

The Truth's 5th Anniversary



This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

In the wake of last week's senseless and tragic mass murder on the campus of the Virginia Tech campus, the debate was once again joined over gun control. Actually it wasn't much of a debate.

On the left, and among Democratic presidential candidates in particular, voices were noticeably muted on the issue. Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama declined to address the issue. Sen. John McCain, however, who has never been the darling of the NRA, stepped forward immediately to express his belief in the sanctity of the Second amendment and the right of every "law-abiding" citizen's to bear arms.

Senator Dianne Feinstein of California was perhaps the only national elected official who gave voice to a commitment to gun control and fortunately so for the gun-toting, conceal-carry weapons advocates among us.

No one, we have to assume, really wants to rush into the unseemly task of using a tragedy to advance a political view, particularly when you are trying to excuse the tragedy as one of those things that just happen in a free nation. In that light, we have to assume that gun advocates were a bit relieved when after scouring the nation's newspapers in the days following the shootings, they finally came upon Feinstein's comments and were able to utter "ah ha, there it is ... those dastardly liberal, gun-control freaks are at it again."

And the gun nuts were off. The conservative talk show hosts were free to rampage during the overly long week and take up the cause of arms, and the right of every "law abiding citizen" to own one or more.

In recent years, however, the argument from the right has taken a different twist. Several decades ago, whenever those for and against gun control started jawing at one another about the Second Amendment, the debate raged around the seemingly conflicting phrases of the amendment and whether the Founding Fathers were trying to guarantee such gun-toting liberties for the individuals or for the states' militias.

The argument for the individuals generally revolved around the fact that the framers of the Constitution wanted to ensure that people could take up arms and defend themselves against the tyranny that a central government might impose against an unarmed citizenry.

After all, the democratic experiment was quite a novel concept as laid out in the Constitution and who really knew if it would take hold, much less spread to other parts of the world.

These days, the argument for carrying an unlimited supply of firearms has taken a bit of a different twist. These days, say the gun folks, we can prevent such tragedies as occurred at Virginia Tech if more people pack a heater or two on or about their person. The logic of that argument is two-fold. First, a mentally-ill person who might be inclined to kill a bunch of folks would be dissuaded if he knew that others could gun him down before he could do too much damage. Second, even were he not so inclined to see the light and started his murderous rampage anyway, a few well-armed types could take him down, if they were in the right place at the right time.

During the Cold War, this grand strategic view for world order worked marvelously – mutually assured destruction (MAD, for short), it was called then.

So to spin that logic out, if everyone had a gun, then everyone would fear the consequences of using his or her weapon and if someone were either too stupid or too crazy to appreciate the consequences, well ... as they used to say in the Wild West: "God made men, Sam Colt made men equal."

So we listened recently as a variety of gun lovers extol the benefits of gun ownership including those who somehow managed to bungle their way through the mass of statistics and conclude that states that rushed to push through concealed weapons ordinances were somehow more crime free – because of those states – than were states where there simply weren't enough firearms available to its residents.

One of our own local radio talk show hosts compared New York City, where it is relative difficult to get a gun and which has a murder rate below that of the nation average, and Florida, which pioneered the concealed weapon laws that are being mimicked by other states, to make his case that more guns means less crime. Florida, of course, ranked number three in the nation in 2005 for violent crimes as a percentage of the population.

But here is the point. When we have a widely varying set of laws on the books regarding weapon possession and with wide-open borders between states and cities, one can make anything one wants to out of a bunch of stats.

The fact is, this nation has a lot of guns and a lot of crime, especially for a developed nation, indeed, *more* than any other developed nation. What other developed nations have in common is a bunch of law preventing folks from walking around carrying weapons – it's that simple.

If we want to maintain the fiction that we need weapons to stave off threats to the democracy, we can accept that as an argument rooted in our reverence for the Constitution. It's a wee bit silly these days to think that a bunch of side arms can stop a military tank or artillery, but if out of a sense of history we want to continue that charade, well so be it.

But this notion of more weapons means less crime, we really need to get past that bit of nonsense.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

April 20

- STOMP UT: 2007 Step Show presented by National Pan-Hellenic Council; Stranahan Theater; 7p; 419-381-8851 ext 1
- 13th Annual Take Back the Night Celebration: Resource fair, community rally, women's march, survivor speak out and men's program, clothesline project, silent witness project; 6pm; Bowsler HS: 419-530-6206
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Rock 'n Bowl for Kids' Sake: Interstate Lanes in Rossford; Silent auction, games; 6 to 9pm OR 9 to Midnight: 419-243-4600 ex 38
- Bethesda Christian Center's Shoe Rally: Sponsored by the pastor's aid committee; 7pm Service; Donations requested: 419-726-9707

April 21

- Pilgrim Church: Benefit concert to raise funds for mission work in Central America and the Caribbean; 6:30pm: 419-478-6012
- A Kite Day!: Monroe Street Neighborhood Center; Non-competitive family fun; 1:30 to 3pm; Bring your favorite kite: 419-973-1167
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio: "Big and Littles" Tea and Fashion Show; 10:30am; Park Inn Toledo; Performance by Miss Teen Ohio; Tea service, door prizes, Fashion show: 419-243-4600
- Warren AME Women's Day Committee: "Sisterhood in Christ" celebration; 6pm

April 21-22

- Servant's Heart Christian Church: Open House; Saturday from 4 to 7 pm; Sunday's morning worship and special dedication service at 4pm: 419-241-2023 or 419-241-1804

April 22

- Greater St. Mary's MBC 4th Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Robert Lyons and First Lady Shirley Lyons: Guest minister is son Pastor Robert Lyons, Jr. and the Word of Faith Church family from Dayton; 5pm: 419-973-4157
- New Prospect Baptist Church Women's Day Program: 11 am speaker Scharita Barry-Lacey; 4pm speaker Ashley Futrell; "Women Reaching Higher Heights:" 419-241-2624

April 24

- COMPASS presents: An evening with author and recovery specialist William Cope Moyers of the Hazelden Substance Abuse Center; Main Branch Library; 6:30pm: 419-241-8827

April 27

- Bethesda Christian Center's Shoe Rally: Sponsored by the pastor's aid committee; 7pm service; Donations requested: 419-726-9707
- Voices of Praise: Grace & Peace Ministries & Urban Gospel Alliance Detroit Chapter; 5516 Silica Drive, Sylvania; 7pm; Featuring K. Montez, SonnieDay, Nikki B. Messengers of Christ, among others: 419-810-5657 or 419-882-2118

April 27-28

- Frederick Douglass/Warren AME 2nd Annual Health Fair/Walk-a-Thon: funded by the Ohio Commission on minority Health; Kick-off at 6pm on Friday; Saturday from 10am to 3pm walk-a-thon at Warren; Free health checks, eye and dental exams, lunch: 419-244-6722

April 27-29

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

April 28

- Life Walk: Fundraiser for Path to Life; Helps moms and babies; 2.9 mile walk, Yuk Yuk the Clown, raffle prizes, sketch artist, face painting; 9am – walk at 10am – to 5pm
- Spring Tea: Fashions by "D-Hook-Up;" First MBC in Swanton; 3pm: 419-865-8216

April 29

- Warren AME Church Annual Women's Day Celebration: "Women, Where Are You Going?" Speaker Rev. Ann Lightner-Fuller of Mt. Calvary of Towson MD; 10:45 am
- Greater St. Mary MBC: Presents Bro. Lee Love; "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; for night cometh, when no man can work;" 4pm: 419-699-7330
- Gospel Music Explosion: Washtenau County Community College; 5pm; Featuring Shirley Murdock, The Resurrection, Choir Boy Antone Bell, Min Sean Hardin, Rev Skip Turner, Comedian Horace Sanders; 734-669-2629
- Third Baptist Church (Holland) Youth Department: Gospel Explosion; 4pm
- David Carter Symphonic Choir: Praise and Exultation; St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church; 4:30pm

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Don Monroe, East Toledo mover and shaker, is a very funny guy. Always has a good joke or two. I saw him last week at the downtown Coney Island. He walked up and told me a joke about drinking wine, delivers the punch line, we share the laugh and he keeps walking. That's Monroe.

