

Calvin Brown

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"Someone had to step up who has a vested interest in the minority community. I thought I knew more than most, particularly in the area of contract compliance. I decided I was up for the challenge."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

There was an article in our daily newspaper this past Saturday with a headline that cries of two candidates being charged with election law violations. Oddly enough, the photograph of only one of the candidates – Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford – is presented ... close to the headline, in fact.

The complaint filed against Ashford is that he has been using yard signs that display the word “endorsed” even though he has clearly not been endorsed by the Democratic Party since his 2002 campaign, the year those particular signs were crafted. If Ashford is found at fault by the Ohio elections Commission, the maximum fine will be \$500 and, presumably, he will be ordered to remove the signs.

The other candidate who has drawn the ire of an opponent is Jim Bishop. Bishop, a Democrat, is engaged in a battle for a judgeship on Toledo Municipal Court. A complaint has been filed against him for raising and spending funds without filing a form designating a campaign treasurer. The GOP calls his oversight a “craven failure” but being merely craven or a failure is apparently not enough to merit a photograph near the headline that bespeaks of an election law violation.

What does merit such attention?

Well, let's take the case of Toledo City Councilman Phil Copeland who is back in the news since his decision to run for the top job at his union – Laborers' Local 500. Copeland, as we detail on another page of this issue, was embroiled in a scandal that ultimately caused the ouster of the previous business manager. He gets more attention from local media, and photos galore, than just about any local official who has ever felt the heat of being in public office.

And we revisit the case of a former City Councilwoman Karyn McConnell Hancock whose error of judgment in 2005, over a parking ticket, brought the wrath of the community down on a young, promising elected official. She lost her re-election bid that year.

Just in case you did not know, but are beginning to wonder, what Ashford, Copeland and McConnell Hancock all have in common is the fact that they are African-American. Bishop, of course, is not.

We could understand the media consternation over such presumed errors in judgment by elected officials if other elected officials received the same intense scrutiny. However, over recent years, “fair and balanced” has proven to be a media goal just out of reach here in Toledo when it comes to passing judgment on our politicians.

We seem to have forgotten, for example, that four white Republicans were convicted after pleading no contest to charges of a lack of disclosure when they served as conduits for money from Tom Noe to the Bush re-election campaign in 2004.

We seem to have forgotten that a white councilman was sentenced to a term in prison for demanding and accepting bribes in 2006.

And what is the direct impact of this media double standard in scrutiny? After a while, we come to blithely accept the fact that black politicians are held to such a standard and repeated references to their actions raise not the slightest hint of protest.

The other direct impact of the application of such a double standard is that on voters. We have no doubt that McConnell Hancock lost her bid for re-election because of the scandal over a parking ticket. We also have no doubt that voters of all stripes – black and white – had the incident in mind when they entered the polling booth.

Two incidents after the McConnell Hancock affair spring to mind, one quite recent. The older incident was that of a telephone call in the middle of the night from Republican Councilman Joe Birmingham's wife to the police stating that she had locked him out of the house – he was drunk and verbally abusive – and insisting that the police come by and make sure that he was escorted out of the area.

Local media closed ranks and refused to scrutinize the Birmingham incident. The police department refused to release public information on the matter to the press. The print press buried the item on back pages – without photos of course. Birmingham was on a morning radio show during which the host tossed a bunch of hardball questions at him such as “you didn't do anything wrong, did you, Joe?”

And, recently, the white leader of a local school watchdog group – he has a bunch of dutiful black followers and gives lip service to such notions as the need for more black teachers and getting inner city schools rebuilt – went on the radio to blast elected officials for their arrogance and failure to remember who placed them in office and he reached back in time for McConnell Hancock as an example.

He reached past Bob McCloskey; he reached past Joe Birmingham; he reached past Thurber, Perz, Owens and Shultz.

So if you were surprised that Ashford's photo was the only one displayed close to the word “violations” this past Saturday, you either haven't been paying attention or you just arrived in town.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*June 11-August 3
Summer Feeding Program at the Holt Lifeline Center: Youths ages 5-18; Noon to 1 pm; Monday through Friday: 419-727-0820

*June 18-August 4
Summer Reading Pals: Sanger and Oregon branches; Free seven-week summer program for youth who need reading practice: 419-259-5276

*July 28
Evergreen Eagles (CCTS) Alumni Association, Ohio State Chapter: Meeting at Kent Branch to form local chapter; Noon to 2 pm; Need former students of CCTS: 419-466-0005 or JGrace9547@aol.com

*July 27-29
First church of God 2nd Annual Inter-Generational Conference: Friday night kick-off service at 7 pm; Three sessions of workshop options – teaching, worship, preaching and relationship building within and across generations – on Saturday plus 7 pm service; 11 am service on Sunday; Genesis Dreamplex: 419-490-7779 or 419-531-1227

*July 28
St. Paul MBC: Northern District Prayer Breakfast; 9 am to noon; Speaker Pastor James Willis

*July 29
Third Baptist Church of Holland (9775 Angola Rd.): Men sponsoring a summer musical gospel explosion; 4 pm

Wings of Healing Christian Center: Installation service for elder Annie Furr as pastor and founder; Guest speaker Pastor Steven Furr of All Saints Worship Center of Cleveland; 4:30 pm: 419-531-2959

Ebenezer Mission Society: Annual 100 women in White Service; 4 pm; “Can I Get a Witness;” Speaker Elaine Burton from Mt. Zion: 419-729-1466

New Hope MBC: Fellowship with Rev. Bennie McGee, associate pastor of Bethel Baptist church of Detroit; 4 pm: 419-244-2964

12th Annual Miss Junior Toledo Pageant: New Life Center (Bethlehem Baptist Church); 4 pm; Dinner provided by Mr. Big Stuff

Jerusalem Baptist Church: Recognition of Ms. Frances Crenshaw, First Lady Emeritus of JBC for her untiring service; 4 pm

*August 3
Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge No. 4; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

*August 7
Scott High School Alumni Association: General meeting; Kent Branch Library; 6 pm

*August 8-11
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral's 10 Annual Holy Convocational: “Destined for Greatness;” Featuring Recording Artist Psalmist Mary Wynn of Detroit; Clarion Hotel on S. Reynolds: 419-810-0451

*August 11
A Midsummer Night – Up on the Roof: Main Branch Library; 8 pm

*August 17
Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge No. 4; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

*August 17-19
Northwest Ohio Retrouvaille – A Lifeline for Marriages: A program designed to help troubled marriages regain their health: 1-8470-2230 or 419-874-1914

*August 25
“Showcase of the Arts;” Kent Branch Library; 1 to 4 pm; To promote quality of life and appreciation of the arts; Over 40 visual and performing artists from 3rd grade on up: 419-531-5646 or 419-360-0399

Indiana Avenue MBC: Choir formation for youth and young adults of the Northwest Ohio Missionary Baptist Association; 5 pm: 419-320-7441

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



Jack Ford

Mike Ashford should be miffed at the rule that may require him to take down some of his super signs which say "endorsed Democrat."

Ashford has not been in front of the Lucas County Democratic Party endorsement committee. Technically no one has since the party has not given out any endorsements. But since Ashford has "endorsed Democrat" on his signs, he has been charged with improper campaigning.

It's much ado about nothing in this case since Ashford will win his district race regardless of the designation on his signs. Perhaps the state

board of elections will rule that Ashford's previous endorsement will hold good until his party meets to confer its blessings on candidates.

To his credit, Ashford has not leveled a similar charge on other Democrats who have the same problem.

Last week I got way too snippy in my comments about Wade Kapszkiewicz and the B team Democrats. I was out of line. Kapszkiewicz is one of the most progressive new politicians in the country. We all worked for his election and will do it again. Wade is one of the good guys.

As to the A team-B team rift, it will not be settled until the next precinct committee fight next spring. If the A team wins, then Keith Wilkowski will emerge. If the B team wins a majority, then Mayor Carty Finkbeiner may remain as their champion. Between now and then, both sides will be organizing their hearts out toward gaining a majority. Watch Ben Krompak who will use his neighborhood contacts to help the A team emerge victorious.

The mayor is correct to be

concerned over losing FedEx to Wood County. But I think what really stung was the loss of Bass Pro to Wood County. Finkbeiner needs a win to offset continued hemorrhaging of jobs from Toledo.

Bass Pro may have been leaning towards Toledo but ultimately was won over by Wood County. Bass Pro meant hundreds of jobs and millions in investment and spin-offs. Just as Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in Detroit is wooing Quicken Loans to his downtown, Finkbeiner needs FedEx.

As to the idea of no poaching, that is ridiculous! Of course localities compete against one another. And, if we did not want Wood County to compete, why did we sell water to them years ago? That is how Arrowhead Park came into existence.

In 2005, Finkbeiner touted the number of old jobs he saved and the number of new jobs he created. What he did not tell the voters is that the city and the region lost a lot of jobs also. And, a lot of the new jobs were for less money than those we lost. The ugly truth is that we have a net loss in terms of good jobs.

