

**Terry Awls**

General Manager, Sylvania Country Club

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*"I wasn't hired here as a black male. It goes beyond color. I do the job. And I'm very blessed. I love being in a service business and knowing about every aspect from A to Z. One thing about me is that I am not about to accept the status quo."*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

Back in November the State of Ohio had two issues on the ballot for voters to consider. Issue # 4 (Smoke Less Ohio) was a proposal crafted by the big tobacco companies that would have ostensibly prohibited smoking indoors. Unfortunately this issue would have permitted so many exceptions that it was not even worthy of the name "Smoke Less."

Issue # 4, in fact, would have trumped local ordinances – such as Toledo's – that would have been a lot more restrictive because it was a proposed constitutional amendment.

Voters saw through that little subterfuge and voted down that measure while voting for a truly restrictive measure – Issue # 5. The vote total for Issue # 5, in fact, was as decisive as was the vote against Issue # 4. We had anticipated confusion, but the voters saw the issues very clearly.

The voters have decided, but that decision has not been enough for those who are now complaining, for a variety of reasons, that Ohio's restriction on smoking in indoor, public places is all wrong.

It's unfair, we hear. It's unconstitutional, it's un-American, it flies in the face of a free society.

Bar owners, bowling alley operators, among others, are lined up to take another stab at the ordinance and place an alternative measure on the ballot this upcoming November.

And just when we thought the issue was settled and folks had accepted the fact that blowing smoke in other peoples' faces and into their lungs was neither a right nor an acceptable social grace as our views of public behavior – as they always do – shift.

But that is certainly one of the arguments opponents of smoking ordinances use – that in a free society, people should be allowed to conduct their businesses as they wish, they should be allowed to permit their patrons to smoke and those who do not wish to inhale such smoke are free to eat or drink elsewhere.

You have to love the way such arbitrary lines are drawn when society takes it upon itself to enforce public safety. Whether we are talking about seat belts, motorcycle helmets or smoking indoors, the debate rages endlessly over the issue of freedom vs. safety. And it happens every time we tack on some new protective measure.

Yet, protective laws, particularly in the liquor/bar industry are as old as the industry itself. We have always recognized that the common good often trumps personal, individual freedom. That is the only way we can exist as a society that often threatens to split at the seams – to balance individual freedoms with the common good.

Individuals, for example, are not free to make and sell their own liquor. Stills are not legal in this country and have not been for a while.

The states take it upon themselves – either by control or by monopoly – to determine the quality and the quantity of the liquor sold in that state.

We cannot drink in our cars these days. Somehow or another it was determined in bygone days that drinking and driving do not mix. We seem to have accepted that fact and have moved on.

We cannot go into a bar at any and every hour of the day – they have closing times that are set by the state.

These behaviors and others are regulated for the common good because, quite frankly, sometimes individuals do not always act of their own accord with the good of their brethren in mind. So society has to say to those who would not recognize exactly what might be unacceptable – this is now illegal. No, you cannot drive 90 miles an hour, even on a deserted highway because you might kill yourself and we are here to stop you from killing yourself. So it is with smoking in public places.

Once again, the majority of citizens have determined that they should not be subjected to second-hand smoke just as they should not be subjected to someone who is trying to polish off a six-pack of Budweiser between work and home while at the wheel of a car.

You are still free to smoke tobacco – just don't do it here in this spot.

Now here's the kicker, folks. And we say this to all of you who are griping about the limitations on tobacco even while you fully understand the restrictions that an otherwise open society has placed on such individual pleasures such as smoking marijuana and crack.

One of these days, this society may well determine that tobacco poses an unacceptable risk under any circumstances. We're not advocating that, we are just saying it could happen. It wouldn't be the first time.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

\*June 8

Fashion show: Diva Restaurant; Featuring Evan McKinney's Fall/winter collection; 10 pm to 1 am

Economic Empowerment Conference: Noon to 1:30 pm; Café in the Park, Park Lane: 419-255-4174

Center of Hope: 10 Anniversary Celebration for Pastor D.L. Perryman and First Lady Willetta Perryman; 7 pm; Clarion Westgate:

50 Men & Women: Annual Scholarship Banquet; Stranahan Theater; 7 pm

\*June 9

Home School Information Session: Main Library – McMaster Center; 9:30 am: 419-259-5388

Spring Blessings: Women's fashion show luncheon; Sponsored by Women Blessing Women; Lourdes College Gym; 11 am to 1 pm: 419-241-9789

\*June 10

Turning Over a New Leaf Ministries: "Friend & Family Day;" 1:30 pm; Guest speaker Minister Rowena Lee: 419-590-6902

\*June 11-15

St. Paul MBC: Vacation Bible School; 9 am to 1 pm: 419-246-2886

\*June 15

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

Jazz Loop: Pre Art Tatum Jazz Festival Downtown celebration

\*June 16

Coalition for Youth Enrichment: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Day; Noon to 3:30 pm; Toledo/Lucas County Main Branch Library: 419-866-3611

Fashion show on Monroe: 7 to 9 pm; Featuring Ebony's Angels; In front of the Peacock Café contact Marisha @ 419.514.3378 for more info

Summer Fun Basketball League: Open Registration/no charge; Smith Park; 8 am to Noon; Ages seven – 13: 419-255-3756

Praise Fest: Mt. Pilgrim Church; 6:30 pm; Featuring Mark Williams, Dr. Rance Allen, Kim Burrell, First Creation and the Praise Fest Choir: 419-810-2483

\*June 17

Turning Over a New Leaf Ministries: "Special Fathers' Day;" 1:30 pm; Guest speaker Minister Charles Peter Wilson: 419-490-6902

St. Paul MBC: Guest singers from area churches present a concert; "The Greatest Sacrifice;" 6 pm: 419-246-2886

\*June 18-22

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnel Smith Summer Youth Football Camp: Scott HS; Non-contact camp for boys grades 3-8; Free: 419-917-3547

\*June 18-August 4

Summer Reading Pals: Sanger and Oregon branches; Free seven-week summer program for youth who need reading practice: 419-259-5276

\*July 13-15

Annual African American Festival: Nelson Grace Park; 419-255-8876

\*July 20

Harry Potter's Midnight Magic Party: Main Library; 10 pm: 419-259-5231

\*August 11

A Midsummer Night – Up on the Roof: Main Branch Library; 8 pm

## The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political  
Columnist



Jack Ford

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner bought to send a dozen roses to Mike Beasley ... or maybe a check for \$136,000 which is the salary that the mayor of Toledo receives as compensation.

Finkbeiner owes Beasley big time now because it was Beasley who put in the high number for a successful recall petition in the strong mayor proposal some 16 years ago.

Finkbeiner, Beasley and I drafted the strong mayor ordinance, believe it or not, in Finkbeiner's kitchen at a small dinette table in an apartment on Byrne Road. Larry Kaczala was the third sponsor on City

Council for the strong mayor proposal.

Beasley wanted a high number for the recall petition so that the new strong mayor could not be easily tossed out of office once he or she did something unpopular with the voters. I remember arguing for a lower number for recall, such as 15 percent of the last mayoralty election total but we compromised at 25 percent - down from 30 percent which would be essentially a recall-proof threshold.

I saved my firepower for the argument regarding six districts which almost no one wanted because it was thought that would "balkanize" the city into six little fiefdoms.

At one point, The Blade did not want any district representation. I said I would pull back as a sponsor if there was no district reps, and we moved on.

So now Finkbeiner has to sweat this new effort to recall him. Will it work? Probably not.

It is tough to get enough good signatures to get on the

ballot. I remember hustling to get signatures for the curfew when almost no one (The Blade, The Journal, NAACP, ACLU and others) was against it. Remember that fight? But we won, in an effort led by John Rust (the bulldog!), Bill Baker, Tim Rust, Finkbeiner and myself.

So it can be done with a whole lot of sustained energy.

Keith Wilkowski and Wade Kapszukiewicz have teamed to help place Barack Obama in the presidency.

Wilkowski has also put a yeoman's effort into speaking out against the proliferation of convenience stores in inner city neighborhoods. Good for both of them but the cynic in me asks if Wilkowski is also doing a little good will banking in case there is any lingering resentment by some folks in black Toledo over his "knife in the back" against me in 2005.

Some will always remember but most will not. Some probably enjoyed what he did and support him for that alone. On the whole, black folks tend to be forgiving

people. But, Wilkowski, they are not fools.

Speaking of fools, who are the nut brains who called WSPD and said that I should not be appointed to the school board because I knew too many folks in Columbus and just had too much experience to be effective?