Monroe can tell jokes and he can talk. He is one of those guys who seem to talk faster than you can process what he is saying. He can be especially scary when he is at the top of his game. During my time as mayor, I would instinctively start to tighten up when I saw him coming because I was afraid he would talk me out of some money.

I had to tell him to slow down and not speak 90 words a minute and let me get out a few words here and there.

So, I was not surprised when I saw a story last week that seemed a bit confusing on its face. It seems that the City of Toledo's Law Department has been negotiating with the River East Community Development Corporation for control of the Docks venture.

River East was headed by Don Monroe.

But Mayor Carty Finkbeiner had hired a guy named Don Monroe to oversee the Marina District project ... the next door neighbor to the Docks. Must be two different Don Monroes, eh?

Nope, same guy! At the same time the law department is trying to muscle Monroe into stepping down, Hizzoner is negotiating a contract with him to run a city program. Hunh!

But it gets better. Monroe was the lead guy on the Starboardside condominium project. You remember ... the upscale housing enclosure farther down the river beyond the SS Willis Boyer. That project has had its share of problems. Big problems.

But hold on! Monroe had his hand print on the "tall ships" fiasco ... remember that? Monroe was an officer of the organization overseeing that event. Remember the request that the city eat the deficit - over \$125,000 - that event ran up? A request from Monroe and Bob McCloskey, the east



Jack Ford

side representative on City Council.

And, not finally, do you remember the affair PICO? That was the nifty little deal worth \$1.5 million to taxpayers when a group left during the night and took away "cleanroom" equipment from the incubator at 14th and Adams. Monroe was treasurer of the incubator.

Bec Labs (Biological Environmental control Laboratories) on the east side was a Monroe project. It went belly up. The last I heard was that the entire building was in hock - a Monroe venture.

How does one guy get to put hand into so many failed ventures and get rewarded by the mayor by being appointed to oversee the Marina District project?

Did I mention the Erie Street Market?

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

An Open Letter to Mayor Carty Finkbeiner:

The Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Phi Boule Chapter is a local fraternal organization of professional African-American men in the Toledo area. Our members include judges, attorneys, physicians, educators, businessmen and community leaders from various parts of our community. We are extremely concerned with the direction you propose to take the City of Toledo. In addition to the widened deficit of the City's budget, we are specifically concerned with the results you have managed to achieve involving issues affecting the African-American community.

We are very disappointed that there is little to no representation from our community among your senior management staff on the 22nd Floor of Government Center. It is our understanding that all of the chief internal advisors in the mayor's office are white males (Schwartz, Kroma, Moebius, Reinbolt and, until recently, Moline). While we don't believe that race should be the only factor in any hiring practices, we do believe that a person's culture, background and experience help to shape their view and perspective on major issues. This fact becomes very important when you make decisions similar to your recommendation to dismantle the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance Department. If you had appropriate representation from our community among your advisors, you would have known how sensitive an issue the affirmative action concerns are in the African-American community.

We are concerned that there is now an environment of polarization that has been heightened by your initiative to trivialize the AA/CC Department and to demean the matters addressed by it. In other words, Mayor Finkbeiner, this issue is now split squarely along racial lines. Members of our organization firmly believe that affirmative action in the City is needed now more than ever. We need only to look at the consent decree that created the AA/CC Department in the first place. It is well known that a fair share of the contracts given by the City of Toledo do no go to people of color.

While we empathize with the difficult decisions you will need to make to balance the City's budget, we are very concerned that the proposals you have made to date will disproportionately and negatively impact our community. We understand that reductions in the Police and Fire Departments are considered taboo in today's political arena. If reductions are not made in these departments (where the majority of the general fund expense is in the first place) there is very little to cut in the other general fund areas. We are not advocating that you make reductions in Police and Fire, but we are saying that the proposals you are making will have a disproportionate and negative impact on our community. For instance, poor people and senior citizens are those who can least afford an increase in taxes - the garbage fee. Additionally, who will be impacted the most if city parks are decimated and pools are closed? Both of these proposals will adversely affect all people of our community, but to a greater extent, members of the African-American community.

Finally, Mayor Finkbeiner, we have challenged ourselves to answer the following question within our group: Has the African-American community benefited from the results of your administration to date and do your proposals for the future help our community? If the answer is yes, then we need to support you wholeheartedly; if the answer is no, well ... you get the picture.

We would like to meet with you to discuss our concerns more fully.

Sincerely,
Members of the Alpha Phi Boule Chapter, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

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Ministers and elected officials before the start of last week's luncheon

Lucas County Commissioners Bring Service Information to Area Ministers

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Approximately 40 area ministers answered the call last week and turned out for a luncheon sponsored by the Lucas County Board of Commissioners in order to bring information about their services and programs to the public.

Tina Skeldon Wozniak, president of the Board of Commissioners explained to the audience at the Clarion Hotel that the notion of bringing the ministers together started when the commissioners were in discussions of the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force.

"How do we reach people in the community and inform them of this very important program?" Wozniak recalled of that meeting. "We felt that working with the religious community was the way to do this."

Following that discussion, said Wozniak, the board began to "broaden our ideas" and started reflecting on other services and programs that could be brought to the attention of the ministers so that they could return to their congregations and spread the word.

Wozniak, in fact, took the occasion during Thursday's event to outline three such programs that need to be more readily employed by Lucas County residents - the foreclosure prevention program, the workforce development program (developed "to put young people to work in the summer") and the Early Teen Pregnancy Program.

"We are trying to work with schools to provide information at an early age and prevent disease and pregnancy," said Wozniak of the third program.

"What do county commissioners do? I get asked that a lot," said Pete Gerken of his concerns. "It's our responsibility to make sure that money [that comes through us] gets earmarked to help people."

Over one half of the residents of Lucas County, said Gerken, live within 200 percent of the poverty line. "You satisfy the spiritual needs," he told the religious leaders, "we have to work on the social

services end. How can we deliver our programs in a better way to the people you serve? Poverty is not about race or gender or being lazy, poverty is a condition we have to improve. Please be our resource; please tell us what we need to do," he asked the ministers.

"There's a lot of dynamic leadership in our county and I'm proud to be a part of it," said Ben Konop, the latest addition to the Board of Commissioners, of his two peers. "We live in difficult circumstances and I am trying to bring a sense of urgency to county government."

