



*Earl Mack
Ohio Department of Public Safety*

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“During the 2006 youth summit, I presented a workshop on ‘What to do when stopped by police’ which assists in the safety of our kids and communities. It also provides information to assist in making the right choices when encountering a police officer.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Governor Ted Strickland presented his vision for a new Ohio last week and we heartily applaud most of the initiatives he promises to bring to a state so sorely in need of an overhaul on so many fronts.

Strickland promised, among other things: to bring health care to every uninsured child and youth 21 and under, to boost state funding for elementary and secondary public schools, to sell Ohio's settlement with tobacco companies to fund school construction and prevent future debt and to increase funding to institutions of higher learning.

All of those goals are laudable but there are two others that captured more attention for several reasons. Strickland promised to put a halt to the creation of new charter schools, to put an end to for-profit companies operating such schools and to stop the voucher program that permits parents in underperforming schools to obtain subsidies to move their children into private and parochial schools.

"By virtue of eliminating some of these opportunities for children, we by nature send them back to schools that are failing," said Republican House Speaker Jon Husted who has been the driving force behind the voucher program.

That is an argument that we think makes no sense whatsoever if one is at all inclined to look at the total picture of public education. If, in fact, the State of Ohio could afford to send *all* children to private or parochial schools and if there were enough private and parochial schools to accommodate the demand, then we might agree that vouchers make sense.

The problem is, of course, that public schools are going to be around for a long time and when students, and the accompanying funds, are siphoned away from them, there is little hope of improving a failing school. And funds are being siphoned away from public schools both by the voucher program and by charter schools.

The argument has been put forth that neither program has been allowed sufficient time to determine whether it will be effective or not. We cannot accept that argument.

We believe that neither program made any sense to begin with and neither should have been given a chance to be put into operation.

The best-case scenario for the charter school program is that a number of alternative schools would spring up, markedly improve the academic opportunities for those who fled from failing public schools and thereby become great success stories. That has not happened by a long shot and it wasn't likely to happen. Charter schools by their nature do not have the funds to compete effectively and do not have to maintain the professional teaching standards to ensure consistency across the board.

As a group, charter schools are failing.

But even if these schools had proved to be successful, the experiment itself would still have been a failure. Charter schools are taking much needed state funds from public schools and, in urban districts such as Toledo, that lack of funding means that children must inevitably suffer the consequences—that is, the vast majority of students who remain behind in the financially depleted public school system.

As for vouchers, we cannot even comprehend what anyone was thinking who might have supported such a ridiculous notion. It is not just the funds that are being siphoned away from public schools but also, potentially, the best and the brightest of the student body—those who can pass the tests, those who would help to make public schools challenging for all of the other students.

The voucher program is only in its second year and already we are seeing that some parents, eager to try to take advantage of such an opportunity, are actually pulling their children out of schools that are performing well, such as the Old West End Academy or Grove Patterson Academy, moving them into schools on academic watch or academic emergency, with the hope of being able to get into the voucher program to then move their children into a private school. What sort of nonsense have we wrought?

As a society, we can put our faith and trust in a public school system or we can make the decision that public schools have run their course and it's time to privatize the educational process entirely. We cannot afford to deprive public schools of resources, financial or human, and expect that improvement will follow—we have to commit to one or the other.

Trying to create mass competition for public schools and funding both systems simultaneously reminds us of what might occur when a society attempts to switch from driving in the left-hand lane to driving in the right ... gradually.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

March 24

- The ReMix: Space 237 (237 N. Michigan); 7 pm to 1 am; Local performers, silent auction of artwork, food from Diva: 419-254-2787
- Prayer Breakfast: Church of the New Covenant Baptist; "Together, Rooted and Grounded in Love;" 419-531-4119
- Citywide Christian Trustees Meeting: James B. Simmons Bldg; 10 am: 419-380-9477

March 25

- Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministries: Ministry workshop "Ministering in a Nursing Home;" 9 am to Noon: 419-297-3530
- Super Sunday: Bethlehem Baptist Church: Morning Service at 10:45 am; Ministry Carnival from 1 to 4 pm featuring food, fun and fellowship, give-aways, DJ, clowns and face painting; Sunday Night Musical—gospel choirs, praise dancers: 419-241-9360
- The Clarence Smith Community Chorus: St. Philip Lutheran Church; Soloist Vicki Simpson-Brooks; St. Philip Senior Choir; St. Philip Men's Choir; Dessert reception after concert; All proceeds to benefit the St. Philip Debt Retirement: 419-475-2835

March 27

- ACT-SO Orientation Session: For students who will be competing in the ACT-SO local competition on April 29; Kent Branch Library; 6:30 pm: 419-215-1087

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

March 31

- Landlord Advocacy Seminar: Property management and legal issues discussion; 8 am; The Catholic Center: 419-244-6711 ext 417 or 425
- United Missionary Baptist Church: "The Challenge of the Cross;" Presented by the Transportation Ministry
- National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc: Annual Luncheon to celebrate National Women's History Month and to honor six great women of Toledo; 11 am; Botanical Gardens: 419-244-5390

April 1

- Indiana Avenue MBC: 42nd Pastoral Appreciation for Rev. Dr. John Roberts and first Lady Bernice Roberts; Guests are Rev. Dr. John Williams and the Eastern Star Baptist Church
- Chicken/Ribs Dinner and Craft Bazaar: UAW Local 12 Hall; Proceeds to benefit Local 12 Women's Committee Education and Charity Fund: 419-474-8575

April 3

- Scott High School Alumni Association: Monthly Tuesday meeting; 6 pm in the Scott High School New Teacher's Cafeteria

April 4-6

- Pre-Easter Revival: Church of the Living God; 7 pm nightly; Guest evangelist Bishop F.D. Turley

April 9-13

- Spring Break Mini Camp: For third through six graders; Art projects, cooking lessons, games; Crossroads Family Resource Center: 419-475-3258

April 10-11

- American Red Cross Babysitter's Training: Crossroads Family Resource Center; For youths aged 11 to 15; Knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants and school-aged children; Noon to 3 pm each day: 419-475-3258

April 14

- Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: "Yesterday;" Stranahan Theater: 7 pm: 419-241-7332 or 419-241-3330
- Scott High School Alumni Association: "Scholarship Reunion Dance;" Civic Center Promenade; 7 pm to midnight: 419-349-2125

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Looks can be deceiving in public life.

It looks as if war was declared between Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and publisher John Block of The Blade based on last week's exchange: the release of the Zogby Poll, Finkbeiner's rant in a letter to the editor and the next day's Blade editorial which blasted the mayor.

The beginnings of a nasty war? Not really, based on the fact that the two "combatants" sat down and ate dinner together the same night the editorial was written and was on its way to press. The two warriors were joined for dinner by Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president of The University of Toledo, and Andy Douglas, former Ohio Supreme Court justice, and long-time confidant of both Finkbeiner and Block.

That the four men would meet in Columbus on the eve of the governor's State of the State makes sense for obvious reasons. Dr. Jacobs wanted to hear how much cash UT could expect, Carty wanted to hear about urban support and revitalization, Block likes those types of

historical events and Douglas, as a big union labor leader, has a vested interest in what direction the state is going in the future.

Douglas probably put the dinner together. He is known simply as the "Redhead" to political observers. Say the name Redhead and everyone knows who that must be. The Redhead has a most deft political touch. I have watched him influence Toledo City Hall and UT politics for a generation.

I was always amused when Vic Kapoor was president of UT and the Redhead was right there in the mix but out of the public eye. He had the same impact with the Toledo city leaders. His influence was evident in the 2001 campaign and in the 2005 battle as well. Andy helps his friends in many ways.

And while he is clearly a Carty partisan, I must thank him for the guidance he gave me when I was a legislator and later when I started out as mayor. His influence with police and fire unions should never be underestimated.

The fallout over affirmative action continues to hit

the mayor. Robert Torres, demoted recently to an economic development specialist from manager, has asked that the mayor's action be reviewed by the City's Office of Affirmative Action.

It might appear to observers that these complaints are being filed by disgruntled workers who have been demoted or fired and are ticked off. Actually there is more afoot than appears at first glance.

The issue of fairness in employment extends to "any condition of employment." This means that you as employer must treat everyone the same even when there is a reduction in force. The standard is whether the action taken is "arbitrary and capricious." So if Carty and Co. disproportionately let minority managers go or if they demoted them and not white ones, Carty has a problem.

That means the city will ultimately give someone back pay, or even damages, with your tax funds. I hope Theresa Gabriel clearly advised the mayor step-by-step on the firings and demotions because she will be asked to

justify why people of color were let go. Simply saying that someone is "lazy" will not be sufficient unless it is well documented.

The city plan to impose a garbage fee will reverberate beyond single households. This fee is for "each unit." So, for example, the owner of a duplex will pay for two units,

in addition to his own personal residence. So for that property investor, he would face a bill of \$18 per month—personal and business—for an annual total of \$216. What if he owns a 10-unit dwelling? Someone is going to pass the fee along in the form of raised rents. Plus, once it is imposed, look for the fee to

be notched up incrementally over the years. Maybe it will eventually reach \$18 per unit as it is in Akron, Ohio.

By the way, the 2008 Toledo budget is predicted to be \$17 million out of whack. After this year's draconian cuts, where will the City go to make up that deficit? And, oh by

Continued on page 16

Just Don't Count Our Vote ... Be Counted

By Jan Scotland
Guest Columnist

I can't tell you how many times I have been asked as a Republican, why blacks should vote for our candidates. They say Republicans have never supported the black community and that's why they don't get our vote.

I typically respond by pointing out that voting 85 to 95 percent of the time for the Democratic candidates should create two expectations:

1) Republicans will pursue support from other groups if they are going to have any chance at winning office. When responding to their constituents they will naturally work to keep their sup-

porters happy or they will not be able to garner support in the future.

2) The Democrats should be bending over backwards to maintain the overwhelming support the community gives them. The responsibility to their constituents should include significant focus and support for their most loyal constituent.

Democrats not Republicans have controlled the mayor's office and Toledo City Council for most of the last 30 years. Donna Owens was the only Republican mayor during that stretch and, if my memory is correct, Republicans may have controlled council for a total of two of those years.



