

Class of 2007: A Few of the Best and the Brightest



Allen Boyd



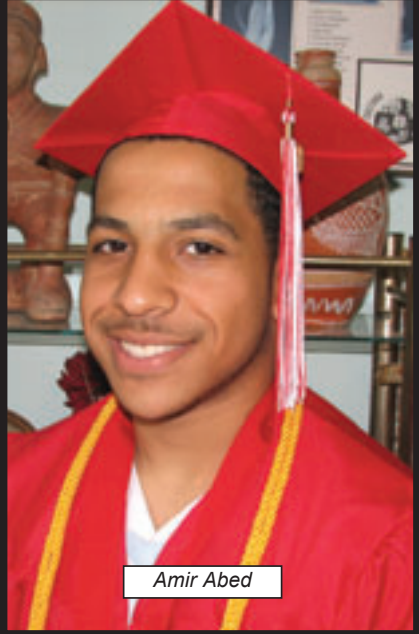
Brittany and Briana Funches



Jarrell Terrell



Andrea Hill



Amir Abed



Asia Greer

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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

A few thoughts to contemplate:

-Back in December 2006, we wrote an editorial discussing the impact of parental conversation on the intellectual development of children during the early stages of life – the zero to three years.

We also expressed our dismay that virtually nobody these days is dealing with the issue, either on a local or a national level. Teachers, administrators, unions, elected school officials have all been blithely unaware of the consequences for children who come primarily from low-income households and who by the age of three have vocabularies that may be only half as well developed as those of children from more affluent backgrounds.

Recent studies have shown that it's virtually impossible for such children to catch up with other kids given the fact of today's educational system.

We wrote then: "What's the real problem with our educational system? It's too little, too late for the majority of poor to lower class students in this country. By the time a poor child enters kindergarten, or even Head Start if she is that lucky, events have passed her by. Her economic status has marked her as very likely doomed for failure ..."

One would hope that parent or watchdog groups would take notice of the situation and recognize the imperative of coming up with solutions to deal with the fact that early childhood education – zero to three – is much more important than worrying later in their educational lives about what color a child's teacher is or what school building gets built first.

No such luck, at least not here in Toledo.

Finally, however, someone gets it. In the last Democratic presidential debate, Barack Obama mentioned the importance of early childhood education with an emphasis, he said, on the zero to three years. We were thrilled to hear that those years are on someone's radar screen.

-Speaking of education and Toledo, it appears that some have confused the terms "non-partisan" with "non-political."

Certain races here in Toledo and Lucas County are non-partisan. They include those for various judgeships, for the Toledo Board of Education, for Toledo City Council and for mayor of the City of Toledo. Those are non-partisan. They are not non-political. A "non-political elective office" is about as oxymoronic a term as we can possibly imagine.

-On the national scene, when polls are taken asking Americans how they view the job performance of their elected leaders, the U.S. Congress is sinking even faster than the Commander-in-Chief.

Small wonder indeed.

There is an immigration bill that is foundering, indecision over how to approach the Iraq funding issue and a general fumbling on the Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez matter. And, of course, when a congressman cannot explain why \$90,000 in cash was stuffed into his deep freeze, well ... that makes all of them look pretty bad, doesn't it?

-And on the campaign trail, we still have everyone still in the running in both parties' races. In fact, there are two undeclared candidates – Fred Thompson for the GOP and Al Gore on the Democratic side – who may have a huge impact if they decide to jump into the fray.

We have frontrunners, to be sure, but the fact that New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (former congressman, Secretary of the Department of Energy, U.N. Ambassador) and Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (a true conservative unlike the three frontrunners and rated by Time Magazine as one of the nation's five best governors) are both only in the second tier, is truly baffling. Richardson is, by dint of experience, by far the most qualified candidate for president in either party.

-You gotta get out, folks!

This weekend will be one of two great summer weekends (the other being that of the African American Festival in July) and if you can't find anything to do, you not only have not tried, you just don't want to enjoy yourself.

Five years ago, when The Sojourner's Truth launched, we searched high and low for Juneteenth festivals. We could not find any closer than Indianapolis at that point. Now, there are two in the Glass City – the Toledo Museum of Art's third annual, and one at St. Martin de Porres.

There is also the Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival that will have the town swinging and rocking on Saturday and Sunday. Roberta Flack will be Sunday's headliner.

And speaking of five years, The Truth will celebrate its fifth anniversary in style with a style show at the Peacock, presented by Ebony World Productions.

-But, you gotta get out.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*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
Community Club Friday night Fling Event: 8 pm; Summer fun featuring food, fun and spirits; 3353 Franklin: 419-720-4306

*June 16
Coalition for Youth Enrichment: 5th 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
Summer Fun Basketball League: Open Registration/no charge; Smith Park; 8 am to Noon; Ages seven – 13: 419-255-3756

*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
5th Annual Carnel Smith Summer Youth Football Camp: Scott HS; Non-contact camp for boys grades 3-8; Free: 419-917-3547
Union Grove MBC: Vacation Bible School; Youth theme – "Take the Plunge! Make a Splash with Jesus;" Adult theme – "Quest for Truth;" 6 to 8 pm nightly: 419-531-1994

*June 18-July 20
Majestic Praise Ministries: Free lunch to children ages 2-18; Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 1 pm: 419-535-3017

*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

*June 20
Spirit of Faith Adoptions: Informational meetings for domestic and international adoptions; 3315 Centennial Rd. Ste A-2; 7 pm: 419-843-5355

*June 21
Majestic Praise Ministries: Free seminar – "Living a Debt Free Life;" Kevin Mason, CPA, from Columbus; 6 pm: 419-535-3017

*June 23
Positive Force Christian School of Dance: "Redeemed;" 6 pm; Owens Community College; Sheila Gibson, artistic director: 419-944-0219

*June 28
United Way of Greater Toledo's African-American Initiative: Childhood Obesity Community Forum; In collaboration with UT, Action for Healthy Kids, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; 8:30 am to 3:30 pm; Lunch and afternoon snack provided; Prospective grantees, partners, collaborators, local government and medical community in attendance: 419-254-4670 or 419-248-2424

*June 30
Yard Sale: Mildred H. Gibson Center at the Zion Lutheran Church; 10 am to 6 pm; For a rental space or donations call 419-514-7355

*July 1
Free Retreat: "Nobody's Victim;" African-American women who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse; 1 to 8 pm: 419-936-8989

*July 13-15
Annual African American Festival: Nelson Grace Park: 419-255-8876

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political
Columnist



Jack Ford

Last Friday night was the pastoral appreciation banquet for Rev. and Mrs. D.L. Perryman of Center for Hope Church on Dorr Street. As I waited my turn to speak, I was tapped on my shoulder by Councilwoman Wilma Brown who simply said: "good luck."

Councilwoman Brown was referring to my recent appointment to serve the remaining term of Deborah Barnett on the Toledo Board of Education. I wondered later if Brown recalled 22 years

earlier when she and I competed to fill the remaining school board term of Nelson Grace who had been appointed to the Toledo City Council.

At one point, I had the sign off from then school board members Ken Perry and Keith Wilkowski (yep, same guy) but I lost out to Brown in the end. Brown had the formidable support of George "Bubba" Davis. Davis essentially said that Perry and Wilkowski should either support Brown for the appointment or they would be banned entry into the minority community (read that to mean churches).

Davis later changed his mind about me and championed me in 2001. But in 1985, Perry and Wilkowski reversed field and went with Brown. She went on to a stellar career on the Toledo Board of Education, particularly

when she served as president. I ran for City Council two years later and won a seat I was supposed to lose. That's politics.

I chuckled when I read a column by Kevin Milliken in another weekly paper where he opined that my appointment was a victory for politics not real change. I think Milliken is still irritated that I hired a young woman as my public relations officer for the city at a rate of \$20K more than he was making in a similar role for Lucas County. Whatever his reason, he got his story wrong.

First, the application I filled out was one that Chris Ellis gave me in place of a longer application I was completing. Second, it was not handed in 10 minutes before the deadline. I gave the form to Steve Steel, president of the board, at 1 p.m., three hours before it was due.

Third, the idea of school board appointments not involving politics is ludicrous on its face. Kevin, how do you think school board candidates get picked? They seek political party endorsement (Dems or GOP) and interest group support (such as Toledo Federation of teachers). And, yes, even "watch dog" groups qualify as interest groups and possess elements of a political organization.

Enough said. I am asking the county commissioners not to end the community re-entry program started by the Urban Knights organization. While it appears that someone made off with \$147,000 cash and that the last few payrolls have been missed, this program to ease the re-entry of ex-offenders into the community is sorely needed. Next time, do not let returning ex-offenders have check-writing capacity with-

out proper oversight. That makes sense, doesn't it?

Karen Shanahan scored well on her call for a rally to help save that "buffer" piece of land in south Toledo. By the way, Rob Ludeman, president of City Council, could use a parliamentary maneuver to throttle Mayor Finkbeiner's plan to sell the land, but he would, of course, incur the wrath of Hizzoneer.

Alan Brass caught some flack over the public disclosure of his one-year income that exceeded \$5 million. This is what I know of Brass's tenure at ProMedica Healthcare. Brass is focused, tenacious, even ruthless at times. But he has taken ProMedica to the number two healthcare, integrated system in the nation. He has kept going or started 60 separate corporations that generate research, advocacy or treatment for citizens in this

region.