In my presentation to the board I pointed out the following actions I had taken to help Toledo Public Schools over the years:

- Raised funds for a new library at Nathan Hale School;
- Adopted a school class;
- Raised thousands of dollars worth of supplies so teachers would not have to go so far into their own pockets;
- Used the mayor's office to turn out the vote on the rebuilding levy which amounts to \$600 million in Ohio School Facilities money;
- Released up to 100 city workers to help TPS students get ready for proficiency tests;
- Led, as minority leader in 1998, the first charge

to limit the spread of charter schools;

· Worked, as minority leader, with the GOP and the Dems to get money for TPS.

Why wouldn't you as voters want someone with that background?

And I spoke of my plans to go forward in the following areas:

- A focus on math and science;
- Student and teacher safety;
- Closer linkage with the business community;
- Visits to parent teacher organization meetings;
- Civility;
- Serious discussions rather than animosity.

Again, I salute the courageous stand Lloyd Mahaffey took in calling for more support for minority candidates by both political parties. Mahaffey is simply a great labor leader with a clear vision.

Finally, when you see Eric Slack on the streets, congratulate him. Slack has been tapped by Bishop Blake, the

new presiding officer of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) to be a senior staff member.

Blake was recently touted as the most powerful church leader in the U.S. by the conservative paper, The Standard Monitor. In Newsweek two weeks ago, Blake was named as the "go to" guy in black America for the presidential candidates, including some one-on-one wooing by Bill Clinton himself.

And now Eric Slack is a major player in this worldwide organization. Go Eric!

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

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voice your opinion on? Then write a Letter to the Editor!  
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**Dear Editor:**

I find it interesting that David Ball and Jimmy Jackson continue to plead their case for delays in commencing the steam plant project in the weekly papers as opposed to talking with their partner, the City of Toledo. The simple truth is that Mr. Jackson and Mr. Ball signed an agreement with the City of Toledo.

Prior to finalizing the agreement, I assume, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Ball performed the necessary due diligence for a project of this size and risk. As a result, the agreement is not contingent upon the degree of difficulty of the project. The agreement is not contingent upon the structural integrity of the back wall. The agreement is not contingent on the availability of state tax credits. Yet these items are very important to the developers now.

The City of Toledo wants Mr. Ball and Mr. Jackson to move forward with the project as agreed.

Yours from Toledo, a City of the Future! \*

Andy Ferrara  
Manager

To Be a True Dreamer

By Jan Scotland  
Guest Columnist

I once wrote a poem called "The Dreamers." In this poem I warned of the tendency to mix up true dreamers with fantasizers or, even worse, the man described in the Beatles song as "the fool on the hill."

There is a difference between a man who believes men can fly and jumps off a building flapping his arms as he falls to his death and a true dreamer who studies the aerodynamics of flight and builds an apparatus that allows men to fly.

True dreamers recognize what it takes to achieve their objectives and commit to the efforts it takes to get there. Obstacles are just additional difficulties that need to be worked on and planned for, not reasons to justify failure.

One of the most amazing presidents in our history was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He decided at a young age that he wanted to be president of the United States just like his uncle Theodore Roosevelt. He became a Democrat because he felt there were too many Roosevelts on the Republican side. He overcame family and political obstacles over and over again to put himself in position to be considered as the democratic front runner.

As fate would have it, this is when the biggest obstacle of his life smashed down on

him, Polio, a crippling and deadly disease, left him totally paralyzed from the waist down. Even today the ability of a wheel chair presidential candidate to win would be greatly hampered.

Imagine the impossible prospect of that happening in the 1930's and 40's. The macho image of the time would not even consider a president who was impaired to that extent. His dream was dead.

Now all of us know that he became the longest-tenured president in our nation's history. And we recognize that he is credited with successfully taking this nation through the Depression and World War II.

As amazing as it sounds most Americans then, and now, did not realize that he could not walk.

How did he fool a nation? Well Roosevelt helped design a brace that allowed him to stand upright and developed the muscles around his hips so by shifting back and forth it gave the appearance of walking. Using a cane in one hand and leaning heavily on his son's arm with the other he appeared to be walking with minor assistance.

The public did not know that both he and his son developed tremendous arm strength to appear to effortlessly walk where he had to. They did not know the prac-

tice they put in to showing no strain in the face as they lumbered along.

They never thought it was strange that the majority of his appearances and press conferences were from a seated position. He is still one of the most loved and revered presidents in our history.

I tell this story to point out the enormous potential of human spirit, to point out that dreaming is more than thought. It is a plan to make that thought reality. It is a determination to face even the largest obstructions to our dreams and take them down piece by piece if necessary until they are only minor bumps in the road.

Whether it is race, religion, money, politics or health. A true dreamer finds a way to their goals in life.

To the classes of 2007 - high school, college, graduate school, doctoral degrees, or even grade school. Take a lesson from the true dreamers' spirit of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Life does not promise you a clear and level road. Most overnight successes have long stories of trials and tribulations that went into that success. Luck often goes to the ones who have prepared for the opportunity and true dreamers won't let anything block the path to their star.

Contact Jan Scotland at [jan@thetruthtoledo.com](mailto:jan@thetruthtoledo.com)

## Teresa Quinn: A Breath of Fresh Air at Lincoln Academy for Boys

By Alexis Randles  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Amidst the usual turmoil of a Toledo Board of Education meeting, coupled with the added element of more than 500 Toledo Public Schools teachers and union employees picketing the TPS administration building, the June 29 end-of-the-school year board meeting also brought in new appointments for several minority participants.

Teresa Quinn was named principal of Lincoln Academy for Boys; Emilio Ramirez was named principal of Woodward High School and school board member Robert Torres was elected vice president of the school board.

Patently standing in the crowded Toledo Board of Education auditorium filled with eager students, parents and community activists, Quinn, the newly appointed principal of Lincoln, proved to be a breath of fresh air.

In anticipation of an unusually contentious meeting, the rest of the room, in contrast, was overwhelmingly jam-packed with a limited amount of standing room. The expressions on the faces that filled the room were a far cry from content. They were marked with concern and dismay.

Alongside an agenda of rather controversial issues, such as the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), a much debated TPS building fund, the never-ending TPS construction, a budget deficit that may exceed \$18 million for the 2008-2009 school year and board election/appointment issues, Quinn managed to accept her position while flashing a smile. She took the opportunity to thank her mother who she gives credit to for being a constant supporter throughout her journey as well as a room full of friends who continue to encourage her.

Although Quinn is not a product of the TPS, as she carefully revealed, she pointed out that she is an advocate for excellence in education and that is what is most important. "I grew up in the city of Toledo, it is my home and I wanted to definitely give something back that will have a relevant enhancement to the TPS curriculum and students," said Quinn.

Quinn's long affiliation with TPS has resulted in a reputation that proceeds itself. She has been active in the academic arena since the early 1990s and in 1998, received her master's degree at the University of Toledo in administration and supervi-



Emilio Ramirez and Theresa Quinn

sion. She has left an impression on students from nearly every grade level through her experience on the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

"I want to ensure the parents and the community, that I am a highly qualified educator and that I value and support cultural backgrounds," said Quinn in a later interview with this reporter.

She certainly thrives off of challenge. When asked how she would maintain the Lincoln Academy's remarkable State Proficiency Test score recovery in 2005-2006, she responded "I believe there is no where else to go but in the path of success." Although no tactical plan is in effect, Quinn did reveal that she plans to work with her group of well-qualified staff as a team.

This staff is one of the major factors that attracted her to this position. She knows them well from her previous stint as assistant principal. "I really like the idea of how the school had a lot of dedicated people there," raved Quinn. "The staff as well as the teachers really had an interest, and still do, in the students and the success of those students."

Throughout her tenure in the education field, her repertoire includes the positions of dean of students that has spanned over a period of four years in the TPS system at Waite High School and Deveaux Junior High School. In addition, since 1993, Quinn has been in "acting" administration positions as well. She was the acting assistant principal at Longfellow Elementary and in August 2006 to December 2006 acting assistant principal at Elmhurst Elementary.

Quinn is not a novice to the education field and ad-

mits it confidently. Early on she realized that there was a demand for positive role models within the school system and hopes that she can lead by example. "I was very drawn to this position and realized too that students need a true model in terms of someone growing up in the city," said Quinn.

Ramirez, a native of Toledo and graduate of Waite High School, earned his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in special education and earned a master's degree in administration and supervision from UT. He is director of pupil placement at Woodward.

Quinn and Ramirez will have no shortage of challenges awaiting them considering the issues that resonated throughout the meeting. High school and junior high school students questioned why their teachers are so unprepared and unaware of the curriculum that is being taught. Disgruntled parents, particularly those whose children have failed to graduate, questioned what TPS has to offer their children already enrolled and their children who are preparing to enroll within the school systems.