Jan Scotland

Except for during Jack Ford's term in office, affirmative action, contract compliance and administrative representation has not reflected the support African-Americans give to the party. Whether on simple issues such as renaming Dorr Street to that of Martin Luther King Blvd or the pitiful response to discrimination complaints. No Democrat on

(Continued on Page 14)

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Yesterday's Today

Guest Editorial
By Marvin Milsap

The past has a power over us that we not ready to admit. The past is extremely powerful! Much of what outwardly appears as discord is in reality a struggle between our present and our past. Even when we are challenged to go forward we keep returning to the comfort and familiarity of the past.

The profound effects of 400 years of the legalized atrocities of slavery and segregation are not going to be wiped out in 40 years of federal legislation or 20 years of civil rights commission mandates. Until the mid to late 1960's, discrimination and segregation based upon race was legal in the United States and acceptable to the majority of everyday common people. The most powerful seats of power in this country were occupied by segregationists and racists.

What policies have been passed since that time reflect the marks of compromise and homage to this *de jure* condition. It is unrealistic to think that what

has taken centuries to develop and nurture can be cured almost instantly. It is just as ridiculous to think that marginalized populations including the poor, African-Americans, Latinos, and other minorities will get their fair share of economic and social benefits without adequate safeguards.

It is mandatory that we have a separate, autonomous, and independent system of checks and balances to ensure an economically just society for all. It is easy to understand the inability of some to admit racism when 388 years after the first African slaves were brought to Jamestown, Virginia the nation cannot bring itself to offer an apology for these heinous crimes against humanity. Our past is too painful for some to even admit; too painful to see it even when it is placed right in front of our faces.

We claim that we cannot hear racism unless the "N word is used, but I hear it loudly, in the degrading, disparaging and disrespectful patriarchal supremacy of one who feels that it is necessary

to fire a black female for her refusal to sit and be silent rather than being seen and heard—as a black woman. The signs are no longer written on placards and posted in the windows of business establishments or over restrooms and drinking fountains, but I see the blinding brightness of the "No Blacks Allowed" policies and actions in spite of the "it's too expensive/costs too much/can't afford it" camouflaged and over-used excuses of government. I hear it and I see it!

As we continue to take more from those who have least and give more to those who need it least, the gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to widen. The cries continue to go out for more equity in the social and economic policies for all as we have seen that those who are shut out of society's rewards truly have no stake in nor respect for that system. We would be wise to act now. The longer we wait, the worse the problems and divisions in society get.

• Letters & Opinions • Letters & Opinions • Letters & Opinions • Letters & Opinions •

In the Matter of Affirmative Action and Justice

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo and Vicinity (IMA) has long been a voice in the community for justice and harmony among all people. Through the years, the IMA has taken stands on racism and many other issues, serving often as the moral voice of the community. As an organization of Christian clergy, it is appropriate that we remind those who would cause injustice that they are not in charge, that we are to live toward a higher calling and that if any of us suffers, all of us suffer. The list of religious leaders in the African-American community who have been a part of this great organization is long and we owe a debt of gratitude to them for all that they have done.

These are new and difficult times. The distance between classes is great and growing greater. The state of the economy, war, politics and other major issues have caused us to live on edge, losing trust in the structures of our society and even our city. Differences have become more important than things in common, and we have been divided. We can no longer

afford to allow ourselves to be separated because of race, gender or any other status.

Affirmative Action is a policy or a program taking positive steps to increase the representation of certain designated groups seeking to redress discrimination or bias through active measures, in areas of employment, education, and business from which they have been historically excluded. Some groups who are targeted for affirmative action are characterized by race, gender, ethnicity or disability status. Through the years there have been many opinions about the advantages or disadvantages, the fairness or lack of fairness of Affirmative Action in society, and there are some even today who believe that it is no longer necessary, that we have overcome our biases. Colin Powell, on May 25, 1996 stated: "There are those who say we can stop now, America is a color-blind society. But it isn't there yet. There are those who say we have a level playing field, but we don't yet. There are those who say that all you need is to climb up on your bootstraps, but there are too many Americans who don't



Rev. Cedric Brock

have boots, much less bootstraps."

Unfortunately, things have not changed that much in the past 10 and a half years in our world and in our own city. Here in Toledo, the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance was created in July 1988 by Ordinance #246-88 to administer the city's Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance Programs. The office and the ordinance that created it are the results of a federal lawsuit that was filed against the city because of unfair practices in the police and fire departments. According to the city's website Affirmative Action office page, the office "operates under the jurisdiction of the Mayor. A major function of the Office is to ensure regulations are followed to meet contract compliance objectives and to certify and promote minority and women-owned businesses to

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Wake up everybody...

This song was song by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes with relevant lyrics for the 1970's. It appears to me the lyrics are needed today. On the international level we have a crazy war, nationally employment is down because of outsourcing and locally the mayor is proposing laws to criminalize parents.

Talk about family values. At first I was going to limit this piece on the (un)constitutionality of this proposal and how NO study has proven whether this approach is effective. However, I find that the problem is much deeper than a proposed ordinance.

It is time for us in the black and Latino communities to WAKE UP! We are allowing this current administration (you can pick one, local, state, national) to propose and enact policies that are counterproductive to the political and social advancement of our communities. It is time for us to organize and get involved politically. I think this approach must occur in both the legal and extra-legal arenas.

You noticed I said extra-legal rather than illegal. It is time for us to embrace concepts outside of the criminal, civil, and administrative law to deal with many of our issues. Whenever there is an internal conflict (and most of our conflict is between us), we can set up our own process to deal with it. Whether it is called restorative or community justice or simply "a village raising a child" we know, and research shows that it can work.

Now there are times when we need to use the law, and in those cases we need to be represented at all levels, prosecutors, plaintiff lawyers, defense attorneys, jurors, judges and magistrates. And I not saying we need simply "black or brown" folk there, but black or brown folk who represent the best interest of the community.

We need folks in the legal and extra-legal arenas to step up and say: "The death penalty is wrong and negatively impacts my community, the police are not always heroes in my community and do abuse us, our schools are inherently unequal, the war is killing to many of my brothers and sister and I DO NOT support staying in a civil war.

We should give more money to proven community-based organizations rather than the police. Places of faith it is time to bring your preaching and action to the masses. The University of Toledo you need to provide action research and service to the community you are located in, businesses invest back in the city, etc."

What I am trying to say is the parents and guardians are not the main issue, in fact, the rest of us are the main problem. We lawyers, educators, business people, religious people, foundations and others are the major part of the problem, but we are the major part of the solution.

Yeah, there are parents and others who are neglectful and abusive, we have existing laws and even some programs for that. But where is the law that "criminalizes" the behavior of the rest of us. If we are going to criminalize the so-called bad parent, let us criminalize the bad president, governor, mayor, teacher, business, church, mosque, synagogue, etc.

WAKEUPEVERYBODY

Morris Jenkins, J.D., Ph.D.

Dear Editor:

My assessment of the Finkbeiner versus Perlean Griffin is one of arrogance in a partnership with economics. I don't think Carty is cognizant of what Kwame Nkrumah said of women: "You measure the political awareness of a people by the women."

Though, Carty wasn't Toledo's mayor during the Nazi weekend, when Toledo made the national news. He is - "in plan" - so to speak, in a variety of ways and subject to interpretation as being a racist. This is part and parcel for serving as mayor before and after the first black mayor; it has become an American tradition.

Especially, as Carty was Toledo's mayor prior to the initial point when Toledo Zoo became a practitioner of economic apartheid. I define economic apartheid (specifically for the Zoo scenario): the funding of a municipal institution with the taxes of the Toledo's 25 percent of residents of African-Americans, yet African-Americans only held two fulltime positions

of 152 positions. Generally, I regard a governmental entity funded by tax dollars while wreaking pathologically economic deprivation by the use of capitalism, colonialism and racism to be a practitioner of economic apartheid.

In my opinion, the Toledo Zoo's workforce definitely should have been or should be of Toledo's implementation of affirmation action. Though, if Carty didn't address that situation during his first eight years as mayor, why should he do so now that he has been elected?

Additionally, Carty inadvertently contributed to the perception of being divisive when he didn't suggest that, upon the Nazis second march in Toledo, they post a \$700,000 or \$800,000 peace bond. Yes, I realize if Carty had proposed such an action with then-Mayor Ford - Carty may have lost the mayoral election.

Increasingly, it seems that Carty is firing or has alienated African-American leaders such as former TPS Superintendent Eugene Sanders along with his questionable "King Kong" comment several months ago about Fire Chief Mike Bell. It seems Fire Chief Bell decided he could show Carty better than he could tell him. My father, Clarence Sr. always said: "An empty wagon makes a lot of noise."

Perlean Griffin shared a very astute and relevant insight when commenting about the 1989 consent decree the City of Toledo had concerning affirmative action. Moreover, isn't Mayor Finkbeiner's hiring of his Chief of Staff brother-in-law a type of affirmative action for white males? Or does that also meet my definition of economic apartheid?

When this scenario has been thoroughly examined from the economic aspect, Mayor Finkbeiner will be seen as being political. The specific meaning for Ms. Griffin and Toledo's African-American community is revealed that Carty does not define TEAM as Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

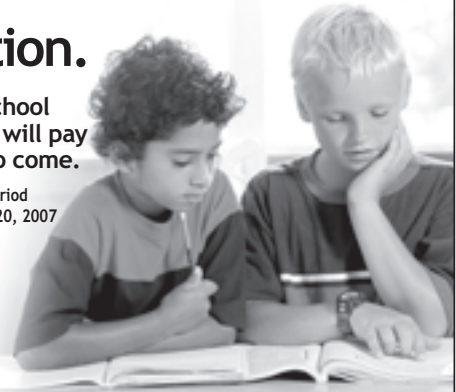
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Governor Ted Strickland Visits Toledo School, Promises Education Reforms

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Governor Ted Strickland hit the campaign trail once again last Thursday. This time, however, Strickland was campaigning not to win elective office but to drum up grassroots support for some of the bold initiatives, particularly with respect to education funding, that he had offered the day before in his State of the State address.

His budget, incorporating those initiatives, was released the following day.

The governor's promise to increase state funding for virtually all educational lev-

els, from early childhood to adult training, and his stated goals of ending the proliferation of charter schools and terminating the state voucher program were greeted with cheers from those who toured Toledo's Keyser Elementary School with him last week.

Strickland acknowledged, however, that he was in for a fight with the Republican-controlled legislature over the possible demise of some of their pet programs, such as vouchers and charter schools.

State Senator Teresa

Fedor (D. Tol.), Toledo Board of Education President Deborah Barnett and Toledo Federation of Teachers President Francine Lawrence walked with Strickland as he made his way from classroom to classroom at Keyser — where Fedor herself used to teach — and greeted students and teachers.