He has acquired Bixby Medical Center in Michigan, the Lime Memorial Health System, the Fostoria Community Hospital and has launched Bay Park Community Hospital. And he was a guiding force for CareNet which has served 12,000 area residents who otherwise would be out of luck.

Maybe he deserves a lot of money.

By the way, the 15,000 employees in the ProMedica family makes it the largest employee family in northwest Ohio. Healthcare is an economic engine.

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Is the City of Toledo Better off in 2007 Than It Was in 1992?

Is our economy growing? Are our city finances in top shape? Is our population growing?

Why am I comparing 1992 with today? Well, in 1992, the voters of Toledo chose to switch from the city manager form of government to the "strong" mayor. We were governed under the strong mayor early on in our existence up through the 1930s and the city manager for about 60 years up until 1992.

COBRA (Citizens Organized to Bring Reform and Accountability) has decided to explore reverting back to the city manager form of government as a way of restoring professional management to the city, eliminating cronyism and streamlining government. My research indicated some cities that have switched forms of government put in place a review period of certain years. Fifteen years sounds about right for the citizens to have a say.

Some brief facts about the city manager form of government: 106 out of 195 cities with populations over 100,000 utilize the city manager. The National Civic League that awards the All-America City designation endorses the city manager form of government and over 100 million U.S. citizens live in communities governed by the council-manager plan.

These facts are all well and

good, but you don't need to look further than your newspaper, TV newscast, talk radio or blog to see the evidence that raises the specter of the failure of the strong mayor experiment.

Cronyism and nepotism run rampant at city hall, spiraling budget deficits and short term fixes that drive businesses and residents out of Toledo.

The other major reform COBRA is pushing for is the reduction of the size of city council and eliminating the at-large seats. This idea makes so much sense. It's a no-brainer. Sixteen of 18 cities with similar populations to Toledo have smaller councils than ours. The most compelling case for this change is the lack of balance in our representation. Many parts of our city are under-represented like Old South Toledo, Polish Village, central Toledo and Point Place.

Eight of our 12 councilmen live west of Douglas Road while a ninth lives just east of Douglas Road; leaving three councilmen living in the rest of Toledo in districts 3, 4 and 6. Not only will this balance the representation, it will provide for more accountability and allow more community minded people to take part in the electoral process by reducing the cost of campaigns. Pittsburgh in recent years

went to an all-district format for the very reason to provide better representation.

One direct effect of the council reorganization and a switch back to the city manager would be the refocusing of council toward unified goals. It would also be of great benefit to the African-American community. Your interests will be served by increasing the percentage of African-Americans on city council, more attention being paid to neglected neighborhoods and by having more influence in an elected council when it comes to vitally important issues such as affirmative action.

Please visit www.toledocobra.org for more details on our plans, to view petitions and on how to get involved in the effort.

Sincerely

Dave Schulz



Ed. Note: Dave Schulz was a Republican candidate for an at-large seat on Toledo City Council in the November 2005 election.

Art Tatum Heritage Festival Countdown Begins: Saturday, June 16/Sunday, June 17 Toledo Jazz Society Adds a Saturday Night Jam Session

Special to The Truth

This year's two-day Art Tatum Jazz Festival is filled with a star-studded line up of national award-winning musical artists and home-town favorites and legends.

One of New Orleans best – 21-year-old Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews and his band, Orleans Avenue – will close Saturday evening with what Rolling Stone calls “brass band fury.”

Earlier at 7 p.m., “Trombone Shorty” and his band will do a swinging jazz set. You may remember him from NBC’s Studio 60 at Christmas time. His trumpets solo of “Oh Holy Night” has become legend. Steeped in New Orleans jazz, he has been performing since he was three and led his own band at the age of six. In 2005, Andrews added another dimension by joining Lenny Kravitz for his world tour.

For the fourth year, the



title sponsor of the Festival is the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund. “Sponsoring the festival gives Chrysler Group the opportunity to be a part of the city’s vision and give back to a community that is very valuable to us,” said Frank Fountain, Chrysler Group senior vice president of external affairs and president of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund.

The line up includes: Roberta Flack, Boney James, Clark Terry and the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, Hendricks, Lambert & Ross Redux with Jon Hendricks featuring Aria Hendricks and Kevin Burke, Jon Cleary and the Absolute Monster Gentlemen and Lizz Wright.

Roberta Flack is known for combining jazz, soul and pop and has recorded 19 albums. Clint Eastwood used her sound track of “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face” in *Play Misty for Me*. Eastwood’s vision played out as Flack won a Grammy for record of the year for “First Time Ever.” She has continued to collect awards while touring, recording and delighting her worldwide audience.

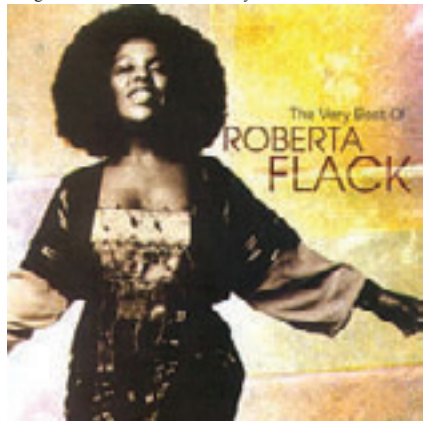
Flack performs at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday. “Jon Cleary is the ninth



wonder of the world,” says Bonnie Raitt. He plays keyboard and is her musical director on tour. At the April 2007 New Orleans Jazz Festival, David Fricke of Rolling Stone wrote: “In New Orleans, the funk always comes hard and heavy. But at the 2007 edition of the city’s Jazz and Heritage Festival, a British native, long time resident in the Crescent City, salted his mix of Meters and Professor Longhair with vintage UK blues rock.”

Jon Cleary performs at 8:15 on Saturday.

Lizz Wright, an ascending star, performed on the recent PBS salute to Ella Fitzgerald. Next week she will be at Carnegie Hall as part of the JVC New York Jazz Festival. Wright is known for mesmerizing her audience. She will



perform at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Lori Le Fevre-Johnson is a favorite songbird of Toledo and will perform at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Lambert, Hendricks & Ross Redux, with Jon Hendricks, Aria Hendricks and Kevin Burke, will celebrate Fathers’ Day honoring the Father of Vocalese – Hendricks.

With Aria, his youngest daughter, and her childhood

YMCA and United Way Fun Bus Hits the Road

Special to The Truth

As area schools wrap up classes this week, kids in the community will need activities to fill their summer days. The YMCA of Greater Toledo, in partnership with the United Way of Greater Toledo, has just the ticket. On Monday, June 11, the Fun Bus made its first stop at Savage Park.

For 12 weeks, the Fun Bus will travel to low-income neighborhoods to provide summer recreation and activities to children ages five to 12 years old. Not only will it offer free entertainment, activities and crafts to kids, it will also serve as an information center to parents and guardians.

The Fun Bus benefits communities affected by the recent budget cuts in the City of Toledo. Both the YMCA and United Way realize the need for structured summer programs for the city’s youth. They believe this is a positive community-wide effort to provide disadvantaged youth a positive summer experience.

Shantae Brownlee, director of the Wayman Palmer YMCA, is monitoring the Fun Bus activities this summer along with a staff of three – two with college degrees and one who will be a senior this year in college.

The Fun Bus, according to Brownlee, has arts and crafts, board games and just about every type of game that includes a ball – baseball, basketball, soccer, for example.

The Fun Bus will visit nine parks and school playgrounds in the city on a rotating basis and entertain, said Brownlee, approximately 5,000 children at least once.

“The United Way and the YMCA identified neighborhoods or pockets of neighborhoods that were not getting serviced,” said Wayman Palmer Executive Director Michael Ashford on Monday during the opening event at Savage Park on Nebraska. “This area has no community resource center within a half mile radius. We have identified six to 10 spots where we can provide services.”

Join the Fun Bus at the following locations and times:

- Activities: 9 a.m. – Noon; 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Mondays: Savage Park, Danny Thomas Park
- Tuesdays: Ravine Park, Navarre Park
- Wednesdays: Joe E. Brown Park, Jamie Farr Park
- Thursdays: Friendship Park, Flex Site – Watch for details
- Fridays: Jermain Park, Nathan Hale School Park



Executive Director Michael Ashford with staff and kids of Fun Bus



friend Burke, they will bring the “authentic” vocalese to life. Hendricks has amassed awards and honors around the globe. They perform at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Clark Terry was seen this Spring in a PBS special, “Live From the White House.” Terry, a jazz legend, is known for his prowess on the trumpet and his “mumbles” scat. Terry will perform at 7:15 Sunday.

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Center of Hope Celebrates Pastor and Leading Lady's 10th Anniversary Celebration

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Dr. Ivan Douglass Hicks, First Lady Willetta Perryman, Rev. D.L. Perryman

The stately atrium of the Clarion Westgate Hotel looked as fresh as a blushing bride all dressed up in a pastel palette for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Pastor Donald and Leading Lady Willetta Perryman of Center of Hope Community Missionary Baptist Church.

A small and loving crowd of over 50 church members, friend and dignitaries gathered to pay tribute to the illustrious pastor and his helpmate, Friday, June 8, 2007. There were a few standouts in the room lit by the setting sun of a summer evening, cooled by recent storms.

Sure there was former Mayor Jack Ford, newly elected to the Toledo School Board, and Council members Wilma Brown and Michael Ashford, as well as County

Commissioners Pete Gerken and President Tina Skeldon Wozniak.