Konop mentioned the free cell phone for seniors program as an example of how county government can positively impact the quality of life for a certain segment of the population at a relative low, or no, cost to taxpayers.

Also in attendance with the county commissioners at the luncheon was Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford. Ashford has been a long-time ally of both Gerken and Wozniak from their days together on council and was

active in encouraging both Democrats to seek the county positions. Part of the reason for such encouragement, as Ashford noted in his address to the ministers, was the problem of lost federal funds that plagued the Gerken and Wozniak predecessors.

Ashford praised this panel of commissioners for taking the initiative to reach out to the ministers and the community in order to ensure that services and programs were being utilized to the fullest extent. He also thanked the ministers for their interest in working with the commissioners.

"This sends a message to our community that you minister out side of your walls," said Ashford.



Michael Ashford

Embracing a Promising Future
 Thursday, May 17th - Saturday, May 19th
 April 20-21
 2007
 Holy Convocation
 Empowerment and Training
 Serenity Church Fellowship
 1101 Woodstock, Toledo, OH 43607

May 17th - Thursday
 Serenity Disrupt Night
 District Missionary Little Belton

May 18th - Friday
 Women's Night
 International Supervisor of Women
 Mother Queen Quinny

May 19th - Saturday
 Official Day
 His Grace Bishop M. C. McGhee Presiding

May 17th - Thursday
 Holy Convocation
 Bishop G.L. Martin, Jr.
 International Presiding Bishop
 Consider Full Deacon
 Following

May 18th - Friday
 Women's Day
 District Superintendent
 Daniel J. Cunningham Sr.

Services held @ Serenity Church
 1101 Woodstock, Toledo, OH 43607
 For More Information call: 419.536.9000

"Economic Empowerment in the Black Community"

Special to The Truth

The Committee of the Whole and the Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., in conjunction with several partners, will host the first in a series of monthly seminars on "Economic Empowerment in the Black Community."

The monthly series will be a luncheon that is intended to an informative expose on a variety of practical and relevant topics.

The first seminar will have presentations on Asset Protection, Investment Management and Life, Health, Disability and Long-term Care Insurance. Each seminar will feature several speakers discuss-

ing a variety of wealth building concepts and techniques. The seminars will also feature a keynote speaker.

The inaugural keynote address will be on the topic of "Buying Back Our Community" to be presented by Burner Crew, senior portfolio manager in the public sector for KeyBank. Everyone is invited to attend the seminars. Anyone interested in improving his or her lot in life can benefit from the information to be presented.

The inaugural event will be a breakfast and will take place on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Genesis Dreamplex located at 2429 Reynolds Road. Seating will begin and breakfast will be served promptly at 10 am. The cost of this inaugural event is

free. Future seminar dates, times, locations and costs will be published in the near future.

The event is being sponsored, in addition to the Committee of the Whole and the Negro Business and Professional women's clubs, Inc., by KeyBank, Jaguar Landrover of Toledo, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Owens Corning.

Event volunteers are still needed. Sponsors and partners are still needed. For more information on the event, please call Vince Davis at 419-244-2904 or Ethel Scott at 419-255-4174. You can email either at vince.davis.bun1@statefarm.com or ethel.scott@keybank.com.

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Ian English: Proactive Approach to Juvenile Crime Needed

By Tamir A. Shaw
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The recent retirement of Lucas County Juvenile Court Judge James Ray has created a vacancy within that court that will be filled by an appointee of Governor Ted Strickland. Housed under the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, the Juvenile Division has jurisdiction to hear cases involving minors and those dealing with unruly, delinquent, abused, dependent and neglected children. The Juvenile Court also has jurisdiction in adult cases involving paternity, child abuse, non-support, visitation, custody and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The offenses most commonly referred to the court include violations of the Safe School Ordinance, assault, obstructing official business, domestic violence, disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing, criminal damage, petty theft, curfew violations, unruliness, and loitering.

The appointee is scheduled to serve until January 2, 2009 and but must run for election in the November 2008 general election if he/

she wishes to remain on the bench.

One applicant for the position, Lucas County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ian English, spoke with The Sojourner's Truth recently about his desire to impact youth within this community through this judgeship.

In his current position, English represents the State of Ohio in adult felony proceedings including arraignments, suppression hearings, probation violation hearings, pre-trials, fugitive hearings and trials. The charges often include aggravated rape, murder, rape, felonious assault, carrying concealed weapons, robbery, drug trafficking and possession, forgery, theft and numerous offenses involving the use of firearms.

English explained that it seems to be a natural progression for a prosecutor to move on and become a judge noting that there are a number of former assistant prosecutors and county prosecutors who now hold elected offices or are judges.

"I think that my experience as a prosecutor gives

me a foundation," he said. "The job of a prosecutor is to protect the public and defend the rights of the citizens. That applies equally to a judge; to protect the public and defend the rights of the accused. I am going through this process because I believe that public service makes a difference and it has been my goal to make a difference in this community. I'm now seeking the opportunity to do this in a greater role so that I can make a greater impact," he said.

Given some of the things that have happened in our community lately, English believes that we need a person in juvenile court with a background that can be respected by juveniles; someone who is tough, but fair.

"I grew up in the 1900 block of Joffre, which is near Bancroft and Upton and went to Nathan Hale Elementary and was bused to Deveaux Jr. High and then went to Macomber where I studied Auto Mechanics and graduated in 1988."

English explained that he developed an interest in law in the late 1980's but did not

believe that becoming a lawyer was a possibility.

"I always had an interest in law, but to become a lawyer, I knew that you had to go to college. No one from my family had ever been to college," English said. He further explained that his only frame of reference when it came to college was the movie, *Animal House*.

"I didn't liken myself to one of those bar people, so it took awhile to convince myself and for others to convince me that I could do it," he recalled.

Although English's parents encouraged him and his six other siblings to pursue their dreams, it was the mentoring of an older brother-in-law that finally convinced him to believe in himself and step out on faith.

"I remember one day in 1990 when he asked me if I could be anything, what would it be and I told him lawyer. He asked my why didn't I do it and I told him that I didn't think I could. He told me that I could and to figure out how to do it," English said.

"A year later he died at age 37 from complications from a surgery and I promised myself that I would try."

English did try and in fact found his path to success within the field of law.

He began as an optimistic defense attorney and said he quickly realized that if one wants to make a difference the best way to do it is to be a prosecutor, a job he's held since 2001.

"What I like most about the job is that I have the opportunity everyday to make this a safer community. There is nothing more rewarding than the feeling of accomplishment after you make sure the right thing happens in court, and that doesn't always mean winning either," he said.

"There have been times I've been able, with the help of the police and the investigators in our office, to determine that people were not guilty of the crime charged and dismiss the charges against them.

"I have also been able to convict people who do bad things.

It's a feeling of comple-

tion and satisfaction when you're doing something that you know makes a difference in the community. The worst part and the thing that I don't like is that there is always more.

"I decided to put my name in for juvenile court because I honestly believe that I can make a difference there. I enjoy the job I have and I have no problem doing it for a very long time, but this is an ideal opportunity I never expected to happen," he said. He further explained that helping our youth requires our community taking a proactive stance.

"We have to be proactive as a community, we cannot just be reactive. When something happens we put measures in place to punish greater the person who commits a similar act.

"We have to be proactive, we have to seek out those children, not just those who get to court, while their in school we have to identify them and that does not always mean bringing them to court.