"This is a great day," Fedor said as she commented about her reaction to the governor's proposals.

"What I'm trying to emphasize is how important it is at every stage of life to have educational opportunities," said Strickland. "If we do that, Ohio will have a bright future. I've had to emphasize my dedication to public schools and their availability to every child."

Strickland held a press conference after his tour during which he answered a number of questions about the details of his budget proposals on education.

"The inequity in the system has bothered me more than anything else," he said on the issue of school fund-

ing and his plan to move away from the reliance on property taxes for school funding that the Ohio Supreme Court has held is unconstitutional. "I've chosen to increase per pupil funding. When we reduce property tax and replace it with state tax — securitized by tobacco funds — by 2009 the State of Ohio will provide 54 percent of the total funding."

He also expounded on his rationale for attacking charter schools, both from the standpoint of their performance and those who profit from their existence.

"I hope we will begin to hold charter schools to the same standards of fiscal accountability and educational accountability," said the governor. "Some are for-profit operators with failing schools that [they are operating] with public tax dollars."

When asked about the chances for success, Strickland admitted that a battle loomed. "I expect a big fight over these initiatives," he said. "There is a big difference of opinion between me and some legislators on the role of the state in public education, but our commitment must be to all of Ohio's children."

Strickland in his address on Wednesday afternoon, promised to increase per-student funding by three percent each year up to \$5,565 in



Governor Ted Strickland, Councilman Michael Ashford, School board President Deborah Barnett

fiscal 2008 and \$5,732 in 2009. Additionally, he promised to raise poverty-aid based assistance by 22 percent and parity-aid funding by eight percent — both are funding sources for districts with a high percentage of students below the poverty line.

But it was his stance on charter schools and the voucher programs that produced the loudest cheers from those in his audience involved in public school education. The Toledo Public Schools will lose more than \$50 million in state funding to local charter schools this year and another million to the fledgling voucher program. Recently TPS employees and administrators have spoken of the possible chaos that may ensue as parents in greater numbers angle for ways to make their children eligible for vouchers. Such vouchers are worth \$5,000 towards high school tuition at a private or parochial school if their public school is an underperforming one — on academic watch or academic

emergency.

Some parents, it has been reported, are pulling their children from public schools that are performing relatively well and placing them into underperforming schools in an effort to make their children eligible for vouchers.

In his budget, Strickland has exempted the Cleveland Municipal School District from his plan to end vouchers because that voucher system is based on need rather than on academic performance.

Strickland's Toledo visit was one leg of a day-long tour that saw the governor and his staff visiting other Ohio cities — Cleveland, Dayton, Cincinnati — to beat the bushes about his proposed two-year budget.

"The budget I unveiled today will only pass if the grass-roots folks in Ohio, the moms and dads, who live in these local communities, get behind it and let the legislators know this is important to the future of Ohio," said Strickland.



Governor Strickland in the classroom



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Friendship New Vision Has the Vision to Effect Change

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Bishop Duane Tisdale, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church and CEO of Friendship New Vision, certainly has a vision for neighborhood and housing development. He and the church are watching that vision become a reality as they set about building new houses and rehabbing others in Toledo's central city neighborhoods.

In November 2005, Friendship New Vision opened its first house, a



Bishop Tisdale, Paul Tecpanecatl of Poggemeyer Design Group, Councilwoman Brown

1586-square-foot newly-constructed house on Glenwood. At that time Tisdale said that it would be the first of per-

haps several dozen such ventures. These days, however, the bishop is placing no limits on the number of projects New Vision might undertake in the upcoming years.

"We envision many more," said Tisdale several weeks ago. "We would like to put up a neighborhood."

On a tour of several Toledo neighborhoods with The Truth, Tisdale showed off a number of projects that the community service



Greg Harris of Harris Builders, Paul Tecpanecatl, Bishop Tisdale and Councilman Michael Ashford

(Continued on Page 10)

Earl D. Mack, Jr.: Successfully Blending Law Enforcement with Helping to Save Our Kids

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Earl Mack has a dream – he'd like to become Ohio's first African-American Sheriff.

But he's definitely not sending a subtle message to Lucas County Sheriff James Telb.

In fact, Sheriff Telb doesn't need to get nervous. "He's my idol," says Mack of Telb. "He was one of my professors at The University of Toledo. He educated himself and through hard work as an enforcement agent and police officer, he achieved the trust of the people and became Sheriff of Lucas County. He is an example of how one can rise above any adversity to the top," says Mack, who is the high-profile Agent in Charge of the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Toledo Enforcement District office.

Earlier this month, Mack made the nightly news with two well-covered raids under his jurisdiction. The first was a March 4 early morning raid on a party off Alexis Road netting underage drinkers. The coverage in *The Blade* reported that Ohio liquor enforcement agents and Sylvania Township police arrested a total of 52 juveniles and adults.

The Blade quoted Mack as saying that most of those arrested were underage juveniles from Bedford, Notre Dame Academy and St. John's Jesuit high schools. He said the party was apparently held to celebrate a divisional basketball championship won by a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) team affiliated with a Catholic church in Temperance, Michigan.

Not content to rest on his laurels, days later Mack followed that headline grabber with his March 9 raid on Yummie's, a Toledo retail carryout. That also made news because Ohio attorney general Marc Dann was present during the raid, which resulted in the arrests of six people for food stamp fraud.

As Agent in Chief of the Toledo Enforcement District, one of the agency's five divisional offices, Mack oversees operations in 17 counties in northwest Ohio. He is a vet-

eran of more than 25 years in law enforcement, including 20 in management-supervision.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety was created in 1933 when the 21st Amendment, which repealed Prohibition nationally, gave enforcement rights to the states. "Technically, we're a continuation of Prohibition enforcement," Mack explains.

The agency is responsible for alcohol, food stamp fraud and tobacco enforcement – but Mack hopes it won't be saddled with smoking patrol duties as a result of Ohio's new

No Smoking laws in public venues such as bars and restaurants.

Mack was Agent in Chief of the Toledo District from 1997-2005 before his controversial transfer to Columbus where he served as Agent in Chief of Central Office Administration. That posting resulted in a still pending lawsuit filed by Mack charging discrimination under Title 7.

"I filed a civil action as a result of my being forced from my position in Toledo to a position in Columbus," says Mack, who returned to his Toledo post in June 2006.

He served as Assistant Agent in Chief in Toledo from 1989-95, and as Agent in Charge of Cincinnati Enforcement and Acting Assistant Deputy Director of the agency. His first posting was as an Enforcement Agent in Cleveland in 1982. "We couldn't work in our home county back then," he explains. Mack has achieved every field supervisor step at the agency beginning in 1986.

He joined the agency from The University of Toledo Police Department, which hired him after Mack received his Associate Degree, Applied Law Enforcement Technology from UT in 1981.

Mack is only the second African-American in the 60-year history of the Ohio Department of Liquor Control to be promoted to Agent in Charge of an enforcement district office.

"My supervisor, William Pitts, Jr., was the first Afri-

can-American Agent in Charge and Deputy Chief in the history of the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. He was originally Agent in Charge of the Toledo office. When I was hired, I was assigned to the Cleveland Enforcement District office under his supervision. Mr. Pitts instilled in me that it is imperative to learn my job and treat people better than I want to be treated. Mr. Pitts also demonstrated he needed to be the best of the best to survive and rise to the top through all the adversities he faced. He was my mentor and is part of the reason for the successes I have today as an Agent in Charge," says Mack.

Mack is equally known in the community for his commitment to kids and trying to save them from the many perils they face.

"There is nothing worse than losing a child. It is a feeling you can't understand until you've lost one," he says.

Unfortunately, Mack knows that feeling from experience. He lost his son, Earl D. Mack III, when he the boy was only 10 years old. "He died of a gunshot in his chest. His death was ruled as a suicide but I still don't accept that verdict. Since then, my priority has been to work with kids," says Mack.

"I care a lot about our kids. During the 2006 youth summit in Columbus' First Church, I presented a workshop on 'What to do when stopped by police' which assists in the safety of our kids and communities. It also provides information to assist in making the right choices when encountering a police officer.

"I also care about our (law enforcement officers) relationships in the communities they serve. Many times when I am out with agents conducting field enforcement operations, I take time to stop and speak with kids about respect, alcohol and tobacco use. I always carry some type of trinket to give to the kids. I love the interaction and responses, plus such actions reflect a positive image for police," explains Mack.

"It is important to tell kids at an early age to stay away from alcohol. It may be working because the stats all show a decline in alcohol use by teens. I work with kids to save them.

"I take the alcohol-related traffic fatalities of young people personally. Alcohol has taken kids out there and maimed them, paralyzed them. The message I convey to

them is that alcohol is bad – period. They may not be around until 21 or older when they can buy alcohol legally. There is proof that the mind deteriorates in young alcoholics," says Mack, who works closely with MADD and the agency's innovative Sober Truth underage initiative program.

Mack also developed the agency's binge drinking operation in 2000 which covers homecoming events each year at Bowling Green State University and The University of Toledo's student off-campus areas.

"I was a member of former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft's Ohio Team for the National Underage Drinking Prevention Conference in Washington, DC. It was held on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1-2 of 2005, and was hosted by the US Department of Health and Human Services. During the conference, which included representatives from every state, we developed the Town Hall Meeting concept for each



Mack addresses youth group



Mack accompanies local law enforcement officials

state," recalls Mack.

"The Town Hall meetings addressed underage alcohol use, which included strategies to address alcohol advertisements. When we discussed the billions spent on advertisements and how to address this, one could detect the hesitation to address

this issue, which was danced around, if I may say that. Alcohol use in the United States is such an acceptable social behavior that we shy away from totally committing to the problem while our kids are killing themselves and others; while thou

(Continued on Page 11)

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Mack conducts youth workshop

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Business Ownership, The Last Frontier, Empowering our Community Through Life Insurance Ownership

By Vince Davis
State Farm Insurance Agent

We could empower our community for generations by carrying life insurance. The younger you buy it, the cheaper it is. At a \$250,000 Universal Life Insurance policy on an infant will cost about \$55.00 per month.

Why take so much out so early

• **You lock in their age.** (they will never be able to buy it cheaper) Insurance rates are based on your age and health when you get it. Permanent insurance stays the same price and coverage for as long as you pay on it.