"We have honor roll students failing the [OGT] test and having their diplomas, withheld," shouted a parent at the Board of Education members during the meeting. "I'd like to see you take the test and pass it. I'm not blaming the teachers but I am blaming you [the Board of Education] because you failed to properly prepare them,"

A Rogers High School senior Rashida Morris, who also rallied for her classmates who are being held back, insisted that it was prayer that helped her to pass the OGT test. "I took every class that was offered, whether on the

weekends or during breaks, but I really relied on prayer because I know that I am good student," emphasized Morris. "I passed but it was not any help to the OGT packet because there is no comparison between that and the real test."

Contact  
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## Joint Birthday Celebration Brings Together Family and Friends.

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Texanna Lucas McFarland



Odessa Lucas Phillips

More than 75 family members and congregants of Braden United Methodist Church came together on Saturday afternoon at the Waterford Senior Community Center to celebrate the birthdays of church members Odessa Phillips and Texanna McFarland.


The sisters, originally from Mississippi but longtime residents of Toledo and lifetime members of Braden United Methodist, were also acclaimed in proclamations from the mayor of Toledo, Toledo City Council and the Ohio General Assembly.

Phillips just turned 100 and McFarland 95.



Nina Lucas Couch

As a special treat, the ladies, who were part of a family of nine siblings, were joined by their sister Nina Couch from Chicago. Couch, the baby of the group, will turn 88 in June.



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# Toledo Board of Education Scurries to Fill Opening

By Alexis Randles  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In spite of the angst over school closings and students' failure to pass the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), there remained the business last week of finding a volunteer to replace departing Toledo Board of Education member Deborah Barnett.

As promised, by Steven Steel, Ph.D., president of the board, all interviews for the position were held open to the public. Interviews commenced this past Friday at 8 a.m. at the Toledo Public School administration building on Manhattan Avenue. Five were scheduled to compete for the position, however Patricia Henry, president of the City of Toledo Civil Service Commission, withdrew her name early Friday morning before the interviewing process began.

Despite the highly-debated issue on whether to have the interviews open to the public or in executive session – which would consist of all interviews being held behind closed doors – the audience turnout was low. Less than half of the auditorium was filled but those who were there listened intently

so as to weigh each candidate's strengths and weaknesses for themselves.

The four candidates who remain in the competition for Deborah Barnett's recently resigned position on the board were Jack Ford, Francis Dumbuya, Lisa Sobecki and Richard Brown III. Whichever candidate is selected for the position will serve the remainder of Barnett's term, which ends December 31, 2007.

Ford was Toledo's mayor from January, 2002 to January 2006. Sobecki is president of the Ottawa River Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization, a member of the Point Place Educational Task Force



Jack Ford

and holds the position as chairman of the Ottawa River's district Parent Congress.

Dumbuya, is the owner of Personnel, Achievement, and Professional Development at LLC, which is a company educational development management company. Brown, an auditor for Toledo City Council, oversees the city's sewer overhaul project.

Once the interviews began, the candidates were each given two minutes to introduce themselves to the board and the public by highlighting any key achievements or strengths that qualify them for the position. Afterwards each were asked one question by each board member, which consisted of Steel, Darlene Fisher, Larry Sykes, and Robert Torres.

During introductions, Dumbuya and Sobecki emphasized their involvement directly with the TPS and in the education arena. "As a parent leader in the district I can make a commitment," said Sobecki.

Dumbuya pointed out that he is not a politician but in-

stead simply an advocate for education. "My wife and I own a business we have a child developmental center and we do serve youths at 25 of the TPS schools and we go to those schools," emphasized Dumbuya. "I am not a politician; quite frankly I believe problems that the school board faces can best be solved with sound education strategies rather than a political approach."

Ford and Brown relied on their experience, drawing attention to their achievements thus far within the city aside from TPS. "My desire to serve extends from my work with young people for the past decade; I have had the opportunity to work with youth as a mentor, as a family conflict mediator and as a youth minister," said Brown.

Board member Fisher started the rounds of questioning with a two-part question: firstly asking what each candidates approach would be towards introducing a levy for TPS and secondly how would they go about resolving issues of discord on the board.

Dumbuya tackled Fisher's question about handling a divided board optimistically by insisting that each person brings different ideas that can improve TPS. "I truly think what we need to do in terms of that is to really learn to accept change and be flexible, to be open minded, to understand that each of us brings a set of ideas that can make this school system better," said Dumbuya

Ford insisted that he would not pick sides if that should happen. Brown took a more radical approach; he suggested eliminating the



Richard Brown and State Representative Edna Brown

public on issues that the board is divided on so that they can talk through the issues and reach an agreement. "I would say go behind closed doors, leave the media, leave the public out and talk through the issues," suggested Brown. "Leave those personal differences in the room and realize that when you're in here (board meetings), you are here to do the work for the kids, for the students, for the staff, for the administrator's, for the teachers because they are expecting the board members to do what they were elected to do and not have personal bickering."

Sobecki responded by saying "I think that as board members we all need to come together and work together."

Sykes continued after Fisher by posing the question of what is the greatest issue facing the TPS.

Dumbuya had a simple and straightforward answer: "academics!"

After his interview with the board, Dumbuya spoke more passionately about resolving such an issue as academics. "We need to take a close look at the OGT curriculum and see how we can align ours with theirs. And if we can do that the kids can not

fail. The kids will not fail when we teach material close to the OGT," said Dumbuya.

Brown believed that the perception of the TPS was the greatest issue. "The perception of the community about TPS is what we need to restore and their credibility as board members," insisted Brown. "I think we need to talk more, discussing and engaging the community and then I believe they will feel more connected as opposed to feeling left out."

Sobecki felt that the greatest issue facing TPS would be the transitioning of schools. "That's one of the biggest concerns right now that I hear from the community is how this (the transitioning) is going to take place," emphasized Sobecki. She spoke about losing children within the district to schools outside of the TPS if it is not handled correctly. She pointed out alternative methods they could put into action that would allow them to gain children. "As a board member we need to go side by side with people in the district and to go door to door to the families," said Sobecki.

Contact  
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## GREATER TOLEDO URBAN LEAGUE, INC.



### NOTICE



### Annual Membership & Board of Directors Meeting

For the election of Board Members and Officers for the fiscal year ending 2007

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 28, 2007

**WHERE:** Main Library (Downtown)  
325 Michigan St. Toledo, OH  
(Enter through main doors)

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA** Revised By-laws, Board  
**ITEMS:** Appointments/Elections

**OTHER:** One hour courtesy parking is available in the Library's parkade.

Refreshments will be served  
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# TPD Detective Harold Mosley Opens Campaign for School Board

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*



Harold Mosely with student supporters

Detective Harold Mosley, a 27-year veteran of the Toledo Police Department, has thrown his hat in the ring for one of the two Toledo Board of Education seats that will be open this November.

Speaking in front of a crowd of youngsters at Robinson Middle School, Mosley, a first-time candidate for elective office promised to "make a difference."

He spoke of a two-pronged platform – security and academic performance.

"I will scrutinize security protocols to make sure our schools are safe and I support those initiatives to enhance academic performance," said Mosley who was introduced at the announcement by his campaign manager Art Jones, a former Toledo City Councilman.

"I have had the privilege of serving the city for 27 years," said Mosley, who asked voters to bestow on him the honor of serving the city in yet another capacity.

Mosley did not seek the endorsement of a political party for this campaign, but he said the lack of an endorsement will not be an obstacle to his chances for success. "People will judge me on my past history," he said. "I have been advocating for children since the mid-1980's."

Mosley is one of four declared candidates for the seats held by former board president Deborah Barnett, who resigned effective May 25, and current board member Larry Sykes, who has not yet announced if he will be a candidate for re-election. The other declared candidates are Richard Brown III, Lisa Sobecki and Chris Myers. Several others have pulled petitions from the Lucas County Board of Elections but have not yet announced whether or not they will run for election.

Brown and Sobecki have been endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party. Myers, who ran unsuccessfully for the school board in 2005, will be attempting to obtain the endorsement of the Lucas County Republican Party.

Mosley announced his intention to run just moments before the Board of Education took up the matter of appointing someone to complete Barnett's term. Ten people had applied for the post and five finalists were selected from that list.

Mosley did not seek appointment to finish out Barnett's term. Brown and Sobecki did and were finalists for the position, along with former Mayor Jack Ford, Francis Dumbuya, Ph.D., and Patricia Henry.