"We need to develop programs to help them and guide them,"

said the father of a two-year old son. English is married to Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English, who is also an attorney and a former prosecutor.

"We have to remember that children are the product of a lot of things, environment, location, experiences and just like it took one person to sit down with me and tell me that I could accomplish my dream. We are just one person away from stopping a child who would become the next felon or from being a positive influence in the community," he said.

English further states that it would be an asset to have someone present in a position of authority who has traveled through the same difficulties that life presents and had overcome the same hurdles as the kids who coming [through] juvenile court.

English said that diversity within the court is important and that the court's composition should reflect that of the community it serves.



Ian English

"Juvenile court is unique in that the majority, or a great number of people, who go through that court every year, those children are minorities. And I believe that it is important for and that it would be beneficial for the court to reflect the community it represents."

"Being a minority gives me a different perspective, my background growing up in the central city of Toledo, encountering obstacles, overcoming them and achieving my own American Dream. That gives me a different perspective and my position to be a role model for some of the youth in our community is important.

English's own background not only emphasizes his experience within the local criminal justice area, but also exudes his commitment in mentoring the youth in the Toledo community through his involvement with the University of Toledo Mock Trial team, the Police Athletic League (PAL), Big Brothers. However he believes that Toledo's youth are in need of more role models or normal people doing extraordinary things in their everyday lives.

"Historically, we know that if you have the opportunity to address these issues with children you can prevent them from doing bad things in the future and that's the type of measures the court should start to help change children's interaction with the court," he said.

Although some would argue that commonalities create a common culture among juvenile offenders, English is not as quick to label youth.

"I think that the connection is that some young people don't understand how severe the consequences can be for their conduct. The culture that you see created in music videos and elsewhere shows you a lifestyle, but it doesn't show you the consequences. If there is a culture being created it's a culture that makes people believe that regardless of the wrongfulness of their act, they can do it and not face punishment, but for every transgression, you must pay," English emphasized.

WHAT IS LUPUS?
Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood and kidneys. Although the immune system usually protects the body against viruses and bacteria, in lupus patients the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissues.

- LUPUS FACTS**
 - Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Americans and strikes adult women 10-15 times more likely than men.
 - Lupus is MORE prevalent in African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians.
 - Approximately 2,400 people in Lucas County have been diagnosed with Lupus
 - Lupus can be difficult to diagnose as the symptoms are like other illnesses. Symptoms include joint and muscle pain, fatigue, a rash made worse from sunlight, low grade fever, kidney problems and hair loss.
- EVENTS IN TOLEDO AREA**
 - April 23** Online Support Group/7pm
 - May 10** World Lupus Day
 - May 20** Toledo Support Group/2pm at Flower Hospital, Sylvania Ohio
 - May 21** Online Support Group/7pm
 - June 11** Chapter Annual Meeting & Support Group Picnic/6pm in Findlay
- CONTACT INFORMATION**
Lupus Foundation of America
Northwest Ohio Chapter
1800 N. Blanchard St Suite 102
Findlay, Ohio 45840
(888) 33-LUPUS or (419) 423-9313
www.@lupusnwoh.org

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Non-partisan Group to Recommend Candidates for Vacant Seats on TPS Board

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

On Friday, April 13, dozens of parents, community leaders, and concerned citizens came out to The Distillery, at 4311 Heatherdowns, to attend a fundraiser designed to introduce several candidates for the two vacant seats on the Toledo Board of Education.

The event was organized by a non-partisan organization of about three dozen, whose members are dissatisfied with the current manner in which individuals are elected to the board.

"We're trying to create a grassroots campaign where no politics are involved," said Lisa Renee Ward, blogger and member of the unnamed group.

Later, Ward said the group is without name "because as soon as you come up with a name, people label you."

The group's movements have garnered a lot of attention recently due to the fact that Maggie Thurber, former Lucas County Commissioner

who became embroiled in the Tom Noe series of scandals when she was found to be guilty of being one of Noe's conduits - funneling Noe's money to Republican candidates, has emerged as one of the group's more vocal members.

"We're trying to focus on the group, and not just on person," Ward said.

Ward also refuted claims that the group's goal is to get Chris Myers elected to the board saying, "Chris Myers could end up not being recommended," Ward continued by telephone.

According to Ward, the group will screen a total of seven candidates, asking the same questions of each candidate, and scoring them according to their answers. The two candidates with the highest overall score will be recommended for the positions.

A job description posted on Ward's Glass City Jungle blog provides an extensive

list of desired job qualifications, among those listed are: passionate about providing quality education, able to communicate and connect with all segments of the community in diverse forums, able to demonstrate financial knowledge, independent thinker, willing to work collaboratively with others and capable of delegating responsibilities, and able to acknowledge weaknesses and seek ancillary information or assistance.

Three of the seven potential candidates were on hand to answer questions posed by those in attendance.

Candidate Lisa Sobecki feels she should be elected to the board because she has a history of advocating for TPS district students, teachers, and board members. "I've been very vocal the last couple of years, I've been around the different schools, from elementary, to middle school, to high school, see-

ing the different problems going on there," said Sobecki.

Sobecki feels that the current crisis in public education not only lies on the shoulders of the administration, but, also, that of the parents as well. "Does it start from the top down? In some aspects it does, but it also starts from the bottom up too, the bottom up being the parents," said Sobecki.

"As parents we need to start stepping up and playing our [parental] role with our children. We need to start opening up the backpacks looking for the homework, supporting our kids, supporting our teachers, supporting our schools and, if we cannot get that done, then it's going to be a little hard to get this job of moving TPS forward [done] too," Sobecki said.

"On the other aspect, we need to be able to look at our administration and help them and support them. The governor [of Ohio] just came out with a proposal [on educa-

tion] [and] the proposal is not a Republican [issue], it's not a Democratic [issue], it's an educational issue. Our kids are not getting the education that they deserve, the technology out there, we have the technology, we need to put it to use," Sobecki continued.

Chris Myers, says his strong education background, which includes a bachelor's and master's degree in education, along with his technological experience as a web designer for the University of Michigan's school of education, is what he'll bring to the board if elected.

Myers, who is a certified to teach until June 2007, says he will focus on improving academics by "making sure that every student in every school throughout Toledo is being prepared for when they graduate ... for the jobs that are going to meet them," said Myers.

Edith Washington, an ar-

chitectural engineer by trade, who spent 30 years in corporate America, says her experience as a volunteer in Toledo Public Schools, along with her previous experience serving on several boards, is what she has to offer TPS.

"I understand what it takes to work with a bureaucracy to look at areas where you may need to make improvements and change, and how to hopefully do it in a collaborative basis," said Washington.

Washington says if elected, she doesn't anticipate any problem fitting in with other board members.

"I don't believe that we have time to waste on personal issues ... we should be there for the business of serving as the board for the school district and establishing and enforcing policy," said Washington.

"Our children's education is too critical to waste on interpersonal problems between individuals," Washington continued.

The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio introduces its new genealogy club for people interested in tracing their family history.

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Saturday
May 5, 2007

Time:
1:00pm

Place:
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Bitches, Hoes, Niggaz and Hip Hop

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

"Critiquing Ain't Easy"
Some people have asked me if I thrive off of controversy, I wouldn't say all that.