• **You lock in their insurability.** You can't wait until someone needs it to get it. Insurance must be purchased prior to an illness and before the claim occurs

In most cases we barely have enough insurance to bury us. We abscond on our family by leaving them with nothing. That is no way to treat your kids. We are responsible to our children, for good, bad or dead.

Brothers sometimes tell me, "I do not want to get any insurance because my wife might be with another man after I die." That is selfish. If you are dead than make sure your family is O.K. Don't you want your women to be happy after you die? Statistics tell us that 75 percent of African-American women are without mates. Therefore your fear is unfounded in fact!

African-Americans do not live as long as whites. African-Americans do not enjoy as good of health as the majority community.

You will more than likely not be able to get insurance after your health starts getting bad. Insurance must be purchased before bad health sets in.

• Based on 1998 murder rates, approximately one in every 12 black 15-year-old males who live in Washington, D.C., can expect to be murdered before reaching age 45.

• For Brooklyn, the major urban community with the lowest 1998 homicide rates for young black males, roughly one in every 53 black 15-year-old males will die from homicide before reaching their 45th birthday.

• By contrast, based on the 1998 murder rates, the average 15-year-old U.S. male faces a very low one-in-185 probability of being murdered before reaching age 45. Nationally, a similarly aged black male faces an average probability of one in 45 that he will die from homicide before reaching age 45. An average white male faces a one-in-345 probability of being murdered before reaching age 45.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control, *Compressed Mortality Files* for 1991 and 1997.

2. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Program, Population Division, "Counties

Ranked by Black Population in 1998" (Table CO-98-16), September 15, 1999.

Our overall health makes insurance a good deal for us!

Health: A condition of optimal well-being. (Webster II New College Dictionary)

Disparity: A chain of events signified by a difference in (1) environment; (2) access to, utilization of, and quality of care; (3) health status; or (4) a particular health outcome that deserves scrutiny.

Cancer

• African-American males die of prostate cancer at twice the rate for whites.

• Fewer African-American women get breast cancer when compared to whites, but more die from it.

• More African-Americans are diagnosed with, and die from, cervical, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancer than whites.

Cardiovascular Disease

• Stroke is the fourth leading cause of African-American males deaths and the third leading cause for African-American females.

• Heart disease death rates are over 350 per 100,000 population for African-Americans compared to about 250 per 100,000 for whites.

• Approximately, 35 per-

cent of African-American females are at risk of heart disease, compared with 25 percent of whites.

"In many ways, Americans of all ages and in every race and ethnic groups have better health today than a decade ago yet considerable disparities remain. We should commit our nation to eliminate disparities in the next decade, for through prevention we can improve the health of all Americans."

– Former US Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher

Diabetes

• One in nine African-Americans has diabetes as compared to one in 14 whites.

• Although African-Americans comprise only 14 percent of the population they account for about:

*19 percent of all people with diabetes

*34 percent of all people with kidney disease

*46 percent of all people on kidney dialysis

HIV

While African-Americans comprise 14 percent of the population, they account for about 60 percent of those living with HIV.

• Two out of every four men and almost three out of every four women with HIV or AIDS are African-American.

• One in 99 African-American men and one in 276 African-American women are living with HIV/AIDS.

• The HIV prevalence rate for African-Americans is nine times higher than that for whites.

"The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

– Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Infant Mortality

• African-American infant deaths occur nearly three times more often than white infant deaths.

Life Expectancy

• White males live an av-



erage of seven-and-a-half years longer than African-American males.

• White females live over five-and-a-half years longer than African-American females.

• 40 percent of African-American males do not reach the age of 65.

"The moral test of government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick the needy and the handicapped."

– Hubert H. Humphrey

Lifestyle

• Among children age 12-19

*One in five African-American boys are overweight compared

to almost one in eight whites

*Almost one in four African-American girls are overweight compared to one in eight whites

• Almost one out of every three African-American adults are considered obese compared to one out of every four whites.

• A greater percentage of adult African-Americans have inadequate physical activity compared to whites (64 percent versus 51 percent in 2003).

• More than one in five adult African-Americans is a smoker.

Ed. Note: Vince Davis is the owner of Vince Davis State Farm Insurance at Cherry and Bancroft. Call (419) 244-2904 or e-mail vince.davis.bun1@statefarm.com

Yummies Too

On March 9, 2007 allegations about Yummies Too, at 801 Nebraska were raised and it was raided by people who say they have the public's interest at heart. This is **NOT** true! Those who know Yummies, the owners and the people that work there know these allegations are **NOT** true. We ask you to support us at a time when all of our basic rights are being tampered with. The media is continually reporting allegations that are **NOT** true and continuing to slander our name and business. We have done nothing but help the neighborhood to flourish. For some reason, someone or some group of people are trying to try and convict through the media. Yes! A plane crash or a fatal accident is breaking news, but alleged one sided truths with no proof is not breaking news. Again, this is their way of using one of the most powerful tools they have, the media, against us to assure that the outcome is in their favor. Who will stand for the little guy? We have to stand up for each other but it is difficult because we have neither the money nor the resources to fight an enemy we can't even see. Truth will always prevail, but when one man's truth is another man's lie, all we have is our faith.

Bless you, Thank You,
Yummies Too



How Much Life Insurance Do You Need?

By Kevin S. McQueen, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network

Here's a reliable rule-of-thumb when it comes to buying the right amount of life insurance: there is none. While it's easy for some so-called "experts" to say everybody needs life insurance protection equal to 10 or 20 times their income, the truth is everyone's situation is unique and the amount you need can only be determined by looking at your individual circumstances.

Having the wrong amount of life insurance can be devastating for your survivors and "one-size-fits-all" recommendations can leave you under protected. In fact, according to a 2004 report by the life insurance industry's research association LIMRA International, the average person is underinsured by more than \$300,000. The study also found that 45 percent of widows (35 percent of widowers) say their spouse was inadequately insured. And one to two years after the death, half the widows and one third of the widowers are just getting by financially. (LIMRA International - FastFacts - Special Edition August 2004)

As you try to decide how much life insurance you need to reach your personal and financial goals, there are many questions you need to ask yourself. Here are just a few:

- Is it important to ensure that your survivors—whether they are parents, siblings, spouses, or children—can take care of their financial obligations after you're gone?

- Do you want to make sure those who depend on your income and support have the means to maintain their current standard of living?

- Is it important for you to make certain your children will have the money to pay for a quality education even if you are not around?

- How will your spouse cope with your death? Will he or she need to take time off to grieve after your death? Will he or she need assistance around your home? Will your spouse need counseling to recover?

- Will estate taxes be an issue? Add up the value of your home, cars, investments, pension, 401(k), life insurance proceeds and other assets. If the total exceeds the lifetime exclusion

amount, your estate may be subject to estate taxes. Life insurance can help replace assets that may be lost to taxation.

Once you have determined your goals, there are many other factors that will have an impact on the amount of life insurance you need. Here are 10 of them:

1. Age and number of family members
2. Blended families
3. Risk tolerance/investment objectives
4. Existing planning, savings, life insurance, investments, retirement programs or other assets
5. Current and expected income
6. Estate tax liability (current and expected)
7. Current health
8. Children with special needs
9. Expected inheritance
10. Budget

While this is not a complete list, it gives you an idea of the considerations that should be included in proper life insurance planning. The impact of these factors should also be measured in relation to each other.

Because there are so many considerations and everyone's situation is unique, answering the question of "how much do I need" is not always easy. Many people become overwhelmed and put-off buying any life insurance because they don't know how much or what kind they should have. Meeting with a trained financial professional who understands your individual needs and goals can help you determine the right amount that makes sense for you.

The bottom line is this: having or not having the right amount of life insurance when you die can have a dramatic impact on those who depend on you. It is a personal decision too important to rely on a "one-size-fits-all" recommendation. Don't make the mistake of having the right amount of life insurance...for someone else's circumstances.

Kevin S. McQueen is a Financial Representative with the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network based in Toledo, Ohio for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. To contact Kevin please call 419-407-8656 or email him at kevin.mcqueen@nmfn.com.

Life Insurance on Children? An Option Worth Exploring

By Kevin S. McQueen, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network

If you've ever been in the market for life insurance, you may have noticed everybody seems to have advice on the subject. One common recommendation from self-proclaimed financial "experts" is: Don't buy life insurance on children. As with most blanket financial recommendations, this one too has its shortcomings.

On the surface, it is easy to see why many kids don't have life insurance. After all, it is unlikely a child would have any dependants or be supporting anyone financially. Few things in life are more devastating to a family than the death of a child, and the mere thought of it can be more than many can handle. However, having the foresight to prepare for the worst is key in making it through such an unimaginable event.

Assuming the child lives into adulthood, several other reasons become evident as to why insuring a minor makes sense.

1. Ensuring Insurability. One of the most important reasons to insure a child is to guarantee he or she will be able to have life insurance as an adult, regardless of their future health or genetic blueprint. This is especially important when there is a family history of disease or illness or, in the case of adoption, where the family history may not be known. This is not as "unthinkable" as you may first expect.

Insuring your child while their general health is good is a sound idea. Should they develop a serious medical condition it may affect their ability to purchase life insurance in the future.

If the policy on the child includes an additional insurance rider, it guarantees the child the ability to buy more insurance as an adult. It also guarantees the premiums of the future policy will be based on the child's health classification at the time the original policy was issued, even if his or her health has worsened.

2. Covering Expenses. For many, the most obvious reason to insure a child is to cover the potential financial loss that would result at his or her death. While many think only of funeral and burial expenses, which can average between \$5,000 and \$10,000 or more depending on the type of arrangements, other payments such as outstanding medical bills or unexpected expenses can be significant. Many people don't think twice about purchasing insurance riders on wedding rings or other items valuing a few thousand dollars. Insurance on children is one

way to protect against the risk of an even greater financial loss.

Another reason to insure young children is if they are sure to have significant wealth in the future. More and more of these families are planning ahead by making certain the next generation has insurance in place to help pay any estate tax liability.

3. Helping to Cope with the Loss. Many bereaved families find comfort in providing a lasting remembrance of their child by making a substantial gift to charitable, educational or other organizations. Proceeds from a life insurance policy can even help surviving family members establish an ongoing memorial or scholarship fund in honor of the child. Family members can even seek counseling or take additional time away from work using those proceeds.

4. Building a Nest Egg. Assuming the child makes it to adulthood in perfect health, as many do, the cash value that accumulates in a permanent policy can be pretty signifi-

cant. For example, if a policy was issued by Northwestern Mutual on a healthy baby girl 18 years ago and the original face amount was \$100,000, the annual premium was \$519. Today, that policy's face amount would have grown to \$172,778 with a cash value of \$15,274. At a stage of life when potential college costs may be looming, a wedding may be in the works, or a first home purchase is pending, this potential financial resource could come in handy.