But these were not the *real* standouts. The real standouts were unique and so special, each one was a true original. One was turquoise, trimmed with rhinestones and a dyed to match feather over a foot long and capped by a studded pin.

One was black lace and floppy, adorned with a simple pink rose. One was navy blue with white dots, festooned with a tulle bow that was decorated with tiny rhinestones. One was shiny black on top and smooth black on the bottom, banded with an organza bow, cinched with a rhinestone clasp. One was a soft spring green shaped like a bucket with soft lavender flowers spilling over its side.

One was sheer black, brimming over two feet in width. One was red and upturned around the edges like a pouty mouth. One was subtly gold with a huge golden flower in front. One sparkled in gold and rhinestones while another was a silver band attached to cascading silver leaves.

But the most spectacular one of all was a rhinestone-encrusted coral beret worn by Leading Lady Willetta Perryman that was whimsically crowned by a swirl of floral fantasy on one side, matching not only "The Preacher's Wife's" pretty peach suit with the embroidered lapels and cuffs, but the bouquets of flowers in the center of each table and the peach napkins nestled snugly inside the glass goblets at each place setting.

The festive hats worn by a dozen or so ladies attending the celebration were a befitting homage to the Leading Lady of Center of Hope, who is also the Leading Lady in haberdashery in Toledo's African-American community.

Oratorical tributes to Pastor Perryman and his "leading lady" were given before and after dinner by fellow

ministers, as well as community leaders. "One thing about Pastor Perryman is that he has a passion for justice and since there is so much injustice in the world and in this city, he will never be out of work," said Warren AME's Pastor Otis Gordon.

Councilwoman Brown commended Perryman for his efforts to revitalize the once thriving Dorrit Street community prior to reading a proclamation from Toledo City Council. "I just met Pastor Perryman a year and a half ago," said County Commissioner Gerken. "It was on a morning when I was running for political office and I must admit, I had other reasons for being there."

Gerken said his initial visit to Center of Hope with his wife changed his life. "Many times when you go to churches, you have to leave. But when we got to Center of Hope, we couldn't leave."

Gerken said the sermon he heard that morning enthralled him and his wife because Pastor Perryman spoke with "the clear truth, a truth that was riveting and a truth that no one could argue with."

However, Gerken did have a complaint. "But that darn hat shop," he said, commenting on how much his wife enjoys shopping at "The Preacher's Wife." "I think we've contributed."

President of Lucas County Commissioners Tina Skeldon-Wozniak gave a list of the Perryman's many contributions to their community. "We love your family," she said. "We truly thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the mentorship you provide for the community."

in the way that you should go," he said. During dinner, pastor and wife circulated around the room greeting every single guest and personally thanking each and every one for attending the celebration in their honor. Guests were as delighted with this display of gratitude from the honorees as they were with the meal itself.

The Clarion's premier chef provided simple fare prepared for epicurean tastes. A salad of wild greens was offered with a choice of raspberry vinaigrette or ranch dressing and lusciously soft bread. The main course was sensationally seasoned baked chicken, buttery mashed potatoes and crisp green beans.

The meal ended sweetly with a light, lemony cake topped with a buttery frosting. Pink lemonade, ice tea with lemons and coffee were also



served. Following the best-tasting meal ever served at a hotel banquet, the tributes continued from Indiana Avenue Baptist Pastor John Roberts, Councilman Ashford, former Toledo Mayor and new IPS Board Member Ford and others.

Rev. Roberts, who provided Pastor Perryman with guidance and assistance when Perryman founded Center of Hope, October 12, 1997, lightened things up a bit with some humor. "I need to tell it - you got some money? - then I'm gonna tell it all!"



Tracee Perryman Stewart, Staci Perryman Clark, First Lady and Pastor Perryman, Randall Clark

Pastor Cedric Brock from Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance gave a very personal tribute to the senior pastor. "Pastor Perryman inspires us to go to another level when it comes to working in the community," he said. "I thank Pastor Perryman because he challenges me to walk extra careful as a man of God."

Brock called Perryman a "jewel of our community. Center of Hope, you are blessed to have a pastor who is dedicated to education, dedicated to the people, one who has a heart for the people."

Master of Ceremonies, United Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Robert Bass, made an observation before dinner was served. "I thought what I must be like to pastor for 10 years. That's 3,650 days praying, 3,650 days of fasting and seeking the Lord's face so that he may be able to lead the people of God

in the way that you should go," he said. During dinner, pastor and wife circulated around the room greeting every single guest and personally thanking each and every one for attending the celebration in their honor.

"I took him and his wife and his daughter out to dinner at Bob Evans a few days ago and he wasn't fasting that night. Maybe that was the only time in 10 years." Ford talked about seeing Perryman out with his wife after his first meeting with him around three decades ago.

"This guy acts like he's in high school and that's his beauty queen and he don't want nobody to get next to her - still to this day, they're tight. We can all take a lesson from them."

When the laughter quieted, Ford continued in a more serious tone, commending Perryman for his Children Defense Fund School and his pursuit of his own educational goals as Perryman completes his doctorate at the end of this year. Ford said Perryman is an example to other pastors in the community.

"Most pastors are not where he's at," observed the former mayor. "Most pastors are not using their church as a center for social change and challenge as we need in a city as backwards as Toledo can be. The only thing that keeps you from breaking out is to speak out without any fear of consequences."

The message was clear, but it was not the only message given. Dr. Ivan Douglas Hicks, Pastor Perryman's mentor for his doctorate and pastor of First Baptist Church in North Indianapolis, Indiana, gave the main message of the evening.

A moving solo by First Lady of Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church, Shirley Lyons, preceded a down-home sermon that was accompanied by Tracee Perryman-Stewart on the organ. The church service that culminated the celebration ended with an invitation to discipleship prior to the benediction.

Center of Hope Community Church, however, continues that invitation and would like anyone interested in the Center of Hope Freedom School, at the University of Toledo (July 16-August 17), to call (419) 241-4345 for more information.

Open registration for the school takes place Friday, June 15, from 11am to 6pm at the Center of Hope Family Services, 151 N. Michigan, Suite 314. CDF Freedom Schools programs provide critical summer and after school enrichment through a curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: high quality academic enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenerational leadership development, and nutrition, health and mental health.

Other programs offered by Center of Hope Family Services are also available.

Contact
Geneva Chapman at
geneva@thetruthutoledo.com

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 ITEMS: Revised By-laws, Board Appointments/Elections

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

Refreshments will be served
Please R.S.V.P. your attendance to
Gilda Mitchell at 419-243-3343
608 Madison Avenue, Suite 1525, Toledo, OH 43604
www.gtul.org
admin@gtul.org

Clarence Smith Community Chorus 31st Season Closing Concert

By Ashlee Austin
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



After 31 strong years, the Clarence Smith Community Chorus is still producing remarkable shows.

If you weren't at downtown Toledo's Park Inn Hotel on Sunday June 3 for this year's closing concert, you definitely missed out on an incredible performance.

A diverse group of passionate, local talent comprise the award-winning, locally renowned chorus and *Cuttin' Up and Pressin' On*, a musical by local legend John Scott, was the perfect way for them to end their 31st season, leaving the audience in tears. That audience was composed of Toledoans of various races, religions and ages for one purpose—to enjoy the CSCC in a long-awaited show.

From Elois Jackson's vivacious rendition of *Blues Party Tonight* to Leon Whittington's tear-jerking performance of *Dance With My Father*, the show drew on every emotion imaginable.

The production was far from the traditional idea of a long, drawn-out musical. The



performances were so compelling and realistic that it was hard to keep your eyes off the stage. The stage setting resembled a very familiar place for many of us—a barber/beauty shop.

Complete with hair stylists, a barber, a nail tech, the neighborhood booster, and never-ending gossip, it was easy to get lost in the enter-

tainment and forget that you were not a part of the production, but only an onlooker in the audience. The pace of the show was comfortable and easy to follow, which engaged the audience even more.

Scott's script was beautifully crafted and offered a variety of music which exhibited the extensive vocal range of the choir. Every composition was seamlessly placed in the script and flawlessly



executed by each talented performer. The show embraced musical compositions from several genres, including African-American spirituals like *Go Down Moses*, classic pop tunes such as Whitney Houston's *I Believe In You And Me* and *I'm Every*

Woman, and even more contemporary music like Heather Headley's *Me Time*. Soloists included Elois Jackson, Nicole Wilson, Lois McDougel, Sandra Stewart, Darrel Williams, Laura Lawrence, Curtis Cotton and many others, who each performed exceptionally well. After several solo performances from guest vocalist,

Leon Whittington, the audience was left hoping to hear more from him. Another guest performer, Jerrica Rai' Whitlock, a dancer at Toledo School for the Arts, also put on an unforgettable performance. And guest vocalist and narrator Vicky Simpson Brooks out-did herself once again, narrating the entire show and receiving a standing ovation on after her brilliant rendition of Dianne

Reeves' *Better Days*.

The CSCC collectively sang *My Funny Valentine*, giving it a completely different and deeper meaning, in addition to giving it the mysterious, deep-rooted likeness of a traditional spiritual.

As the night progressed, one scintillating performance followed another. By the end of the program, the audience expressed their reluctance at having the evening come to a close. Hilarious, heart-warming and REAL are three words that describe the Sunday night production.

This will definitely be a tough act to follow, but there is no doubt the CSCC will succeed in producing another fabulous show and entertaining us again next year.

We'll be waiting.