But y'all gotta understand that this article puts me in a somewhat awkward place.

First and foremost I'm an artist. Was raised to be so and it's hard to keep my thoughts silent.

The music I make, the songs and all the spoken word I've done has provided me with a way to speak. But this column here in The Truth is somewhat tricky business.

Two-thirds of my life I've been making hip-hop and R&B music.

The last five years I've been published critic of that same music.

The battle lines were drawn decades ago when rap first emerged and, ever since, music critics have become the sworn enemy of hip-hop artists. Simply put: BEEF.

The black intelligentsia helped spawn a generational divide between those making rap music and those struggling to understand rap music by running scared when they should have embraced it.

With every gangsta rap record that came out in the 80's, critics grew more and more impatient with our art form and the black parents in our society crammed to understand why their kids were fixated on such "filth."

It was religious leaders, concerned parents and entertainment critics who led the charge AGAINST groups like 2Live Crew before the politicians ever jumped in.

Of course it was the same group of critics that simultaneously praised Public Enemy.

But whether it was good or bad, most rappers could care less what critics have to say because, more often than not, writers for large publications don't know jack about growing up in the environments that spawned hip-hop and hip-hop subject matter.

That's why The Source was so important to our culture, because up until then we couldn't get a fair review of our material by people who understood us and our material.

It was that magazine that finally married the hip-hop world to critical writing/re-

porting that was fair (at first) and true.

But when you look at The Sojourner's Truth, many of our readers are most likely part of that group so far removed from hip-hop culture that they need someone to walk them through it.

I don't mind doing it, but my first allegiance is to my contemporaries... people raised on rap music. So if you read my article and you expect me to be on some C. Delores Tucker bull... you got the wrong one.

If someone were to suggest that I should no longer cover rap music in my review because of this whole Don Imus/Hoes madness... I would implore that individual to take a second look at me and the music I love ("I used to love H.E.R." - LOL).

When it comes to me, it's important to remember that I'm an artist first and a critic second.

My degree is in public relations, not journalism.

I got this job because I proved to the founders that I could reach an untapped market and I could represent

young urban interests. And even though I may be a harsh critic on certain material, I will never turn my back on hip-hop music.

I can't be that Ebony or Essence writer who scares parents into thinking that the majority of hip-hop is unfit. But I also can't be so faithful to my own cause that I ignore problems that make even the strongest hip-hop head start to avoid rap more and more.

When the Ying Yang Twins came out with "Wait (the whisper song)," I thought it was genius and vulgar at once. But as much as I enjoyed that joint, I could never forget how a friend of mine who is a parent told me that his toddler had somehow memorized half of the lyrics despite his attempts at switching the station anytime it came on.

I used think about how I would react if I were in his shoes.

The grim reality has been setting in for quite some time and now it's inescapable.

HIP HOP MUSIC IS STAGNANT.

Rims, iced out jewelry, designer outfits, drug deals and club hopping have become the standard topics on every track of damn near every album by the majority of hip-hop's most noticeable acts.

I hate it. But even in my disenchantment, I still have to be honest. Not all Hip Hop music is full of mindless talk over robotic sounding beats.

THE GIFT AND THE CURSE

Hip-hop music added to my development as a human being.

Most of us wouldn't be as politically aware or socially conscious had it not been for hip-hop music. It not only

makes me feel old that my half of generation Y looks up to Jay Z while the latter half of generation Y idolizes Lil Wayne... it also saddens me.

But it really just serves as proof of my point:

THERE'S ENOUGH TO GO AROUND!

If you live the lifestyle of an inner city male selling drugs and buying flashy things... then you have a never-ending supply of mainstream and underground rap music that can give nourish that side of you. You wanna talk about f**k*n hoes, carrying guns and selling weight... you obviously belong in the Young Jeezy, Slim Thug, 50 Cent, Diplomat, Cash Money section of rap. And to be honest, it's this part of our world that even makes most of us die-hard fans sick and tired of the same old same old.

However,

If you live the lifestyle of an inquisitive, upwardly mobile and overall spiritually centered type of person... then you too have a vast cache of mainstream and underground hip-hop music that can nourish that side of you. If you wanna talk about how shady the government is, better ways to handle your relationships and the state of black America... you obviously belong in the

Talib Kweli, Lupe Fiasco, Common, Mos Def, Little Brother, Nas section of hip-hop music.

And as many of you know, my group (The Undergodz) is striving to be counted among artists such as these because it was these type of people who inspired and taught us along our way and our subject matter runs parallel to theirs.

Truth Be Told:
NO - the conscious rappers don't get anywhere near as much airplay or exposure

as the hardcore rappers. You probably won't find a lot of great hip-hop by conscious artists on anyone's Hot list of what's coming out this week. You might have to buy some CD's that came out a few years ago, but hey - only hot music gets cold, great music never ages.

106 & Park is full of nonsense. Hell, BET for the most part is full of nonsense.

America is getting more and more stupid by the minute and Black America seems to be following suit.

Major record companies need to appeal to the masses in order to make a profit so that means a whole lot more there will be 10 Lil Wayne types for every 1 Talib Kweli type.

For now, we're just gonna have to live with that reality.

Thought provoking hip-hop may not be a choice of those trapped in that high school/ "follow the crowd" mentality... but if you wanna get to know what our music is really all about, I have a suggestion.

SAY WORD!

Don't let semantics get you down.

You'll go crazy trying to examine the vocabulary and slang used in our world.

Just use your gut feeling.

If you hear a rapper say "all these hoes get down on the floor" - he could be talking about women who will sleep with any man they see... he could be talking about his view of women in general. You don't have to agree, but you do have to make a choice.

If you don't wanna hear that mess, then DON'T LISTEN TO IT.

If you do wanna hear that mess and you can handle it without taking it personal, then listen to it.

It's your choice.
(Continued on Page 12)

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Scott High School Alumni Association Holds Scholarship Reunion Dance

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Scott High School Alumni gathered on Saturday, April 14 to raise scholarship funds for current students.

Guests enjoyed live entertainment, photo set-ups and memorabilia displays. Alumni graduates from as far back as 1953 enjoyed the festivities. Norma Blanchard, the oldest alumna at the dance, recalls some of her best memories from Scott High School before she graduated in 1953. "We had so much fun at Scott; there

were lots of clubs to join. I was a member of the Senior-Y club, Zetaleheans, and senior class play committee. I feel sorry for the kids of today, because we had more activities," Blanchard explained.

Blanchard personally appreciated the dance, because her daughter-in-law Vernice Blanchard, class of 1977, and grand-daughter Torri Blanchard, class of 2004, both graduates of Scott High School, made the event a family affair.

Thomas Walker, class of

1974, enjoyed reliving his high school days with fellow classmates in attendance. "When our senior class graduated, Scott was number one in basketball, football and academics. Because of our principal Flute Rice, most of our classmates attended college."

Yet, Walker admits that attending was difficult for him, as he reflects on classmates. "I came tonight to relive, network with my fellow Bulldogs, and talk with alumni that I haven't seen in awhile. However, since I'm in law, I know that some of my friends and classmates aren't here for one reason or another. Still, besides Norma Blanchard, her family and Walker, over 100 alumni danced the night away for a worthy cause. James Lyell, class of 1956, even left a generous donation with Association Presi-



Scott High School Alumni Association Board Members and Officers

dent Robert C. Davis during the event.