5. A Grandparent's Lasting Legacy. While parents of young children should consider all the points I have cited, grandparents often see that purchasing a policy for a grandchild can be the most lasting gift they can give. For all the reasons above, a grandparent can provide a big lift to the financial future of their grandchild that may outlive them.

While life insurance has always been a cost efficient way to provide the cash needed to pay estate taxes or other final expenses, buying a policy on a young child can save even



more money since premiums are lowest at early ages. Insurance on children is an affordable way to protect against financial loss unmatched by any other financial vehicle. As with all permanent insurance, the proceeds are typically income tax free and any cash value in the policy grows tax-deferred and may be used later, possibly qualifying for favorable tax treatment (see your tax professional for details).

So, despite the opinion of some, life insurance on children is a very viable solution for many families. When those children do survive all those bumps, bruises and growing pains on their way to adulthood, they'll have a step-up financially because someone gave some forethought to their financial futures when they couldn't even tie their own shoes.

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Having the Right Homeowners Insurance!!

By Odis McGee
Nationwide Insurance Agent

First and foremost, let's talk about Homeowners Insurance. Statistics show that 35 percent of Americans are under-insured. Unbelievable.

The largest and most important investment that a person or persons could make is in purchasing a home. What would you do if you lost that most precious investment in a catastrophic event? That is the question everyone should ask themselves, and ME!!!

Yep, that is where your insurance agent comes into play. Homeowners insurance is what you must have before you can close on that particular home you are purchasing, yet most people are unaware of the different types of policies you can purchase.

Here is your safe-haven. Make sure you request your policy has Replacement Cost Coverage! What is Re-

placement Cost Coverage you ask? Replacement cost insures your home for the amount of money it would cost to rebuild your house, in the event of a total loss.

So let's put this in perspective. You purchase a home for \$50,000. It is appraised for \$52,000. The bank is loaning you \$48,000 and you are putting down \$2000. The insurance agent (that's me!) takes pictures of your home ... measures your home ... takes into consideration if you have dry-wall, or plaster, how many bedrooms you have, if they have carpet or hardwood floors. (The real hardwood floors).

He checks to see if there is a basement, if it is finished or unfinished, if you have central air, and so forth. So now you see what goes into insuring a home properly. After all of the

particulars are complete, he then lets you know how much it would cost for replacement cost coverage. (The amount it cost to rebuild your home today in 2007).

Here's the kicker. You don't have to insure for the full amount to replace your home and, quite frankly, some insurance companies won't always offer you that option, although they should. Replacement costs can, especially in the central city, often outstrip the market value of a home.

For example, let's say that two similar homes, one in the central city and one in an outlying area, each were purchased for \$50,000 in 1990. Property values in the central city have not risen at the rate they have in the outlying area, so today, perhaps the home in the central city is worth \$60,000 and the one in the

outlying area is worth \$90,000. If you had insured your home merely for the market value, you would receive only \$60,000 if it were destroyed.

However, both homes cost the same amount to rebuild, location doesn't matter. And today, it might cost \$90,000 to rebuild, meaning that you will have to put up the additional \$30,000 if you choose to remain in the same place. If the home at been insured for the replacement cost,

The final decision is yours and rest solely with you. It is our job to let you know that you have choices. The wisest choice for a person to make is to choose replacement cost coverage. For more information on GREAT HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE, please call me Odis McGee III @ 419-578-2014 and remember Nationwide Is On Your Side.

Odis McGee, a 14-year



veteran of the insurance business is an independent agent and owner. McGee has two Nationwide offices: 570 N. Byrne and 2475 Collingwood. He can also be contacted at MCGEE01@nationwide.com

Renters Insurance: Why You Need It

By Romie Brown
State Farm® Agent

There are two big myths about renters insurance. One is that it's too expensive and the other is that it's not needed.

Not having renters insurance is a pretty big gamble considering that without it, you face the cost of replacing your personal belongings after an event such as fire or theft. What's more, you could face the prospect of defending yourself in a lawsuit because of some accident for which you might be held legally responsible, whether it happened where you live or elsewhere.

In many cases, for less than a couple hundred dollars a year you can protect your valuables, like your furniture and clothes, from loss by fire, theft, wind and water damage or other covered hazards.

But many renters still don't believe they need such insurance. A survey conducted by Cambridge Reports, Inc. for the Insurance Information Institute found that fewer than three out of every 10 renters purchase renters insurance.

Many renters mistakenly believe their landlord's insurance will cover their own belongings. In fact, it would be extremely rare for a landlord's policy to extend to tenants' property.

To determine how much insurance coverage you'll need, take a complete inventory of your personal items. An insurance agent can help with this by estimating the total value of your property.

You'll also need to decide whether to opt for depreciated or limited replacement cost coverage.

Depreciated coverage is the cost to repair or replace your belongings minus depreciation. Let's say you bought a quality sofa with an expected useful life of 10 years. If it's now five years old and would cost about \$1,000 to replace, you could expect to receive about \$500 (less deductible) if your sofa was destroyed by fire. You would pay slightly more for limited replacement cost coverage, but you could expect to receive \$1,000 for your sofa minus your deductible.

You should also keep in mind that insurance coverage for some types of personal property is limited in



terms of dollars. Renters insurance also gives you personal legal liability coverage and medical payments to others who are accidentally injured while in your home or apartment or elsewhere if the injuries are caused by your actions. And, if you are forced to live elsewhere because of damage to your residence due to a covered loss, renters insurance covers additional living expenses.

Remember, you may not own the building in which you live, but you still need to have insurance to protect your property in the case of fire, theft or other hazards.

Romie Brown, Agent
State Farm Insurance

Romie is owner of the Romie Brown State Farm Insurance Agency and specializes in Auto, Fire, Life, and Health Insurance. Contact him at (419) 480-1212 or by e-mail at romie.brown.le1r@statefarm.com

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Paul Hubbard with store manager, Brenda Cope

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Protect Your Heirs and Pass Wealth Along for the Next Generations

By Floyd Carter
All State Insurance Agent

I cannot stress enough how important it is to have a strategy in place to protect your heirs.

Over a lifetime, property is accumulated by individual earning power. You are, in effect, creating assets and property. For most of us, income increases and, as income increases, we buy bigger homes, we invest in stocks and bonds and other instruments that reflect our increased earnings.

The benefit of these assets, other than giving us a certain amount of pride, is the fact that we can help to provide for the well being of our loved ones. So leaving a tangible legacy for survivors is a concept we need to wrap our minds around.

Often, accumulating property is not as difficult as disposing of that property if that disposal is not planned for ahead of time. Think, for example, of the well-publicized case of Elvis Presley—who was worth millions. There was no strategy for the disposal of his property when he died of a premature and untimely death. In order for his estate to remain solvent, his home, Gracie Mansion, has to play hosts to thousands of tourists each year.

So we have to give some thought as to how our estate is going to be passed along to our heirs. If you die without a will—intestate—most of the time your property is not going to be passed di-

rectly to your heirs, it will go into temporary receivership and then passed to the probate court. The court is going to review debts against the estate and the various other claims that many other entities may make. That stays open in some states for as long as two years... if precautions have not been taken.

Unfortunately, the frequency of that happening in the black community is higher than that for most others.

And, as I'm sure you realize, dying without a plan means that so many times the remaining family members become involved and a great deal of will is created as a result.

In an effort to prevent all of that, it is necessary to have a systematic way of passing along property. When a person dies there are several ways to accomplish this, but the key is to plan in advance, generally with a will or a trust.

Joint ownership is another common way... joint tenancy, appointing an executor, or, as I said earlier, establishing a trust. Trusts are flexible and with them you can manage property, coordinate financial vehicles such as insurance policies and so forth.

So how do you take that step to make sure your loved ones are protected?

You contact an insurance agent/personal financial representative. What you want to do is structure an estate plan, which is the arrangement for the orderly distribution of assets upon death—in



accordance with the owner's wishes.

All of this could be no more complicated than a simple will and life insurance settlement options. On the other hand, depending upon the assets involved or how they are to be handled and disbursed, it may be extremely complicated and involve the integration of trusts, will provisions, stocks, gifts and other matters. That may need a team effort of attorneys and trust officers. Agents such as myself work with a team of such experts.

The key thing is—waste no more time. Whether you have a lot of assets or just a few, the orderly disbursement of your property will save your loved ones a great deal of trouble and may very well ease their burdens as they move on in their lives, thus creating a rippling effect of increasing and maintaining wealth for generations to come.

Floyd Carter is an independent agent and owner of the Floyd Carter All State Insurance Agency at 3113 Dustin Rd., Oregon. He may be contacted at 419-691-1200 or by emailing a062846@allstate.com.

How The Rich Get Richer

By Jan Scotland
State Farm Insurance Agent

Insurance is how the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. It is how people protect and transfer wealth. It is the difference in having a predictable financial future and shooting dice. It is a vehicle that our community does not utilize to its maximum benefit.

Let me give you three examples of what I am referring to.

Example one:

How many people do we know who have nice cars. They put a lot of time and money into these cars. They need their car to get to work, drop kids at school, pick up medicine etc. They may have five to ten thousand dollars invested in that car but no insurance. They have never had an accident so they figure that if someone hits them their car will be repaired with the other person's insurance.

Now comes a rainy day with an early frost causing black ice. They hit their brakes with plenty of distance between the car in front of them.

The car keeps going and slams into that car. People in both cars are injured, both cars are totaled and everyone goes to the hospital. No insurance means your license is automatically suspended. You have no transportation and no money to pay for a replacement car. You owe for the other person's car and medical bills and you probably owe at least a co-pay on your own medical bills. It will take you years in getting back to where you were before the accident.

Example two:

You have a beautiful

apartment in a nice secure building. You get your big screen TV your stereo equipment and leather furniture financed; your clothes are purchased over time at high quality establishments, not to mention the shoes. You have the best that money can buy.

You don't buy insurance cause it's too expensive and why have something you will never use. After all this is a secure building no one will be able to break in and that insurance money is a waste. One day you deep fry some fish and fall asleep on the couch. The grease fire burns your entire apartment and damages the units on either side. You escape with minor smoke inhalation but lose everything you had. The landlord goes after you for the damage to his building. The insurance companies for the units on either side attach your wages. You will have to find a place to live and buy new furniture and clothes.