(Continued on Page 14)

Negative Campaigning Will Inevitably Backfire

Well, if there was any doubt, the 2007 election campaign is in full swing. My opponent—who is supported by the people who brought you stripper gate and the internationally notorious golf outing—has begun a negative campaign against me.

As with all negative campaigns, the attacks are misleading and designed to distract voters from the issues that truly matter to them: improving the quality of life (safety, city services, neighborhoods, streets, parks) and maintaining a standard of living (employment, lower tax base).

Rest assured, the charges against me have been made up to gain political advantage and to get my opponent's name in the paper. This is true, in fact, of most claims that are filed to the Ohio Elections Commission.

In my experience, that campaign strategy never works. Negative campaigns and false claims have set the tone for some elections. In 2002, during my first campaign, I made a golden rule that none of my volunteers, including myself, will participate in any negative campaigning. Even today if you visit my campaign headquarters at 2489 Collingwood, there is a 30X30 posted sign that guides our campaign. The sign states four rules:

Campaign Guidelines:

1. Be positive always
2. Never think or say anything negative about other campaigns or candidates
3. Go to the extramile
4. Always thank volunteers and voters

My last two elections I have won being honest, hard working and above the fray. I will follow whatever decision the Ohio Elections Commission makes on this complaint. In the meantime, I encourage voters to ask my opponent about the real issues in this District—not a word on a yard sign, but about how we can live better lives in this community, and what he can do to make it happen.

You know my record.

Sincerely

Michael Ashford
City Councilman, District 4



GOOD OLD DUKE

By Jan K. M. Scotland
Guest Columnist



Jan Scotland

Back in the day, growing up in New York, my brother and I would spend a lot of our free time sitting on porches shooting the breeze. We played a lot of sports growing up in our neighborhood and after our many block rivalries in football, basketball or stickball we would cool off under the tree of someone's porch and chill.

By then we had moved to Queens, NY from my birth place in Harlem and houses were detached and lawns and trees were prevalent. It was the closest that you could get to country living in the city, and it was a nice place to grow up.

One of the porches we would frequent belonged to a Mr. Duvall. He was a retired bartender who lived on his pension with his daughter and two grand kids Bay-Bay and Bum-Bum. Those were

their nicknames of course but to this day I couldn't tell you their real names. We somehow messed up the pronunciation of Mr. Duvall's name, calling him Mr. Do-All instead. His nickname from his bartending days was Duke.

Good old Duke never graduated from high school and I doubt that he completed grade school. Back then it was not uncommon for adults to make a decent living without a good education.

Duke worked for the famous Big Apple night club in Harlem where all the big celebrities of the era would frequent. He told us of meeting Lena Horn, Sidney Poitier, Joe Louis, Cab Calloway and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. to name a few and had stories that matched the sensational personalities he came in contact with.

We would spend hours talking to Duke, mostly respectfully listening to everything he would share with us. He told us he enjoyed having us around because we were interested in his life's experiences. He always made time for us.

My brother and I would talk from time to time about the limitations of life and among them the barriers due

to our color. Duke would say repeatedly "there are only three things certain in life." He would pause and look at us in jest saying "in your case there's four, cause you're always gonna be ugly." But other than that you will always be black, you gotta pay taxes and you're gonna die. All other things you can change."

I lost track of Duke over the years but I never forgot what he told us, I know he didn't originate the saying but he was the first to drill home the meaning to me. I learned a lot of things from that grade school drop out that I would not have learned if I had not taken the time to hear what he had to say. Through the years I have always believed that everyone I meet can do at least one thing better than me. They know at least one thing from their life experience that I have not learned. Each person has a knowledge that is positive for my development and no one is to be looked down on due to their lack of social status or education.

Many of our youth or even some adults get so hung up on what they have done and the positions they have attained that they miss out on the positive contributions of

(Continued on Page 4)



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Calvin Brown Named Commissioner of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

When Calvin Brown was first assigned to the City of Toledo's Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC) as its interim commissioner several months ago, he was surprised at the amount of time the contract compliance duties of the office would take.

Last Thursday Mayor Carty Finkbeiner tapped Brown to remain in the post that opened in March when Perlean Griffin was fired after refusing to comply with the mayor's order to accept a demotion from director to commissioner. If Toledo City Council approves the nomination, Brown will have a good more time to deal with the contract compliance aspect of the office.

"It's a lot of work to revive that part of the office, particularly to monitor the good faith goals of the city, not to mention the field work and to monitor compliance," said Brown last week after the announcement. "Are the subcontractors at work or are the majority contractors doing the work themselves?"

Those good faith goals that Brown referenced are that minority business enterprises (MBE) should receive 12.34 percent of contracts or sub-contracts for construction services and seven percent for goods and services.

The controversy which began with Brown's move to AA/CC has not abated. In June, Brown discovered a contract submitted by B & B Wrecking and Excavating of Cleveland for a city demolition project in which the company had submitted the name and the signature of Wes Boykin, an area MBE. The problem with the contract was that Boykin had not in-

fact signed it; his signature had been forged.

Brown put a halt on the contract, but the principals later hammered out a deal to the satisfaction of city and county officials and Boykin has benefited from the new arrangement by receiving a 45 percent portion of that original city contract. That should help the city reach its good faith goals.

And that's one of the reasons Brown gave for want-

ing the promotion.

"Someone had to step up who has a vested interest in the minority community," said Brown. "I thought I knew more than most, particularly in the area of contract compliance. I decided I was up for the challenge."

The move to place Brown in charge of AA/CC does not indicate that the controversy over the office is all in the past. Finkbeiner announced his intention to lower the status of the office from a department to a division at the beginning of the year as a cost savings measure. He also said at that time that he wanted to split up the office and place the contract compliance func-

tion under the purchasing department. Griffin objected to the diminished status and the office's reorganization and ultimately was fired for insubordination. She has filed a number of complaints with federal agencies in the interim. Then ensued a firestorm as groups and individuals blasted the Finkbeiner plan. After a meeting with the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Finkbeiner agreed to keep the portions of the office together and to restructure the reporting functions from the usual commissioner-to-director flow.

As a result, Brown will report directly to the mayor's Chief of Staff Robert Reinbolt and will have a dotted line responsibility to Theresa M. Gabriel, director of human resources. Brown will also continue in his duties as manager of employee benefits under Gabriel. That arrangement will no doubt cause City Council to look closely at the unusual reporting issues.

Brown, a Cleveland native, first arrived in Toledo in 1971 to attend The University of

Toledo where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. He stayed on in Toledo working for the city as a programs coordinator before being laid off in 1980.

Brown returned to the Cleveland/Akron area and worked for the Summit County Children's Services Board, the Summit County Office of the Sheriff, several consulting firms and the State of Ohio before coming back to Toledo in 2003 as a management consultant. He was hired by the City of Toledo in March 2006 as the manager of administrative services in the human resources department.

Brown estimates that contract compliance comprises about 70 percent of the workload in the AA/CC office and when he arrived, he said, that portion just was not getting done. He found empty and incomplete files, unfinished action on complaints and a lack of field follow up on awarded contracts.

But he also is fully aware of the need to continue to

monitor the affirmative action issues as well. "We are clearly here to monitor and enforce the programs of the City of Toledo to make sure that workplace harassment and unfairness do not continue."

In that respect, Brown describes the office as the critical place for city employees who have such concerns. It's the office's task to make sure that training and education continues for staff "so that they do not infringe upon the rights of an employee," and "when a complaint is lodged, to pursue it actively and aggressively in order to resolve the issue - which I have."

Yet with all of the issues swirling about the office over the last four months, Brown sees an opportunity to advance its agenda. From an administrative standpoint, he realizes that his major task is to "fully educate the various city departments about the goals and objectives of the MBE program."

And he feels that the attention given his office re-

cently will assist him in that task.

"I'm striking while the iron is hot because we have the ear of the departments due to this attention," he said. "I'm going to continually challenge them on these operating goals to reach them or at least come close. I want to see a good faith effort and I will sit on contracts until I see that effort. The 'business as usual approach' will no longer work."



Calvin Brown and Mayor Carty Finkbeiner



Duke

(Continued from Page 3)

people around them. Kids think adults are out of touch. Some adults think that education or success has lifted them to levels above other human beings. We turn a blind eye to the gifts the Lord has given every individual and lean exclusively on the gifts he has given us.

In a story in Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells about talents given to three servants by their master. Those who took their talents and grew them were rewarded. The one who took his talents and buried them was chastised. In life we all have talents. Using those talents and growing them makes us the people we are. Recognizing that everyone is endowed with talents is the first step in enabling us to respect what all individuals bring to the table. Learning the talents of others is one of the ways of expanding our own talents.

Old Duke had talents that were outside of a formal education. Recognizing those talents enriched my life even if it was to a small extent. Enriching your life a little with each of the thousands of people you come into contact, will make you a better person. Recognizing what those special talents are is not always easy. But when you do, you get the treasures of their life. Even with my open attitude I am surprised from whom I learn some of my most cherished lessons.