“An American Vaudeville” At Vamps Discotheque In Toledo, Friday, June 15

A performance art happening is taking place Friday, June 15, 2007 at Vamps www.myspace.com/vampsupallnightformerMasonicTemple located on 910 Phillips Ave. in Toledo, Ohio, doors open at 8:30 p.m.

There are 10 acts total, which include: jazz dancing, belly dancing, skits, hip-hop, violin music, African dance, blues and much more. The art/marketing concept is the brain child of local visual artist, sound scientist, writer and promoter, Terry A. Burton www.terryaburton.com.

For a complete listing of all the performers participating in this variety show, visit the internet link www.myspace.com/rawarthustlers. This event should have a little bit of everything for everyone, honoring the diversity of Toledo, Ohio's performing artists, a true testament to America's splendor and the tradition of American vaudeville.

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The Sojourner's Truth Education

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Just a Few of This Year's Brightest and Best: The 2007 Graduation Class

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Each year at this time, after being pummeled, oh so frequently over the course of the previous nine months, by the drama of local public school politics and treated to an incessant drum beat of news about why this generation is the absolute worst generation to come along since, well... the last generation, we have the privilege of witnessing what seems to be a miracle – the graduation rites for thousands of exemplary high school seniors.

How did they do it? Their schools are terrible, their teachers are incompetent, their parents are indifferent and their attitudes... who wouldn't have an attitude with all of that confusion?

Yet somehow, the vast majority of students not only make it through, they flourish. They excel. And they go to college in greater numbers than ever.

Just how do they manage? They manage with a lot of hard work and much more than a jot of pushing, prodding and supervision from their parents and guardians. And, of course, while parents are making sure the perspiration is expended in their children's efforts, teachers are providing the inspiration.

Amir Abed graduated from Rogers High School last week and will enter The Ohio State University on full scholarship in the fall. "I just wanted to go to OSU," says Abed of the fulfillment of a goal he established years ago.

The salutatorian of his class, Abed attributes his desire to succeed to both past financial hardships – "growing up, there was always something out of reach" – and the prodding of his parents. "They always pushed me to do better than they did," said Abed.

Abed plans to major in either accounting or finance or mechanical engineering before moving on to graduate school. Of course he may end up majoring in all three in order to reach his new goals.

He wants it all, as he says... the house on the hill, the picket fence, the All-American dream. He is, and has been, willing to work hard to get it. Abed is a member of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), a National Honor Student and a member of the MAAD Poets Society ("my passion").

Allen Boyd graduated last week from St. John's Jesuit and will attend Xavier University in Cincinnati in the fall. Boyd had a choice of

matriculating at either Morehouse in Atlanta or Xavier. The choice was easy. Xavier supplied him with scholarships that will cover 90 percent of the current \$35,000 annual total costs of an education at a private institution of higher learning.

And once there, Boyd



plans to major in political science, with a minor in philosophy. And his post-college plans are as clear as those in his immediate future. Boyd will be returning to Toledo with an eye towards entering politics and winning elective office.

If one has any doubts about where or not Boyd will succeed at ending up in political office, consider this – he has been selected to attend the 2006 Leadership Conference at Morehouse as one of the top 30 African-American students. After snaring that honor, Boyd re-

searched Congressmen in the area and discovered that Congressman Lynn Westmoreland, who represents Georgia's 3rd District, was in need of summer interns. Boyd immediately applied, won a position with the congressman, and will spend his summer, as he puts it, "building his resume."

We were fortunate to snare both the valedictorian and the salutatorian of Libbey High School to speak to about their adventures – both past and present. Of course, as it happened, they share a cell phone, so that made it a lot easier.

Twins Briana NaQuale Funches and Brittany Michelle Funches finished one and two respectively in the annual competition for grades at Libbey. They will both join Abed at OSU to pursue their education. Briana will major in social work and Brittany in education.

And as did their colleagues, they achieved their success through hard work and perseverance. Briana seemed to be set to achieve valedictorian status during most of her years at Libbey. For Brittany, finishing second was not a foregone conclusion. She knew she would finish in the top ten, but she continued to outwork her peers at school to close in on her sister near the end of their scholastic careers.

Both twins will be returning to Toledo after OSU to

they love the campus of the Big Ten school.

Asia Shaniece Whitaker Greer was the salutatorian of Scott High School. A member of Toledo EXCEL, Greer will be attending The University of Toledo on a full scholarship. Greer will major in political science and hopes to move on to law school and a profession in corporate law.

Greer was vice president of the student body, played golf, softball, volleyball and tennis. She set her goal of graduating at the top of her class early. "In kindergarten I went to a graduation and saw a valedictorian or salutatorian speak and I told my dad I wanted to do that," she recalls.

She started her high school career in the ninth grade first semester as num-



ber nine in her class. "I knew I could do better." She did. Greer actually finished with the highest grade point average in her class but with fewer honors points than the eventual valedictorian.

Andrea Hill, valedictorian of Rogers graduating senior class, is also a member of Toledo EXCEL. She set her sights on finishing at the top



pursue their career goals. Brittany likes working in the classroom which is why she is opting for an education major. Briana, on the other hand: "I like the idea of helping people but outside of the classroom."

Why OSU? Essentially because the Columbus school offered the twins the most money – a full ride, in fact. And, of course,

during her freshman year during a friend's graduation ceremony at Bowsher.

On her own graduation day, Hill gave a speech about the need for graduates to accept change. "Changes have a positive effect because to prepare for the future, some change is inevitable."

And members of her class at Rogers have certainly experienced change during

their high school years – the Ohio Graduation Test, a new school building, school uniforms, to name a few.

Next year will bring a great change for Hill as she enters UT – on a full scholarship – to study pediatrics. "I knew I wanted to be in the medical field," she says as she wrestles with the decision to study nursing or to take the greater amount of time to become a physician.

Hill was a member of the National Honor Society and a community service group.

Jarrell Terrell, who just graduated from St. John's and who is also an EXCEL graduate, is headed to UT – on a full scholarship of course – where he plans to study mechanical engineering.

"I like seeing where everything came from scratch, being hands on with a project, from beginning to end – it's like your own creation," says Terrell of his passion for building things.

He also had a passion for basketball and being a big brother in the St. John's 20/20 Club. In addition, Terrell was an escort in this year's 2007 Debutante Cotillion, an honor he shares with everyone mentioned in this article – they were all debutantes or escorts.

Terrell was not the only member of his family to don the cap and gown this Spring. His mother Wanda Terrell, vice president of both the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and the Top Ladies of Distinction, her degree from Lourdes College.

Mother Wanda and grandmother Juanita Terrell "have been very supportive and very loving... always been there for me – they have pushed and prodded," says Terrell.

And his late grandfather has been his big inspiration. "He was hard working, he loved his family. He was a big plus for me in trying to live out his legacy and to know that he's looking down on me. I'm going to make him proud."



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Toledo EXCELence Program Celebrates Graduation and Induction

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourners Truth Reporter

Dozens of parents, siblings and extended family members gathered to celebrate the graduation of Toledo EXCEL group XV and induction of group XIX this past weekend. The June 10 event celebrated the accomplishments of 35 Toledo area students, who completed over 200 hours of community service, attended Saturday morning tutoring classes and various program requirements.

The ceremony began with a brief look at the progress Toledo EXCEL has made over the years. Each group's collective graduation flag displaying their theme was included in the ceremony. Flags of previous groups were displayed throughout the theatre to showcase the history behind the EXCELence Program.

Words of encouragement and honesty were delivered by group III graduate and keynote speaker James L. Jones to graduates, parents and inductees. "There are still many people who think that this program will fail, but group after group, session after session, EXCEL is still here. I encourage you to be thankful to God, for he allows us to travel on this journey," said Jones.

Several group members were awarded special recognition certificates, which were voted upon by fellow group members. Janell Braxton, Andrea Hill, Christina Hanserd and Ashton Hunter received certificates for their involvement. Derrisha Sanderfer, and Ashley Duke were awarded talent certifi-

cates, while Darkise Stubblefield was awarded an improvement award.

Toledo EXCEL is, above all else, about academics. Three students earned a GPA of 4.0 or above, eight earned a GPA of 3.5-3.9, ten earned a GPA of 3.0-3.49.

EXCEL students Tiffany Bell and Michael Phillips participated in a salute to their parents. Each felt that he or she would not have survived the program's requirements without the parents. "Where would we be without our parents, half of us wouldn't have made it without their encouragement," stated Bell. "We'll make you proud mom and dad, we love you," said Phillips.

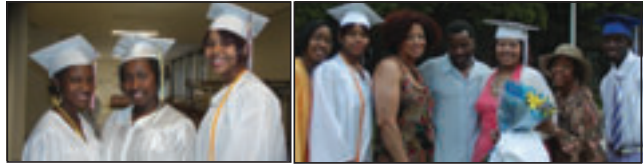
Thirty-five Toledo EXCEL students from Group XV received a certificate of completion and congratulatory handshakes from Councilman Michael Ashford, retired Assistant Vice President for Office of EXCELence Helen Cooks, Ph.D., Toledo Public School Board member Larry Sykes, keynote speaker Jones and the EXCEL staff.