Example three:

You are a good father and husband that have provided a nice place for your family to live. You have started a savings account for your kids education and you're your retirement. You have nice new cars to provide safe transportation for your family. You make enough money so your wife does not need to work. The insurance agent wants you to put money into a life insurance plan leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars to your wife and kids. You tell him no thanks you are going to have more money in savings in the next



20 years then he can provide in insurance. You're going to self-insure by putting that money into investments.

An accident at the job takes your life two weeks later. You have no more worries but your family is in pain. Your wife is in stress not just because of losing you but also because she can't see how she will maintain the lifestyle you created for them. They lose the house the cars and have to live with relatives as they struggle to survive.

These are situations that play out, in one form or another, every day in our community. The result is whatever wealth we have generated is lost or diminished and we start all over trying to put are lives together. Sometimes we never recover and often times it limits our future plans.

Insurance is the guardian of our wealth present and future. It allows us to push forward with our dreams while protecting what we have gained. It allows us to pass on our accomplishments to our loved ones and friends. It provides a new base for future generations to build on. If used responsibly, it is how you create a brighter future in your community.

Friendship New Vision Has the Vision to Effect Change

(Continued from Page 5)
organization—modeled after community development corporations (CDC)—is developing.

The tour stopped first at a rehabilitated house on Searles Street in Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown's district.

"There are so many that need to be rehabbed," said the councilwoman after a walk through of the house that has been made over by Harris Construction, a minority-owned residential construction and rehab firm. "The more that are completed, the better this community will be and we are on our way."

Then on to Councilman Michael Ashford's district

to view not only another rehab but also a vacant lot on which ground will be broken within months for a newly-constructed house.

Friendship New Vision is the brainchild of Bishop

Tisdale, and he is assisted in his task by a number of associates including realtor Tina Mesley of Danberry and Paul Tecpanecatl of Poggemeyer Design Group.

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-Tony Brown

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“Chicago” Brings Broadway Talent to Toledo

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

Imagine a live jazz band providing a musical backdrop for a melodrama about murder, adultery and all the stuff we love to read about in the tabloids.

Anyone lucky enough to see “Chicago” during its recent run here saw a Broadway show stripped down to the bare bones. There was none of the spectacle of “The Phantom of the Opera.” No amazing special effects or elaborate sets.

“Chicago’s” simple set was just risers where the band sat with an exit in the middle. Everything else was done with costumes and props. (I hope all the local dramatists who spend so much time changing sets between scenes saw “Chicago” and learned a thing or two about *real* theatre.)

This show didn’t need anything but the talents of its amazing stars, the music by Kander and Ebb and Bob Fosse’s choreography. Well, the latter was only used for one number, but all of the dancing hinted at the great choreographer’s style.

The cast was fantastic. First and foremost there was Michelle DeJean (“Roxie Hart”). She is what’s called in the biz a triple threat, meaning she can act, sing and dance. Can she! Her voice was the strongest in the show and although her co-star Terra C. MacLeod (“Velma Kelly”) had the dancing role, DeJean held her own, executing some pretty tricky choreography.

Her acting was great, too, because she did it like she did

everything else, with such ease and naturalness, it didn’t seem forced. But DeJean is not a triple threat, she’s a quadruple threat. Not only can she sing, dance and act, she also does pratfalls like a modern day Lucille Ball. Her red hair inspired this comparison, in part, but DeJean has Ball’s comic timing, as well.

Also notable among the stars was the surprise performer in the role of “Billy Flynn,” the shady lawyer. Tom Wopat took a turn as “Special Guest Star” in the “Flynn” role, much to the delight of Toledo audiences. His rich baritone and his effortless characterization of “Flynn” was one of the four stand-out roles in the show.

The third was Carol Woods (“Matron Mama Morton”). When she walked onstage and belted out “When You’re Good to Mama” as only an African-American who gother start singing in church can do, the crowd went wild. Her duet with “Velma” was the best singing duo in the show, as well.

The fourth stand-out performance was Kevin Carolan (“Amos Hart”) singing one of the all-time favorite show tunes, “Mr. Cellophane.”

The script is by Ebb and Fosse and the music and lyrics of the show pay homage to Old Chicago with a plot that doesn’t take itself or its subject matter (celebrity criminals) too seriously.

Predating current “crimes of the century” and the sensationalizing of the Simpson trial or Brad Pitt breaking up with Jennifer Aniston to get with

Angelina Jolie or the fight over Anna Nicole Smith’s remains, this tale of murder and mayhem and the ensuing media blitz makes today’s headlines look tame by comparison.

Even before Whitney and Bobby fizzled out, “Chicago” showed how abruptly celebrity can dissolve as newer, more sensational events make the headlines. But enough about the sociology of fame and such nonsense! “Chicago” is musical comedy at its most tawdry, tantalizing and titillating.

Perhaps the funniest bit of business in the whole show is the courtroom drama, played completely for laughs. A scene-stealer from the chorus played every member of the jury, moving from character to character as he moved from seat to seat in the jury box in a parade of comic turns that were so hysterical, I don’t even remember what else was happening on stage at the time.

While much of the dialog is full of double entendres and sexual innuendo, it’s not overdone because, like the modern versions of “Roxie” and “Hart” (think Britney Spears and Paris Hilton), these two are all about getting their 15 minutes and little more; everything else is just a means to that end.

That’s what makes “Chicago” such a great show. It’s all about how fleeting fame is, how fickle the media is and what great fun it is to watch it all happen.

Earl D. Mack, Jr.

(Continued from Page 6)

sons are injured each year.

“Until we address changing attitudes towards using alcohol as a whole, the advertisement of alcohol and making furnishing and/or selling alcohol to minors a felony, the problem will only increase,” says Mack.

He sees parental involvement as crucial. “Parents help save kids. I stayed in my daughter’s business. I have a big nose and it was always there in knowing where and with whom she was going. My advice to parents is to stick your nose in their business,” says Mack.

His daughter, Armea Lynn, is now a student at a Tuskegee Alabama veterinary medicine school at the age of 36. “She originally went to Kent State, and she wanted to follow her dream,” says her proud father.

His wife, Annette R. Mack, is a medical transcriptionist.

Mack was born in Toledo’s old Maumee Valley Hospital, the son of Earl D. Mack, Sr. and Willa Mae Mack. His father is deceased, but his mother still lives in Toledo.

“As a child, I watched my father struggle with all the adversities he faced in the music industry. He was a union musician with the Toledo Federation of Musicians. My father played an alto saxophone for large bands such as the Duke Ellington and the Tommy Dorsey orchestras. As I watched him struggle with the effects of racism, he dedicated himself to be the best he could be. My father always told me to be the best at what I wanted to do and never depend on someone to give you anything you do not earn. That stayed with me, even today,” says Mack, who for

a short time pursued a musical career as a drummer with a popular gospel group.

“My grandfather, Howard Johnson, owned a 17-acre farm on Frankfort Road, in Spencer Township. Farming was hard work in those days. A lot was done by hand. I know, because I helped work his farm. Working his farm provided a great work ethic. When I was not in school, I stayed for many days with my grandfather and helped on the farm as well as working on his vegetable truck throughout the city of Toledo. He always told me, ‘if you don’t work you don’t eat.’

“My uncle, William Johnson, was the warden of the Lima Correctional Center. I remember him always coming to Toledo to visit us and providing food, clothes and money to my mother to help take care of the family after my father became sick and was taken out of our home. I had two sisters and six brothers. My uncle demonstrated kindness and care for others, which was instilled in me. He was my inspiration to pursue a career in law enforcement,” says Mack.

“There are two people I must mention that were a significant part of my life. One was James Russell who owned Russell’s Tire Service that was located off Canton in Toledo. Mr. Russell gave me my first job at the age of nine sweeping the floors and cleaning the office of his shop. It was significant because it also helped to instill a strong work ethic at an early age. Mr. Russell was a significant mentor in my life and he took up the slack of not having my father at that early age. I worked for Mr. Russell up

through high school as one of the tire repair persons for his company. Mr. Russell taught me how to drive a car and bought me my first car, a 1959 Pontiac, when I was 16. He also taught me compassion for those less fortunate than I and how we truly are our brother’s keeper.

“The other individual is William Harris. Bill, if you remember, was a news reporter for TV-13. Bill married my sister, Mary Harris, who unfortunately died in 1996. Bill also played a significant role in my upbringing. One thing I will always remember is after a bird dropping fell on my head, Bill asked me, ‘Aren’t you glad that cows don’t fly?’ He is also one of my mentors,” says Mack.

Educated in the Toledo public school system, Mack attended Libbey High School and graduated from Scott. He served in the US Army during 1970-71.

Mack’s job requires long hours, often working on weekends, appearing and testifying in courtrooms, and sometimes even spending a lot of time in bars, although usually in disguise. “You’d be amazed what you can do with a little cotton in your mouth,” says Mack, whose disguises have also included wearing dreadlocks, curly hair and glasses.

Mack is president of the African American Law Enforcement Agents’ Association, Inc.

He has developed their highly-regarded scholarship program.

“Two African-American agents have died on the job. James D. Burns was killed by another officer and Leroy Ewing died of a heart attack,” says Mack.

He is preparing for the AALEAA annual dinner to be held on May 12.

Mack is currently an Instructor at the Owens College Law Enforcement Training Center. In cooperation with the FBI, he recently presented a workshop “Homeland Security, Safe and Secure” which was sponsored by the Cleveland Urban League.

On March 22, Mack will be at Mon Ami on Catawba Island for the Catawba Women’s Lunch Bunch Association. “I will be presenting information on personal safety to seniors, demonstrating how to create an emergency disaster kit and developing a family disaster plan,” promises Mack.



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Compete Against the Best!

Here is an opportunity to compete in the 2007 local ACT-SO competition sponsored by the Toledo Branch NAACP.

The competition takes place on Sunday, April 29 at The University of Toledo Student Union. As always, we are looking for talented African-American students throughout the Toledo area to showcase their special skills beyond athletics and "Win the Gold" in something that will last a lifetime.

First place winners get an expense-paid trip to Detroit in July to compete in

the ACT-SO national competition. ACT-SO stands for Academic, Cultural, Technical and Scientific Olympics. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be given for the participants projects, judged by some of the leading figures in their fields.

You will be eligible for scholarship money, community recognition and other prizes for your hard work. ACT-SO is looking for the best... that's what led them to you. Are you ready to accept the invitation and the challenge?