# "STEP UP" And Make A Difference By Creating Summer Job Opportunities

*Special to The Truth*

United Way of Greater Toledo, Lucas County, The City of Toledo and The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, have partnered to create STEP, the Summer Teen Employment Program aimed at providing young people, ages 16-21, with summer employment and valuable work experience.

Currently, The SOURCE has a waiting list of approximately 400 eager young people looking for summer jobs. However, the help of area businesses is needed in order to place these young people in jobs.

In late April, United Way mailed letters, signed by all of the partners, to more than 4,000 area businesses asking for their assistance. The letters, along with other efforts by the partnership, have yielded more than 30 summer jobs and approximately \$20,000.

The STEP partnership is extremely grateful for the companies who have stepped up to help, however additional companies are still needed. Companies can contribute by creating at least one job or donating up to \$2,000, which will be matched by United Way, and used to sponsor a youth through the YMCA's youth employment program.

According to Bill Kitson, president and CEO of United Way, "Our goal of matching 200 young people with 200 jobs is critical to our community's competitiveness. United Way's match and gifts from businesses in our community will only get us a part of the way there. Everyone needs to step up."

Companies interested making a financial contribution should contact Traci Jados at United Way by calling 419-254-4682. Companies interested in creating a summer job position or hiring a young person for an already existing summer position should contact Martha Fisher at The Source by calling 419-213-6289.

"With our resources at The SOURCE, we want our local businesses to know that we are ready to assist them as they look at summer youth employment opportunities this year," said Tina Skeldon Wozniak, president of the Board of Lucas County Commissioners.

With the help of the community, STEP will provide the next generation the opportunity to develop their skills and be ready for graduation, college and beyond.

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# The Toledo Club of the NANBPWC, Inc. Presents the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Debutante Cotillion Ball

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"What becomes of the colored girl? The muses of song, poetry and art do not woo and exalt her. She has inspired no novels. Those who write...seldom think of this dark-skinned girl who is persistently breaking through the petty tyrannies of east into the light of recognition." From "The Colored Girl" by Fannie Barrier Williams (**What Becomes of the Colored Girl? Black Women, Autobiography and Womanist Theology**) © Audrey Kerr, PhD, Quodlibet Journal: Volume 2 Number 3, summer 2000 <http://www.Quodlibet.net>.

As if answering this question posed long ago, The Toledo Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC, Inc.) presents accomplished young African-American women to society each year at a gala Debutante Cotillion.

"The purpose of the Cotillion is to present our out-

standing young ladies to society clothed with the finer thoughts of living and endowed with a complete sense of responsibility. To accomplish this end, the areas of culture, charm, talent and congeniality were pursued during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and have now become a medium whereby the debutante steps on the threshold of womanhood."

The 2007 Cotillion provided a record 40 young women with the opportunity to debut into Toledo's African-American society, Saturday, May 26, at the Great Hall of the Stranahan Theater.

Among this bouquet of newly-blossomed flowers representing 13 high schools in our community are the valedictorians from Libbey and Rogers High Schools (Briana Funches and Andrea Michelle Hill), the salutatorians from Libbey and Scott High Schools (Brittany Funches and Asia Shaniece Whitaker Greer), a ballerina who solos with the Toledo

Ballet (Ashley Duke), Fourth Runner-up in the Miss Toledo Teen Pageant, National Honor Society President at Scott and winner of Miss Junior Teen in 2005 (Keahna Sawyer), a future student at NYU (Adriele Laurice Parker), a student with a 4.18 GPA (Mesherry Cooks), a student who maintained a 4.0 all four years of high school and won third prize in painting at the 2007 ACT-SO competition (Keiara Furr-Ruffin), a future student at Howard University (Victoria Phifer), a student elected as having the "Best Smile" for the 2007 senior class at Bowsher (Brooke C. Ware), Scott's Homecoming Queen (Takeia Triplett), the Senior Class President at Woodward (Erika Manuel), several students listed in "Who's Who in American High Schools" (among them, Brittany Lynnee Darrington, Kedrenai Harris, Shakar T. Knabbs and Share'e Nicole Robinson), 14 future students at The University of Toledo (Ra'Yah MaNique

Blackshear, Danielle Carr, Cooks, Alexis Cross, Jasmine Nicole Fail, Marquila Ferrell, Greer, Harris, Hill, Brittany Christina McGrew, Robinson, Derrisha Sanderfer, Triplett and Maggie Thornton, five future students at The Ohio State University (Anna-Stacia LaJewell Allen, both Funches, Furr-Ruffin and Tara Anise Gould) and seven at Bowling Green State University (Lakyra Lee Cunningham, Monika N. Garrett, Alicia Mann, Arianna Pittman, Rowlett and Sierra Turner).

Others will attend The University of Cincinnati (Sawyer and Ware), Ohio University (Leslie Denise Williams), Tennessee State (Manuel), Tiffin University (Robinson), Owens Community College (Keyonna Caprice Gray), Xavier (Karah Haynes), Ken-

The "colored women's club movement" of which NANBPWC, Inc. is a part, is rooted in community service. "It is often stated that African American women formed their own clubs because they were not allowed to participate in white women's clubs especially in the period after the civil war... these clubs were actually formed as a way for African American women to assert their humanity, racial identity, and address issues unique to the African American community." (Johnson, W. J. (2006, Sep) "Lifting as We Climb": African American Women's Club Movement, with Emphasis on S.C.L.C./W.O.M.E.N.S., Inc. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, NA, Atlanta, GA).

NANBPWC, Inc. proudly continues that club tradition with its annual Cotillion Ball. "Our young ladies are dynamite and we're proud to have them as part of this activity," gushed Toledo Club President Clara Brank as she greeted parents and guests at this year's Cotillion Ball.

"Sit back and enjoy the results of 11 weeks that these young people have been practicing. Eleven weeks of rehearsals for our debutantes, debs-in-waiting and escorts."

In addition to all that rehearsal, the debs and debs-in-waiting participate in an introductory tea, screening and personal interviews, photo sessions, one day health and career clinic, Debs-In-Waiting and Mothers Luncheon, Debutante Mother/Daughter Luncheon, Talent Preview, Talent Night and, finally, the Cotillion Ball.

Last year's winner, Taylor James, was introduced by

Second Vice-President Leola Haynes. James presently attends Cornell University where she plans to obtain both a medical and doctorate degree and then research diseases that affect African-Americans, such as sickle cell anemia.

Lofly ideals like James' are characteristic of the women who created the "colored women's club movement." Journalist Ida B. Wells started organizing clubs specifically for black women in the late 1890s and began a national movement that created the first association of these clubs in 1896.

Wells lost a bid for president of the National Association of Colored Women to Mary McLeod Bethune in 1924. Ten years later, the foundation was laid for the formation of NANBPWC, Inc.

The late Emma Odessa Young, a realtor from New York City and a member of the New York Club of Business and Professional Women, conceived the idea of a national organization of business and professional women in 1934.

Barbara Tucker, North Central District Vice-Governor, congratulated The Toledo Club on its premier event. "We are so proud of the work that the Toledo Club has done for 43 years to provide cultural and educational enrichment for these young ladies," she said, "culminating in the crowning of Miss Debutante."

Beverly Tucker introduced the 2007 Cotillion judges: Doni Miller, CEO Neighborhood Health Board; Jacqueline Martin, executive director - Lucas County Mental Health Board; Katie Bond, director - Neighborhoods, City of Toledo;

(Continued on Page 8) and



Mrs. Ollie Chin Porter

tucky State University (Jessica Crawford), ITT (Ford), Miami University (Darrington) and Bright State University (Knabbs).

Many, like Ebony Ra' Shay Ford, were in the top 25 percent of their class (Lisa Rowlett was among the top 10 in hers) and most, like Brittany Moore, were involved in community service projects, a major factor in selecting scholarship recipients and the winner of this event.

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## Debutante Cotillion

(Continued from Page 7)

tallies, Sámirah Khatib and Desiree McGee.

"Our judges have the task of selecting the outstanding debutante from 40 outstanding young ladies," explained Tucker. "These young women represent the cream of the crop from the area."

Prior to the formal presentation of the debutantes, 20 Debs-In-Waiting introduced themselves in a carefully synchronized routine choreographed by Sallie Chovan, the Cotillion's choreographer.

Each of the possible future debutantes wore a beautiful red gown, with sparkle-accented bodice and pin-tucked, bell-shaped skirt, plus a wrist corsage in the red and yellow colors of the club.

The 2007 Debutantes were presented by WTVG-TV 13's Efreem Graham and Kristian Brown. "Kristian is apart-time model and is wearing a gown from the House of Hilton," said Graham as Brown made several grace-



Presentation to the audience

ful pivots behind the podium in a pink confection that looked as if it were made for her.