The graduates were Rogers High School students Andrea Hill, Trenton Collier, Ayrika Myles, Derrisha Sanderfer, Geordianne Thinker, and Lyntoya Carson; Start High school students Janell Braxton, Kristen Sanders, Tiffany Bell, Dustin Doty, Ashley Duke, Ashton Hunter, and Bryon Stacey; Libbey High School student Sierra Bostic, Central Catholic High school students Glenn Burel, Danielle Carr, and Brandon Pendleton; Sylvania Southview High school student Brittany

Darrington; St. Ursula Academy student Marquila Ferrell; Scott High School students Asia Greer, Christina Hanserd, Bianca Harthorne, Lennette A. Horton, Jordan V. Johnson, Darkise Stubblefield, and Jasmine Williams; Springfield High School student Patrick Guercio; Sylvania Northview High school student Elisa Guilford; Toledo Technology Academy student Arindus Humphrey; St. John's Jesuit High School students Shawn Lane and Jarrell H. Terrell; Maumee Valley Country Day School student Victoria Phifer; St. Francis de Sales High School student Michael Phillips and Brandon Richardson; Notre Dame Academy student Tanai Lyles; and Bowsher High School student Jessica Thomas.

Following the graduation celebration of Group XI, co-salutatorian of Toledo Excel Group XI Janell Braxton shared words of encouragement with Group XIX and their parents. Who shared the struggles that her family faced, the requirements that each student is asked to obtain, and the pride that comes when you walk across the stage with your fellow group members?

Closing the program was an original oratorical presentation by Victoria Phifer, who is attending Howard University this fall. Throughout the piece she focuses on the strong potential of her fellow group members. "We will be the group that strives for peace and becomes humanitarians," she said.



Toledo EXCELence Group XIX

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Lincoln's Final All Pro Dads Event

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The staff of Lincoln Academy for Boys hosted their year-ending All Pro Dads event on Thursday May 31. The school hosts breakfasts once a month for students and their fathers, or father-figures. The final event of the school year was a dinner that featured speeches by Toledo Public Schools' Superintendent John Foley and The University of Toledo Football coach Tom Amstutz.

Foley had just returned from an event in Columbus presented by Gov. Ted Strickland titled "The Governor's Conference on Increasing the High School Graduation Rate for African American Male Students" that was moderated by former State Senator C.J. Prentiss.

"What you do here is a prime example of what we need to do elsewhere," said Foley to his audience of parents and students. "Expectations need to start in the home and we need to find ways to keep kids focused on academic achievement.

"The real people who do that work are here," he continued. "We need schools that are supportive of our students and parents who back them up. It takes a community and it takes parents and family [to make a kid successful]."

Amstutz brought the families a greeting from Tony Dungy, the head coach of the reigning Super Bowl champions (and first African-American coach to win the grand prize). Dungy, said Amstutz, introduced him to the All Pro Dads concept during a visit to Toledo.

Amstutz also brought good news from UT where the four-year graduation rate for his football team was 82 percent. "I want our young men to graduate not just play football," said Amstutz. "I want to win in the classroom and on the football field."

Amstutz gathered all of the boys in attendance around him to make a point about how to conduct their lives. "There are four bones

that will help you get ahead in life," he told the youngsters.

"First, there the wish bone in your head. I want you to picture what you want – you have a dream or an idea in your head, you think about what you want.

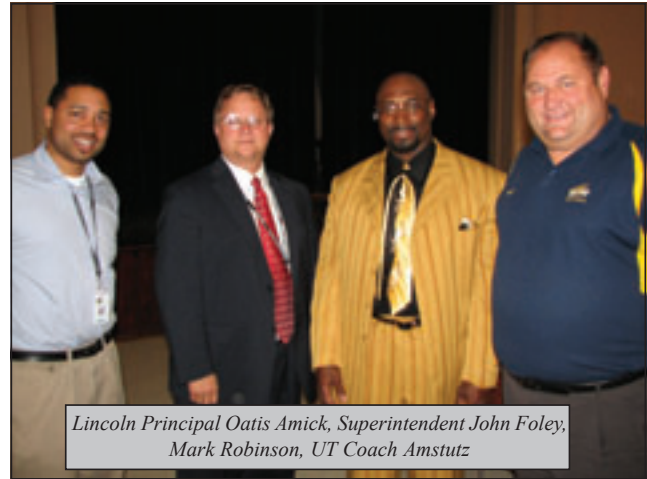
"Then there's the jaw bone – you have to ask questions such as 'how do you do a certain thing.

"Next, there's the back bone – you gotta work hard, you can't give up.

"Finally, there's the funny bone – you have to smile, you have to laugh, you have to enjoy life."

Amstutz also told his audience several stories of some of his former past players, such as Chester Taylor, who had overcome the odds to succeed in a profession where success is rare indeed.

The year's final All Pro Dads' event was also the final activity at the school for Principal Oatis Amick. Amick will be succeeded next year at Lincoln Academy by Theresa Quinn.



Lincoln Principal Oatis Amick, Superintendent John Foley, Mark Robinson, UT Coach Amstutz





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50 Men and Women 27th Annual Scholarship Banquet and Dinner



Adriele Parker

By Ashlee Austin
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

All your life, you've been told to "go to college," "get an education," "a mind is a terrible thing to waste," only to realize much later that what everyone was beating in your head was true. Nowadays, it is almost impossible to attain an excellent paying job doing what you enjoy if you don't have that simple piece of paper.



Allen Boyd II

Statistically, last year 37.9 percent of African-Americans were enrolled in a two or four-year college program, and believe it or not, that number is continuously increasing. Our hope is that this year's graduating high school class will contribute largely to increasing that number as well.



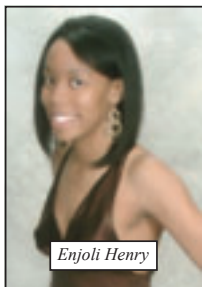
Brittany Pendleton

Fifty Men and Women of Toledo, Inc. has been a strong and consistent supporter of our area's minority youth for decades, awarding over one million dollars in scholarships. Friday evening, June 8, the group held its 27th Annual Scholarship Banquet and Dinner in the Great Hall of the Stranahan Theater to honor 18 deserving high school graduates for their accomplishments. The organization awarded them each four-year renewable scholarships to help aid in funding their college educations.



Glenn D. Burel

Among the scholarship recipient were Enjoli Henry (Rogers High School), Karissa Peoples (Bowsher High School), Brittany Funches (Libbey High School), Briana Funches (Libbey High School), Brittany Pendleton (Scott High School), Krystyn Davis (Libbey High School), Tiffany Bell (Start High School) and Jessica Thomas (Bowsher High School), who each received a generous scholarship on behalf of 50 Men and Women of Toledo, Inc.



Enjoli Henry

Other recipients included Jarrell Terrell (St. Johns High School) and Adriele Parker (Maumee Valley), who were both awarded the James C. Caldwell Scholarship; Aneesha Ali (Scott High School) and Tiara Wright (Libbey High School) received the Dr. Kay E. Meadows Scholarship; Shawn Lane (St. John's High School) and Raffiel McCloud (Waite High School) were granted the Kevin Chad Ellis Scholarship; Glenn Burel (Central Catholic High School) was awarded the John A. Anderson Scholarship; and the O-



Savun Phommalee

I Scholarship was presented to Savun Phommalee (Bowsher High School), Allen Boyd II (St. Johns High School) and Taylor Rhodes (Central Catholic High School).

James C. Caldwell, president of 50 Men and Women of Toledo, Inc. was the master of ceremonies for the special occasion and despite difficulties with the microphones, he did an exceptional job, as always.

Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., president of Bowling Green State University and a devoted supporter of the organization was the guest speaker for the evening. During his address, he continued to emphasize the importance of higher education. "Higher education is a gateway to opportunity," said Ribeau.

He also discussed government funding, highlighting that 12 years ago, we could count on government aid for 70 percent of funding; but today, that figure has dropped tremendously to merely 29 percent of government funding here in the state of Ohio.

"We must invest in our youth if we believe in them," said Ribeau. "We can't wait for the government to create opportunities."

As the guests polished off their dinner, scholarship recipient Jessica Thomas performed a beautifully piece on her cello. Then, scholarship recipient Allen Boyd II had the opportunity to speak on behalf of his peers. Boyd expressed his gratitude to the organization for their generous contributions and spoke about the importance of higher education and giving back.

At the end of the evening, 18 students from the 2007 high school graduating class had a lot to be thankful for and our community is expecting great things from them in the future. As for 50 Men and Women of Toledo Inc, they will continue their commitment, serving as a stepping stone for our area's minority youth and helping to bring their dreams a step closer.



Taylor Rhodes



Tiara Wright



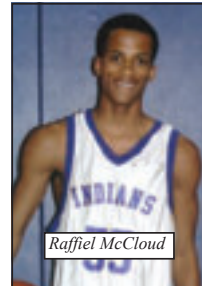
Krystyn Davis



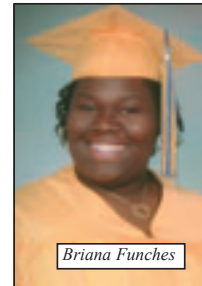
Aneesha Ali



Tiffany Bell



Raffiel McCloud



Briana Funches



Jessica Thomas



Jarrell Terrell



Karissa Peoples

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4:00 University of Toledo's Summer Jazz Institute:
5:00 Rumbata
6:00 Lizz Wright
7:00 Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and Orleans Avenue
8:15 Jon Cleary and the Absolute Monster Gentlemen
10:00 Boney James
11:30 Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and Orleans Avenue
JAM SESSION

Sunday

2:30 Toledo School for the Arts Jazz Band
3:00 Rance Allen Gospel Group
4:00 Josh Boyd and the VIP Band
5:00 The Murphys
6:00 Lambert, Hendricks & Ross Redux
Jon Hendricks, Aria Hendricks and Kevin Burke
7:15 Clark Terry and The Toledo Jazz Orchestra
8:30 Roberta Flack

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More Foreclosure Help Coming for Ohio Families

By Ohio Treasurer Richard Cordray

Few topics are as distressing to state officials right now as the looming onslaught of home foreclosures in Ohio. Our rate of home foreclosure is the highest in the nation, and experts expect the problem to grow as the variable interest rates on many subprime mortgages increase upon their reset dates. Too many people are on the verge of being priced out of their homes and too many more are only one job-loss, one divorce, or one unexpected illness away. Governor Ted Strickland recently established the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force to address this topic in Ohio. As a member of that Task Force, I can tell you that we are working hard to find solutions to help as many people as possible to save their homes.