If you would like to learn more, call 419-243-7349 or



Loganne Bond in 2006

attend the orientation session at the Kent Branch Library on Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

YSU Appoints New Director Of Equal Opportunity

Special to The Truth

Yulanda L. McCarty-Harris of Toledo has been appointed the new director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at Youngstown State University.

McCarty-Harris, who has a law degree and is currently the procurement administrator for Lucas County Jobs and Family Services in Toledo, succeeds Jimmy Myers, who resigned to take a similar position at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in July.

Since then, Steve Lucivjansky, manager of labor relations, has served as interim director and will continue to do so until McCarty-Harris starts the new position on April 2.

Joseph Mosca, chairman of the YSU Department of Social Work, served as chairman of the 10-member search committee for the position. He said nearly 40 people applied for the job. Mosca also said the committee began looking at candidates in October, conducted five phone interviews and brought three people to campus in January for interviews.

"Ms. McCarty-Harris' understanding of the law was a strong aspect of her credentials," he said, noting the search committee provided President Sweet with an evaluation of each candidate, and Sweet made the final decision to ask McCarty-Harris to lead the YSU office.

McCarty-Harris, who is



Yulanda McCarty-Harris and friends

licensed to practice law in Ohio and Texas, was a senior prosecuting attorney and a senior labor and employment attorney for the city of Toledo and an associate at the firm Rohrbachers, Light, Cron, Zmuda and Trimble, also in Toledo.

"I am looking forward to working with the university and community," she said. "We all share a common goal and that is to educate our leaders of tomorrow."

McCarty-Harris graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law in Dallas in 1998. She moved to Toledo two years later with her husband.

After a stint with a private law firm, she worked as a prosecutor and a labor and employment attorney for the city of Toledo. She continued to serve the public by working in various capacities for the city, as manager of administrative services, director of affirmative action, and finally, procurement administrator.

"It's amazing how the

law affects every aspect of our lives, and I have used my legal career to my advantage in various roles in my career," said McCarty-Harris, whose undergraduate degree from the University of Texas is in journalism. "At YSU, my legal experience will help me make sure people understand the laws, rules and regulations of equal opportunity."

She and her husband plan to relocate to Boardman.

She has been very active in the Toledo community and with the legal bar association. McCarty-Harris has served as the chair of the Toledo Zoo's Diversity Committee, secretary of Toledo Bar Association Diversity Committee, the Toledo Bar Association Grievance and Media Law Committee and a board member of Toledo Legal Aid.

"I look forward to working in the community and ensuring that the voice of YSU is heard and that all citizens feel equally valued and accepted," she said.

Calling All Youth



United Way of Greater Toledo is pleased to announce Youth United Way. Youth United Way is a new program designed specifically for youth ages 14 to 24 and provides hands on experience in service projects in the Toledo community.

This program will teach youth the importance of service and philanthropy, by allowing youth to create and develop service projects to implement the change they want to see. Youth United Way aims to challenge traditional perceptions of young people; to transform assumptions of passivity and incompetence to initiative and capability.

The first step and an integral part of jumpstarting this program is to select and train a group of team leaders. Team leaders are college students who will serve as guides, facilitators and mentors to high school ambassadors.

Team leaders should exhibit strong leadership skills and possess a commitment to campus and community involvement and service. Candidates must also commit to between three and five activities in Toledo over the summer and to serving as a United Way Youth Team Leader for a one year period.

Applications for team leaders are now available at www.unitedwaytoledo.org/youth or by calling Greg Braylock at 419-254-4645. Based on the application and an interview, United Way will select approximately 30 college students to be trained as team leaders. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 30, 2007.

Applications for high school ambassadors are not yet available.

Scott High School Alumni Association Presents a Scholarship Reunion Dance

The Scott High School Alumni Association is having a Scholarship Reunion Dance on Saturday, April 14, 2007 in the Civic Center Promenade Hall at the Erie Street

Market, Downtown Toledo. The dance will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

This event was planned to raise funds for a student

scholarship for a Scott High School graduate. This is also a chance for all Scott alumni to reunite with each other on this special occasion.

(Continued on Page 14)

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In the Matter of Affirmative Action and Justice

(Continued from Page 4)

comply with the Mayor's Executive Order concerning disadvantaged businesses. The Office also ensures the promulgation and dissemination of the City's Affirmative Action Plan. Annual hiring and promotional goals are established for City departments and divisions in an effort to maintain equal employment hiring, placement and promotions so that protected class individuals are appropriately represented throughout the municipal work force."

Our city charter does not allow for changes in the Affirmative Action Office's work or its composition without the approval of the City Council. Even though we have a "strong mayor" system of government here in Toledo, the office of the mayor and the mayor himself may not change anything about the work of the office. S/He only has the power to appoint/hire the director. However, our present mayor, Carty Finkbeiner is proposing a change that would be not only detrimental but unconscionable. Under his plan, the two offices, Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance would be divided and placed in two separate departments. These offices must stay together if the citizens of this community are to be assured that fairness will be the order of the day within City government *and* in the granting and handling of contracts with outside contractors. There have been many cases over the years of contracts being let for services in our city where adequate notice or advertising for minority or women-owned businesses to have the opportunity to bid

was not given. And even when bids were received from these groups, they were passed over for other, larger or more recognized businesses. It has only been through the work of the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance office that justice for those minority and women-owned businesses has been assured.

It is imperative that these two offices stay intact, and that they remain separated from Human Resources or any other city office or department. Remaining autonomous from "business as usual" in the city government, any city government, is the only way that fair decisions even have a chance of being the norm, and not the exception.

It's time we stopped talking about personalities and began talking about the issue. That issue is justice for *all* workers, but particularly for those who are underserved, overlooked, unprotected and often discriminated against. The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance stands with the city charter and with the community in calling for the offices to remain together, for our mayor to follow the city charter and ordinances, and to do what's right.

Let's remain a city that values everyone. Let's show our own citizens and those who may be looking to do business here in the future that we believe in the dignity and worth of all individuals and the necessity for all to have a fair opportunity to succeed.

Cedric Brock, President, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

Reel Review

I Think I Love My Wife

Chris Rock, Kerry Washington, Gina Torres

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Funny how The Cosby Show gave so many of us an impression of what married life would be like and we bought into it. Hell, I have to admit that I still find myself clinging to hopes of a fairytale that all my friends who are married insist does not exist.

Truth is, plenty of married folks seem to have a disenchanting view of marriage. And since I've been in my late 20's I've noticed how much dirt married people do and it's enough to sicken most of us who still have an untainted view on matrimony.

But somewhere between bliss and Jerry Springer is where most married couples tend to reside.

Chris Rock has been the spokesperson for this phenomenon for the last few years via his stand-up comedy specials. Any Chris Rock fan has got to know about "the big piece of chicken" and his other jokes about the ins and outs of family life.

Even though his popularity may have waned over recent years with people like Katt Williams becoming the go-to comedian for Black America, Chris Rock is one of the most successful black actor/comedians ever. But unlike most Saturday Night Live alums, his transition to the big screen has been a bit more problematic whenever he steps behind the camera to produce, write or direct.

I loved *Head of State* with Bernie Mac, I thought it was hilarious and even more meaningful because it em-

bodied much of his anti-government stance from his stand-up routine.

I thought *Down To Earth* was pretty funny, but not one of his best even though it had all the makings of a typical hit comedy film.

And his first shot at writing was *CB4*, a cult classic that is still one of his funniest films to date.

However, as producer/screenwriter/writer or director of all the above films, he's suffered the agony of having his pet projects perform badly at the box office.

But Hollywood is especially kind to anyone who's hosted The Oscars to rave reviews which means that Chris Rock gets yet another one of his films off the ground and another chance to iterate the poignant humor of his comedic style.

I Think I Love My Wife is based on that part of his stand up routine that deals with how some people handle the complexities of marriage. Okay, let's be honest - it's not that complex.

Married people are boring. If you've seen Chris Rock's HBO Comedy Special *Bigger and Blacker*, you've heard his remarks about how the transition from single life to married life affects males.

One minute you're a free man doing freaky things with freaky girls, staying out all night, eating what you want to eat and doing as you please and then you get married and you're forced to be civilized - LOL.

Now that's paraphrasing Chris Rock's stance, that's not about me.

When I want to see this on a Saturday night, it was plain to see that more than a few husbands and boyfriends were getting in all kinds of trouble for agreeing to strongly with some of what unfolded onscreen.

From the previews, I thought *I Think I Love My Wife* was going to be more of a loose comedy with him getting into various situations where his libido and wandering eye gets him trouble at home.

However, there's a solid plot that doesn't really evolve into a story line but serves as a series of situations that con-



vey his major point about how married life can suck the life out of a person.

Chris plays Richard Cooper, a Wall Street banker married to a beautiful woman... Brenda Cooper (Gina Torres).

They have two kids, a nice house and a nice quaint little life that has started to stifle Richard more than he's even aware of. He and his wife don't have sex and all she seems to want to talk about is decorations for the home. Now, I've never been married, but I sincerely hope that Chris Rock didn't hit that particular nail on the head. I wouldn't know what to do with myself if the person I shared a bed with seemed like the only interest they had in life is constantly renovating some part of the house. How much HGTV can a person really watch? But in the case of the Cooper family, the hubby is bored out of his mind.

All of a sudden, everything goes haywire when an old friend comes back into Richard's life.

Nikki Tru (Kerry Washington) reminds me of many of the women I know around Toledo.

From close friends I've had to casual acquaintances, this character represents an archetype of the modern woman I've become all too familiar with over the years.

Nikki is sexy, but she's well aware of it and all too comfortable with using it to her advantage.

Nikki is non-committal, basically what most folks call "just out for a good time."

Nikki makes bad choices in men that she routinely needs to be rescued from in some shape, form or fashion.

This part of the film was especially real for me because I've had friends like that and for Richard Cooper, this old chum of his brings some excitement to his

world. She shows up at his office unannounced. She wears provocative clothing with all types of skin and curves showing. She smokes, curses like a sailor and always has a handy tale of how her still-single life is so satisfying. She also knows Richard well enough that she can see the underlying problems in his marriage.

So there's the issue. Marriage isn't exactly exciting anymore.

Re-entry of sexy old friend *is* exciting.

Richard knows that family comes first, but he's struggling to maintain that priority.

Meanwhile, he's being influenced by a co-worker who routinely cheats on his wife and thinks nothing of it.

