said Finkbeiner.

The administration produced numerous charts comparing Toledo's status for services and taxes with other Ohio cities and those of similar size around the nation. Even with the additional fee, the mayor's staff estimates that Toledo's household cost for such services will be in line with what residents in other metropolitan areas of the state are receiving.

On the expense side of the ledger, the administration is proposing eliminating 124 positions, starting with a "total of 27 directors, commissioners and managers who will not be in the same position," in a few months, said Finkbeiner. In reality only about 35 of those 124 positions are currently filled, the rest have been vacant due to retirements or resignations for months or several years.

Some of the eliminations will be mergers of certain positions or offices. The most visible such merger was the announcement that Police Chief Mike Navarre will be assuming the duties of fire chief as well. That position will open when Fire Chief

Michael Bell retires at the end of this month.

According to members of the administration, they could think of no other city of Toledo's size that had made such a move, or was considering it, but Navarre said that he feels up to the challenge of handling both assignments.

"I'm just one of many in Mayor Finkbeiner's administration being asked to take on more responsibility," he replied when asked if he was up to the dual roles.

"In terms of numbers [of personnel], there are many more police chiefs around the country with larger numbers reporting to them," said Navarre noting that the combined staffing of the two safety departments would be about 1,300 individuals. Some police chiefs, he said, manage departments of 25,000 officers.

"In terms of expertise, there are a number of jobs in the police department I can't perform or supervise," he said addressing the fact that he does not advise homicide detectives on how to do their jobs or fingerprint experts on theirs. Navarre said he would rely on the many capable managers within the fire department rather than try to micromanage specific tasks.

"I commend the mayor for thinking outside the box," he added.

Navarre is currently being paid \$92,000. Finkbeiner said that he will recommend a raise for the chief of perhaps up to \$110,000.

In addition to the safety department administrative merger, other key departmental changes include splitting the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance Office. The affirmative action duties and remaining staff will report to the Department of Human Resources and contract compliance will fall under the purchasing division of the Department of Finance.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry will be eviscerated as well, with the parks and forestry divisions moving under the Department of Public Service and the recreation division reporting to the Department of Neighborhoods.

Other cost-saving measures include:

- Closing the city's swimming pools this summer—the mayor said that the city's polls are underutilized and costly to maintain;
- No fire fighters' class this year;



Human Resources Director Theresa M. Gabriel, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Councilman Mark Sobczak

- The administration is not budgeting a police class for this year but if revenues get a surprise boost, the mayor may re-consider;

- Furloughs—unpaid days off for city employees on a volunteer basis are being encouraged;

- The police helicopter will be grounded;

- Limiting employees' ability to drive city vehicles home;

- A revised cell phone use plan;

- A cutback on employees' membership and travel expenses

As for the last measure, the mayor announced that he will be paying, in the future, for his travel out of his own pocket.

"It's the minimum we can do," said Finkbeiner of the cost-saving measures. "If we don't act, by the time we get to September, we will have a horrible amount of catching up to do."

In explaining the reason for the budget shortfall, Finkbeiner offered a brief history of the city's financial standing over the past 15 years. During 1992 to 2000, his first two terms in office and the years of the Clinton White House, the economy, said the mayor, was booming.

The mayor made note of the difficult economic times under then Mayor Jack Ford's administration and the stop-gap measures his predecessor took to make ends meet. "Under Ford, we had to borrow from Peter to pay Paul," said Finkbeiner offering as an example the movement of road reconstruction funds, approved by voters, into the general operating budget. "I'm not being critical," he added.

Dave Moebius, assistant chief operating officer, spearheaded the administration's budget review and the move to what he termed is an "outcome-based budget." Moebius described the two major components of such a

budget: first, performance measurement—efficiency in services which requires the ability to analyze costs associated with providing those services and, second, survey of citizens to seek their input on the goods and service they expect from a government.

Such surveys have been ongoing, stressed Moebius and the mayor, in the form of the town hall meetings which are conducted periodically around the city.

Contact Fletcher Word at fletcher@thetruthtoledo.com

Affirmative Action Director Blasts Plan to Dismantle City Office

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

At least one member of the city's administrative team does not agree with a key aspect of the mayor's plan to eliminate certain offices.

"This is an effort to minimize the affirmative action program," said Perlean Griffin, director of the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC) in the wake of Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's announcement that the affirmative action functions of the office, and Griffin herself, would now report to the Department of Human Resources and the contract compliance duties would be moved to the Department of Finance under the purchasing division.

Griffin's office investigates and evaluates city employee discrimination complaints and monitors the city's minority contracting goals.

"I have made my feelings known to the mayor," said Griffin. "I told him this is the wrong path to take. I mentioned the conciliation agreement of 1989 and that this office should remain autonomous.

"If you want an affirmative action program, given Toledo's history, the office must remain autonomous," Griffin added. "And to put it into a department that has a history of the mistreatment of minorities makes no sense. I have to rule on highly sensitive issues against sometimes highly-placed city officials. In fact, just recently we had to make a ruling that the city didn't like. Sometimes we go up against directors and we hope that they will learn from those decisions and will do a better job in the future.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Affirmative Action...

Continued from Page 4

"There is a good way and an appropriate way to handle situations; we see ourselves as advisors not as enemies."

The dissent from Griffin, who has held the post of director of the AA/CC office not only during all of Finkbeiner's current term but also during his first years in office, focused on two aspects of what she calls a "dismantling" of affirmative action. One issue is that the office will no longer be autonomous. The second problem with the mayor's plan, said Griffin, is the proposed separation of the contract compliance function from the affirmative action section. That part of the proposal is even more distressing to Griffin.

"Several years ago during the mayor's first term in office, contract compliance was moved to the purchasing division," said Griffin. "At that time City Council made a wise decision to move contract compliance back to affirmative action."

Under previous Mayor Jack Ford's term, the office of purchasing was placed under the supervision of the AA/CC office. When Finkbeiner returned to office in January 2006, he

moved the purchasing division back to finance. City Council approved the move.

"But Council said we want contract compliance to stay in affirmative action and this is the last time we want to revisit this," recalled Griffin. "Well, we have revisited this issue for the third time."

"I see the whole move as an attempt to dismantle the Affirmative Action Contract Compliance program," she added.

"If we were talking about a merger, we would move the entire department to human resources."

Griffin sees as evidence of the administration's desire to dismantle her office the fact that her staff has already been reduced from five persons to two, including the director herself.

Human Resources Director

Theresa M. Gabriel, who will be responsible for the affirmative action division after the move is complete, disagreed with Griffin's assessment of the purpose of the move. "The mayor has never said he wanted to dismantle affirmative action and I would never be a part of anything like that," Gabriel told The Truth. "I have not worked with the NAACP and affirmative action all these years to see that happen."

City Councilman Michael Ashford echoed Griffin's call to keep the AA/CC office. Ashford said that there is enough "pork" in various line items of the budget that can be trimmed in order to balance the budget and keep the AA/CC office intact.

"It's not about money, it's about priorities," said the councilman.