Many families cannot afford to wait for long for help, so we want them to know that several options will be available soon to help homeowners refinance their mortgages to make them more affordable. Freddie Mac is committing \$20 billion nationally to fund new mortgage products that will allow many distressed borrowers to stay in their homes, and Fannie Mae is putting together a comparable pro-

gram that they say will help as many as 1.5 million homeowners refinance their loans. Credit rating requirements have been changed so that more homeowners will be eligible to refinance into new 30-year fixed rate mortgages or adjustable-rate mortgages with a longer fixed-rate period. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae do not sell mortgages, but they invest in lenders who do, including more than 200 mortgage providers that do business in Ohio.

Another choice is the Opportunity Loan Refinance Program recently created by the Ohio Housing Finance Authority. These loans allow qualifying homeowners to refinance into a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage. This is a good move away from the risk of adjustable rate mortgages or from interest-only loans that soon become unaffordable. The Opportunity Program also offers a second mortgage option with a 20-year fixed-rate that can be used for closing costs or to pay off the first mortgage. To be eligible for this program, the household's income may not exceed 125% of the median gross income of the county where the home is located, and the home-

owner must live in the house and agree to take four hours of approved borrower-counseling.

Thus there are some options and resources available to Ohioans who are having trouble paying their mortgages. The primary advice is always to call your lender and ask for their loss mitigation department. Often they will work with you to restructure your loan, keep you in the home, and continue to receive your stream of payments. If that does not work, then you must be willing to explore some of the other options just listed. But simply pretending that the problem does not exist is the quickest route to losing your home to foreclosure. Think about your situation, and call your lender to ask for help. You may also call 2-1-1 if it is operational in your area, or 1-888-995-HOPE (4673); both numbers offer counselors who will help you to assess your situation and your options. We also welcome homeowners to check our web site at www.ohiotreasurer.gov or to call the Treasurer's office at 1-800-228-1102 for more information.

Pastor Celebrates 70th Birthday

On Saturday, June 9, 2007, family and friends of Pastor Charles E. Jones gathered in an elegant and formal setting to celebrate his 70th birthday.



First Lady and Pastor Charles E. Jones

Members of the Christian Temple Baptist Church "transformed" the Huff-Jones Center into a formal dining area and prepared a delectable meal for all those who came. With his wife, First Lady Margo Jones, by his side and surrounded by his family, Pastor Jones was honored with tributes and songs.

Pastor T.A. Smith, Sr. of the First Baptist Church in Fostoria and one of Jones' sons in ministry delivered a stirring and fitting message entitled "The Days of Our Lives." Surely God has blessed the life of Pastor Jones and all those whom he has touched over the years.

Owens Community College Assists School Children With 'Backpack to the Future' Summer Supply Drive

As another school year comes to an end, many students are once again placing their backpacks in storage or are discarding them entirely in anticipation of buying next fall's latest fashion trend. Owen Community College's Alumni Association has taken the initiative of once again organizing a gently-used backpack drive to provide new life for what many students consider their mobile lifeline to learning.

The College's Alumni Association community service endeavor, titled "Backpack to the Future," is currently accepting gently-used backpacks and new school supplies from area residents during the summer months. Items collected, as part of the "Backpack to the Future" event, will be given to low-income elementary school children throughout Northwest Ohio.

"Owens Community College's Alumni Association is proud to once again coordinate a program ben-

efiting such a worthy cause," said Kaye Koenig, Owens community service chair of the Alumni Association.

"There are many low-income families that can barely afford to pay their bills, and may not be able to provide their children with new supplies. Our goal is to ensure that such occurrences do not happen and that all children begin their school year with new educational resources."

Koenig added, "The various donations collected throughout the summer will be delivered to underprivileged children as the new school year begins in August and September."

In addition to the gently-used backpacks and new backpacks, individuals can donate crayons, markers, bottles of glue, glue sticks, colored pencils, pencils, pink erasers, school boxes, pocket folders, marbled covered composition books and Kleenex tissues. Area residents can bring their charitable donations to the

College's Office of Alumni Relations on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township.

Since establishing the program in 2004, the Owens Alumni Association has given over 550 backpacks and over 8,200 school supplies to benefit underprivileged children throughout Northwest Ohio.

Since opening its doors in 1965, Owens has provided higher education to more than 250,000 students. Owens' Alumni Association is committed to the personal and professional success of alumni and students through the ongoing development of value-added initiatives.

For more information about the school supply drive, or to make a donation, contact the Owens Alumni Relations Office at (567) 661-7410, 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7410 or alumni@owens.edu.



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Heeding the (Wake-up) Call: Strickland Places Focus on African-American Male Graduation Rates

By Vickie Shurelds
Special to the Truth

The response was extraordinary. How could they have known that this would be the call to arms heard around the state?

They had dreamed of 1,000. Hoped for at least 500; but were astounded to greet over 2,000 eager hearts and minds ready to join forces to effect change on the target identified by our new governor as a crisis in a state of emergency: Closing the Gap for Graduation of African American Males.

In an unprecedented move, Governor Ted Strickland has placed an emphasis, within a few weeks of taking office, on the African-American community and has stated the records reported by the Ohio Board of Education as unacceptable. He went on to appoint a champion of education with a proven track record for identifying, directing and accomplishing curriculum goals that make sense: former Senator CJ Prentiss.

"It's all about responsibility and setting standards high enough to make a difference," said Prentiss. She holds all of us accountable on some level for the state of African-American students today. "We have to tell them, 'Hey! You can't do that! Pull your pants up! Do your work, study and use the resources we put into place so you can pass the test!'"

The ground breaking Conference on Closing the Gap took place Wednesday, May 30, offering workshops, discussions and opportunities to create solutions. Delegations arrived from Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo – all the major cities were well represented and presented their well-documented findings for the scrutiny of those in attendance.

Lima broke out at least 55 strong. From the superintendent of Lima City Schools, to members of peer education groups led by social service groups, there was no doubt the message has been received loud and clear: we are out of time, and our students need a plan of action that can lead to success.

Just in case we still weren't sure of our target – Prentiss ended the morning session with a powerful speaker: a high school junior who told us in no uncertain terms – What you see may not be what I am!

He challenged his audience to look beyond the bling, Jordans and Evizus and see the brilliant minds that lie underneath. As it has been throughout history, the few who have slid off the path get the press. Those who have stayed on track, or who "bob and weave" are too easily overlooked.

"The challenge each of us faces is making sure our edu-

cational curriculum is presented with relevance to the students. They want to know how what you are trying to teach me is going to help improve my life right now, and how is it going to help me make money? If you can't teach them on that level; you've lost," said Albert Warner, president/CEO of ADW Management Systems who presented to those taking the workshop on "Teacher, Parent and Community Responsibility."

"It is about cultural acceptance and understanding," said Warner. "Too often these students don't have time to worry about 'the future' they have needs that aren't being met today – so if you can't break it down to that level, they are not trying to hear whatever it is you've got to say."

The approaches used so far are obviously not working. And as school districts scramble to improve state test scores they are also frantically trying to find the key that unlocks the secret to touching the minds of their students. As teachers stand in front of their classrooms – those seated there are a kind of Rubic's cube.

The right combination of moves, resources, enthusiasm, information, and hands-on activities will unlock their desire to learn and achieve and open them up for the

possibilities life has to offer. Change the focus: the dress code, up the stakes, increase the pressure, add more levels, turn up the volume – praise them, reward success – that's it, that's it! No! Turn it over – we missed all these! The frustration runs high for everyone involved.

As the suggestions and decisions from the conference begin to develop into a real plan, there are some things, attendees heard, already in place that community members, parents and students themselves can do to increase their chances for successfully completing their high school career on time with their diploma in hand.

Step one is finding out what you need to graduate and how close you are to having what you need. See your guidance counselor, look at your student handbook, and check your school's website. Parental involvement is critical. Wesley Williams, director, Office of Educator Equity, Center for the Teaching Pro-

fession, Ohio Department of Education oversees the resources available for parents on the DOE website. "It's all laid out for you to get the greatest amount of value from every program we've put in place," he said.

Step two requires you to access the Internet, at school, the library, or a local community center – also in Lima you can use the Ohio Access/Gear Up connection. The state of Ohio has a list of criteria on its website that also gives you the resources you need to access resources or personnel that can help you. There is a guide that tells bullet by bullet about the responsibilities of schools, teachers, parents and students in putting your diploma in easy reach.

Step three requires each of us to make a commitment to excellence. The state requires you to attend school a certain number of days. In order to pass your classes, you must attend them. C'mon now! Some of this you already know! You must pass

the Ohio Graduation Test. Each part of it. You have several chances to accomplish this – and all the tools you need to assure you have the knowledge needed to pass. Parents get involved! Check with teachers and administration to be **SURE** your child is getting the help they need to pass the test. Don't wait until they are seniors to start worrying why everyone else's son or daughter is getting fit for their cap and gown.