Duke, although you must have been slightly blind calling my brother and me ugly, I am glad for the talents you shared with us. It would have been a sin if we were blind the gifts of knowledge you had to offer. I still remember the treasures we received from you.

Contact Jan Scotland at jan@thetruthtoledo.com

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Phil Copeland Prepares for Yet Another Tough Campaign

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo City Councilman and Secretary-Treasurer of Laborers' Local 500 Phil Copeland is once again on a ballot – for the third time in less than two years.

In November 2005, Copeland won election to Toledo City Council. Then, the following spring in a hastily arranged effort, he lost a bid in Democratic primary to succeed his late uncle, Bill Copeland, on the Lucas County Board of Commissioners.

Later this summer, Copeland will be vying to head the union that he has been a member of for decades and which he has served as secretary/treasurer for 22 years. This time he's attempting to replace his cousin, Steven Thomas, who was ousted as business manager in the wake of a scandal involving Thomas's use of union credit cards in strip clubs.

According to the results of an investigation launched by the inspector general's office of the Laborers International Union of North America, Thomas and recording-secretary Thomas Leonard spent more than \$21,000 at such establishments as Scarlett's Cabaret

in Toledo and Kahoots Gentlemen's Club in Columbus.

Although Copeland was never implicated in any wrongdoing, he has been tainted – unfairly he believes – by the scandal because he, as secretary-treasurer, signed off on the credit card receipts and submitted them to the membership for approval.

But the story does not end there, says Copeland. "I have nothing to hide, I wasn't there. If I had known for a second, I would not have approved expenses like Scarlett's. I never knew anything until the International came in."

The difficulty posed for Copeland, and the union membership, when it was time to approve such expenses is that the receipts in question never mentioned the name of Scarlett's or Kahoots. The receipts simply read J.B. Monroe Supper Club, the Florida holding company that was also at the center of the recent scandal at the Lucas County Democratic Party's golf outing that led to the resignation of party boss John Irish.

As Copeland now says, he had no clue that the sup-

per club receipts represented strip club visits. The fact is, he notes, unions traditionally do a lot of entertaining, a lot of rather expensive entertaining, in order to conduct business. It would not be

unusual, he says, for large-dollar entertainment receipts to cross his desk from any number of union executives including, as happened in this case, those of his boss.

What he does indeed realize is that the last several years have been particularly difficult ones for Local 500 which had been faced with shrinking membership rolls and mounting budget deficits even before the current scandal became news.

Copeland's opponent – the other nominee for business manager – is Jarrod Mitchell, an 18-year member of the union who is making his first run for any sort of elective office. "We need a change at our local," says Mitchell of the

reason for his run. "With the past business manager and executive board – Phil being one of those members – things went wrong. A lot of people are complaining and wanted someone to step up. I made my decision before the end of 2006 and I feel I'm capable of doing the job."

Clearly the key issue in the next month's campaign will be the stripper/money mismanagement scandal of the last few years. "I don't hold Phil personally responsible," says Mitchell. "I hold the executive board for not keeping checks and balances in place. With Phil being secretary-treasurer, I feel it's his responsibility as the chief financial officer to keep the union's finances in order."

It's important to Copeland, he says, to see that the family business – the union was headed by Bill Copeland for many years before Bill Thomas (Steven's father) succeeded him – is straightened out before he retires. Copeland has no intention of merely coasting into the sunset as his union career winds down. He feels an obligation to correct the errors that have placed the union in such dire straits and not just those related to the scandal.

The local, he says, has been overly ambitious under recent leadership in involving itself in property acquisition and other expensive business decisions that are not related to the union's core mission. "I have enough to retire on," he says. "But we've had an embarrassing two years and I want to stay on long enough to help the local and make sure it stays in the right hands."

The membership, about 1,150 strong, will go to the polls on August 17 and 18 to vote in a new leader. Should he win, Copeland would anticipate serving only one three-year term in order to right the ship. "I've got a tough race but I'm going to work hard and if I do that, I will be successful," he says.

The competitors' strategies are clearly drawn. Mitchell will focus on the need for a break with the family dynastic leadership of the past decades in order to clean up the local; Copeland will emphasize his decades of accomplishments.

Copeland will point out how he has helped his union brothers in their times of need, the fact that he implemented programs to assist retirees and his efforts over the years to give back to the union and area communities.

"My opponent talks about what he wants to do," says Copeland. "I will talk about what I have done."

Contact Fletcher Word at fletcher@thetruthtoledo.com



Toledo City Councilmen- Michael Ashford, Mike Craig, Frank Szolosi, and Phil Copeland

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Diversity at the University of Toledo, Part II

By Linda M. King
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

As promised, The Truth continues its in-depth analysis of the progress that The University of Toledo is making in its effort to change the campus culture. This week The Truth examines some of the issues that led to the creation of the President's Commission on Diversity and explores what those who are involved in the process believe should be the next step in the elimination of adverse behaviors and the installation of positive practices within the university.

Johnnie Early II, Ph.D., dean of UT College of Pharmacy, and co-chairman of The President's Commission on Diversity has been on the commission since its inception. Early, who was asked to serve by former UT president Dan Johnson, says that the president's first objectives for creating the commission were to address school barriers, real and perceived, that have been established over the years by the majority community and also to create a cohesive organizational approach for dealing with some of these issues.

Early says that one

are not familiar with them and therefore may be intimidated by them creating a somewhat combative culture that is contrary to the desired one on campus. But as a commission member, Early is committed to making the university a stronger one by offering many conceivable solutions for change.

One solution Early would like to see is "more African-Americans in significant positions within the university," he says. He also says, "I would like to see the message going forth through a gradual unveiling of the university's goals." With the commission's strategic planning and what Early calls "the solid support of current president, Dr. Lloyd Jacobs," Early is optimistic about the university's ability to "change its infrastructure into a reliable community that will support and retain students and faculty."

Commission member Jim Strange says he is also concerned with the university's ability to attract and maintain quality minority staff members on campus. "I want to see instilled hiring

the current decision on affirmative action the institution needed a language that would protect the university environment," he says. And although Strange says of the commission, "we are not where we need to be yet," he does admit that his initial observations about the university were inaccurate.

"Serving on the commission I see things from the inside," says Strange. He also says that he feels that the university is committed to seeing change and has committed himself to help further that change. "The commission needs to keep moving forward to make sure that those changes occur."

Some ways that Strange says the commission has helped the university move forward is with a stronger connection with the public school system and through the initiation of the assessment/audit. "The commission was the one who initiated the assessment," he says. "I have also seen improvements in hiring practices, mandates, and the increase in administrative numbers," he continues.

But Strange knows that the commission must deal with internal and external issues. "You always encounter old heads who are slower or unwilling to change," he says. He also expresses his disappointment with community and media involvement. "We as community advocates have a long way to go to wake people up, and the media needs to do a better job in helping to wake up the community not waiting until someone gets bit to do something!"

University of Toledo Political Science professor, Carter Wilson, Ph.D., deals with those who have already been bitten. As a diversity commission member, active faculty member and campus NAACP advisor, Wilson recalls that when the Black Student Union and Latino Student Union offices were vandalized six years ago, he discovered that there was no anti-harassment policy in place. Wilson says that the university has since adopted a somewhat broad harassment policy.

Wilson, an advocate, also sees the need for changes within the university community. His focus on the commission, he says, concerns the status of minority faculty and staff and the issues that impact them. "I want to see the recruitment of

faculty and staff positions," says Wilson.

Wilson does believe that the first step of establishing institutionalized recruiting practices within the university has been accomplished. He also applauds the university for its outreach and its commitment to the

university's connection with local high schools.

"The challenges," says Wilson, "are to maintain the goals through workshop sensitivity, protecting minority faculty from becoming bogged down with service responsibilities as opposed to research. And the

provision of resources that would supply faculty with the support for research grants."

Wilson also hopes for improvement in the measurement and evaluation of instructors. He points to an unbalanced weight given to the rapport that students have with instructors and the possible clash with students who are not accustomed to having minority instructors.

Despite the seemingly endless issues that the commission has to focus on, UT seems to be determined and moving slowly forward. As Early observes, "It takes time to move a battleship." He continues, "Change takes time to be effective. This program is too important to not be careful."

Ed. Note: Part I of our ongoing series appeared in our July 11 issue which can be accessed at www.thetruthtoledo.com.



Carter Wilson

Linda King can be contacted at linda@thetruthtoledo.com

"Sometimes it would take a minority student six to seven years to earn a bachelor's degree"

of the first issues that required the commission's immediate attention, was the creation of a productive campus climate where minorities felt they could exist. "The university needed to change the campus culture and make it a more relatable community," says Early. "We also needed to look at the infrastructure of the school and make it more supportive for students."