The Town Center

Levis Commons will host the 2nd annual Breakfast With the Bunny at Johnny Rockets on March 31 at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. After the breakfast, additional Easter activities - including a live petting zoo - will be held at Books-A-Million at The Town Center. Tickets for Breakfast With the Bunny are five dollars each and must be purchased in advance at www.ShopLevisCommons.com/events, or by visiting The Town Center's management office.

Affirmative Action Director Fired ... Or Has She Resigned?

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

It all depends on your point of view.

As The Truth was going to press on Tuesday morning and well after the article was written regarding remarks from the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC) Director Perlean Griffin on page five of this issue, word came of an early morning visit by members of the administration to Griffin's office during which Chief of Staff Robert Reinbolt informed her of her firing.

"They told me that they were here to talk about recent events and to urge me to agree to the merger [of affirmative action moving to the Department of Human Resources]" said Griffin just after the meeting. "Bob Reinbolt said that if you are a friend and a member of this administration we expect you to agree."

"I told him that in good conscience, I could not do that," said Griffin. "He then said that I was no longer a member of the administration and that I was terminated and I should leave the building. I said, please give me the letter of termination and I will."

Reinbolt spoke to this paper later in the morning and presented a conflicting point of view of what had transpired in the meeting with Griffin. "Sounds like a different conversation," Reinbolt told us. Theresa M. Gabriel, director of the



Department of Human Resources, confirmed Reinbolt's version.

Reinbolt said that Griffin had been asked to come to the mayor's office late the previous afternoon to discuss her position on the proposed merger, but she declined to do so. He therefore decided to go to her office on Tuesday morning to discuss the situation and asked Gabriel to accompany him.

"I asked what her [Griffin] position was and she said she would not go to the human resources department," recounted Reinbolt. "She said it was the principle of the issue."

"We went back and forth and she insisted 'I'm not going to accept that.'"

According to Reinbolt, he eventually told Griffin that "it sounds as if you don't want to work with this administration."


"She has pretty well positioned herself," continued

Reinbolt. "In essence she has resigned and how that plays out over today, I don't know. At this time, there is no termination in effect."


Griffin served as AA/CC director during Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's first eight years as mayor and was a highly visible presence with Finkbeiner during his election campaign in November, 2005. She was re-appointed to the position when he took office in January 2006.

"We, all of us in the administration, serve at the pleasure of the mayor," said Reinbolt. "This is shocking to me because we've always had a good working relationship."

At the time this paper was going to press, Griffin was still at her desk on Tuesday afternoon waiting for a letter of termination; the rest of the administration was apparently awaiting her letter of resignation.



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Bruce Carver Elected to United Way Board of Trustees; Jack Ford Re-Elected

In addition to announcing plans for the upcoming year and recognizing those people and organizations which contribute to United Way's success, United Way elected Bruce Carver, chief information officer at Dana Corp., to its Board of Trustees during its annual meeting on February 27, 2007.

Carver is one of six newly elected board members; others include Randy Oostra, president and COO of ProMedica Health System; Dr. David Krol, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toledo College of Medicine; Trent Smith, president and CEO of Toledo Edison, a FirstEnergy Company; Baldemar Velásquez, president Farm Labor Organizing Committee and Tom Waggoner, president of Turf and Specialty Group, The Andersons, Inc.

Returning to the board are Elaine Canning, Cynthia

Dana, Jack Ford and Paul Rickman, Jr. Retiring board members recognized for their generous board support include: Charlie Dana, Dick Faist, Ed McNeal, Emerson Ross and Jennifer Shriver.

During the meeting, United Way of Greater Toledo Board Chair, Alison Falls, spoke about policy in action as exhibited by the extraordinary work of United Way's 10 Family Resource Centers. "In my mind, one of the most important strategic building blocks of changing lives is our network of Family Resource Centers. Every Family Resource Center is unique - the neighborhood is different, the history is different, the programs are different - but each shares a commitment to working with neighborhood residents to improve lives and the community," reported Falls.

Highlighting the future plans of the organization, United Way President and CEO Bill Kitson announced

that United Way of Greater Toledo is creating a Center for Innovation as well as developing a Youth United Way initiative.

Kitson described the Center for Innovation, which is scheduled to open later this year, as "a way for United Way to support new and existing nonprofit organizations with the creation and development of a strategic plan, a strong management component and a sound constitution." The second large annual meeting announcement, Youth United Way, was explained by Kitson as "a way to empower our community's youth and young adults to make a difference through volunteerism. This initiative will challenge the traditional perceptions of young people by allowing junior high, high school and college students the opportunity to create neighborhood projects and implement the change they want to see."

Mayor Injects New Life Into Proposal to Hold Parents Accountable

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On the day following the funeral service for the first Toledo police officer killed in the line of duty in 37 years, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner announced plans to revive an ordinance that would hold parents accountable for their children's behavior

"The question is being asked, 'why was a 15-year-old out at 2:00 AM?'" said the mayor as he opened his press conference last Tuesday. "Children aren't born bad but without parental love, guidance and discipline, kids do get into trouble ... drugs and guns. I do think that Toledo should hold parents accountable. It is very fair to expect parents to know who their children are hanging out with."

Under the proposed ordinance, parents or legal guardians would first receive a letter from the Toledo Police Department warning them of the department's concerns about their child's behavior. If the behavior continues, the parents could be charged with a fourth degree misdemeanor which would carry a possible fine of up to \$250 and a term of incarceration of up to 30 days.

"We believe the parent is the primary party responsible," said Finkbeiner. "This is not a knee-jerk reaction."

The parental accountability ordinance was first suggested by former Police Chief Jack Smith about a year ago in an effort to address the department's concerns about gangs and youth violence.



BCR Director Juanita Greene, Law Director John Madigan, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Councilman Mark Sobczak

The idea gained new life in the aftermath of the slaying of Toledo Police Detective Keith Dressel on February 21. Robert Jobe, 15, has been charged with aggravated murder with a gun specification. Jobe was allegedly in the company of another youth, 19-year-old Sherman Powell, at the time.

"This gives officers an extra tool to use in their efforts to accomplish their mission - a mission we all share - of making the community a safer place," said Police Chief Mike Navarre. "We are not going after parents who are doing the best they can, many are. But there are parents who are neglecting their responsibilities."

Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford, whose district includes north Toledo, expressed doubts about whether such a piece of legislation would be effective without other com-

ponents to a solution. He suggested that what might be called for would be a collaborative effort with agencies such as United Way and government entities such as the Board of County Commissioners leading the way with assistance from federal dollars.

"There is a shortage of resources being allocated for north Toledo," said Ashford. Ashford also questioned, in the light of the mayor's announcement of budget cuts and the improbability of a police class for 2007, whether such a law could be effectively enforced.

"Who's going to enforce it?" said Ashford. "Over 100 police officers will retire in 2007, so who's going to be able to enforce it? What is more important, checking out a kid for violating curfew or answering a 911 call. We have no bodies out there to enforce such a law."



Sarah Bates, Viva McCarver and Flora Jones

"Toledo Idol" Talent Search: Looking for Talented Youths

The Frederick Douglass Community Center in Toledo, Ohio, will host the first "Toledo Idol" city-wide YOUTH talent search open to elementary through high school students which will be held at 4:30 p.m. on April 29, 2007 at the Frederick Douglass Community Center.