The event was organized by Scott High School Alumni Association Officers: Davis, Vice President Zahra Collins, Treasurer Douglas Allen, Secretaries Lutherine Paston and Doris Jones along with board members David Taylor, Johnny Hutton, Avie Dixon, Tyron Riley, Willie Ann Moore, Richard Eppstein and Doris Roberts. Davis was extremely

proud that his fellow Bulldogs supported an event that will provide better opportunities for students. "This reunion affair will bring back positive attention back to Scott. Back in the 1960s everyone wanted to attend Scott, we want to bring that same spirit back. So parents will think twice before sending their children to charter schools," Davis said.

Interested alumni can send inquiries to P.O. Box

4622; Toledo, Ohio 43610. And while Davis is proud of his 200 active members he and the rest of the association are actively recruiting for more. "One of the other objectives of this event was to raise awareness of the association, and let the community know that we strive for higher quality in education, as well as the health and well-being of the student," he said.



Scott alumni enjoying the dance

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43rd Annual Founder's Day Celebration of the Toledo Club of the NANBPWC

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The classic arches of the Clarion Westgate's atrium provided an airy backdrop for the head table at the 43rd Annual Founder's Day Brunch of The Toledo Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC), Inc., Saturday, April 21, 2007.

Stepped in historical significance, the architectural elements framed an historic event. The Toledo Club of the NANBPWC celebrated the national and local founders of the prestigious organization.

Emma Odessa Young, Ollie Chinn Porter, Effie Diton, Bertha Perry Rhodes, Josephine B. Keene and Adelaide Flemming founded the national organization in 1934. Porter was the first national president.

Charter members of the Toledo Club are Evelyn Alexander, Gertrude Bardo, June Boyd, Mursey Catlin Benton, Ethel Cooper, Leatha Crawford, Lucille Dunlap, Helen Harris, Margaret B. Jones, Willie Mae Curry

Lamb, Gladys Mitchell, Eleanor Bluiett Samders, Ardella Simpson and Victoria Sydnor.

The celebration began with a processional of club sisters and honorees as the women of the Toledo Club of NANBPWC entered the sunlit atrium like a river of red, fiery light, blinding in its brilliance as club sisters showed off their fashion sense wearing chic red suits and dresses with stilettos and even hats matched perfectly in color and style.

Club sisters spread across the large room like the warm rays of sunlight, many joining friends and family at the beautifully set tables scattered around the large room.

A distinguished roster of women graced the head table with their elegance, beauty and refinement. Flanked by the soaring columns, they could well have been a bevy of beauties perched on Mt. Olympus amid lush greenery, as majestic and ethereal as the goddesses of ancient myth.

There they were – women

of today "remembering the women of our past" and "encouraging the women of our future."

Following a sincere and warm welcome by Prescilla Hutchens, Toledo Club President Clara Brank gave greetings. "This event today celebrates our rich heritage given to us by our seven founders," she said. "As you enjoy this event today, we thank you for your acceptance, your assistance and your support."

North Central District Vice-Governor Barbara Tucker also brought greetings. "I'd like to commend the Toledo Club on the occasion of the celebration of its 43rd Annual Founders Day," she said. "Today we are honoring the founders of the NANBPWC, Inc. and also the charter members of the Toledo Club. We are paying tribute to them for having the vision, the commitment and the determination to make their vision reality."

Tucker made an important addendum to her tribute. "However, as we pay tribute to the women of our past, we

must not forget the women of our future," she said. "These women will face different challenges than the women of our past."

Toledo Club Chaplain Carrie Jones offered a brief prayer of thanks prior to brunch being served. Meanwhile, Calvin Hughes, who provided prelude and interlude music and who is probably the only musician that can make an electronic keyboard sound like a baby grand piano, gave panache and additional elegance to an oh-so-elegant Baby Grand Breakfast Buffet featuring a menu of delightful morning fare, including Southern Grits.

Hughes' classical arrangements of hymns and Gospel favorites framed the friendly chatter at each table, filling the airy space with the intricate runs and harmonic chords his agile fingers delicately played throughout the meal. Appreciative applause and cheers followed his little "concerto."

"He's a very phenomenal person," said co-chair Beverly Tucker, a musician in her own right. Tucker then led over 300 voices singing "The Lord is Blessing Me" with considerable gusto and spirit for a group that had just dined so finely and so richly and whose collective stomachs were so full.

Following the feast and the congregational singing, a stately and somber candlelight ceremony honored each of the founders of the NANBPWC as Toledo Club members stated each founder's name, lit a candle in her honor and took a yellow flower from a vase. Leola Haynes, second vice president of the Toledo Club, gave a moving tribute to recently deceased club sister Charlotte Starnes while club members



stood in silent tribute.

Tribute in song was given by Toledo Club member Dorothy Gray. "We have four living charter members," said Tucker. "Mrs. June Boyd, Mrs. Leatha Crawford, Mrs. Gladys Mitchell and Mrs. Ardella Simpson." Boyd and Crawford attended the celebration. Co-Chair Geraldine Scrutchins presented the two honorees: Dr. Delores Jean Cason-Coates, professional license award, and Alethea M. Easterly, business owner award. "I feel proud," said Scrutchins. "It's a privilege."

Enthusiastic applause erupted as the first honoree was announced. "Dr. Delores Jean Cason-Coates has been and continues to be a frontrunner as a hair care professional. Her legacy in the area of hair design attests to her skill and willingness to share. Her nurturing is far reaching. She is an educator for a major beauty products manufacturer. Dr. Coates has worked her magic in Detroit, Chicago, New York, Baltimore and Miami, as well as internationally and throughout Canada. Affectionately known as Miss C., she has owned and managed three salons and a beauty school. This she has accomplished over her 32 years in the business in the city of Toledo. Her customers have continued to remain true because she is more to them than just their hair designer. She is a mentor, a hair stylist, a confidante, educator and expert designer – 'doctor' of hair care."

The vivacious Miss C. accepted her award with humility. "I asked if there was ever another hair designer who received this award and they

said 'no,' she said. "I am going to accept this award for all those hair designers because we serve you."

"Alethea M. Easterly attended school fulltime for dual majors, earning a certificate in Child Care Management Technology and an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Social Services from the University of Toledo. In addition, Mrs. Easterly earned her certification in both Family-to-Family Courses and Activity and in Family Child Care Management for Small Businesses. She continued her education and professional development by completing courses in child development at Bowling Green State University and additional training in Child Awareness courses from the University of Toledo. These accomplishments, in addition to additional classes at the Y-Child Care Connection led to her opening her own daycare business. Her vision of turning a severely blighted building on Dorr Street into a daycare center was realized after nearly two years of seeking finances."

Easterly thanks her family and other supporters as she humbly accepted another in a list of numerous awards and honors she has received. The audience got a glimpse of the future when two young women regaled them with their artistic talent.

First, Taylor James, Miss Debutante 2006, performed a dramatic monologue from the writings of Maya Angelou after briefly outlining her plans for the future. They include obtaining her M.D. and Ph.D. and doing research on genetically-linked diseases that plague African-Americans, such as sickle cell anemia.