She was in full view of the 40 escorts in their white tails, who responded with appreciative wolfwhistles.

Soon, however, all attention was on the 40 young women dressed in a variety of classically beautiful white gowns with matching elbow-length gloves as each was presented by a male relative or family friend wearing black tails and escorted by one of the handsome young escorts to her place in the lineup of young women entering

Toledo's African-American society.

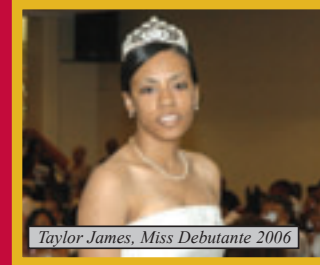
Each debutante was presented with a string of pearls by a Deb-In-Waiting. Eleven weeks of rehearsals paid off as escorts and debs showed off their skills in the Cotillion Waltz to the delight of parents, who got their turn on the dance floor during the Parents' Waltz as debs danced with their fathers and escorts danced with the debs' mothers.

Councilwoman Wilma Brown, Cotillion chairman, presented awards, assisted by Brank. The big moment awaited the presentation of

numerous awards including: the President Scholarships from UT presented by Kaye Patten Wallace, vice president of Student Life; Mr. Escort 2007, presented by Dance Master, Bill Miller; Miss Congeniality, who received a special gift from Henry's Jewelry, presented by Chovan and the Talent Award presented by Cotillion Co-Chairman Mary Dawson.

The 2007 Outstanding Debutante title was presented to Brittany Lynnee Darrington, a senior at Sylvania Southview High School. Offered numerous scholarships worth \$20,000 and over, Darrington has accepted a \$90,000 scholarship from Miami University.

Darrington has been extensively involved in community service, winning her much recognition and tangible rewards. "That's what they look at when they give scholarships," Donnetta Carter, Sponsors Hostess for the Cotillion, said after the event. "Community service is so important."



Taylor James, Miss Debutante 2006



Judges Kattie Bond, Jacqueline Martin, and Doni Miller



Clara Brank, Efreem Graham, Councilwoman Wilma Brown



Debs in Waiting



Taylor James crowns Brittany Lynnee Darrington

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# Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation Honors Five Toledoans

By Artisha S. Lawson  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The lovely ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, honored five Toledo women at the annual Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation luncheon.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first historically black collegiate sorority was organized at Howard University in 1908. Locally, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter has served Toledo since 1952.

While continuing with their mission to serve all of mankind, the women of Zeta Alpha Omega formed a foundation to focus directly on charity to the young and elderly of Toledo and surrounding areas. In 1996 the Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation was organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious and scientific purposes. Its programs are designed to conduct and provide scholarships, health seminars, community services, cultural, historically and other services for the aged, handicapped youth

and economically disadvantaged individuals.

For the past four years co-chairmen Edna Robertson and Kate Jackson have organized the luncheon, which serves as a major fundraiser for the foundation's efforts. Each luncheon featured an artist mini-concert and certificates awarded to individuals who service the community.

The Saturday, June 2 event opened with a joint spiritually uplifting presentation by the praise dancers of both St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Rhema Word. Guests smiled and clapped for the women's physically interpretation of Christian music.

Returning for a second year-in-a-row, The JoyRide Trio performed a mini-concert while guests finished their lunch. The group serenaded the audience with classic Motown love ballads and upbeat tunes from the 1970s and 1980s, while encouraging guests to sing-a-long and

dance with the performers.

Following the concert, the five honorees were presented with a certificate held inside a pink and green frame. Program co-chair, Robertson, explained the reason these honorees were chosen. "The women this year are all hard-working women. Each works with both youth and the elderly, there is never a task too small or large for these women. The recipients were Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown, Mott Branch library manager Judy Jones, retired educator Margaret Huntley and Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation members Donnetta Carter and Jenny Temple.

The event concluded with a raffle drawing by the ladies of Zeta Alpha Omega, and words of gratitude to everyone who made the event possible for another year.

Contact  
Artisha Lawson at  
artisha@thetruthtoledo.com



Foundation and Honorees



Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation

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## Breaking Barriers: Terry Awls is First African-American to Serve as General Manager at Sylvania Country Club

By Alan Abrams  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Growing up in Birmingham Terrace, a public housing project on the mean streets of Toledo's east side, the view Terry Awls most often saw from his window was a vast expanse of concrete.

Today, at the age of 35, he leans back into his comfortable chair and looks out upon some of the most beautiful tree-lined lush green vistas in the Toledo area. That's the incomparable view from his office as general manager at the venerable Sylvania Country Club, one of northwest Ohio's most exclusive country clubs.

A month ago, Awls became the first African-American to hold the prestigious title. "I worked very hard to get here," says Awls, in what may be one of the great understatements of the decade.

Before he came to Sylvania Country Club, Awls worked for 15 years at Inverness Country Club. He began his career there in the kitchen making salads.

"I was working at the Old Country Buffet as a salad maker when one day the head chef at Inverness came in for a meal. He found out who I was and offered me a job. I had never heard of Inverness, but I went in for my interview and was hired," recalls Awls.

"I'd always wanted to cook. What made me take an interest in a culinary career? Growing up, my mom didn't have enough money for food sometimes. I thought that if I learned how to cook, I could make my own food and I'd never go hungry," remembers Awls.

"Once I got to Inverness, I progressed through the kitchen from salad maker to making sautés and eventually to the front of the house, although it meant my taking a \$2 an hour pay cut. I worked in all areas of food service from banquet to la carte. When a job opened up in maintenance I took it and learned all about country club maintenance from it. I was still in my 20's. I kept on taking responsibilities in new departments — ultimately working in six of them.

Says Awls about his new position at Sylvania Country Club, "We have a great group of board members here... and they gave me an opportunity."

The private membership club has 300 members, of whom two are African-American — *Sojourner's Truth* co-publisher Kevin McQueen and businessman Truman Irving.

"I wasn't hired here as a black male. It goes beyond

color. I do the job. And I'm very blessed. I love being in a service business and knowing about every aspect from A to Z. One thing about me is that I am not about to accept the status quo," says Awls.

Indeed, Awls is a hands-on manager during the long days he puts in on the job. "I work a 70 to 80-hour work week. I'm in here at 6:30 or 7 am. One of the first things I do is make a tour through building doing inspection. I check the salt and pepper shakers on the tables, make sure that the silverware has been polished and the table setting done. I check the bathrooms to make sure they had been cleaned that night. I go on through the day like that until I go home around 8 or 9 pm. For me, a 14-hour day is the norm.

"If there is going to be a party or an event, I make certain that the room is clean for members and guests. After all, this is a private club where members pay money to join.

I can't settle for anything less than perfection. I haven't settled for it to this point, so why settle now?" says Awls.

During the month he has been at the Sylvania Country Club, Awls has been hiring management staff including several who worked with him at Inverness. "I'm driven to succeed. I owe my family that. I take a lot of pride in what I do, and I'm very happy to be a part of the Sylvania Country Club.

"I Enjoy it. I do the right thing and I take care of the membership. This job is like a dream thing for me. I have a tremendous faith in God and I work hard. I do not focus upon money. I believe that if you work hard the money will come. I have never been money driven. Growing up, we've been poor and had nothing. We struggled. I've worked since I was 13," says Awls.

In the course of his career, Awls has met golf greats like Chi-Chi Rodriguez, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Frank Stranahan, and former Vice President Dan Quayle.

Photos of these dignitaries proudly share a scrapbook along with numerous awards and letters of commendation, as well as color photos of soups, salads, and ice carvings created by Awls. Judging from the color photographs, it still looks like Awls makes one mean salad.

A major Duke fan, Awls coached JV and freshman golf at St. John's Jesuit High School for six years before giving it up this year. He has also coached eight seasons

of girl's basketball at Ottawa Hills High School.

The son of Al Lane and Joy A. Awls, he has a twin sister, Sherry White. Awls and his wife Christina have three children: daughter Jasmine, 12; and sons Cameron, 5, and Braden, 2.

Awls attended East Toledo Junior High and Toledo Macomber before transferring to Waite High School in his senior year. After graduation, he went on to Indiana University-Purdue University Ft. Wayne (IPFW) and the Culinary School at Monroe (MI) Community College, where he graduated with major honors including All American Academic Team recognition by *USA Today* in 1998.

Sylvania Country Club also has a new pro, Aaron Waltz, who, like Awls, is in his 30's. Steve Brown, the new course superintendent, rounds out the new trio of 30-something hires at the club.