The "Toledo Idol" board is excited about this opportunity to showcase the youth of our community. The "Toledo Idol" organizers, Sarah J. Bates, Viva McCarver and Flora L. Jones, state: "We are hoping to inspire the youth of our community to reach from within and proudly showcase their best talents. There are many local talents in Toledo and we want to give them an opportunity to express themselves, to aid in their development and to shine."

Kenneth Ragland, Ray Lothery and Bill Mangrum are also members of the

FDCC Fund Raiser Committee.

The auditions will take place at the Frederick Douglass Community Center, 1001 Indiana Avenue, Toledo, Ohio on Saturday, March 24, 2007. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Elementary students auditions will begin at 9:00 until noon. Registration for junior high and high school students begins at 12:45 p.m. auditions begin at 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

After the finalists are selected, a series of rehearsals will be held prior to the actual Talent Search event.

"We are not going to let anyone go out there unprepared," said Jones. "We are going to put on a show that will astound the audience. The performers will be well groomed, they will know how to project and their showmanship will be outstanding. They will be the future stars of "American Idol."

The "Toledo Idol" talent show will be held on Sunday, April 29 at the Frederick Douglass Community Center, the participants are allowed to sing vocals to pre-recorded music, although no pre-recorded vocals will be allowed.

To enter, please pick up an application at the Frederick Douglass Community Center or any Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

Cash prizes First \$500.00, Second \$400.00 and Third \$250.00 place acts.

Advance tickets are \$10 each and at the door.

Proceeds from the show will be used to sponsor the Frederick Douglass Community Center summer programs.

For more information or to reserve tickets, contact Dawn Barrett or Bill Mangrum at 419-244-6722.

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Alfred "Coach" Powell Wows Teen Audience at YMCA's Youth Opportunities Program's First Annual Black History Program

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Some of the teens sipping apple juice and nibbling cold fruit and rolls outside the McMaster center of the Toledo Lucas County Main Library might have preferred oatmeal and hot chocolate on what everyone hoped was winter's last blast for the year Saturday, February 24, 2007. (It wasn't!)

The YMCA Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) presented their first African-American history program and the excitement was palpable. Executive director Stephen MacDonald and youth specialist Crystal Harris greeted teens from YOP as they arrived with smiles, handshakes and personal exchanges, hinting at long-established relationships built on mutual trust and respect. MacDonald explained the purpose of the program as follows. "To help young people graduate from high school, gain employment or go on to higher education, if they choose to

and achieve their dreams," he said. "Our goal is to help them in any way we can." YOP assists over 200 young people to develop a plan that will give them direction. The effectiveness of the program was evident when the teens involved took over presenting their first annual Black History program. The emcee for the program was Tye Alexander. Other young people gave the invocation, led the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," read poetry, sang and gave the benediction.

"This is our First Annual Program," said Harris. "We're going to try to do this every year. As you listen to the speakers today and the music, I want you to think of your history. Our theme today is 'you have a voice.'"

Guests included Carole Martin, representing The Friends of the Lathrop House, who took the audience on a 580-mile imaginary journey

from Georgia to Sylvia, Ohio, where the Lathrop is located, along the Underground Railroad.

"I want you to understand, we're walking," she said, as she began her tale. "Since we live in the South, do we have winter coats, gloves, boots, mittens - do we?" Answering an emphatic "No!" the attentive audience quickly quieted to listen to the rest of the story. "The reason we are going to Ohio is because Ohio was one of the first states in the Northwest Territory that did not allow slavery." Martin's imaginary journey ended with a plea to all of the youth present to visit the historic Lathrop House.

"All of the black history programs I've seen over the years, none of them had any information about the Lathrop House," she said. "You need to go out there and listen to the voices of the slaves that were on the Un-

derground Railroad."

The voice of one of the Underground Railroad's conductors, Harriet Tubman, was brought to life by this writer, who received a standing ovation.

However, the real excitement began when the keynote speaker took the stage. "My generation and your generation must honor the home that helped the slaves get to freedom," began Alfred "Coach" Powell, referring to the Lathrop House as he began a fast-paced, energetic motivational speech that included a power-point presentation.

Powell, a professor at State University of New York at Stony Brook, is the author of "Hip Hop Hypocrisy: When Lies Sound Like the Truth."

Powell interjected comments throughout his planned presentation that he seemed to get from the ether in stream-of-consciousness fashion. "It's odd for me to be speaking in Toledo. I seem to be speaking in Toledo five times a year and I love it!"

Powell got things off to an exhilarating start with a two-part chant. The first part, for the males in the audience was, "I want to free the African in me." A little hesitant at first, the men tentatively chanted along with the coach.

"Sisters, watch the brother next to you to make sure his mouth is moving," he said. "If he can say this, maybe he can stop saying b—ch." Suddenly, he was commenting on his thoughts when people started coming into the auditorium.

"People of color sit as far from the information as they can," he said. "And I watched people go straight to the back." Then it was back to the chant, only now it was the females' turn.

"Stop!" Powell said when participation seemed to be less than a hundred percent. "I want you to raise your hand. Now, reach back to the kitchen." Powell demon-

strated, putting his hand on the nape of his neck, followed by audience members who were laughing as they imitated his movements. "Now, if you ever had anything tight or knotted up back there, you're African."

Straying as he grabbed thoughts from the ether, Powell gave an impromptu history lesson. "Some people ain't ready for freedom!" he said. "Saggin' is 'niggas' spelled backwards. You say you just playing a game. Games are for children. When you gonna grow up? This has everything to do with Black History Month. You can't check up while you locked up. It's a trick to erase you off the planet - to make you hate one another."

Continuing with the chant, Powell had everyone singing and moving to the rhythm as he continued his instruction. "Who invented the stop-light?" he asked. "Garrett Morgan. What's the first color? Red. What's second color? Yellow. What's the third color? Green."

Powell explained that red stands for the blood of those who died in the struggle, yellow means black people are kissed by the sun and green stands for the land we came from. "So the next time you pull up to a stoplight, say 'Power to the People!'"

Continuing with the color theme, Powell made another observation. "Fighting cause somebody wearing the wrong colors," he chided as he began the lesson. "Look at the American flag. When you take away red and blue, what's left?" "White!" yelled back the teens, mesmerized by Powell's wisdom.

Using power point for further emphasis, Powell put some rap lyrics from Lil Jon and the East Side Boys on the screen. The teens recited the familiar words enthusiastically, imitating the well-known rap song while the adults looked around at each other in horror because it ended with a command for a



Alfred "Coach" Powell

female (dog) to crawl.

Powell explained that the lyrics in the rap song had a double entendre or double meaning. "It's also about the hatred of women," he said. "There was a time during slavery when black women were forced to crawl for the pleasure of the slave master and his king friends. How am I, an African-American man gonna tell a woman to crawl?"

Powell invited the teens to do some analysis of a commonly used word in rap music. "Every time you say the word 'b—ch,' to a woman you are talking about a little 'bit' of yourself, the 'ch' is the part of you that you can't change," he explained. "Women are the reason black men are here today. They saved black boys in the cotton fields. And now we're disrespecting them? We stand on the shoulders of those who come before us and the woman has the broadest shoulders of all!"