Unfortunately Early knows first hand the importance of an environment where minorities feel safe and accepted and have equal access to all opportunities. "I saw that the 1960's civil rights laws did not tangibly change America," says Early, as he remembers his youth in Macon, Georgia. He says that he was often met with stares and throat clearing when he visited places where some thought he shouldn't be. It was a time, he says, "when backdoor entrances still existed."

Early says that even today minority students are faced with instructors who

practices and mandates that include administrative positions for minorities," he says. Strange, a retired administrator who now represents the Toledo community on the commission, was invited to participate in the program by Johnson. "Johnson extended a warm welcome to me and appreciated my input," says Strange. "He listened to my issues and concerns about the community."

Strange who has been on the commission since its start brought those issues to the table with him. "When I came onto the commission I had an idea of what I thought were major faults in the university's system that needed to be addressed," he says. "Some concerns were the length of time for a minority student to obtain a degree. Sometimes it would take a minority student six to seven years to earn a bachelor's degree," he noticed.

Strange also noticed that the university needed "fair gender practices across the board, and with

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Album Review

Chrisette Michele - *I Am*

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

So sad how Neo Soul killed itself, isn't it?

We could've had a nice little genre if only people would have suffered the label.

Who cares about a label if it's actually a compliment? Why not be labeled with soul?

But then again, I know what it feels like when folks pigeonhole you and you resist being boxed in and typified by a world of incense and candles.

Musically speaking though, 2007 would be a lot more bearable if black people had a reliable source of art that represents us at our best.

But now more than ever, Chrisette Michele and artists similar to her are overlooked for the bull that clutters 106 & Park.

Those of us who make and/or listen to music that DOESN'T talk about rims, guns, the drug trade, etc. — those of us who still have an open enough mind to accept music that organically speaks to us ... we have fewer and fewer heroes left.

And you've got to look, I mean really look for that good ish.

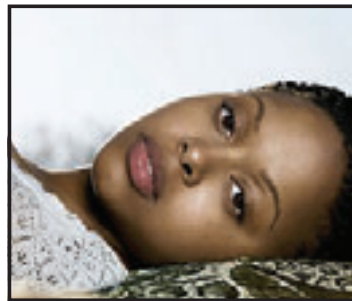
Carl Thomas has an album out, I'm late on that one.

The heavenly Amel Larrieux had a cover disc out this past spring, I'm late coping it but I knew about it.

Jill Scott has switched her style up, hope she doesn't lose what we all loved about her.

So if you really want that real ish, you're gonna have to mess with Chrisette Michele.

Y'all have been checking for her since her Def Jam label mates/hip-hop super stars



Jay Z, Kanye West and Nas have used her talents on their recent projects.

I can tell you that this album of hers is a welcome attempt at restoring some of the artistry to the music business. A successful attempt actually.

Michele's voice has many colors to it, but this album finds consistency in her accented sultry tone. Subject wise, I'm feeling it. Writing wise, I'm loving it.

But she is the type of artist who will really come into her own and deliver some stellar material on her second album when she digs deeper.

"If I Have My Way" is wonderfully reminiscent of Floetry in a way but the

album's first crowning achievement comes when "Good Girl" comes on.

"Be Ok" featuring Will.I.Am is really on point, but even that can't compare to "Mr. Radio," a song that

details the impact music has on listeners as it idles between neo soul and R&B. It's sure to please.

Even with production from

Babyface and Salaam Remi—the album doesn't really establish a style or sound for Michele. It swings from East Coast boom bap to adult contemporary to straight R&B. I ain't mad at her though.

I like the album, but I like her more than this debut.

The beauty in her intellect and her voice shine through on tracks like "Untitled" in such a way that it makes you wish the whole album had that same impact.

But I'm not mad at her, I just expect even greater things from her on the second go around.

The true grade for Chrisette Michele's *I Am* is B.

Reel Review

SiCKO - By Michael Moore

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

When Michael Moore came to Toledo's Seagate Center a few years ago I found myself re-arranging every element of my schedule so I could be in attendance.

I've been called an activist because I do spoken word/neo soul or whatever.

Folks who knew my dad back in the 70's expect me to be like any other Black Panther offspring, but honestly my development into full-fledged "fight the power" mode all came to a head that night I sat among nearly 10,000 other Toledoans and heard Michael Moore speak.

Funny how you can tell greatness in a person by the way others wish to silence them. Of all the accolades Michael Moore should receive, he's mostly regarded in American media as a meddlesome sensationalist. In other words, the conservative-controlled part of the media in our country paints Michael Moore as someone who lies, fantasizes and butts in where he shouldn't. When actually, he's doing the job the press SHOULD be doing — investigating.

I hate the way they paint him.

The wording they use, all of it is just unfair.

He carries himself with an unshakable docility to strategically elude any "crazy liberal" branding. He pokes fun at every one, especially himself—as a way of being fair so no one can say his documentaries are one sided.

But beneath the public relations wizardry he uses to disarm his foes, I can tell that this man is mad as hell.

And that's where the brilliance comes in.

The intellect of Michael Moore should be studied in universities.

He has found a way to display facts, all facts and nothing but the facts — yet it's entertaining. And if it's entertaining one minute, you know that it's downright infuriating the next.

The hubble telescope peers into outer space to let us know what's going on.

Michael Moore delves deep into the inner workings of our society ... deeper than most of us are even willing to look, just so he can let us know what's going on.

Why trust him?

Why should you listen to a fat, un-attractive, whiney old film maker from Flint, Michigan?

BECAUSE THE MAN IS TELLING US THE TRUTH!

If some idiot praises George Bush for whatever reason, no one in the media stops him.

If someone talks about all that Rudy Giuliani has done, no one says a thing.

Well then it should be perfectly okay to celebrate a TRUE hero for Americans.

Someone who is NOT going to lie and say that things are going alright.

Honestly, I don't know how insane things would be if we had no Michael Moore or Jon Stewart. They are just as important in the fight against ignorance as a Cornel West or Tavis Smiley.

Every movie of his gets my highest grade, but it's really beyond a grading scale.

SiCKO is classic Michael Moore.

It's something that you ABSOLUTELY NEED TO SEE.

And you have to do so soon as possible because it may be gone from Super Cinemas soon.

You know what, though? In addition to seeing it, you need to think about it.

You, reading this article right this very moment ... you need to THINK about it. Universal Health Care.

That means you get to go to the doctor anytime you want, for whatever reason you need and it is completely and totally FREE OF CHARGE.

Why is not like that now? You remember Denzel's movie, *John Q*?

You have hospital/medical director's that deny people life saving procedures.

You have HMO's that don't care if you are a step away from dying, they need you to plow through a ton of red tape before you can receive treatment. And you're gonna pay for hidden fees and all that too.

Also, pharmaceutical companies (drug makers/dealers) can inflate the prices of their product at will. Yes, a prescription pill that costs five cents in Cuba (where they have free universal

healthcare) can actually cost \$120 here in the states.

Yeah, you will see that first hand in *SiCKO*.

You will see things in other countries that will leave you floored, because our silly ass society can't seem to understand that the health of the people should not have a price tag.

So really just think about what it would be like to have every procedure, every medication and even a doctor making house calls in the middle of your night when you're ill.

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Okay, if that doesn't get your attention ... how many sick days do you have at your job?

Well, in France, it's unlimited.

WHY?

Because, how can anyone put a time limit on your health? Revolutionary? No, simple common sense.

The French also enjoy a 35 hour work week and five weeks worth of personal days.

The United States of America is run by a bunch of ass holes who

want to keep us in the dark about how messed up our country really is.

Michael Moore makes films that make it impossible to ignore how the U.S. gives its citizens the shaft every moment of every day.

It's not sensationalized or radical.

Fox News claiming that U.S. Universal Health Care would increase terrorist attacks — that's sensationalized, made-up news.

You must be sick if you don't make a way to go and see *SiCKO*.

It's not as long as *Fahrenheit 9/11* or *Bowling for Columbine* and it isn't as over the top ... but those are good things.

Michael Moore has learned the subtle brilliance in being right about the facts but letting the facts speak for themselves.

SiCKO is a must-see film for any person living or working in The United States of America.

Pay attention.
Grade: A+

The House of *Day* Funeral Service
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Food for Thought:

WHEREVER YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY IS WHERE YOU CREATE A JOB. IF YOU ARE BLACK AND THE BUSINESSES ARE RUN BY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T, THEN THOSE PEOPLE COME AND TAKE WEALTH TO THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

-Tony Brown

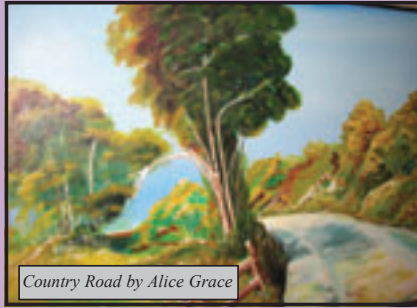
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Juneteenth Community Gallery Exhibition

The Toledo Museum of Art's Juneteenth Community Gallery Exhibition of local artists continues through this Sunday, July 29. The exhibition is a celebration of the creativity and skills of African-American artists in the Toledo community.