"Our goal is to be the best in the area. We have a great club, a great history and a great tradition," says Awls.

The historic Sylvania Country Club was built in 1916 when S.P. Jermain, considered "The father of Toledo Golf" had the internationally famous designer and British Amateur Champion Willie Park, Jr. design the then-Sylvania Golf Club. In 1926, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America chose the club as the site in which to establish their organization.



Golf great Arnold Palmer, honored at Sylvania Country Club by a room and a plaque on his original locker, won the US Amateur title there in 1954. Other champion golfers such as Frank Stranahan, Byron Nelson and Sylvania's own Mel Woelfling also have played the tree-lined course built on 160 acres of rolling terrain. The Sylvania Country Club also has an Olympic size pool, and a world-class tennis facility under the direction of Scott B. Perelman.

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## It's Time For Summer Reading Club: INVESTIGATE! Your Mission Begins June

It's almost summertime... time to get out, have fun and investigate the world around you. What better way to enjoy the warm weather than to read books about subjects of interest while solving the everyday mysteries and riddles that surround you?

Become a Summer Reading Club (SRC) Super Agent by joining the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library as it kicks off its **2007 Summer Reading Club: INVESTIGATE!** beginning June 4 through August 4. Fill out an entry blank at any library branch. SRC, a free program of fun activities and great prizes, has three components: juvenile club, a teen club, and an adult club. Preschoolers may participate by having someone read to them.

This year's **INVESTIGATE!** theme is aimed at encouraging youth to explore any subject, real or imaginary. Remember, reading books will help you find the answers along the way. Share what you learn with other Summer Reading Club agents.

**Marilyn Zielinski**, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Youth Services

Manager, says that by investigating subjects, plots, and characters through

reading, youth and adults alike can open the door to new worlds and in-

terests.

"Every year our Summer Reading Club creates such a fun atmosphere that encourages the entire community and families to read. With our **INVESTIGATE!** theme, we want to encourage a fun mission for readers to fully explore the topics, plots, characters, and settings that each book offers," said Zielinski.

The **2007 Summer Reading Club: INVESTIGATE!** features the following three divisions:

• **Juvenile Club:** These children are encouraged to read at least 15 minutes a day, and they are awarded prizes after reading 1, 2, 4, 8 and 12 hours. Children also get to place a bookplate (one color) in a new library book after reading 20 hours. As children reach the 30, 40, 50, or 60 hour and higher levels, they can enter to win system prizes provided by the Library Legacy Foundation such as **gift cards for the Toledo Mud Hens, Borders Books, and the Toledo Zoo.** (Note: Preschoolers may become SRC members by having someone read to them)

• **Teen Club:** These junior high and high school-aged youth fill out an entry form for each book read and place it in a marked box at any branch location or at Main Library for drawings, which will be held

throughout the summer. **Grand prizes such as an iPod, Nintendo DS Lite, G Tech backpack and cinema gift cards** will be awarded at the end of SRC.

• **Adult Club:** Adults fill out an entry form for each book read and drawings will be held throughout the summer for prizes. Last year's SRC saw more than 20,000 youth and adult participants!

For the seventh straight year, TARTA has offered free transportation to Preschool

through 12<sup>th</sup> grade SRC participants. Members of **2007 Summer Reading Club**

**INVESTIGATE!** need only show their SRC reading record or hang tag for free transportation to and from their favorite library in Lucas County.

A specialized Internet component of SRC will be available for youth the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> by logging on to [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org). The Web site's SRC section offers games, coloring pages, question of the week, mazes, reading suggestions and fun links.

For more details, call 419.259.5207, visit any Toledo-Lucas County Public Library branch location or log on to [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)

## Riverdance Has a Little Something for Everyone

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Celtic extravaganza *Riverdance* returns to the Stranahan Theater this week for three performances. The long-running show, which features music and, for the most part, Irish step dancing, opened in 1995 in Dublin, Ireland and has since seen more than 9,000 performances in 32 countries.

The traveling troupe, comprised of about 40 Irish dancers, 10 Russian folk dancers, a Spanish Flamenco dancer and several American tap dancers, last appeared in Toledo in May 1993 to packed houses.

The first part of the show is about the folklore and history of Ireland; the second half involves the Irish emigration and the cultures such émigrés encountered.

African-American tap dancers are among those who match wits, or footwork, with the step dancers in the second half's dancing duel.

Jason Bernard, just 26 years old, has been with *Riverdance* on and off for six years. But the Bronx native and tap dancing phenomenon, was already a seasoned veteran by the time he joined the company.

Bernard made his Broadway debut at the age of 17, while he was still in high school, in *Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk* with Savion Glover. He later had parts in the feature film *Bamboozled*, with Glover, and the made-for-television film *Bojangles* with the late Gregory Hines.

"I started dancing when

was six years old," said Bernard last week in a telephone interview with The Truth from his hotel room in Hamilton, ON shortly after the show had arrived there from northern Virginia. "My sister was a dancer and my parents would bring me along. I loved the sound of tapping and the look of the rehearsal costumes."

riodic resurgence every five to 10 years.

*Riverdance*, however, has provided the greatest influence thus far on Bernard's performing career. And has he enjoyed the experience "Oh my, gosh, yes," he bubbled. "Immensely. The traveling, the different cities, the audiences, the experience of working with all



Jason E. Bernard

Eventually, Bernard joined the Dance Studio of Harlem to further his craft and studied ballet and jazz along the way. But tap dancing remains his first love.

"It always arouses the audience," he said as he reflected on tap dancing's pe-

these dancers. The Irish step dancers have been so interesting. And I get to watch and learn from the Russians and the Flamenco.

"When I dance, there is a little of other styles that I incorporate now. What we do is a blending of language and dance styles."

The end of the line may be approaching for *Riverdance*. This particular leg of the tour ends in July. But if the show is renewed, Bernard hopes that he will have an opportunity to remain part of the cast. The young tapper eventually wants to return to college – Hunter College in New York where he was majoring in musical theater and psychology – and later pursue a theater career in directing. All of this can wait, however, until his involvement with *Riverdance* is concluded.

"We speak different languages," he says of the disparate cultural elements in the show. "But we use the same language of dance so we can communicate."

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Laura, Willie's Wife

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Joya, Willie's Daughter



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Artisha Lawson at  
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## Our New Chicken Man Turns Around Church's Franchise

By Sharon Guice  
Special to The Truth

Those of you who have changed your ways and no longer hang out late at night, do you remember Chicken Man? Do you remember after clubbing all night, or getting off of the midnight shift, the smell and thought of chicken wings and having to have some of that good fried chicken to go to sleep on? I know it brings back memories of your younger days when you could eat greasy food and lay down on it.

Well, there's a new Chicken Man in town. Only, it's not someone cooking from their own home kitchen; but an established business here to increase our community, spiritually, physically and financially.

Paul Hubbard, from Toledo, Ohio, the owner of Church's Chicken was asked to come to Lima and provide us with an opportunity that we would be proud of and say we can do it too.

Church's Chicken became a dream come true after months of working it out with local banks, the SBA (Small Business Association), research that we could handle a new business in the city and with a lot of sweat and tears as one of our dreams came to fruition.

Church's Chicken opened at 629 South Main Street on December 18, 2006 with cars lining the parking lot and the street for a week amongst the snow plies from a storm a few days before.

Since then, the business is operating well but the African-American community for whom the business was brought to town has not patronized the business that well.

When Church's Chicken first opened, customer complaints and displeasure with the services were passed along by word of mouth to others as well as the owner, Hubbard. Some said, the food is not good, the service is slow and orders are not completed correctly.

Well, that was six months ago. Today, it's a new day. The people's concerns were taken to heart by Hubbard. He heard what was said and has done something about it.

He brought in Moe Rahman - one of his best - to train the Lima people on customer service. The food is prepared the way every other Church's franchise prepares its food, according to fran-

chise regulations for which the business is famous. It's been told that people drive all the way to Dayton and Columbus just to taste a piece of Church's Chicken. Lima folks no longer have to make the drive for over an hour to get that piece of chicken. It's right here in our city.

Rahman is a certified TGM (Training General Manager) and started as a general manager himself in 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia. His duties are to oversee the day to day operations and train other general managers for the business.

Rahman states he started out with 22 workers in the Lima operation and only four employees out of the original 22 remain today. Lima's labor pool is limited for trained workers in this field. Each team member receives two days training. At the end of the training they are tested and must pass the test with an 80 percent rating to ensure the best customer service.