"The first person running down the street to break up a gang fight in Toledo is a woman. She doesn't care what she's running into. The first person to run to get your sorry behind outa jail is a woman. Your mama! History starts right in your womb. Everything that's good comes straight from the womb. Now it comes straight from the womb and tomb."

Powell offered a \$50.00 to anyone who could name the original "50 Cents." He still continued teaching while answers were shouted out. "It's what you don't know that will kill you," he said. "If I can make you hate me because I wear a blue rag, I can make you hate your history."

(Continued on Page 12)

Audition Application Form

'TOLEDO IDOL' YOUTH TALENT SEARCH

AUDITIONS
Date: March 24, 2007
Place: Frederick Douglass Center
1001 Indiana Avenue, Toledo, Ohio
Times: 9a.m. to 12noon (grades 1st through 6th)
2p.m. to 5p.m. (grades 7th through 12th)
FEES: \$15 non-refundable fee (cash only)

TALENT SHOW
When: Sunday, April 29, 2007 @ 4:30p.m.
Where: Frederick Douglass Community Center,
1001 Indiana Avenue, Toledo, Ohio

I would like to apply for the "TOLEDO IDOL" YOUTH TALENT SEARCH. I agree to abide by the rules established for this program and by the decisions of the judges.

NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____
AGE _____ GRADE _____ SCHOOL _____
PARENTS NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ (Street) _____ (City/State) _____ (Zip code)
TYPE OF TALENT TO BE PRESENTED _____
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEED _____ (THAT YOU WILL PROVIDE)

ALL APPLICATIONS, CONSENT FORMS, AND FEES MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN DURING AUDITIONS ON MARCH 24th.

Parental Consent & Release from Liability

I (we) hereby give consent for _____ my (our) child to audition and participate in the Toledo Idol Talent Show that will be held at the Fredrick Douglass Center. (S)he will be able to attend the mandatory rehearsals on March 31st, April 7th, 21st, & 28th.

I (we) on behalf of my (our) child and myself (ourselves), waive the right or cause of action arising as a result of my (our) child's participation in the talent show from which any liability may or could accrue against the Fredrick Douglass Center or the event Administrators and Coordinators collectively or individually. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I (we), on behalf of my (our) child and myself (ourselves), agree that this waiver shall include any rights or cause of action resulting from personal injury to my (our) child and/or damage to my (our) child's property sustained in connection with my (our) child's activities for this event.

Child's Name: _____ Date: _____
Parent(s) Name: _____
Parent(s) Signature: _____

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- Each participant must complete an application
- Each participant must hand in a completed parental consent form at during the auditions.
 - Acts can be no longer than 2 minutes
 - Only the parent and/or guardian will be able to watch your audition
 - No lip-syncing
 - Must be prompt! Lateness will not be tolerated.

Please join the African American Festival Committee for the first meeting of the 3rd Annual African American Festival scheduled for July 13-15.

The meeting will be held on Monday, March 26 from 5-7 pm at the Mott Branch Library, 1085 Dorr Street.

Please contact Terri at 419/255-8876 if you will be able to attend.

Stewart Academy For Girls Holds Black History Month Celebration

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The students of the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls presented their annual Black History Month Celebration on Wednesday, February 28 and paid tribute to their community partners, those individuals and organizations that have teamed with the all-girls public elementary school to assist in its educational goals.

The morning program began with a processional by the Toledo Police De-

partment Color Guard and a stirring rendition of the African-American National Anthem by Juanita Tisdale. After the processional, the students presented a memorial flag to the police department in honor of Detective Keith Dressel who was slain in the line of duty on February 21.

Among the host of Toledo Public Schools officials present for the event were interim Superintendent John

Foley and Board of Education President Deborah Barnett, both of whom welcomed the students and visitors.

Then followed the program. Poems and readings were presented by NaKea Keglal, Na'Kayla James, Talia Ulrich, Sekeena Allen and Terraya Roberson. Haminah Shabazz offered a flute solo.

Si'era Lawler, Damika Isom and Queen Boose sang the Bill Withers classic, "Lean on Me." Then three young ladies - Ta'Layah Bragg, Taricena Willis and Alexis Winters - sang solos of "This Is My Time," "Irreplaceable" and "Brighter Day."

The academy's first grade class sang a medley of songs as did the fifth graders. The program's finale was a dance by eighth graders Kiera Boles, DeAngela Gott, Sh-



Lean on Me



Students and guests



Color Guard presentation

annon Griffen and Terrina rector, and Principal William Jaynes. Keaton and Assistant Principal Suzanne Muggy served as the MC's.

BENEDICT COLLEGE GOSPEL CHOIR

The Gospel Choir of Benedict College of Columbia, SC, a historically black college or university, will be in the Toledo area on **Sunday, March 11** for a **student recruiting trip.**

The choir will appear at the **11 a.m. service at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church**

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Bowling Green's 19th Annual Dinner Theatre

By Ashlee Austin
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Song, dance, laughter and applause filled Bowling Green State University's Grand Ballroom last weekend as they welcomed several popular entertainers from the 1990's to join them in bringing the celebration of Black His-



tory Month to a close.

Every year, BGSU hosts a Dinner Theatre event with a specified time period as the theme for the show. This year, the university held it's 19th annual Dinner Theatre for two nights - February 23 and 24, with 1990's entertainment being the theme of the show. Students and faculty auditioned and were chosen to represent various 90's sensations.

Michael Hill, recent BGSU alum and Dinner Theatre fan, traveled back to Bowling Green to see the show, "I thought Dinner Theatre was great once again. This was my fourth time going to Dinner Theatre and it is always a good

event," he said.

The show is a huge hit among faculty, students, and families every year. It gives the students a chance to let go and just have fun while displaying their various talents to the community. The show embraces



music, dance, acting and comedy - and every member of the BGSU community has an equal opportunity to audition and be included in the show.

The annual dinner theatres are produced by the university's Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiative (CMAI) and the creative force behind the show is Sheila Brown, associate director of CMAI who every year forges a tight, nonstop production from a cast of amateur, albeit talented, performers.

Nathan Olmeda, BGSU sophomore and a performer in this year's show, loves the experience of being involved in such an act. "For me, dinner theatre is about making music. I don't really get that many chances to sing my kind of music on stage, and this event gives me the opportunity to work with a bunch of talented people and practice my love for music in a positive and respected way," he said.

The Dinner Theatre cast worked hard at night, weekends and between classes to make this year's show a

success. "The cast is made up of many talented, yet busy people. It is hard to get together with your groups and get the right amount of practice in; but somehow, the show always turns out great. It definitely turned out amazing again this year!" said Olmeda.

Rudy Barker opened the show with a short comedy piece before the first act hit the stage - Anita Baker. Baker sang her heart out as she performed her hit 90's single, "Rapture of Love." Anita was followed by performances from the group, All-4-One, a Forrest Gump skit, and a 90s male medley segment, which featured hits such as "Candy Rain" by Immature, "Cupid" by 112, and "Anniversary" by Tony Toni Tone.