The situations that arise out of this interesting mix of conflicts are amusing, but I don't exactly feel like the rest of the crowd was able to adapt to the humor.

For one, it seems like a nice, neat comedy. However, it is a Chris Rock film so there's going to be gratuitous use of profanity.

Some of the jokes just feel flat.

But I think this film was among the best this year so far.

You've got Tyler Perry and Eddie Murphy already locking down the box office so Black Hollywood is getting some serious shine right now.

Chris Rock has delivered a smart and edgy comedy that begs to be seen and discussed.

The jokes could've been better though... this is Chris Rock, after all.

The true grade for *I Think I Love My Wife* is B-

P.S. - you've NEVER seen Kerry Washington like this.

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Just Don't Count Our Vote ... Be Counted

(Continued from Page 3)

council or in the mayor's seat has given consistent voice to affirmative action and discrimination issues in city government.

Despite numerous discrimination suits against the city, no one has championed the cause to follow up and deal with the administrators involved. They seem to be more concerned about what their other constituents think. After all the black vote isn't going anywhere so no need to do anything rash.

This brings me to my good friend Perlean Griffin. I have known Perlean for over 20 years. She is a hard working, fair and

tireless advocate for the workers of Toledo. She is professional and effective and has always been respected by those whom she has had to challenge. Her job quite often puts her at odds with her fellow administrators, but Perlean has always focused on the job at hand and not on whether people say good morning to her in the elevator. Carly picked the right person as director of the office of Affirmative Action/ Contract Compliance (AA/CC). He should have left well enough alone.

In order for the office of AA/CC to be effective, it must stay independent of the Department of Human

Resources (HR) and have the status of reporting directly to the mayor. The mayor must support the efforts of the office and make it clear to his administration that they had better react responsibly to complaints. He needs to fix the legitimate problems pointed out by the office.

Making the AA/CC office part of HR is a ridiculous idea that should not receive serious consideration. To the extent that there isn't a louder cry from all of the Democrats on council may be another indication of the lack of respect for the black vote. There can be no more blatant disregard for our sup-

port than standing by while one of our brightest long-time champions in the city is compelled to resign over an issue on which she is clearly right. Republicans must also stand up for what is right.

You don't need hearings or surveys to determine what needs to be done. You need to make sure that the AA/CC office stays independent. You need to make sure that a strong leader like Perlean stays at the helm. You need to draw the line in the sand. If not the black community needs to ask Democrats "why should we vote for you?"

Scott High School Alumni Association Presents a Scholarship Reunion Dance

(Continued from Page 12)

Scott High School was named after Jesup W. Scott, editor of the Toledo Blade from 1844-1847, who was a humanitarian, entrepreneur and renowned community leader who envisioned Toledo as the "Future Great City of the World." Reorga-

nizing in Spring of 2005, the Jesup W. Scott High School Alumni Association is a non profit organization, whose goal is to establish a connection with alumni and friends of Scott and the Scott community, through programs and scholarships.

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Executive Director is sought for Toledo Area Ministries, a ministry of 125 congregations whose mission is to be the Church in the World, Assisting Congregations and Church Leadership in Meeting Human Need, Creating Community and Working for Justice. For information and application go to www.tamohio.org.

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EOE

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For a complete position description, minimum qualifications, and application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and click Search Posting. Under Requisition Number, type 326733 and click search. To assure consideration, applications must be received online no later than April 1, 2007. To build a diverse work force, Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans and women.

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Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Staff Attorney position. Will prepare and present agency court cases and provide legal research, advice and consultation. Ohio law license and notary required. Experience in juvenile law-related cases desirable. Must be able to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. Additional requirements can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. Send resume by 4/13/07 to LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 (Fax: 419-327-3291) EOE valuing diversity.

Certified high school teachers sought to teach English, Math Science, Social Science (MUST BE certified) and/or **Foreign Language** subjects for the Upward Bound Summer Residential Program, June 18- July 21, 2007. Approximately 15 hours per week, \$20/hour (hours vary per subject).

Submit letter of interest, resume and certification to UT Upward Bound Program, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Mail Stop #407, Toledo, OH 43606 or via email RE: UB Summer Position to progers@utoledo.edu by May 25, 2007.

For more information call (419) 530-3811.

Who Are Toledo's Best Dressed Women?

We promised you this one way back in the fall when we looked for Toledo's Best Dressed Men. The announcement will come in May with a little help from our sponsors.

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Full-time administrative staff position. Administrative Grade Level 13. Minimum Salary \$34,491. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Full benefit package available. To apply: submit cover letter with e-mail address, resume, and names/ addresses /telephone numbers of 3 professional references postmarked by Friday, March 30, 2007 to Ofc. of Human Resources (Search L-60724), 100 College Park Ofc. Bldg., Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201. (419) 372-8421. (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr>)

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Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's of Science in Nursing plus one year of experience practicing as a Registered Nurse or Bachelor's degree plus RN plus one year of experience or Associates degree plus RN plus 5 years experience. License to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Ohio and CPR certification required.

Preferred qualifications include: Certification as a college health nurse; 2-3 years experience in outpatient, emergency, urgent care or primary care setting. One year experience in the following areas: in student/university health care setting; experience with networked clinical information systems and/or electronic medical records. Ambulatory, emergency or med/surg experience preferred.

Full-time administrative staff position 10 month (217 days/12 month). Administrative grade level 14. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Submit cover letter w/ email address, resume, and names/addresses/ telephone numbers of three professional references postmarked by Friday, March 30, 2007 to: Ofc. of Human Resources (Search L-60721), 100 College Park Ofc. Bldg., Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201. (419) 372-8421. (www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr)

BGSU is an AA/EO educator/employer.

Free Financial Seminars Help Families Plan, Save and Learn to Afford Catholic Education

Special to The Truth

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Toledo will host free financial planning seminars for families in the Toledo area. The seminars will offer families guidance for planning, saving and affording Catholic education from elementary school to college. Bill Harris, a financial advisor with Informative Financial Services and a registered representative with Mutual Services Corporation will present the workshops.



Bill Harris

Everyone who attends the seminar will receive two complementary financial consultations with Harris to help families find the right strategies to reach their financial goals.

All seminars will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Tuesday, March 20 – St. Joseph, Sylvania – 5411 Main Street, Sylvania

Wednesday, March 21 – Blessed Sacrament – 2216 Castlewood Drive

Thursday, March 22 – Central Catholic High School – 2550 Cherry Street

NOBMA Newsmaker Award Winners Announced

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Edna Brown and Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D., founder of the national organization Student African-American Brotherhood, are among the winners of this year's Impact Newsmaker Awards given annually by the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association.

Joining Brown and Bledsoe are Charles Cohen, president of the Toledo Minority Golf Association, and late educator Edrene Cole, who will be honored posthumously. The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio and the Toledo Museum of Art will also be honored.

NOBMA will present its Media Achievement Awards this year to Alexis Means, of WTVG-TV, Rhonda Sewell, of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and Shenikwa Stratford, of WNWO-TV.

The Impact Newsmaker Awards, voted on by the NOBMA membership, is given to individuals and groups who have made positive newsworthy accomplishments in the African-American community over the past year or for continued outstanding service.

These individuals and groups will be honored during the Impact Newsmaker Awards dinner on Friday, May 11, 6 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel-Westgate, 3536 Secor Road, in Toledo. For more information on tickets, please call 419-215-1087 or e-mail cl y d e 1 @ b u c k e y e - a c c e s s . c o m.

Brown is being honored for her stand and introducing legislation on teen dating violence. The legislation was developed after the 2005 death of Start High School cheerleader Shynerra Grant by her ex-boyfriend who later committed suicide. Brown was also recently elected second vice president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. Brown won an Impact Newsmaker Award in 1994 when she beat the odds to win a seat on Toledo City Council.

Bledsoe founded the Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB) to help develop leadership and other skills among African-American males in the college setting in hopes to turn around negative trends he saw while a college administrator at Georgia Southwestern State University in 1990. SAAB, which now has its national headquarters at the University of Toledo's Scott Park campus, has 70 chapters nationwide. Bledsoe has developed a pilot program in Toledo to now grow SAAB chapters in local high schools.

Cohen has spent years fostering golf among young African-Americans and other minorities. His annual TMGA Junior Invitational each year brings the best minority golfers from all over country to Toledo. In 2004, the TMGA was recognized by the U.S. Golf Association with a \$5,000 grant for Cohen to continue his work.

Cole was an educator and

administrator for Toledo Public Schools from 1955 to 1990, retiring as principal of Ottawa River Elementary School. She was a founder of the Toledo EXCEL program, which provided tutoring and enrichment experiences for talented minority high school students, and was former chair of the Toledo NAACP ACT-SO program. She was one of the first individuals to seriously document the history of African-Americans in Toledo through her master's thesis at the University of Toledo and was constantly looked to for historical references about blacks locally.

The African American Legacy Project, under the direction of Robert Smith, has dedicated its efforts in recording the African-American experience in Northwest Ohio since 2004. Recently, the organization forged a working relationship with The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for additional research and display of black history. The Toledo Museum of Art is being honored for its effort to recognize the Juneteenth celebration. The museum's Juneteenth program has quickly grown to the one of the largest celebrations recognizing the ending of slavery in northwest Ohio.

Alexis Means, a reporter for WTVG-TV, won the Ohio Associated Press award for spot news reporting last year

and has been active in various community organizations. Rhonda Sewell, a founding member of the NOBMA who wrote for The Blade for 18 years, helped the library win a Crystal Award in public relations her first year with the institution. Sewell has long been known for her community work with various organizations as her poetry events gives young poets a voice in the community. Her web site on African-American twins is becoming one of the most popular sites for black twins in the country.

Shenikwa Stratford, the evening anchor at WNWO-TV, made history this past year as the first African-American woman to anchor a weekly evening newscast in Toledo. She is also recognized throughout the community for her community involvement.

The Northwest Ohio Black Media Association, the Toledo-based affiliate of the National Association of Black Journalists, is made up of African-American communicators and supporters from throughout Northwest Ohio. NOBMA, through its programs, gives out scholarships and supports programs honoring excellence in the field, fostering relationships between the public and media, and advocate for fairness in the communication industry.

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My View...

Continued from page 3

the way, more taxpayers will opt to leave the city limits because it will be cheaper for them to live elsewhere. So, now you see the impact of the pension pickup that City Council voted for in 2006. It has devastated the finances of the City of Toledo.

Soon we will hear of plans to privatize garbage pickup and other city services. Count on more layoffs of city workers before the end of this calendar year.

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