He is currently training Jim Adams to be a GM (general manager). GM's cannot be hired directly from the streets. They are promoted from within the business and go through an extensive training for one month. They must pass a test that consist of 180 questions and watch a video to become a GM trainee.

Rahman hires 17 - 18 years old employees for the summer calling them summer kids. These kids are trained on life skills of how to keep a job.

Rahman states the current

team members are better qualified and trained than those hired in December 2006. The customer services now are much better than when the business first opened.

Rahman wears a badge that states "I know what good is" and is a great example of good customer service. He recognizes the regular customers, knowing them by name and their mode of transportation. He knows what they like to order and appreciates their faithfulness to the business.

It was a hot day on the day this reporter visited and noticed that he offered drinks to the customers while they waited on their orders and offered samples of new menu items.

Discussing the Lima business with owner, Paul Hubbard, was a very pleasant experience. He definitely has a heart to serve the Lima community with excellence.

Hubbard visits Lima two or three times a week to make sure Lima is receiving the best food and customer service that the city is worthy of.

During a recent visit, The Truth put a few questions to the Chicken Man:

Q. How did you hear about Lima?

A. Judith (Clark) Glenn wanted to start an Urban League in Lima and she heard I owned a Church's Chicken. She told Derry (Judith's husband) about it and he was very persistent about

Church's Chicken coming to Lima.

Q. I heard you had some concerns in opening a business in Lima. What were some of the problems you encountered in bringing the business here?

A. I had a hard time with the banks and the SBA to get the paperwork done.

Q. Did you have any problems with the Lima City government cooperating with you?

A. No, the city government cooperated very well with us.

Q. How did you choose the location?

A. Rev. Ronald Fails offered 629 South Main. He had bought the place to train and hire local people for the restaurant business. This lined up with our program and he leased the building to us and this would allow some of his people to receive training.

Q. Once you opened the business here what kind of concerns did you face opening a business here?

A. The kick-off week was great. We made \$50,000 the

first week, but since then the African-American community has not been very supportive of the business.

Q. Why do you think the African-American community has not been very supportive of the business?

A. According to the concerns expressed to us the food is not good, the service is slow and employees spreading untrue rumors.

Q. What are some of those rumors?

A. Derry Glenn is an investor and owner in Church's Chicken but this is not true. Derry helped bring Church's Chicken here because the African-American community needed the business here.

Q. You own more than one Church's Chicken, has this been your experience with opening the business in other places?

A. We have stores in Toledo and Detroit and when you open a business in a town the size of Lima the word gets around a lot faster and the African-American family isn't always as forgiving of your mistakes as in a bigger city.

Q. Are your procedures

for opening a business in a smaller city any different than a larger city like Detroit?

A. The process is the same. We hire local not trained employees same as Toledo and Detroit, but the word does not spread as fast as in the smaller cities.

Q. If the African-American community is not very supported how is the business doing?

A. If wasn't for the white customers we would be out of business. Seventy percent of white customers come back. We straighten out the

American complaints but they have not returned to do business with us and the rumors are still spreading. The food is well prepared and good. Customer service is improved as we have well-trained employees and the wait time is three to five minutes both for walk-ins and the drive-thru window

Q. So you have been in business for six months, what are you doing or planning to do to help the community?

A. I've had lunch with community members to discuss things in the city.

(Continued on Page 15)



Moe Rahman - manager



Juan Olarde, Moe Rahman, Shamice Funches, Jim Adams

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## Reel Review Special: A Trek Around the Summer's Offerings

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

All you movie bootleggers and music downloaders out there – the entertainment industry wants its money back!

Why buy that new Rihanna album at the mall for \$14 when there's some kid in the Kroger's parking lot selling it weeks in advance for five bux?

Why spend \$30 to take your girl to the movies and sit through babies crying and teenagers wildin' out when you can spend ten bux with the bootleg man, get the entire movie on DVD and watch it in the comfort of your own home?

Some of us just love taking the easy way out, I guess.

Me personally, I try to refrain from all things bootleg – (music, movies, Air Jordans being sold off the roof of a car). I just prefer the real thing.

I like my music to sound clear and complete, I like my movies to be live and in person.

But that's just me.

The majority of you are crippling the entertainment industry with your penny-pinching ways.

But, then again, many of you feel like you'd pay for some decent entertainment if there was some decent entertainment.

You don't wanna waste your hard-earned money on a bunch of *Soul Plane*-type B.S.

And who can blame you? So, in an effort to lure you



back into their good graces ... the entertainment powers that be have decreed that there will be some new hotness coming down the pike that's guaranteed to satisfy.

The film industry has really taken this initiative to the next level by mounting a never-before-seen parade of blockbuster movies all in one year.

You would think 2007 is Hollywood's going away party.

So many big films are opening this year that it almost feels like some soft of Hail Mary, desperation shot. The clock is winding down, they've GOT to get y'all back in the theatres.

Spiderman 3, Shrek 3, Rush Hour 3, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix,

*The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Live Free or Die Hard* (*Die Hard 4*), *Ocean's 13*, *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*. Every last one of those



films was preceded by earlier installments that brought in about \$100 Million Dollars EACH!

*Spiderman* and *Shrek* have spawned films that hold records for historical box office numbers.

And that's not all. *Daddy Day Care* and *Bruce Almighty* are also being reincarnated this year as *Daddy Day Camp* and *Evan Almighty*.

Both sequels are without their A-List stars this time around (Cuba Gooding replaces Eddie Murphy and Steve Carell replaces Jim Carrey).

However, both have secured huge budgets and are hoping that you'll come to the theatres and make it all worthwhile.

Then, there's the two films I'm really excited about:

*The Simpsons: The Movie* and *Transformers*.

I guess this is what 40 somethings must feel like about Spidey, because I'm happy to see a huge part of my childhood coming to the silver screen.

Yo, ask my parents! I had all those transformer toys!

In high school when the new Transformers cartoons started airing it was a big deal!

With the Simpsons, y'all already know I'm trying to see Homer act a fool.

And as much as I pretty much know I'm gonna enjoy both of those movies,

when I look at their release dates I have to wonder again if I'm being intention-

ally coaxed. In just one summer Hollywood stands to make up for billions and billions of dollars they've lost in recent years.

But if the product is good we really can't be mad, right? WRONG!

This past Sunday I went to the two-dollar show to see Halle Berry and Bruce Willis' *The Perfect Stranger*. What?

Halle Berry had a movie out this year?

She sure did, but you'd never know it because this film got sandwiched between the early '07 blockbusters and soon faded from memory.

For the record however, it's a pretty good film.

Hell, it's an outstanding film for TWO DOLLARS!

Halle plays Rowena Price, an investigative journalist for one of the biggest publications in NYC. But she'd never have her opinions heard as a black female so she writes under the assumed identity of an older white male. This way, her readers trust her views on politics and scandal. Even though the final 20 minutes of *Perfect Stranger* just seems far too outlandish to be real and instead of becoming a welcomed plot twist it comes off as manipulation by the writers.

The working premise for most of the movie is that Rowena is piecing together a murder mystery involving the brutal slaying of her close childhood friend.

That's already pretty solid, but it gets better.

There's a fair amount of overbearing technology that makes the film relevant but a little too squeaky. You know, those action/dramas that ALWAYS have the one character whose a computer wizard with God-like powers over information... well that guy in this movie is Miles.

Miles is also interesting because he's Rowena's best friend, and he wants her bad and she pays no attention to

his advances which he thinly veils as comedy.

There's also power and intrigue.

Bruce Willis is Harrison Hill, a wealthy advertising executive.

*Perfect Stranger* takes you on a wild ride connecting Hill to the death of Rowena's friend only to find out that absolutely nothing is what you thought it was.

I liked it. And I almost missed it thanks to this box office gridlock.

Speaking of box office gridlock (I like that phrase, I think I'll keep it), can anyone tell me what happened to Will Ferrell's and Jon Heder's *Blades of Glory*?

Toledo area multiplexes aren't showing a wildly successful comedy by a guy who's become the newest funnyman to string together a few \$100 million box-office hits.

What's up with that?

Oh yeah, with so many screens being taken up by *Pirates*, *Ogres* and *Superheroes* – there's no room left for the hysterical comedy of Will Ferrell.

And don't get me wrong. *Spiderman 3* is a wonderful film.

Long as all hell but every bit of it is entertaining and interesting.

It's a perfect installment.

Peter Parker has some completely new experiences and Toby Maquire gets room to stretch his acting muscles when it's time for evil Spidey to showcase some of his darker personality traits.

It's funny, it's action-packed – it's perfect.

*Shrek 3* on the other hand... they should've stopped at two.

Decent, but not exactly what you'd expect from this franchise.