Next, En Vogue hit the stage to 'give the audience something they could feel through an emotional performance revealing their strong vocals and perfect harmony.

Then, Austin Powers quickly altered the calm and sultry mood of the show when he suddenly appeared, full of color and energy to perform one of his infamous dance routines.



Angelo and Sheila Brown

Of course, you can't re-live the 90's without Kirk Franklin! Franklin and his choir performed various of his hit gospel songs, such as "Silver and Gold" and "stomp."

Comical scenes from In Living Color and Power Rangers followed the gospel piece.

And the 90's definitely would not be complete without Ms. Janet Jackson making an appearance. Janet treated the audience with an unforgettable performance of "If."

Will Smith was also in attendance, along with his entire Men in Black entourage.

Several other performers entertained the audience, such as Dru Hill, Boys II Men and Baby Face, leaving the audience asking for more.

Next year's Dinner Theatre will be a collaboration of the top performances from the past 19 shows.

"I look forward to coming back next year to see 'The Best of Dinner Theatre,'" said Hill.

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The Lima Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth

March 7, 2007

Derry Glenn: Much Done ... Much to Do

By Sharon Guice
Special to The Truth

Q. Who is one of the busiest men in Lima, Ohio and still getting far more than his share of business done?

A. Derry Lynn Glenn

Glenn was born February 4, 1963 to Joseph and Ruthie Glenn in Lima, Ohio. He was born, in fact, on the same date as the famous civil rights activist, Rosa Parks (1913), some 50 years later as the fight continues for justice for all in America. (so the Pledge of Allegiance says)

Glenn grew up on the south side of Lima at 812 South Union Street where he lives today. He went to Edison Elementary School, South Junior High, and Lima Central Catholic where he graduated in 1982. He went to Central State University from 1982 - 1987 where he earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics Education.

After graduation he returned to his hometown of Lima and began his career of service with the Lima City Schools Right to Read Program. He taught at Westwood, Faurot and Whittier Elementary Schools. During those years Glenn encountered his first opportunity to fight for the right to teach black history to youth during Black History month.

He eventually left the school system and took a job as a correctional officer with Lima Correctional Institution as a program specialist with the parole board working with prisoners in the reentry program. He continues to work with the Residential Treatment Unit and he previously worked as a house parent with Allen County Children Service Bureau.

All of this experience gave him the drive and compassion to do more as he saw the need of the community not only as a whole but also for the black man, the down and out man and children.

Because of the No Child Left Behind Act implemented in 2002 by the Bush Administration and the low scores of Allen County's children, Glenn, and his wife Judie, took on the responsibility of seeing that our children get the help they needed by setting up tutoring sites for the kids. Sites include

Cheryl Allen Center, Christian Convention Center and the Lima Public Library. Every child in the program receives 22 hours of tutoring during eight-week sessions. The children are transported to and from home for the session and receive prepackaged snacks during the tutoring session.

Children are chosen for the program based on test scores and their qualification for the lunch program. They are given a post test to determine what areas they need help in. Fifty children are enrolled in the program every six weeks. The Glens conduct site visits to assure the children are receiving the best help possible to meet their needs.

With an associate or four year degree you can possibly be a tutor. Background checks are on done on each tutor before they can participate in the program. Tutors help develop the curriculum and must attend a one day workshop before tutoring the

children. They are paid \$25 hour for the first child tutored and \$20 for each child after that. Transportation drivers are paid \$10 per child per day. Anyone wanting to be a tutor, driver or sponsor a site can contact 419-222-2377.

Derry didn't stop helping those who needed a little more TLC; he saw a need in the plight of the young men being released from prison with felony records and who now cannot find a decent paying job to take care of their families. He started a re-entry program where he works with businesses to hire felons. The business can receive a \$5,000 bond and a tax cut for hiring a felony. He works with these men to enhance their skills to enter the employment field.

The Glens also set up an apprenticeship program to train young men for the pipe fitters union. When Derry heard that \$130 million in contracts where being given out to build the new Lima

City Schools he was naturally disturbed to discover that no local minority companies received contracts during the building project. The word was that no African-Americans had the training to get the contracts.

Lima City Schools have a large percentage of black students in attendance but none of the African-American kids attending those schools will be able to say my daddy or my granddaddy helped build this school. When you think about this in terms of dollars, says Glenn, and who is attending the schools, it has to make you scratch your head and say why not.

Once again, Glenn stepped up to the plate. He started a skills training program the summer of 2006 with 50 men. He has tutors training them once a week for six weeks on interview and math skills. In November 2006, 20 of the 50 men graduated the class. A new class starts about every six weeks.

Glenn has spent the night with the homeless and the veterans to understand their needs and to raise money for the organizations that help them. He has used his own money to travel out of town to bring more opportunities for those living in and around the Sixth Ward and welcomes each new resident with flowers.

Glenn's vision grew over the years as he decided to enlarge his role in the city of Lima so that he could help even more people. In 1988



Lima Councilman Derry Glenn and Church's owner Paul Hubbard

he became the youngest man to ever run for 6th Ward councilman. In 1989 he threw his hat in the ring for the mayor's race and was the youngest black man to ever run for that office. In 1990 he ran for the president of the City Council. And in 1999 he was elected the 6th Ward councilman and has not tired of working for his district ever since.

Under Glenn's leadership the residents of 6th Ward have witnessed some significant improvements:

- Chestnut Street Housing Project completed
- Church's Chicken on South Main Street opened in November 2006
- 6th Ward receiving more recognition for improvements
- Allen County Health Partner's Lima Community Health Center opened
- Economic development in the 6th Ward

Glenn's vision doesn't end with what he has accomplished. He continues to press on to see more improvements in the 6th Ward, such as:

- The Whittier Place Project completion for 2007

• The Steiner McBride Senior Citizens Project starting in 2007

• The Main Street Corridor Project - grocery store and gas station

• The Mega Center

• Global Industries up and running

• The Ethanol Plant

• More 6th Ward recognition for the economic development and the improvement of the way of life for the people in the 6th Ward resulting in more voice for the people

• Building partnerships with Perry and Shawnee townships to work on the same projects

This is Glenn's eighth year as 6th Ward councilman. It's a part-time job but he puts in 50-plus hours a week working for his constituents. He loves it and admits that he wants to continue working for the people. He is up for re-election this upcoming November and his campaign slogan is "Much done - much to do. Let's keep the 6th Ward going."

Glenn and his wife Judie have four sons, Derry, Demetrest, Dimiko and Demarco.



Lima City Councilman Derry Glenn and Findlay Mayor Tony Irti



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Quest Academy: Building an Educational Framework One Child at a Time

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to The Truth

Sometimes when history repeats itself, it's a good thing. If a successful product resulted once, it could happen again. After all, science proves lightning strikes more than once in a very short span of time. The theory could be an analogy for educating young students.

There was a time, not too long ago, that administrators of the Lima school system demonstrated concern regarding the number of teachers in their system that happened to be of color. An inner city school with most of the students in each classroom being non-white could be a disadvantage, or at the least culturally jeopardizing.