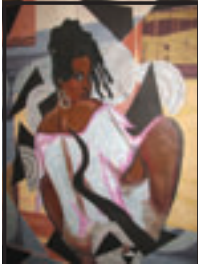
Sisters by Jacqueline Hatcher



Country Road by Alice Grace



Eye See You by Nikki Barnett



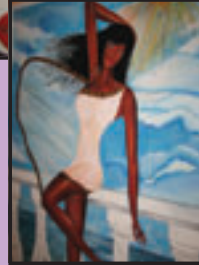
Beautiful by Jacqueline Hatcher



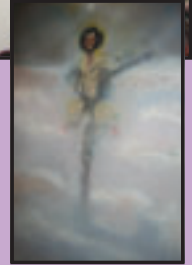
Americana by Terry Burton



Music Man by Alice Grace



Paradise Island by John Purifie



Freedom by Fred Stanton



Boy King by Sir Gregfifer



Mandela by John Purifie

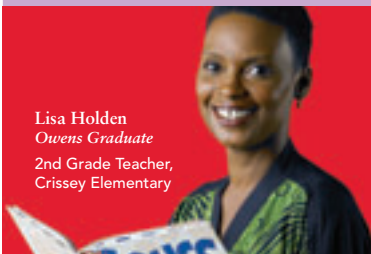


Afro Punks Bad Brains by Terry Burton



Mexican Factory Girl by Terry Burton

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Fourth Annual Showcase of The Arts Arrives in August

Special to The Truth

The 4th annual "Showcase of the Arts" extravaganza will be held at the Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., on Saturday, August 25, 2007 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Showcase of the Arts is to promote the quality of life in communities, to appreciate the beauty and structure of the arts and to acknowledge the increasing importance of the arts in bridging diversity in civic life.

This spectacular program will showcase over 40 of the most talented youth and adults in the Toledo area starting with the third grade.

The joint sponsors of this event are Zeta Alpha Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Lambda (Toledo University) and Iota Iota (Bowling Green State University) Undergraduate chapters and the Art Tatum African American Resource Center of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library housed at the Kent Branch Library.

The participants will display a variety of talents in visual and performing arts. Visual artist will display various skills from sculptures, photography, watercolor,



glassware, quilts, drawings, etc.

The performing artists range from hip-hop, gospel, ballet, mime, acting, instrumentals, concert pianist, acting, tap, poetry, praise dance, vocal arrangements etc.

Some of Toledo's finest talent will include Imelda Hunt of the New Works Writers

Series, CJ. and Company, Jessica Whitlock, Vicki Simpson-Brooks, Tyree Bell, Aaron Bivins, Lamaxie Glover, Dorothy Gray, Denise Black-Poon and many more.

This fantastic extravaganza will be anchored by popular TV newsmen, Shenikwa Strafford of WNWONBC-Channel 24 and Efreem Graham and Kristian Brown both from WTVG Channel 13.ABC Action News.

For additional information please contact Melissa Jeter, (419-259-5392) director of the Art Tatum Resource Center and Showcase of the Arts Co-Chairman



Denise Black-Poon

THE THIRD ANNUAL LEVIS COMMONS FINE ART FAIR The Guild of Artists & Artisans Brings Fine Art Back to Levis Commons

Special to The Truth

During late August, the summer may be winding down, but the possibilities of finding hot art in Perrysburg are just gearing up! Northwest Ohioans should mark their calendars now for the opportunity to shop for extraordinary, distinctive and high-quality works of art at the Third Annual Levis Commons Fine Art Fair.

The Guild of Artists & Artisans is pleased to again partner with The Town Center at Levis Commons to present the Third Annual Levis Commons Fine Art Fair to be held on Saturday, August 25 from 10:00am until 8:00pm and Sunday, August 26 from 11:00am until 5:00pm. This year's event will present 135-juried artists with specialties in jewelry, ceramics, painting, glass, photography, fiber, wood and more. The fair will also feature a children's art activity center. Admission and parking are free.

The fair, which is a signature event at The Town Center at Levis Commons, is produced by The Guild of Artists & Artisans (the same group behind the prestigious Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair and Crocker Park Art Fair in Westlake,

Ohio). "Because of our reputation for producing quality shows, we attract a superior group of exceptionally talented artists," said Debra "Max" Clayton, Guild

executive director. "The Northwest Ohio community continues to warmly welcome this event and generously patronize our artisans. That makes the event a huge success for everyone involved."

Many artisans from last year's fair will return to the Third Annual Levis Commons Art Fair including these award winners: Larry Hutchison, Grant Wright (wood); Mary Humphrey, James Reinert, Alice Ham (ceramics); Diane Reeves (fiber/fabric); Mike & Sheri Rothfuss, Gregory & Jean Smith, Meredith Wenzel (glass); Annette Morrin (jewelry); Lynne McNutt (paper); Steve & Troy Anderson (sculpture); Kimberly Arden (mixed media); Stephanie Pollack, Diane Sicheneder (painting); Richard Wood, Chris Maher, Roger Chase (photography).

"The Art Fair is one of the most popular and highly-anticipated events on our calendar" commented Casey Pogan, Marketing Director, Hill Partners Inc., The Town Center at Levis Commons. "We receive dozens of requests for information throughout the year from past attendees who are familiar with the superiority of the artwork available and truly enjoyable experience that the Levis Commons Fine Art Fair provides."

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Guest Editorial

By Ohio Senate Democratic Leader Teresa Fedor



Biennial Budget Introduces Era of Responsive and Responsible Government to Ohio

Ohio's recently passed biennial budget marks a new day in our state's history and a critical point for turning around Ohio.

Two monumental steps have occurred with the passage of this budget - House Bill 119. For the first time in more than 80 years, both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate voted almost unanimously for a biennial budget. This unprecedented vote signals a new shift in how Ohio conducts the people's business. Plus for the first time in nearly a half century, Ohio's budget is the slowest-growing ever with an annual growth rate of just 2.2 percent - that means we are doing more with less.

In addition, we have achieved a \$17 million surplus through a commitment to sound fiscal management. The bottom line is that this is a responsive and responsible budget crafted by a governor who knows it is crucial to work with both sides of

the aisle to achieve the best for all Ohioans.

What does that mean for you and me? It shows our new leadership team is delivering on its responsibilities to Ohioans by making hard choices and investing in what matters.

For the next two years, the state budget will strengthen families, provide increased access to health care, develop the economy and invest in education - Democratic ideals voters in November demanded we address. Now, we are delivering on those promises with the leadership of Governor Strickland. It is only the beginning of what we will see in this new era of Ohio's history.

Here's a look at how this budget will benefit Ohioans over the next two years:

No new increases in taxes or fees. The state, for the first time in decades, is living within its means while simultaneously investing in areas that matter most: health care, education and jobs.

Guarantees access to health care for all children. Health care for children is more affordable and accessible under this budget. It protects high-risk children and provides access for those families most impacted by the rising cost of health care.

Increases access to higher education. This budget resulted in the largest increase in higher education funding in more than a decade and thus a major investment in our future. For the next two years, tuition in Ohio will be frozen. Tuition

will be kept in check and accessibility and affordability will be improved. Additionally, two statewide scholarship programs were created, providing millions of dollars for Ohioans to achieve a college degree.

Raises the state's local investment in primary and secondary schools. The state made great strides in this bill to continue to improve upon our primary and secondary education system not only by taking the crucial first steps in improving our school funding system but also by enhancing equity throughout the system and supporting high-quality teaching.

Reduces taxes for property owners. HB 119 provides a 25 percent property tax cut for all seniors and Ohioans with disabilities. That means a tax cut for one in four Ohioans.

As Ohio's most important resource, the people of this great state have only begun to benefit from this budget since it went into effect on July 1. We are witnessing a new era of responsive, responsible government in our great state. Our work here at the Statehouse is not done, however, and I pledge to work together with my colleagues as we pursue other milestones on the path to turn around Ohio.

Ohio Senate Democratic Leader
Teresa Fedor of Toledo
Ohio Senate
Columbus, OH 43215
614-466-5204

Reflections on the 98th NAACP National Convention

I recently had the pleasure of acting as a delegate at the 98th NAACP National Convention in Detroit, Michigan. (Detroit, which has the largest per-capita concentration of African-Americans anywhere in the United States, hosted the convention for the seventh time.) As I reflect on my experience there, I grow more proud of being the local Host Committee Chairman planning the 2008 National Convention in my hometown of Cincinnati.

I found the NAACP Convention more democratic and delegate-friendly than even the 2004 Democratic National Convention, during which I also served as a delegate from Ohio. Indeed, I witnessed participatory democracy in its finest form.