"The gap has gotten bigger because we waited too long to do anything about it," said Prentiss who has been sounding the alarm for a number of years. "We've got to take our kids back and say, 'you will do this because I said you will and I am your parent and will do what is right for you.' Remember, you have the right and the responsibility to guide your child to success. Don't let them down. Get on your job."

Contact
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vickie@thetrutholedo.com

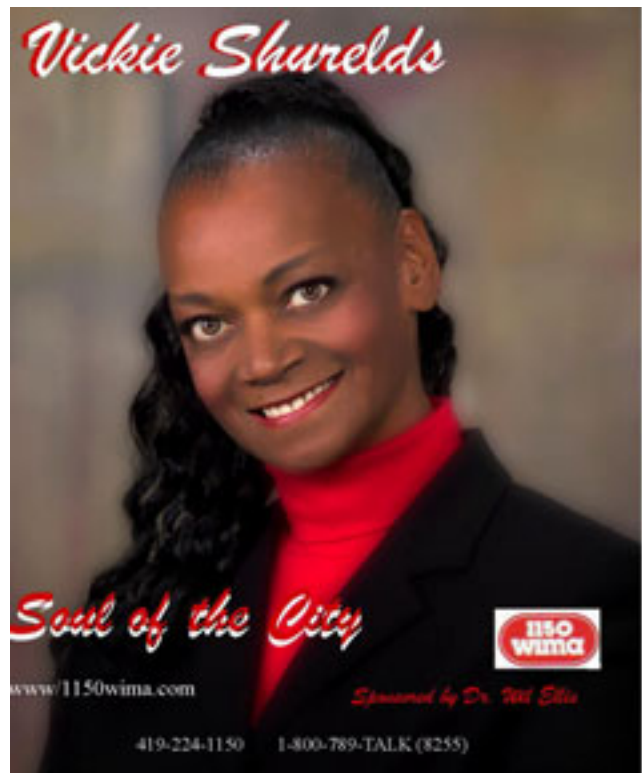
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RELATIONSHIPS 101

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

For all the people who know me and have had mad convo's with me about women these days need to catch this most recent episode of Flavor of Love Girls Charm School.

I hate to say I told... naw, I can't front - I love saying "I told you so."

The exercise was for the remaining women in the house to learn how to spot a good man.

An accomplished relationship expert/author came in to teach them about choosing a mate and show them all the different types of men out there. He started with the four P's.

PLAYA - The guy who is interested in sleeping with the most girls possible. No substance, all talk.

PAROLEE - The guy who is supposedly the best in bed, but not a good provider, not sensitive and so on and so forth.

PUSH OVER - The guy who is too sensitive and too relationship focused.

PROFESSIONAL - The guy who works too much and doesn't care much for pleasing his mate.

The episode detailed how these categories of men possess varying degrees of qualities a self-respecting woman should want, but none of them are ideal.

According to Charm School, the ideal man is referred to as

The Urban Renaissance Man - The guy who is motivated, educated, sensitive yet still tough in some way and at least willing to settle down.

DISCLAIMER - This is just a TV show and I can't honestly say I agree with everything they said.

Of course **Parolees** and **Playas** can be reformed.

Of course most **Push Over's** and **Professionals** are acting in ways they likely hope will keep their women happy.

Also, I can't really use that term **Urban Renaissance Man** to describe men who have their act together. I simply call those men... men.

But, for the sake of the episode (and proving my point)... let's keep on.

With five women left in the house, Mo'Nique told them about an exercise where a group of men would be invited to the house and every type of man would be present.

All the ladies needed to do in order to win the challenge was pick the Urban Renaissance Man out of the Parolees, Push Overs, Professionals and Playas.

Now let me switch gears for a moment.

A WOMAN'S CHOICE
Having a little sister (and a lot of girls who are just like sisters to me) has helped me develop a perspective on relationships that I don't mind sharing.

I urge people to talk with kids, adults, pastors, teachers, etc. about relationships.

Learning from other people's mistakes and being open to discussion can save you a lot of heartache. Or at least help heal heartache when it comes.

I've known some women who always feel victimized by how love has treated them.

They feel powerless to change their romantic fortune and helplessly repeat the same patterns.

I've never wanted any of my female relatives ever feeling that way so I tell the women closest to me the following: **IT'S THE WOMAN WHO CHOOSES THE MAN.**

Get it straight, none of y'all should be shocked. It's completely true!

The typical girl in my age group probably gets a lot of attention from the opposite sex.

Different guys like different types of women and

vice versa, but let's just use this as ground zero:

The average girl gets approached by anywhere from 5 to 15 different guys during a month.

It might be some dude spitting game at a stoplight (not very classy, but I've seen it work) or it might be someone who just says "hello" while in line at the grocery store and hopes that the girl will wanna converse (hardly ever seen that work).

But in one way or another, the average woman is being hollered at by at least five different guys in a four-week period.

Now, just like the Charm School joint - those five guys might represent various types.

And just like the Charm School episode, it's up to **YOU** (all the ladies out there) to have your instincts vibing to the point you can make a good judgment call about who you should give your time to.

I told my sister when she was 14 to just make a list of all that she wanted in a boyfriend.

Not that you should be rigid and closed off to life's surprises, but the earlier you start thinking about what you want in a mate - the easier you can spot what you **DON'T** want.

See, those that know me have heard me break this down several times.

And I put in some work back in the day, kinda got my *Dr. Phil* on.

Anybody who attended UT around 2000-2002 might remember those little gatherings in the South Lounge we used to have (What up, D. Boyd!!).

Every week a group of young black men would meet and discuss relationships and such.

It wasn't necessarily a planned event, but for a few weeks it would become a ritual surrounded by other activities.

Being a public relations major, I would use this time like market research and I found that **MOST** guys in my age group are really relationship oriented.

MOST guys my age have been raised by mothers who told us to value love and look forward to settling down with the right lady.

In addition to those meetings on campus where I would hear young brothas pouring their hearts out, I also ran a poetry night and I noticed the same phenomena occurring there.

With a few minor exceptions, most of the peeps I was

around were so-called "good men." And there were dozens and dozens and dozens of them.

Not saying they all got perfect test scores, had fat income or even were fully-established yet.

But as far as what type of dudes they were, it was evident.

These men were honest and open about how important it was to find love and have a respectable relationship that would grow into a family.

Not saying all of them had flawless wardrobe or rims on their car.

Not saying all of them had street cred or middle class values.

It was a blend. But even with so many guys taking part in these discussions week in and week out it was painfully obvious that our generation had plenty of black men who had followed that advice our mothers' gave and had taken love seriously.

It was also obvious that our little meetings didn't attract every guy to the fold. Playas, wanna-be thugs (college kids actin' like thugs is dumb as hell),

and men who are still too immature to admit that love is important to them.

Those cats were around, but not exactly interested in having the discussions we had. And that's when I realized. If the average girl gets at least five dudes trying to get her, at least **ONE** of them cats might be a possible good match for her.

At least **ONE** of them cats is humble, honest and has good intent. If she doesn't pick that one, then someone needs to examine why.

The nature of our society has dictated that men make that first move and advance so all a woman really has to do is sit back and watch us audition - LOL.

And that's cool, because most guys will tell you all you need to know about them in those first few minutes.

All my life I've seen playa type dudes just tell women their intentions **FROM JUMP!**

"Hey, I'm really feeling you. I'm not trying to be in a relationship right now so I won't even front.

But we obviously are attracted to each other, so lets just hook up and see what happens."

Now hate it if you want to - but if a man/woman feels that way then you can't be mad at them for being blunt and upfront

about it. If that's not the right approach for you, just say "no thank you" and keep it moving.

I don't condone that type of behavior, but people are grown and you gotta respect that approach.

Ladies, if a guy comes at you like that - you've already identified which type he is and you can make your decision from there.

I did mention that it's your decision, right? ('who remembers the chorus to Black Sheep "The Choice Is Yours" ? - nuff said).

So back on this latest episode of Charm School, after spending an evening mixing it up with all the various guys these women were supposed to make a choice about who they thought the urban renaissance man was.

There was 1 Parolee. There were 2 Push Overs. There was 1 Professional. There were 2 Playas.

And there was 1 Urban Renaissance Man.

OUT OF FIVE FEMALES, NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM PICKED THE GOOD GUY!

When it was time to reveal the choice of who they thought the **urban renaissance man** was, every last girl got it wrong.

WHAT MAKES US CHOOSE THE LOVERS WE CHOOSE?

Growing up during the talk-show crazed 90's, me and my peeps constantly had to hear how there were "no good men in the world."

A lot of women talk like this and never give a second thought to how

their sons, nephews, grandsons or whoever are processing those comments.

For some guys it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For others, it becomes an unfair judgment that you live under until you prove otherwise. For me, it was something I studied.

I've always talked with people about their relationships, anytime - anytime.

It's just interesting to me.

Hell, I remember getting rowdy at this hotel party and the cops came to kick us out the pool.

I noticed the female officer had a ring on her finger and she and I talked for an hour about how her husband proposed and all that.

Asking more and more questions and having to constantly hear about how "men ain't shit", I wondered what makes people choose who they choose. I learned that

most of the women who say "Men Are Dogs" usually can spot a dog easily.

But many of them willingly went into a relationship with a man who admitted he wasn't ready and then someone got hurt.