They launched an aggressive campaign to recruit teachers of color from the south. Many of these teachers received their training at the prestigious Mississippi Valley State University. They tended to be young, excited and enthusiastic for the opportunity to head to the northern states to teach in their schools.

It turned out to be a great idea. The benefits for the



Oscar Marshall

teachers, students and community were outstanding. The majority of those recruited still live in the area today. Some, recently retired, have found a new challenge that has brought back the spark of excitement they felt when they first arrived.

Oscar Marshall was one of those valuable recruits. He is now the principal in the first, and at this time the only, community school based in an area that is predominately African-American.

Quest Academy has embraced the concept of looking at each student as an individual, focusing on the needs demonstrated by academic and behavioral assessment. Marshall is energized as he surveys the team of educators Quest has assembled, each bringing a dif-

ferent component to the table – teachers who *expect* success from each student. Funding opportunities have allowed the school to access tutors from area colleges such as Northwestern University.

Eight students have made a commitment to daily tutoring in math and reading for Quest students identified by their teachers as needing individualized attention. The after school program has been revised and is now an extension of the school day, with certified teachers coming into the school to focus on students that need help getting on the right track.

The push includes programs outside of academics. Both music and science for instance have been enhanced by the addition of two individuals – a mother and son team that packs a one/two punch with positive results.

Dr. Laura Walters leaves her lucrative practice every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. to go to Quest to encourage students to develop an interest in math and sciences. Her son, Daniel, was admitted into Bluffton College at 13 and

graduated at 17. He is a gifted musician who now teaches music at Quest.

Frank Peppers, retired from the Lima City School System, teaches Spanish at Quest. Even Marshall has returned to the classroom to give the fourth and fifth grade math students the opportunity of benefiting from his special brand of learning. The brightest and the best? At a community school in an urban area. What's going on here?

According to Marshall, the concept of individualized teaching allows students at every level to experience success. He believes success builds on success. Once you build a student's confidence, that student may begin to believe success is his birthright. The students begin to understand that by engaging himself, utilizing her own unique ability to think and putting the necessary time in, each subject will open itself and become a part of her everyday learning experience.

Community schools are public schools of choice and are state and federally funded. The Ohio Department of Education has given Quest the designation of Continuous Improvement. They have had fair, but improving, results over time as reported by the State of Ohio.

The passing standard has been set at 75 percent for most levels of assessment. In the third grade for the 2005/2006 academic year, Quest students were scored at 58.3



and 41.7 for reading and math respectively. Fourth grade results for that same time period showed 54.5 in reading and an astounding 90.9 in writing scores! And the school continues to grow.

With 125 current students, Quest is filled to capacity. Tutoring takes place in every nook and cranny, even extending into the church areas.

What is the next step? Where does the path lead for the staff and students of Quest Academy? Principal Oscar Marshall says there is still one piece of the puzzle missing. Parents are still not as active as he would like them to be. He feels the students would get more parental support if they were playing sports rather than being pushed toward academic excellence.

Some parents have stepped up to the plate. There are those who have even been employed by the school, some that participate in various activities and classroom aide positions – and their involvement can be the difference between the success and struggle of every student.

Marshall is asking every

parent to demonstrate an interest in their child's education. Come to the school and ask questions. Look at homework and the papers their children bring home from school each day – let them know the parent cares about what they are doing in school.

Another new program Quest has instituted this year is having students read to the principal. He listens, evaluates, encourages and tells them how he sometimes lies in bed at night wondering what will happen to those students who have not yet accepted the responsibility for their own success.

He has even called some parents and asked them to read books with their children so they can have more positive results when they return to his office. It's working. The chart in his office shows the upward trend in reading improvement. Experiencing success breeds continued success.

Quest Academy has chosen the motto: "Charting a course of excellence for the 21st Century." They seem to be heading in the right direction with strong, determined leadership at the helm.

Vickie Shurelds

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Alfred "Coach" Powell Wows Teen Audience at YMCA's Youth Opportunities Program's First Annual Black History Program

(Continued from Page 7)

No one guessed that the answer was the images of two black men on the back of the 50-cent piece in 1952: Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. Powell passed the coin, which is to be re-issued in 2008, around for everyone to take a look.

"When you start having babies at 14 and 15, you don't have that wisdom," he said. "Wisdom is 25 or 30 years of knowledge. The sex lives of Africans were mismanaged for 300 years. I did a paper titled 'Three Hundred Years of the Sexual Manipulation of African Genitalia.' I gave evidence of how it happens today in hip-hop music. During slavery, black women were greased up like the black women in rap videos and put up on the auction block where they were made to bend over and jiggle."

Powell used rap lyrics by Jay-Z and photo of Snoop Dogg with women wearing leashes and dog collars at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York in 2003, to show how hip-hop uses subliminal messages to create negative images of black women. Powell also used his power point to demonstrate what he calls in his new book, *Hip Hop Hypocrisy: When Lies Sound Like the Truth*, Prolonged Adolescent Syndrome: a perpetual state of childhood. He illustrated this with the names of a number of hip-hop artists.

"There was a time when black men were never greeted as mister," he said. "A black man was called boy or little. He was called uncle." Powell's power point had a long list of rappers whose names begin with Lil. "Your job as long as you little and a boy is to kill each other."

Powell also said male slaves were not given belts due to their lowly status and often wore sagging pants. "Your sagging pants are a reminder that you will al-

ways be a boy," he said. "No one respects a people that have no men."

Powell maintained throughout his oratory that rap music began as consciousness-raising and positive until it was taken over by corporate America and re-packaged and sold to its biggest audience today – white males.

He pointed out that hip-hop is now 32 years old; crack is 29 years old; violent and misogynistic hip-hop videos are 26 years old and HIV/AIDS is 26 years old. "How did the people who fell through the cracks of society wind up smoking crack?" he asked.

"When the word 'nigger' was invented, it meant beast. I don't know where we get all these interpretations of this word. You cannot love the fruit and hate the root."

Moving back to hip-hop, Powell lightened things up a bit. "We're the only gangstas and thugs that can't shoot straight," he said. "You scared as hell so you over-emasculate to hide your feelings. Talking about you hard – you hard-headed!"

Getting serious again, Powell compared current hip-hop artists with the KKK, reading from his book, *Hip Hop Hypocrisy: When Lies Sound Like the Truth*. "There was a time these people (the KKK) wore robes and hoods and crosses, carried guns and called black men niggers and black women animal names," he said. "Why is it I'm conditioned to hear young black

men who wear long white tees and hoods and crosses, carry guns and call their people niggers and their women animal names?"

Powell ended his speech to thunderous applause and a standing ovation. "Some of us have internalized this information as truth and made it reality," said Harris. "Where's your voice? Who has your voice?"

She encouraged the teens to read about black history and to talk to their parents and grandparents about their own history. "I challenge you to please do that- you will be amazed about what you will learn about your family history."

The teens competed for prizes in a black history trivia contest with questions gradually increasing in difficulty. Powell gave away three signed copies of his book to one male teen, one female teen and one adult who told what they learned from the program and how they would put that knowledge to use.