Over a three-day span, NAACP voting delegates from the 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia thoughtfully discussed and debated issues stretching from voting rights to international affairs. Every delegate had the right to speak to the many resolu-

tions, or to amend them from the floor. The presiding officers - either a brilliant preacher or a first-rate legal mind - ran the public legislative sessions with unrivalled skill and unperturbed patience.

I was honored to play roles in two resolutions. First, I urged my colleagues to include that neither President John Adams nor his son, President John Quincy Adams, owned slaves. I felt the NAACP owed it to the memories of both presidents to represent their places in history with both honor and accuracy. John Quincy Adams played a role as sizeable as President Lincoln's in ending slavery through his courageous and tenacious stand on upholding the absolute Right of Petition presenting petitions from Abolitionist groups and citizens in Congress after he served as President.

I also amended a resolution on international affairs specifically calling for the use of medically-supervised condom distribution and syringe exchange programs to

combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic around the world. I was heartened that the National NAACP Convention delegates approved the amendment I proposed.

The example set by the NAACP Convention can and should be followed in statehouses across the nation. When government listens, and when participatory democracy is followed, ideas become actions. I hope that overarching lesson inspires our own General Assembly when we reconvene in September.

Sincerely,
Tyrone K. Yates (D-Cincinnati)
Ohio House of Representatives



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SIXTH ANNUAL PARTNERS IN EDUCATION GREAT MAUMEE RIVER DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Presented by BP Toledo Refinery

The sixth annual PARTNERS IN EDUCATION GREAT MAUMEE RIVER DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL will be held at International Park on July 29 from 8:00 -3:00. This premier paddling event will include over 1,000 participants representing 40 teams from all over northwest Ohio. Event proceeds benefit the programs of Partners In Education.

Dragon Boats are 40 feet long, Hong Kong style canoes complete with dragon head and tail. Twenty crew members, with a steersman guiding the boat from a standing position behind the team, all paddle to the beat of their drummer seated at the hull as

they race over the 500 meter course.

Each team participates in three races throughout the day. Industry trophies will be awarded when "like" teams race against each other. First round times will determine when teams will race in the second round and the championship round. There will be over 1,000 paddlers participating throughout the day (see attached team list).

In addition to the races, children and adult spectators will enjoy live music and entertainment, delicious food, a children's activity area complete with an obstacle course, kite making and loads of other

family activities. There is no admission charge.

Dragon Boat racing began in China over 2,400 years ago and is still a popular sport world wide. In addition to the sporting activities, the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo will present "A Day in China", a cultural festival within a festival. It will include Calligraphy, Paper Cutting, Origami, Arts & Crafts and Kite Making. There will be demonstrations of ancient Chinese musical instruments, Tai Chi, Chinese yoyos, music and dance. Of course there will be ethnic Chinese food available as well.

To Provide Help, Structure, and Guidance: The 3rd Annual Man-up Conference

By Mario L. Harris-Rosser
Special to the Truth

"I'm hoping that they will become enlightened to the realities of life and understand how not to fall into the traps that I believe are set for them," said Morlon Harris, chairman of the 3rd Annual Man-up committee, when asked what he wanted young men to walk away knowing after attending the gathering.

The Man-up Conference, held this past Saturday at The University of Toledo's (UT) student union was an all-male event, whose mission was to encourage, strengthen and empower young men with the tools for the present and the future.

Sponsored by the Board of Community Relations, the Toledo Youth Commission and UT's Black Student Union, approximately 75 young men from all over the Toledo area participated this year's conference.


The event began with registration at 9:30 a.m., which was followed by an inspirational, emotional, serious speech given by renowned Toledo activist and minister, Rev. Floyd Rose, who now resides in Valdosta, Georgia. Rose told the young men and mentors in the audience, "Maintain your personal integrity at all cost. When I die I want my children to be able to say no matter what, my daddy was a man."

Throughout the day Rose's words were echoed in the breakout sessions where the issues of fatherhood, drugs/alcohol and sexual relationships were discussed. These workshops were titled after terms commonly used in hip-hop culture and were facilitated by four men whose professions are to educate and serve. These facilitators and their activities were as follows: Morris Jenkins, Ph.D., an associate professor of criminal justice at UT held the *Trapstar* group, where he lectured on the history of drugs/alcohol in the United States; Officer David Garcia, who serves in the Ohio Investigative Unit Education Program moderated *The Sober Truth*, a discussion on the long term effects of drugs/alcohol; Wakeso Peterson, the assistant director of the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP), spoke on the correlation between drugs/alcohol and unhealthy sexual relationships in the *Sextacy* workshop and, in an presentation called *The Other Side of the Game*, Albert Earl, a prevention specialist also from UMADAOP, spoke on the life of an average drug dealer and the media portrayal of it, particularly in hip-hop cul-

ture. Concluding the conference was a keynote address by Juan Hall, a chemical dependency counselor for the Lucas County Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes (TASC). Hall discussed the rising absence of in-home fathers among minority families and the complications resulting from this absence. He stressed the importance of a mentor/father figure in the maturation and development process of males, stating, "I'm sure some young men would have no pressing reason to be here today if their fathers were there like they're suppose to be."

Youth present at the conference were actively involved in the whole experience. One young man, Darrick Colbert, who attends St. John's Jesuit High School said, "I'm glad I came here today; here I had a chance to talk about important issues with many people my age, we aren't able to do that all the time."

According to Morlon Harris, "Young men can and will lead in the future... they just need people to back and help them." And to provide help, structure, and guidance was the purpose and mission of the 3rd Annual Man-up Conference.



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Lucas County Commissioners Seek Applicants for the Toledo/Lucas County Public Library Board of Trustees

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Board of Trustees for an unexpired seven-year term that will terminate January 10, 2013. The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees. Four members are appointed by the Board of Lucas County Commissioners and three are chosen by Lucas County Common Pleas Court Judges. Library trustees serve seven-year terms without remuneration. The Library's Board of Trustees meets at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. There is no meeting in August and the November and December meetings are held on the third Thursday of those months. The Board of Lucas County Commissioners actively seeks to appoint volunteer boards and commissions that reflect the diversity of our community. Any person interested in being considered for a specific appointive board vacancy must fill out the "Application for a Public Volunteer" form. A detailed resume must be enclosed with the completed application form. Applications are available from the Board of Lucas County Commissioners Office at One Government Center, Suite 800, Toledo, Ohio, 43604, or by calling (419) 213-4500. A printable version of the application is also available on the Lucas County website at www.co.lucas.oh.us. Applications for the above-listed board vacancy will be accepted through the end of the business day on Friday, July 27, 2007. The completed application and resume must be forwarded to the attention of the Lucas County Administrator at the address listed above.

The Lima Calendar

Free Blood pressure screenings by St. Rita's Medical Center - Neighborhood Nurse

Monday, August 6th - Christian Corner Community Center - 1601 McClain Rd

Wednesday, August 8th - Our Daily Bread Kitchen - 125 S. Central

School of the Bible Classes - Cornerstone Harvest Church - 419-228-3007

Home Owners Class - August 6, 13, 20, & 27 - all Mondays - \$5.00

The Ministry of Parenting - August 9, 16, 23, & 30 - all Thursdays - \$5.00

English as a Second Language - starting Tuesday, July 31 - \$10.00

Vacation Bible School - Faith Jam Remix - July 23 - 25 - ages 3 - 12, 6 - 9 p.m. nightly - first 100 kids to sign up nightly will win a cool prize. Parents will have the opportunity to enter into a drawing for a TV, bike, and much, much, more.

Basketball Clinic with Lewis Shine - August 1 - 30, 2007. \$150.00 for sessions 1st - 3rd grade, 4th - 8th grade, and 9th - 12th grade. Total of 15 sessions

Philippian Missionary Baptist Church - 419-229-1441

Family and Friends Annual Church Picnic - Saturday, August 11

Scholarship - National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

Application deadline is 9-1-07 - Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors attending college with a 3.0 GPA may apply for tuition for books, tuition, lab fees, and any expense directly related to attending school. Applications at Philippian Missionary Baptist Church

Homestead for property owners 65 and older can apply at the Allen County Auditor's Office for Homestead Tax Relief.

Lima's Second Baptist Church Women's Chorus in Concert

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"O COME MAGNIFY THE LORD WITH ME" - PSALMS 34:3

This was the theme of the Second Baptist Church Women's Chorus in concert.

The women were dressed in pastels: pinks, oranges, beiges, greens, lilacs, yellows and peach. They quietly began to take their places in the choir stand as the sanctuary continued to be filled with the congregants from around the city.

Members of churches from Fourth Street Missionary Baptist, Fellowship Missionary Baptist, New Hope Missionary Baptist, Cornerstone Harvest, Shiloh Missionary Baptist, Tabernacle Missionary Baptists, Philippian Missionary Baptist and others in the Lima filled the sanctuary.

Throughout the church you could see the mothers dressed proper wearing their Sunday hats in pastel colors. Some with bows in the back and some with bows in the front such as Dollie Taylor, Johnnie Upshaw, Samella Casey, and others just to name a few.