"I would like to personally thank the NANBPWC, Inc., Toledo Club for providing us the opportunity to showcase our talents," said James. Showcasing her theatrical talent, James' voice harkened listeners back to a time when actors staged their plays in open amphitheaters and throngs of people gathered to hear them while the way people now gather for sports events.

"Our future women, our future women!" Tucker said proudly as she applauded James' performance; then she introduced Brandi Preston, who performed an interpreta-

(Continued on Page 12)

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The Lima Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth

April 25, 2007

Harambee! A Celebration of Unity

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to the Truth

It began with a call to unity. Harambee! Harambee!

Seven times the call rang out asking the community to come together for the good of all. And thus began the Seventh Annual Harambee hosted by the Minority Caucus Committee of the Allen County Democratic Party, and the local chapter of the Black Elected Democrats of Ohio. This event, however is a non-partisan effort designed to disseminate information critical to the strength of the community.

Even the inclement weather didn't keep supporters from arriving for the social hour, dinner and program which featured State Representative Edna Brown of Toledo.

Local businesses and community groups set up booths to display their services. Helen Roberts was there with a huge display of unusual and eye-catching hats. And there were a host of other local minority businesses, which included the debut of 19-year old Britany Guice – the youngest entrepreneur on display that day who introduced the community to "SWEET MEMORIES" her creative bakery service.

Those in attendance converged on her offerings like moths to the flame giving her the chance to see first hand how well her idea for a new business would be received. She was near tears after all she brought with her had been sold, increasing her confidence, and delivering concrete encouragement for her to move on to the next phase. She even received a few orders for the future.

This display of products and services is one of the most important aspects of the Harambee. It allows the minority community to see how

accomplishments were made possible and to come face to face with individuals who need their help.

Socializing, eating, exchanging ideas and services make for a great community strengthening exercise, especially when the "heavy-hitters" are placed in the center of the mix.

Lima's mayor, David Berger, ministers, doctors, political professionals – all together in one room with the people who hold the power of the vote and the power to select service. Every one is on an even playing field talking about things that matter.

As we watch in horror and wonder at some of the major events happening in this small part of the world – the bus accident in Atlanta that devastated Bluffton University, the utterings of a misinformed national talk show host and, most recently, the bloodiest mass murder in our history taking place on, of all places, a college campus – the question arises of how far do we allow the fiber of the nation to be destroyed before we regain our focus? How do we regain control over the abhorrent displays of those who lack positive spirit in the world and return it to a place that values life, honors family and considers education as a key component to success?

According to Edna Brown, it happens one vote at a time. The power, she informed those in attendance, is in our educated selection of leaders and placing the issues that reflect the world in which we wish to live, in positions of power throughout the state and the nation. She pointed out we happen to live in a state that can make it happen. The focus on Ohio during the all-im-

portant general elections puts us in a powerful position to exact change. But, the responsibility that comes with the position is enormous. Each registered voter needs to accept the challenge of our position, said Brown.

This keynote speech was a reflection of the work of the Minority Caucus over the past 10 years of its existence. Their "Get Out The Vote" effort was one of the most successful in the state. The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus recognized the effectiveness of their campaign and called upon them to serve as a model for change and progress across the state.

The Minority Caucus focuses on two equally important values: the candidates and issues. They clarify, encourage, explain and pass along information so legislators can tighten up their language before their next stop. Secondly, they give strong efforts to getting out the information that voters need to know. This happens across the board.

The belief that everyone deserves the chance to have full disclosure of every aspect in each phase leading up to Election Day drives their enthusiasm and apparently inexhaustible energy flow.

Armed with the backing of the vast resources of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, they step out on the faith to challenge, compare, contrast, and arm everyone with the tools needed to make informed decisions at the polls.

The decision was made

seven years ago to host an event with an African emphasis ... something solidly based in the seven principals used for Kwanzaa. Symbols of pride, inspiration, and strength are placed throughout the event hall.

Harambee! means "a gathering." It is a call to unity and family.

It is a call many African-Americans are ready to hear, embrace, and act upon. The desire to unite as a people of one mind, spirit, and soul drives many toward groups like the Minority Caucus.

"It was an evening full of encouragement" said Rosemary Shurelds, one of the coordinators for decorations. "It's a good feeling to be a part of something so positive, where people really enjoy themselves".

It's a concept which could happen more than once a year, but even at that congratulations need to be extended to President Beverly McCoy, Alberta Shurelds, Mary Mayes, Dollie Taylor and the other members who put forth an incredible amount of effort to create "the gathering."

So listen carefully – if you are very quiet you'll hear a gentle rumbling coming from the core of the earth – a motion sending you forth to become a part of something strong and longed for... heed the call!

Harambee! Harambee! Harambee!

Contact Vickie Shurelds at asphoenixrises@yahoo.com

Winners Named at Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest

Special to The Truth

Students inspired by the legacy and lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presented original speeches on his teachings during the Eighth Annual Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest Friday, April 20, in Columbus. About 30 contestants from grades kindergarten through 12 spoke before family and friends at the King Arts Complex.

Speakers were judged on performance, originality and composition. The following speakers placed first, second and third in their respective divisions:

Senior Division (grades nine through 12) First place – Destin Tevis, Focus on Collective Integrity Academy, Columbus; second place – Brittinie Jermon, Bedford High School, Cleveland; third place – Brandon Towns, Eastmoor Academy, Columbus.

Junior Division (grades six through eight) First place – Lazette Carter, Ferguson Junior High School, Beavercreek; second place – Akeem Rashad Malik Denny, Dominion Middle School, Columbus; third place – Davonte Dukes, Sherwood Middle School, Columbus.

Intermediate Division (grades four and five) First place – Sarah Wilkes, Salem Elementary School, Columbus; second place – Tyler Wynne, Lowden Elementary School, South Euclid; third place – Sam Grant-Williams, Indian Springs Elementary School, Columbus.

Primary Division (grades one through three) First place

– Amir Idris, Lowden Elementary School, South Euclid; second place – David Cordell Gary, Liberty Christian Academy, Columbus; third place – Theresa Clark, Crissey Elementary School, Holland, Ohio.

Kindergarten Division – First place – Natapong "Mac" Kanema, McGregor Elementary School, Sylvania; second place – Amira Al Amin, Glendale Primary School, Oakwood Village.

James M. Stowe, chairman of Ohio's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, served as the master of ceremonies. He said, "In light of the recent tragic series of events that occurred at Virginia Tech University, what a contrast it was today to witness young people from across the state challenging all of us to deny violence and uplift the tenets of peace, unity and well-being for all people. I was pleased to have been part of this wonderful occasion. We salute all the young people who competed, those who were chosen winners, their parents, coaches, teachers and well-wishers for being a part of this special event. Dr. King would have been proud."

First-place finishers are invited to speak at the 2008 Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration on Jan. 17. The celebration and speech contest are sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. The commission receives support from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

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UT's REACH Program Accepting Applications

Applications for the University of Toledo's (UT) REACH Program are currently being accepted. REACH is an eight-week summer research program for high school students (particularly those who are historically underrepresented in the sciences) interested in pursuing careers in the health professions. To be eligible, an applicant must be enrolled as a sophomore, junior or senior in fall 2007 and have a 3.0 GPA. The program runs from June 18 - August 10, 2007. For an application packet or for more information, please contact the Manager of Institutional Diversity Programs at the UT Office of Institutional Diversity at 419-383-3609.