Harris presented Powell with a plaque and thanked him for all of his assistance with YOP for the past 10 years. "Not only have you come when our money was funny," she said. "You've contributed to our scholarship fund every year – and it was more than \$25." Following the program, lunch was served to participants and guests.

Contact Geneva Chapman at Geneva@thetruthtoledo.com

Brown Reintroduces Plan for Cervical Cancer Vaccinations

Legislation that would largely require Ohio girls preparing to enter the sixth grade to be vaccinated against human papillomavirus (HPV) – believed responsible for most cases of cervical cancer – was reintroduced last week by state Representative Edna Brown (Dem – Toledo) during a non-voting session of the Ohio House of Representatives. The bill has been designated as House Bill 81 of the 127th General Assembly.

Brown's bill would call for all Ohio school-

girls age 11 to 12 to be vaccinated against HPV, unless parents opt out for medical, religious or philosophical reasons. It also includes an educational component, so that parents may make fully informed choices about the vaccine and understand what it does and does not do.

Last December, Brown introduced House Bill 703, a



Representative Edna Brown

similar proposal, but time ran out on the 126th General Assembly before her bill could be considered.

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Chicago The Musical Arrives at the Stranahan

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Set in prohibition-era Chicago, the musical *Chicago*, which originally opened on Broadway in 1975 and ran for just over 900 performances, has experienced much greater success in revival. The musical is still running on Broadway (over 4,000 performances), has been made into a hit movie and has toured the world.

This month Toledo meets *Chicago* when the production arrives in town on March 7 at the Stranahan Theater and runs through Sunday, March 11.

Carol Woods first joined a *Chicago* cast in 1997. That cast included Obba Babatundé, Jasmine Guy (*A Different World*), Charlotte D'Amboise, Ron Orbach and M. Spencer. In the current tour, Woods plays the role of Matron Mama Morton, the role that Queen Latifah sang in the Academy Award winning movie of 2002 starring Catherine Zeta Jones, Renee Zellweger and Richard Gere.

Woods, a New York City native, started singing as a member of the church choir, she told The Truth last week from Tokyo where she and her cast members were completing the last leg of the show's Japanese tour. Woods has loved singing and performing for as long as she can remember and she can also remember a long list of talented performers who have influenced her – Ethel Waters, Ruby Dee, Pearl Bailey, Lucille Ball, Carol Burnett ... “all of those great talented ladies,” she said.

But for Woods, performing is not merely a display of talent, it's a process to reach others. She performs “to heal souls ... what we do is healing and, if we do it right, it helps a whole lot of



Carol Woods

people,” said the singer/actor when asked about her ultimate goal in show business.

Chicago is based on a play of the same name by Maurine Dallas Watkins, a comedy that opened on Broadway in 1926 and ran for a handful of performances. The legendary director/choreographer Bob Fosse found the play in 1975 and, with the songwriting team of John Kander and Fred Ebb (*Cabaret*), turned the story into a musical starring Chita Rivera and Gwen Verdon.

Chicago is the story (the play was based on a true story of a famous 1924 murder in the city of the same name) of two women, Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, on trial for murder. Both are represented by Billy Flynn, a lawyer who courts publicity and is somewhat less than ethical.

Mama Morton is the corrupt jailor who oversees the cell block where Velma and Roxie are being held.

Woods has appeared on Broadway in *Chicago*, *One*

Mo' Time, *Follies*, *Smoke Joe's Café*, *Stepping Out*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Grind*, *Big River*, *The Crucible*, *A Little Hotel on the Side*. She has appeared on the London stage in *Blues in the Night* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Her film credits include *The Honeybees*, *Sweet and Lowdown*, *Eddie Murphy Raw*, *Night and the City* and *Stepping Out*. On television, Woods was a series regular in *The Parent Hood*.

It has been a career filled, so far, with opportunities to heal and few regrets about choices. “We can change the future, not the past,” said Woods. “A near miss means that you weren't swinging hard enough ... excuses don't get results.”

You can watch Woods swinging for the fences as Mama Morton this week at the Stranahan.

Performances are at 8 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 10 and 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 11.

New Works Writers Series' Tribute to Renowned Playwright August Wilson

New Works Writers Series, Toledo's longest operating urban arts organization, will partner with NEOSOL for “Third Thursday.” New Works will present scenes from the works of one of America's most prestigious playwright, August Wilson on March 15, 2007 at the Blueprint.

Born on April 27, 1945, August Wilson grew up in the Hill district of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His childhood experiences in this black slum community would later inform his dramatic writings, including his first produced play, *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*, which was staged in 1981.

Wilson worked in close collaboration with Lloyd Richards of the Yale

School of Drama, and by the early 1990's, had established himself as the best-known and most popular African-American playwright. Wilson also set for himself a daunting task—to write a 10-play cycle that chronicles each decade of the black experience in the 20th century. Each of Wilson's plays is a chapter in this remarkable cycle of plays and focuses on what Wilson perceives as the largest issue to confront African-Americans in that decade.

In April of 2005, Wilson finally completed his 10-play cycle when *Radio Golf* premiered at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Two months later, he was diagnosed with liver cancer. And on October 2, 2005, August Wilson passed away at the age of 60.

Wilson's awards include the New York Drama Critics Circle Award (1985, 1987, 1988), the Whiting Foundation Award (1986), the American Theatre Critics Award (1986, 1989, 1991), the Outer Circle Award (1987), the Drama Desk Award (1987), the John Gassner Award (1987), the Tony Award (1987), the Helen Hayer Award (1988), and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1987, 1990).

New Works' actors, Grant Walker, Kyna Kynard, Erika Jacobs and Rodney Temple will bring scenes from Wilson's plays to life. Directed by Imelda Hunt, Ph.D., and produced by Karrmon Kyser. For more information call 419.917.0888.

Jazz trumpeter Joey Sommerville to Present Concert at Knight Fest at St. Francis de Sales High School

Jazz trumpeter, songwriter and producer Joey Sommerville, a native of Toledo and 1978 graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School, will present a concert for the Knight Fest at the school, scheduled for Sunday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Sommerville has performed and recorded with the mega-rock group Phish. Most recently he has performed with Trey Anastasio on his solo tour in Atlanta.

He was also the featured instrumental soloist on the Cirque de Soleil's Grammy-nominated album, *Alegria*. In 1996 he founded Sojo Music, Inc., an independent production company and record label. In 2001, he scored a Gavin Top 20 Smooth Jazz hit as a writer/producer with Bob Baldwin single “Business Call”. The song featured Marion Meadows and Tom Browne (“Funkin for Jamaica”). The song was from the album,

Bob Baldwin.Com which made the Billboard Top 20 Contemporary Jazz chart.

He worked as a producer/mixer for several artists and independent labels including: Bob Baldwin, Prince Bassist Rhonda Smith, Eric Essix, Zebra/Warner Bros., Dean James, Grindstone Records, Orpheus Music, Interfaith Recordings, Slow Wine Music, Davinchi and Belisbeha.

Joey has an extensive background in commercial work both as a composer/producer and voice-over artist. His resume is quite impressive, including work for Ford, Coke, Church's Chicken, Chik-Fil-A, The U.S. Army, J. Walter Thompson, Hi-Fi Buys, Cabot Creamery, Montreal Bureau of Tourism, and Publix Super Markets.