The maestro, Minister of Music Steven A. Horton, called the congregation to order when he started to play the organ about 6:55 p.m. The women chorus raised their voices in praise singing "I was blessed when they said let us go into the house of the Lord, I rejoiced..."

The lights dimmed as people scurried to find their seats in anticipation and excitement of the music filling the air.

The sanctuary quickly became filled with praise in the air on the command of the Minister of Music to "clap your hands for this is the Lord's house and we have come to honor him with praise and worship today."

Antelle Haitcock walked to the microphone and said this reminded her of being in concert with her grandmother but this was the first concert without her grandmother. She felt the spirit of her grandmother watching over her and the spirit of the Lord encourage her in the house. She then proceeded to give an invocation of thanksgiving and praise for yet another time to come and worship the Lord with everyone in attendance.

As the prayer ended the

ladies began to sing, Holy, You Are the Lord. The congregation was invited to join in and the chorale caused the hand clapping and foot tapping to take the audience into the song fest of praise as everyone sang in unison, Holy, You Are the Lord.

The theme scripture, Psalms 34 as it was read by Gwenda Clark blessed the audience making it clear that we were there to bless the Lord, holding hands with each other in agreement as the word was read.

As the sanctuary filled to capacity, chairs were brought out to the tune of "Give Him the Highest Praise." First Lady, Cory Ward, was dressed in a beautiful teal gown leading the audience in praise and worship as the choir sang and voices shouted Hallelujah.

The next selection, "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel" was sung a cappella with the ladies taking turn at different notes. There was this pause in the number and when the ladies started back singing, a thunderous applause from the audience came forth as the notes were held high and long. The foot tapping of the congregation could be heard as they kept beat with each note of the organ played by Horton and Wilson on the key board.

Tasha Seay kept the beat flowing smoothly as she played the drums. People popped up all over the congregation clapping in unison lifting their own voices in high praise to the lyrics of the song.

Eric Wilson came to town just to assist Horton with the first women's concert at Second Baptist. Wilson, having played for several groups and churches in the city previously, was no stranger to the choir or the congregation. He was a welcome sight in concert and everyone enjoyed his accompanying Horton and Seay in the dynamics of each song played.

"My Help Cometh From the Lord," led by vocalist Tiffany Russell, began with encouraging words. The song tells the congregation that we have trials and the devil is busy. A man born of a woman will have many troubles, but keep reading for the Bible also says "trust in the Lord with all your heart, I will lift my eyes unto

the hills from which cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord."

The choir entered backing her up, singing "I will lift up my eyes unto ..." The congregation again sounded off with applause. Director Horton motioned to the choir to rise and the timbre of ladies' voices rocked the crowd to say "yes, thank you, Lord." Russell tried to end the song but the emotions spilled over and the congregation urged her to sing another refrain as the applause reverberated throughout the church.

Connie Hughes came to the microphone as the music played and heads bobbed, hands were already loudly clapping, people standing and shouting praises as she belted out, "Whatever You Want, God's Got It." This uplifting tune made the audience rock the house with all of the clapping and tapping.

After such an inspirational song, it was easy for Pastor Dennis Ward, to come to the podium to offer an invitation to Christian Discipleship. He encouraged the congregation that "we are blessed by the best, greet your neighbor for God has a blessing for you."

The next hymn was "Oh Magnify the Lord With Me." The mezzo-alto's were motioned to rise first, singing magnify the Lord while the sopranos remained seated. The sopranos were then motioned to rise and the combined choir raised their voices in unison to a cheering crowd.

The entire choir sung 12 hymns, including "Blessed Assurance" led by long-time

member Ruth Glover and "I Pray We'll All Be Ready" led by Alicia Houston.

Horton said the chorus was made up of beautiful women from the Usher Board, Nurses Board, Missionary Board and regular choir members. He joking remarked that they look all right but would have looked better in the traditional black and white. The congregation laughed.

Horton also recognized other ministers of music in the audience in appreciation of the work they do in their own churches.

Pastor Ward ended the song fest by encouraging the attendees to remember: "We have a responsibility to the next generation to tell them about Jesus. The number of our youth pregnant as teenagers, having STD, not graduating from high school in this city needs some hope to make it and be strong. Remember to pray for someone else's child, pray for your own child and encourage them to do more with their lives."

History of the women's chorus, the embryo of the Second Baptist Women's Chorus began to take shape in 2005 when the women of the Sanctuary Choir were formed into an ensemble to sing for the church Women's Day Program. The following year, in 2006, they invited other women in the church to join with them in rendering selections for the Women's Day. The ladies enjoyed themselves so much that they wanted to stay together and be patterned after

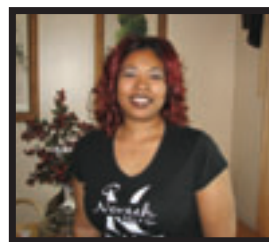
the Men's Chorus singing every other month and for special occasions. Pastor Ward gave his blessing and they became the Second Baptist Women's Chorus.

Members of the chorus include: Bobbie Benton, Gwenda Clark, Veronica Cooper, Nina Cunningham, Caroline Ford, Ruth Glover, Karen Griff, Antelle Haitcock, Alicia Houston, Constance A. Hughes, Lelah Johnson, Lynda Y. Johnson, Mary Johnson, Maxine Marshall, Lois Morrisey, Louise Robinson, Tiffany Russell, Ethel Shurelds, Vivian Walton, Jennifer Williams, Joyce Williams and Janelle Wilson. Tasha Seay is the percussionist and Steven A. Horton is the director of music.

Eric E. Wilson, guest organist, is a native of Lima where he became involved in music at a very early age. During his adolescence he served as musician at Fourth Street Baptist Missionary Church and as organist for the Lima Senior High Gospel Choir. He later united with the Shiloh Baptist Church where he served as organist for the Symbols of Joy and later as the church organist. He was also organist/director of the Wise Angels singing group. He has also been minister of music of the Philippian Missionary Baptist Church and of the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church. He is now a resident of Troy, Ohio and organist for the Calvary Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio.

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Until We All Are Free: The Duty of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

He quotes Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and the Constitution. His points have strong backing by the greatest minds and hearts of American civil rights movement and the American judicial system. He is formidable and engaging and, above all, he says what he means and means what he says – no underlying agenda, no hidden metaphors. He is G. Michael Peyton, executive director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

On July 18 and 19, Peyton led a delegation to Lima that consisted of those charged with the protection of civil liberties in this state. Only a handful of residents took advantage of the opportunity to sit at the table with those people who can most fully provide the answers to many of the 'situations' we hear talked about every day.

Where were you, Lima? This was your chance. You want to know if your boss has a right to tell you who you can associate with at work. You want to know if the gossip engaged in by middle management about you is against the law. You ask your friends if they think, as you do, that your boss set you up and that's why you lost your job.

You wonder if you have enough evidence to bring to the commission about a house you were trying to buy but that was suddenly unavailable when you came to see it in person. You want to know if there is anyone who can help you because you've found yourself in a hostile work environment because no one else "looks like you." The people who have the answers to your questions came to see you but you weren't there.

When Michael Peyton, esq., accepted the microphone in front of Lima, he spoke frankly about the existence of the Civil Rights Commission. He's passionate about the rights of every person who steps onto Ohio's soil.

A key figure on the distinguished panel assembled

in Lima was Ezra Escudero, the executive director of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic & Latino Affairs. Prior to introducing him to the audience, Peyton made some clarifications about Ohio's stand on the immigration issue.

"First of all, these people are not illegal aliens. That implies they've done something wrong. They haven't escaped from the law, they haven't killed anyone. They are people who come to America because they want the same thing we all want, the freedom for a chance at economic promise."

There are approximately 2,000 people of Hispanic/Latino heritage in Lima, some documented, some are not, but they still have certain rights – some are basic human rights, and some are rights under the great state of Ohio.

An attorney contracted by the CRC told about a case he was investigating involving a woman who felt she was a target of discrimination. During her narrative, information was revealed regarding a company practice of putting Mexican workers in an isolated area. In fact, they were placed in a separate building away from all the other workers. Peyton asked the audience if they had ever heard of institutional racism. Such racism occurs when a person is working in a hostile environment, an uncomfortable situation created by employees, supervisors, or upper management – issues such as "English only" stipulations. "Sleeping on your rights can be detrimental to your situation," said Peyton.

"There are undocumented Hispanic soldiers in the Armed Forces right now serving our country in Iraq. Did you know that?" he asked. He went on to explain: even though undocumented workers can serve in the military without being awarded citizenship, they are serving in the hopes of being granted citizenship because of their sacrifice.

After 9/11, President

Bush signed an executive order stating this is an authorized period of conflict, meaning undocumented persons who enlist in the US Military can be granted citizenship – if they are killed while serving in a capacity that would denote an honorable discharge, citizenship can be extended to their immediate family. As long as they are on active duty, however, their family can still be deported if detected.