Owens Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club Hosts Annual Spring Plant Sale, April 26

Area residents seeking to add some new life and color to their gardens and yards this spring are encouraged to attend the Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club's annual Spring Plant Sale at Owens Community College on Thursday, April 26.

The plant sale will be held from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Student Health and Activities Center's outside patio and will feature a wide selection of shrubs and rare and unusual trees, among other items. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township.

According to Chris Foley, Owens Associate Professor of Math and Life Science and Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club Advisor, the Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club student organization is excited to once again offer individuals the rare opportunity to purchase select trees and shrubs at a very minimal cost for the upcoming spring planting season.

"Owens Community College's Landscape and

Turfgrass Crew Club student organization is proud offer members of the community the opportunity to purchase some rare and hard-to-find plants at a very low cost," Foley stated.

A majority of the shrubs will cost \$15, while varieties of trees will cost between \$15-35. Individuals can anticipate paying between \$4-6 for perennials. All proceeds from the plant sale will help in supporting the organization's participation in the annual PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Student Career Days, which is a national horticultural and landscape competition involving over 50 colleges and universities across the country.

Shrubs on hand will include the Crimson Pygmy Barberry, Dwarf Korean Lilac, Northern Bayberry and Magic Carpet Spirea, among many others. Several rare and unusual trees will also be available, including the Japanese Stripped-bark Maple, Sugar Maple, Weep-

ing Alaskan Cedar, Kentucky Coffeetree and Japanese Larch. The Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club will also sell perennials, including select hostas and daylilies. A complete listing of the available plants with their prices is available online at www.owens.edu/plantsale.

The College's Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club was founded in 2005 with the mission of fostering stronger bonds among students majoring in the Landscape and Turfgrass Management Program. Among the organization's main initiatives is creating a network between alumni and current students to help in assisting individuals pursue careers within the landscape, turfgrass and related horticulture industries. The group also hosts fundraisers to support club outreach activities in the surrounding communities.

For more information about the Owens Landscape and Turfgrass Crew Club plant sale, call (567) 661-7623 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7623.

More From the Minister on Hip Hop

(Continued from Page 7)

If you have young children and the music they listen to is full of Ho, Nigga, Bitch etc. just make sure you be a true parent and talk with them so that nothing has a bigger impact on them than you do.

Profanity is used in stand-up comedy, cable TV and major motion pictures all day every day and no one calls for a boycott of any of those media.

So STOP tripping on the amount of curse words on a rap album.

That 8 Ball and M.J.G. album I reviewed two weeks ago.... one song has a ridiculous amount of profanity and it's not clever or even purposeful so guess what I did about it.....

I MAKE SURE TO SKIP THAT TRACK WHEN I LISTEN TO THAT ALBUM!!

It's not rocket science, people.

Perhaps I'll address the whole women and hip-hop issue next week, but for those who really need to under-

stand the wordplay and the brilliant spectrum of our music... I'll leave you with this verse from Mos Def's debut album entitled *Black on Both Sides*.

Speech is my hammer, bang the world into shape
Now let it fall... (Hungh!!)

Hip Hop is prosecution evidence

The out of court settlement

Ad space for liquor

Sick without benefits (hungh!)

Luxury tenements choking the skyline

It's low life getting tree-top high

Here there's a back water remedy

Bitter intent to memory

A class felony

Facing the death penalty (hungh!)

Stimulant and sedative, original repetitive

Violently competitive, a school unaccredited

The break beats you get broken with

on time and inappropriate

Hip Hop went from sell-

ing crack to smoking it

Medicine for loneliness
Remind me of Thelonus and Dizzy

Proper to B-Boys getting busy

The war-time snap shot

The working man's jack-pot

A two dollar snack box

Sold beneath the crack spot

Olympic sponsor of the black glock

Gold medalist in the back shot

From the sovereign state of the have-nots

Where farmers have trouble with cash crops (woooo)

It's all city like phase two

Hip Hop will simply amaze you

Craze you, pay you

Do whatever you say do

But black, it can't save you

Which is true ya'll.

But hopefully we can save it.

Hit me up

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

43rd Annual Founder's Day Celebration of the Toledo Club of the NANBPWC

(Continued from Page 9)

tive dance to "Someone is Watching over You."

The young woman's graceful, lithe body executed pirouettes and leaps in a flowing white skirt, showing such skill and beauty, she gave tribute to the past with classical dance steps while providing a promise of future greatness.

"Women of our future!" reiterated an obviously moved Tucker. "Thank you to both of you. We are very proud of you." Never one to rest on its laurels, the Toledo Club of the NANBPWC began a new tradition at this year's celebration as Deborah Carlisle presented the organization's first scholarships awarded to adults. "This scholarship is for minority women between the ages of 25 and 35 that want to enter business or professional careers," explained Carlisle. "Lydia Brown will use her \$500 scholarship to pursue her studies in beauty culture. Tekesia Smith is pursuing a career in accounting and human services at Davis College."

In her closing remarks, President Brank acknowledged her First Vice President Wanda Terrell. "I don't know if you know it, but I'm president of two organizations - Top Ladies of Distinction and the Toledo Club of the NANBPWC," said Brank. "Wanda Terrell is my vice president in both organizations."

Brank said she doesn't think she could head the two women's groups without Terrell's assistance and steadfast support. "We, the women of today, must encourage the women of tomorrow," said Terrell. "I really would like to thank Taylor James who traveled from Cornell University to be with us today."

Brank also acknowledged the Toledo Club members, members of the Maumee Bay Club who attended the celebration and the Toledo Youth Club members, some of whom acted as escorts during the celebration.

Tucker acknowledged members of both the scholar-

ship and Founder's Day committees, including Chairman Cerssandra McPherson who was unable to attend the celebration.

Chaplain Jackson closed with an eloquent prayer, cautioning all to give honor to others before their passing, as the sun reached its noon day zenith in a crystal blue sky to begin its descent toward the horizon and the stately columns bore silent witness to the passing day that would soon give way to a new tomorrow when history will yield to the future.

Each year on Founder's Day, the women of the NANBPWC will remember the women of their past and encourage the women of their future while remaining the women of today: the business and professional women, whose tireless efforts create communities, build empires, make history and conceive the future.

Contact Geneva at geneva@thetrutholedo.com.



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The Enclave Apartments in celebration with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission is proud to support Fair Housing and recognize that April 2007 marks the 39th anniversary of the Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Federal Fair Housing Act, which provides for equal housing opportunity for all Americans and prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin/ancestry, familial status and disability.

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Clinical Manager – Adult Community Support Program

Seeking a currently competent professional who oversees all clinical aspects of the Adult Community Support Program. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in a mental health field from an accredited college or university and be licensed to practice in Ohio (PC, LSW, PCC, LISW). Master's degree in a mental health field from an accredited college or university with an independent license is preferred (will accept a candidate who is eligible for independent licensure within 6 months of hire date). Minimum of 3 years experience providing CSP services to SPMI populations and clinical management experience required. Duties include managing, coordinating, evaluating and supervising operations for assigned clinical staff, providing personnel management functions, and assisting in innovation, development and implementation of programs and services. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use, including Microsoft Word. Please submit cover letter and resume by 5/2/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, Attn:

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