Development Director Joe Sweeney explains, “The Knight Fest is a celebration of the Arts program at St. Francis. Funds raised from this evening will be used for scholarships for African-American students, and for arts scholarships. We invite members of the Toledo community to come to hear Joey Sommerville play and to see what our arts and music students have produced.”

Admission to the event is free, but gifts from the heart are welcome.

The program will begin in the school chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 11. Refreshments will be served.

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1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBHG.ORG
EOE

Patient Services

Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio, Inc. seeks a patient services specialist for 20+ hrs per week in our fun and fast-paced Toledo area offices. Position includes greeting/registering patients, scheduling appointments, answering phones and other clerical work. Must be detail oriented, able to work independently and motivated to work in a team environment. This position requires at least one Saturday per month. A Bachelor's Degree plus one year relevant practical experience, or a High School diploma plus two years relevant practical experience is required. Customer service experience and computer skills are required. EOE.

Please send resume to: Director of Prevention Services, P.O. Box 346, Toledo, OH 43697, fax 419-255-2500 or e-mail to ppnwo.hr@ppnwo.org. Resumes must be received by March 16, 2007.

Youth Advocate

Hourly, p/t positions serving children and their families throughout Lucas Co. Must be dependable and able to serve as a positive role model for children. Experience working w/children and families is a must. Flexible hours, weekly pay, and activity reimbursement. EOE

Send/Fax cover letter and resume to:

Judith Saunders, Administrative Manager
One Stranahan Square, Suite 550
Toledo, OH 43604
Phone: 419-255-3880
Fax: 419-255-3882
jsaunders@yapinc.org

Lucas County Family Council hereby gives notice of our **Request for Proposals (RFP) for an exploratory study of academic achievement and barriers to academic achievement for children/youth with serious emotional disturbances** in Lucas County. The RFP will be available online on Tuesday, March 6 at <http://apps.co.lucas.oh.us/bids> You may be pick up a copy between 8:30 am – 4:30 pm M-F, or call 419-213-6991 to request mailing. **If you intend to apply, a Letter of Intent must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007.** Proposals will not be accepted if a timely Letter of Intent was not received. Proposals must be received at One Government Center, Suite 580 by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2007.

Residential Monitors Positions Open for Full-time, Part-time

Qualified applicants must be hard working and energetic people to monitor a diverse group of individuals. Must have the ability to communicate well with others. Must be willing to work weekends, holidays

- Requirements needed:
- High school diploma/G.E.D
 - Valid Drivers License
 - Background Check required

Apply At:
Fresh Attitude
525 Hamilton, Suite102
Toledo, Oh
Between the hours of 10a-12pm ask for Bob
Or Fax resume:(419)244-4084
EOE

Help Wanted

Licensed social worker for Family Resource Center – must know FMIS. Submit resume to

Director
3613 Monroe Street
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Accounting Assistant

Parker Hannifin, a Fortune 500 company and a global leader in hydraulic filtration, has an opening for an Accounting Assistant at our Metamora, OH location.

Responsibilities include but not limited to the following: Accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and any related tasks; Perform monthly account analysis and reconciliation; Analyze processes and problem solve issues as they arise; Processing of freight invoices; Preparation and distribution of daily, monthly and/or quarterly reports; Preparation of journal vouchers in support of monthly and year-end closings; Documentation of departmental procedures as deemed necessary; Involvement in non-routine annual projects, ie. Physical Inventory, Standard Cost Roll; Perform non-routine requests arising from the audit function; Filing and record retention; Develop various computer applications using Microsoft Excel and Word and any and all other tasks in support of the departments' commitment to the divisional policy of continuous improvement.

Associates Degree in Accounting required. Bachelors Degree or currently working towards Bachelors Degree preferred. One to three years experience in general or specialized Accounting functions. Strong PC skills with intermediate or better rating in Excel. Access knowledge a plus.

Please respond with cover letter, resume and salary requirements no later than March 16, 2007 to:



Parker Hannifin Corporation
Hydraulic Filter Division
16810 Fulton County Road 2
Metamora, OH 43540
Attn: HR – Accounting Assistant

EOE M/F/D/V

Intake Specialist

Make a Change for the Better with Legal Aid

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high quality legal assistance to eligible low-income residents of western Ohio, seeks an **Intake Specialist** to work with Legal Aid Line, a national model intake and brief service system. Responsibilities include screening client applications for financial eligibility and determining client problem for referral to attorney or other source.

Candidates must have excellent computer and telephone skills. Ability to work well with low-income persons who may be undergoing stress is a must. Call Center experience helpful. Spanish speaking ability is highly preferred. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Send resume electronically in Microsoft Word format only to:

jobs@ablelaw.org
Subj: Intake Specialist Position
or
Intake Specialist Position
c/o ABLE Recruitment Coord.
520 Madison Ave. Ste. 740
Toledo, OH 43604



Resumes should be submitted as soon as possible. Equal access to ABLE offices is available. Those applicants requiring accommodation in the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator, at the address listed above.
EOE

96 Hour Championship Game Sale

Thursday, Friday,
Saturday & Sunday



Final Cost 80¢
Each With
Plus Card and
Instant \$2
Savings When
You Buy 10

2 Liter
Coke
Products
All Varieties

10\$10
for
Limit 1 offer Per Transaction
Coke Products Only.



USDA Choice Beef Loin
• Porterhouse
• T-Bone
• Bone-In Ribeye Steaks
• Boneless Strip
• or Texas Broil
USDA Choice Beef Shoulder
Any Size Pkg

50% off
*Kroger Plus Shopper's Card Price
Reflects 50% off Savings.



Ball Park
Meat Franks
12.8-16 oz Pkg
Select Varieties (Excludes
Beef, Cheese and Fat Free)

2\$4
for
WITH

Right store. Right Price.
Kroger
Right store. Right Price.



Kroger
41/50 ct
Cooked
Shrimp
Frozen 16 oz Pkg

50% off
*Kroger Plus Shopper's Card Price
Reflects 50% off Savings.



Angelino's
All Varieties

6⁰⁰
WITH



Final Cost 80¢
Each With
Plus Card and
Instant \$2
Savings When
You Buy 10

2 Liter
Pepsi
Products
All Varieties

10\$10
for
Limit 1 offer Per Transaction
Pepsi Products Only.

3\$5
for
WITH

Kroger
Super Size
Tortilla Chips
19-20 oz Bag
Select Varieties



Breaded
Chicken
Drummies

20 Count....6.99
40 Count....11.99

**10 Count
2⁹⁹**
WITH



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Prices and Items Good at your local Kroger Store
March 8 thru March 11, 2007.
Some Items may require a deposit.
Visit our Website at www.Kroger.com or
call Customer Service at 1-800-KROGERS

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Each of these advertised items is required to be available for sale. If we do run out of an
advertised item, we will offer you your choice of a comparable item, when available, reflecting
the same savings, or a raincheck which will entitle you to purchase the advertised item
at the advertised price within 30 days. Only one vendor coupon will be accepted
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