Another thing that seemed to result in people not being happy is just refusing to sit down and think about what they want in a partner.

Personally, I believe much of what Chris Rock says in his stand-up: "two crack heads can stay together forever! You've got to have the same interests".

Opposites attract, that may be true but nothing compares to being with someone who gets you. I mean, *really* gets you. But first... who are **YOU?**

#1. Knowing Yourself has to be the first rule in choosing a partner.

A lot of y'all ain't as Christian as you think you are.

A lot of y'all ain't as cute as you think you are.

A lot of y'all ain't nowhere near as intelligent as you think you are.

You've got to know your limitations with what you can handle also.

Just a brief window into my personal world... I **KNOW** I'm judgmental.

Working on it, but it's just a part of Michael Jae Hayes at this stage.

So what did that let me know about my ideal mate?

Well, obviously if I'm judgmental than she would have to be someone very patient.

Someone who can back me up on some of my judgments but remind me to keep an open mind when I need to.

I know I've been through some things with a few girls in my past who were too busy partying to truly focus on a relationship. So when I was single, I just stayed away from females addicted to that club life.

In order to find out what things you need in a mate, just think about what traits you have and what would best compliment them.

There's more to discuss, but I'll just leave it at that for now. Do I think I know everything? Of course not (oh yeah, please be advised that the title "Minister of Culture" - not my doing), however I do think it important to always talk as a means of gaining understanding.

And to all the peeps who emailed me and asked me to address more issues like this, thanks for reading.

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JAZZ FANS and people who swear Toledo is boring. ROBERTA FLACK will be at the Art Tatum Jazz Festival June 16th. This is always my favorite event in Toledo every summer. Great music, great atmosphere. And Friday June 15th, the Jazz Loop is one of the most innovative ways you could ever see Downtown Toledo. Please, get up get out and do something. For peeps who wanna see me and my crew do our thing performing the best R&B/Conscious Hip Hop around, check us out: June 15th - Vamps (Phillips Ave. next to B.K.) starting at 8:30 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 6th - 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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Keys To Entrepreneurship

A free seminar sponsored by the **Small Business Development Center at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce** and the **Business Technology Department at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library** is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 15 in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan Street.

Speakers include:

- Ø 7:30 a.m. - **Beth Miller**, Senior Credit Analyst, Bank of Maumee/Topic: Business Ratios
- Ø 8 a.m. - **George Robinson**, Certified Facilitator, FASTTRAC/Topic: FASTTRAC program
- Ø 8:30 a.m. - **Jadwiga Carlson**, Owner/Entrepreneur, Accessible Web Studio, Ltd./Topic: Business Web Site Development
- Ø 9 a.m. - **Stephen Evans**, Attorney, Marshall & Melhorn/Topic: Intellectual Property

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2827 Northwood Ave
Full finished newer painted basement - Large Dormer 22 x 13 - Remodeled Kitchen - 3 bedrooms
Call Dee Bates - 419.367.7771



1023 Underwood Avenue
\$74,900
GREAT BUY
Very clean 3 bd home. Walk-in closets in both upper bedrooms. Large master bd on main floor
Bessie Humphrey * Call 419.260.0215



665 E. Lake Street
3 Bd - Fenced yard - Neat and clean inside - Screened porch - Near busline and shopping
Call Dee Bates - 419.367.7771

NOTICE

Toledo Community Development Corporation (Toledo CDC) is seeking proposals from Residential General Contractors interested in rehabilitating 851 Oakwood Ave. Toledo CDC owns this 2BR, 1BA house, built in 1912. Qualified parties will be licensed with the City of Toledo and will be Lead Assessors. All interested parties please contact Summer Stegall at (419) 255-7500 for a full copy of the RFP. Proposal deadline due by 3:00 p.m., June 15, 2007.

For Rent

GREAT APARTMENTS & HOMES:

- *4Bdrm, Spacious Home, 2252 Whitney
- *2Bdrm, Luxurious Apt Suites, 2018 Glenwood
- *2Bdrm, Gorgeous Apts, 3327 Collingwood Blvd
- *2Bdrm, Home, 1132 Evesham

CALL NOW: 419-865-7787

Clinician

Seeking a currently competent professional to deliver professional care in a school setting to children and youth ages 6 – 18 years of age experiencing severe behavioral problems. Clinician also responsible for providing clinical supervision for staff. Candidates required to have a minimum of a master's degree in counseling, social work or a related mental health field from an accredited college or university and be licensed to practice independently as a social worker or counselor in Ohio (LISW, PCC). Experience and desire to work with troubled youth and their families preferred. Candidate must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Duties include providing group and individual counseling, preparing an annual plan for responsible areas, and collaborating with program leaders to develop and implement a model of care for the program based on current treatment principles.

Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 6/20/07, to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (C-DAC),
4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234
or fax to 419-479-3230.

EOE.

Legal Notice

The Toledo Public Schools is taking applications from area families for **free school uniforms**. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements for assistance in obtaining uniforms.

Parents/guardians of registered Toledo Public School students in grades K-8 can apply for free uniform vouchers between June 11, 2007 and June 29, 2007. Applicants must present the following items when applying: photo identification, proof of household income for the last 30 days, custody papers; PRC applicants must provide printout indicating current date of approval. SSA/SSI applicants must present child support printout. Applicants who are employed or receiving unemployment benefits must provide check stubs (most recent 2 consecutive stubs if paid bi-weekly or most recent 4 consecutive stubs if paid weekly).

Once applications are processed, approval/denial letters will be mailed to the applicants. By applying for the free uniforms between June 11 and June 29, each student within a family will receive three tops, two bottoms, one sweater and one belt – uniform allocation after June 29 will be greatly reduced. Applications will be accepted at the following locations: Leverette Junior High School from June 11 – 29; Waite SAC Center from June 11-15; Libbey High School from June 18-29. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. For questions, please call the Toledo Public Schools, Chief of Staff's Office at 419-691-8362.

Toledo Public Schools reserves the right to reject any, part of any, or all applications.

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 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 or mail to: HR, Toledo Museum of Art, PO Box 1013, Toledo, OH 43697.

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 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.

EOE.

!!BUSINESS LEASE!!

1300 square feet
1616 Lawrence Avenue
Call: 419-351-1527
419-255-0610

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 6/20/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (ACM-22), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234 or fax to 419-479-3230.

EOE.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids from qualified contractors/builders for construction of one (1) single-family home at 3603 Turret Green Drive, Toledo, OH 43607:

**JOB NO. PROJECT WALK-THRU DATE
BID OPENING DATE**

Job # 37009 Construction of Single-Family Home at 3603 Turret Green Drive None
June 26, 2007 at 10:30am

Sealed bids will be received in accordance with law until June 26, 2007 @ 10:30am in the office of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, 201 Belmont Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2nd floor conference room.

NOTE: There will be no scheduled walk-thru for this project. Contractors wishing to see the site may do so at their convenience. Any questions should be submitted in writing, no later than one (1) week before the specified bid opening, to Matt Sutter at the address shown on the cover of the bid package.

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications are available in the office of the LMHA Modernization Department, 201 Belmont Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604, (419) 259-9462, and will be provided upon request. A fee of \$20.00 will be charged for each set of plans provided. This fee will be non-refundable.

The Davis Bacon prevailing wage law does not apply to this project.

Bid bonds are waived for this project. Performance bond will be required.

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality in the bidding. No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids.

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, or ancestry.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING
AUTHORITY
MODERNIZATION DIVISION

Sojourner's Truth and Ebony World Productions Stage Celebration of Newspaper's Fifth Anniversary

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Sojourner's Truth started publishing five years ago and in collaboration with Ebony World Productions (EWP) and the Peacock Café, the newspaper will celebrate this event with a fashion and entertainment extravaganza on Saturday, June 16 at 6 p.m.

Marisha Austin, who runs the fashion arm of EWP, has gathered over three dozen professional models, male and female, adult and children, all shapes and sizes, to add a little style, glitz and glamour to the creations of local designers Reveesh Couture and Ollie Nicole along with an assortment of other designers from the Rock Bottom Underground Apparel on Detroit Avenue.

Reveesh Couture specializes in fashions for both men and women, said Austin, particularly for the "grown and sexy."

Ollie Nicole, two Toledo natives, are known for their unique designs in a variety of styles, be it hip-hop or old school.

From Rock Bottom will come designs by Baby Phat and PZI, among others.

DJ Keith Success is handling the entertainment arrangement and has lined up a galaxy of area stars: the Bomb Squad Dance Team, Tracy, CJ Mack and Ray Stone. The Juice's Martini will be the evening's mistress of ceremonies.

And Unique Hair Creations will provide styling tips.

The evening fashion show starts at 8 p.m. Doors open at 6.



Ebony World Productions
presents

**The Sojourner's Truth
5th Anniversary**

Fashion Show ON MONROE

Saturday June 16 next to Peacock Cafe'

Starring
EWP Modeling Group "Ebony's Angels" & "The Thick Mch'ams"

PERFORMANCES BY TOLEDO RECORDING ARTISTS
Tracy * CJ mack * Ray \$tone

Advance tickets \$30.00 more on the day of the show. After party immediately following.
Sponsored by: The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper, EWP, The Peacock Cafe' For tickets or more info call 419.314.3378

featuring Fashion Designers

- * Reveesh Couture
- * Ollie Nicole
- * Rock Bottom

Chemical Hair Creations
Nijica Mi Chal La