At times it felt like the theatre was filling up with forced laughter, and other times there was just no laughter period.

So now, we're squeezing

out good movies for bad/marginal ones.

The year is only half over people.

There's a ton of films left to see.

I know, I know. Gas is high and movies are not a necessity.

But most of you need to get out of your living rooms anyway.

Give the bootleg man a rest and bring ya butt to the movies this summer.

If we show Hollywood we're paying attention, maybe next year they won't gang up on us again.

Naw, they probably will. But if they do, it at least better be good.

That's all folks.

### Upcoming Events for U.G.E.

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Vamps starting at 8:30 p.m.

An American Vaudeville. This show will have various performers and talents.

The sole urban entertainment for the evening will be my crew, U.G.E.

Aye Dee, Mz. Johni and The Undergodz will be performing that night.

Tickets are only Five Dollars!

July 6<sup>th</sup> – Jackson's Lounge

U.G.E. singer/songwriter Aye Dee will be featured at First Friday for a full show guaranteed to bring music lovers together. More details soon.

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The City Of Toledo Is to Blame!

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

For what? Hell, a few things I'm sure.

But most recently, the weekend flooding that damaged the property of hundreds or perhaps thousands of central city residents.

The rain we had on Sunday wasn't exactly a flash flood...but it came hard, heavy and was over even quicker than it began.

Actually, I've seen far worse downpours in my day that didn't have the same results.

Let me explain it to you all like this: What happens in the skies...precipitation fall-

ing to the earth, all those things are beyond our control. What goes on with our weather is up to Mother Nature.

We simply have to prepare and respond.

What you put in your basement, whether or not you have insurance

and your ability to recover lost/damaged items - those things are up to individual citizens.

But the biggest point of all is that a principalities ability to handle unforeseen events such as weather - IS UP TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT!

It makes NO DAMN SENSE that Toledo city government installed a new sewer system only a few years ago and we've had more flooding than I've ever seen in my life.

I live near Old Orchard and the devastation that Old West End residents felt this past weekend happened here in West Toledo just over a year ago.

One possible difference however is that some of these middle class West Toledo neighborhoods might have people with more money to recover from their losses whereas most folks in the

hood are just stuck with the aftermath.

But one thing that's common among both: IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT!

People have been trying to convince me for years that Toledo is irreversibly going down the tubes and I've never listened.

I've pointed to all I've done, I've pointed to the efforts of my contemporaries, I've pointed to downtown resurgence - etc.

But look at us. Schools don't work. Unions are being bullied.

Politicians are so crooked that the Democrats are be-

coming the very thing they are supposed to stand against.

And then to top it all off, our multi-million dollar sewer system can't even efficiently manage a short, late-Spring downpour.

I think the City of Toledo needs to repay folks for their damages.

And I didn't even have any damage nor did anyone I personally know, but things don't have to affect only me for me to call for change.

CITY GOVERNMENT - YOU ARE ON THIN ICE.

One thing I do love about Toledo... we can only take

so much stuff, and then we react!



Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

The Black Market Place

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Progressive behavioral healthcare organization is seeking a competent individual to provide all aspects of office support, including supervisory, effective problem solving and decision making. Associates degree in business with 2 years supervisory experience in office management or 4 years of previous supervisory experience required. Candidates must have great team building skills and solid Microsoft Word processing and data entry with report generation skills. Duties include providing personnel management functions, providing and coordinating training for support staff and ensuring adequate coverage by support staff at appropriate stations.

Send resume and salary expectations by 6/11/07 to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, Attn: Human Resources (OM), 4334 Secor Rd., Toledo, OH 43623-4234, or fax to 419-479-3230 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

**Clinical Manager - Youth Homebased Services**

Seeking a currently competent professional who oversees all clinical and administrative aspects of the SED Community Support Program. Candidates must have a master's degree in a mental health field from an accredited college or university and be licensed to practice in Ohio (PCC, LISW). Familiarity with and desire to work with the SED population is required; clinical and management experience is preferred. 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 able to use computer and software to manage and monitor program and to communicate with staff.

Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 6/13/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (ACM-22), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234 or fax to 419-479-3230 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**Vocational Specialist**

Seeking a competent mental health professional to provide psychosocial and vocational assessments, and coordinate linkage between clients and employers. Requires Bachelor's degree in mental health related field plus 1 year vocational rehabilitation experience; or Associate's degree with 3 years vocational rehabilitation experience; or 5 years experience providing vocational rehab services to BVR, ODJFS funding sources. Preference given to candidate (Ohio LSW or PC) and to the candidate who has experience in vocational rehabilitation with the noted client population. Duties include assessing client readiness for employment, identifying client interests/skills, and evaluating worksite/employee job match. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Valid driver's license and good driving record required.

Send resume with cover letter and salary expectations by 6/13/07 to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, Attn: Human Resources (VS), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234, or fax to 419-479-3230, or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**Clinical Director of Adult Services**

Progressive organization with consistently expanding clinical services seeks an energetic, highly motivated clinical administrator to manage adult clinical services. Candidate must have a Master's degree in a mental health related field, an independent license (LPCC-E or LISW), 3-5 years program management and clinical supervisory experience in a community mental health setting with multiple programs, services and staff members. Candidate must be proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and have the ability to learn the agency's clinical database program. Duties include coordinating, evaluating, managing and supervising all operations of therapists and case managers in an outpatient community based adult recovery environment. Additional duties include providing personnel management functions for assigned staff and providing program innovation, development and implementation in all clinical areas.

Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 6/22/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (CD-Adult), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234 or fax to 419-479-3230 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**CLINICAL THERAPIST**

Clinical Therapists needed to provide group therapy and individual therapy with adults and children. Qualified candidates must have strong clinical skills including the ability to make clinical decisions along with knowledge of therapeutic principles and practices and strong group process skills. Masters degree and Ohio license required. LPCC or LISW preferred. Send or fax resume with cover letter to:



Human Resources - CT  
1425 Starr Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax 419.936.7574  
Email: HR@UNISONBH.GR  
EOE

**Senior Sales Associate**

Full time with benefits. Provide excellent customer service, facilitate sales, order/stock merchandise, and related duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, with knowledge of art sufficient to recommend exhibition-related merchandise. Description available at [www.toledomuseum.org/Info\\_Employ.htm](http://www.toledomuseum.org/Info_Employ.htm) One year related experience in a similar retail operations, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Excellent interpersonal skills and outstanding customer service. Accuracy and attention to detail.

To apply, send resume with cover letter to [jobs@toledomuseum.org](mailto:jobs@toledomuseum.org) or mail to: HR, Toledo Museum of Art, PO Box 1013, Toledo, OH 43697.

EOE

**Place your classified in  
The Sojourner's Truth**

**Call Pam at 419-243-0007**

Classifieds are also posted  
online at [www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com)

## Church's Franchise

(Continued from Page 12)

We give discounts for catering orders of 10 percent off. We have a coupon special on right now for our new menu item of Boneless Wings through July 22, 2007. We do regular coupon drops often and send flyers to homes.

Q. Do you do anything else for the community?

A. We have Tithing Sunday and give back 10 percent of the orders to churches that participate for as long as they want to participate. When someone brings in a church bulletin or something from the church they are from, we will keep track of it and at the end of the month send a check to that church for 10 percent of the sales. The church decides what project they give the money to. I've heard of the church

using the money to fund youth projects, field trips, etc. The church can use the money returned to them any way they choose to.

Any honor roll student that brings in their grade card or something to show they are on the honor roll through June 2007 will receive a two-piece dinner and a biscuit. College graduates with a 3.0 accumulated GPA can get the same deal.

We will be doing a back to school event in the fall.

Q. What do you have to say to the Lima community?

A. I would ask them to give us another chance and come back to support us as Derry and Rev Fails asked us to do.

Q. What would you say have been your experience with our community?

A. I like Lima. It is a good community. It suffers like smaller communities where rumors are run with instead of evaluating the situation. The people are friendly and Lima has all of the sororities, social events, and it is a good community to live in.

People talked about the local paper for the African-American community and I asked Fletcher Word, editor of "The Sojourner's Truth," to look at Lima for a paper. Fletcher said he has had a great experience with the ads from Lima.

Lima is a great community and I look forward to a very positive experience with this community. I just want the African-American community to give us another chance to prove that we are good for the community.

Well, Lima, there is it, another Chicken Man in town to bring smiles to your faces and a feel good to your belly, asking that you give him another chance and support the Church's Chicken. After all, says Hubbard, he and his team came to town to support our community and to help us do things we wanted to do in the community.

What other businesses do you know that have come to town to help the African-American community?

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