Escudero identified three of the mandates of his Commission: advising policy makers regarding Hispanic and Latino issues, programs and legislation; creating a connection and building the capacity of Latino organizations across Ohio. They are involved in creating partnerships with the OCRC, NAACP and several others with the mission of equal rights for everyone in Ohio. He then stated he is concerned about cases from Lima that have been brought to their attention. There are indicators that point in the direction of possible violations and these instances are being given careful scrutiny.

Another issue brought to the table was the practice of predatory lending, as well as other equal housing laws. Pastor Robert Curtis stated he has been asked on numerous occasions to help with problems encountered by citizens of Lima who either were denied access to housing or were victims of predatory lending. He said he's been referring them to the Attorney General's office.

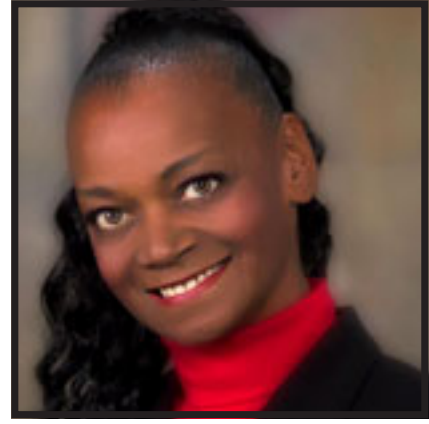
Members of LACCA, the Lima Allen County Community Action Commission informed the group that their office is set up to walk through paperwork that needs to be filed in such cases. They stated the paperwork is minimal – only one page – and there are associates prepared to walk through the entire process with anyone who wants to file.

The final concern raised during the evening was alleged racial profiling by members of the Lima/Allen County Law Enforcement agencies. Several incidents

were cited in great detail, and those making the accusations were encouraged to speak directly with investigators available that night for information exchange.

At the end of the evening Peyton thanked everyone for coming and stated the OCRC would be returning to Lima at another date. He reminded us that we have a duty as citizens to uphold civil rights laws, because in the words of Emma Lazarus: "Until we are all free, we are none of us free."

Contact Vickie Shurelds at vickie@sojournerstruth.com



Partnership Initiates Adopt a Haircut Program

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Mt. Nebo's Missionary Baptist Church, the Mott Branch of Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and Poor Clark's Barbershop have teamed to start a program which will offer young males in the inner city an opportunity to receive free haircuts as they prepare to return to school later this summer.

"Adopt a Haircut," explains Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo, is a program designed "to focus on young African-American boys because that is what mentoring is all about."

The partners are asking that members of the community donate \$10 to this program for the young boys' haircuts. All a boy has to do is to go to the library, check out a book, take the book to the barbershop and then receive his free haircut.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness," said the pastor. "A fresh haircut makes a child feel so much better."

Mt. Nebo's Voice of Hope ministry will be contributing the first 10 haircuts for the program.

Why was Poor Clark selected?

"Because it's in the heart



of our community," replied Brock. "And it's right next to an all-boys school [Lincoln Academy for Boys]."

The barbershop is also where Brock, as a boy, received his very first haircut, underscoring the significance of this long-term neighborhood institution.

The Toledo-Lucas County Library has recently begun a number of initiatives to encourage boys to read, said Judy Jones, manager of the Mott Branch. "We're losing them in terms of reading," said Jones, "and we're starting all kinds of initiatives because if they don't learn to read how are they going to succeed?"

Or, as Henry Clark – a/k/a "Poor Clark" – says, "There is no elevation without education."

The Mott Branch Library is located at 1085 Dorr Street. Poor Clark's is at 1723 Detroit Avenue – just across the street from Lincoln Academy.

"Transportation can be provided by Poor Clark's," said Brock. "We are pleading for community support."

Those who wish to be a part of this community effort can take their donations directly to Clark's Barbershop. Receipts will be provided for the tax deductible donations.

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My View

(Continued from Page 3)

What should you do to ensure that your children are employed? Make sure they stay in school past the point of a four-year degree. As a community, we need to push people to obtain their master's degrees not just a bachelor's. We should deplore colleges that make it tough for students to gain admission.

The world is changing so rapidly that we must encourage our children to obtain multiple skills before they enter the workplace. Anyone dropping out of high school and those who do not go on to obtain a higher edu-

cation are doomed to a second class status economically.

If you look at the new wage scales for UAW jobs, we are seeing annual incomes of \$32-35,000 not the middle-class level of \$45-50,000. Any child you have who drops out is going to be a drain on you or society for the rest of his or her life. You can't have a good life style in Toledo on \$16,000 a year, which is what an \$8 an hour job will get you. Instead of sociology and popular culture degrees, push your children to get nursing, accounting and managerial degrees.

Back to the mayor, maybe this is the time for him to broker a meeting of the warring factions of the Democratic Party and seek a truce through the 2008 presidential election. Let's go back to the strong 'get out the vote' canvassing that Lucas County Dems were noted for in the past. Let's get some of the workhorses back into the fold - Ross, Douthitt, McHugh, the Hickey clan, the Manhattan crowd and the East Siders. I doubt if it would work but it's worth a try.

Wilkowski had a great editorial last week on popu-

lation loss in The Blade. It was well written but off course in several areas. One, the population decline in Toledo is mostly a result of folks leaving our city limits for nearby townships and cities. So these people remain in our metropolitan statistical area but not inside of Toledo.

Second, the arts community has never lived or died by Toledo's middle class. The patrons of the arts - symphony, museum, Valentine, and so forth, live in Ottawa hills, Perrysburg, Sylvania, as well as in Toledo. Look at the Arts Commission trust-

ees or the leadership of the Botanical Garden, for example.

But Wilkowski's column was a nice shot against Finkbeiner's idea that downsizing is OK. I am sure this will be a topic in 2009 during the mayoral debates. Why do people leave a city like Toledo? To get away from the reality and the perceptions of crime, race, taxes and poor educational choices. There are global impacts such as corporate takeovers and downsizing as well.

And, oh yes, some people die from time to time.


Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

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Professional Counselor 4125 Monroe St. - Tol, OH
Phone: 419.472.7330 & Fax: 419.472.8675
drmanzetta@beglobal.net

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TRAINING AND DOCUMENTATION SPECIALIST
Human Resources
Bowling Green State University

Under general supervision, creates and/or prepares training programs including development of training outlines and curriculum, writing procedure manuals, developing training materials and leading/facilitating training classes, and/or web based training programs. Maintains and updates existing training programs which support the HCM and FMS modules of People Soft. Works with Information Technology Services and the BG@100 Project to document and develop other necessary training programs.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development, Instructional Technology, Business Administration, Technical Writing or closely related field. Three years experience writing functional and technical documentation and training materials for large scale web based applications; delivering application training sessions to staff of varying technical skill levels; and developing course curriculum for organizations transitioning to new enterprise level applications. Official transcript(s) will be required of final candidates.

Full-time administrative staff position. Administrative grade level 14, minimum salary \$37,574. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Full benefit package available.

To apply: submit cover letter with e-mail address, resume, and names/addresses/telephone numbers of 3 professional references by Friday, July 27, 2007 to Ofc. of Human Resources (Search L-60870), 100 College Park Ofc. Bldg., Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201. (419) 372-8421. (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr>) BGSU is an AA/EEO employer/educator.

For Sale

***311 Victoria Place/\$42,000.** Well maintained, spacious 3BR with walk-in closets and 2-car garage.

***6229 Foxcroft/\$116,000.** 3BR freshly painted, new carpet throughout, large kitchen and a deck. Open house 7/28/07 - 2 to 4 PM

***4151 Bowen/\$121,000.** 3BR brick home, very clean and neat. Open house 7/26/07 - 6 to 8 PM

***1002 Homer/\$54,900.** Beautiful home with updated kitchen and bath, new garage, large backyard. Open house 7/28/07 - 6 to 8 pm

Call Montalena of the Danberry Company at 419-320-5224

Nurse Practitioner

Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio, Inc. is seeking a women's health or related field APN part-time for three area offices. Certificate to prescribe is required. This position is responsible for providing comprehensive reproductive health care in the areas of gynecology, sexually transmitted infections, family planning/contraceptive counseling and mid-life services to females, males and teens. This individual must be detail-oriented, able to work independently and able to meet specific productivity standards. This position will require some Saturday hours.

Please mail resume to Human Resources, P.O. Box 346, Toledo, Ohio 43697-0346 or email to ppnwo.hr@ppnwo.org or fax to (419) 255-5216.

EOE.

!!BUSINESS LEASE!!
1300 square feet
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Call: 419-351-1527 or 419-255-0610

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY
Legal Aid Line of Western Ohio

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm which provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals and groups in northwest Ohio, seeks a Supervising Attorney to help oversee its Legal Aid Line of Western Ohio (LAL). The position is located in ABLE's Toledo office. The Supervising Attorney will assist the Managing Attorney in supervising attorneys and intake screeners, reviewing cases, and developing information and troubleshooting database technology, and to monitor LAL operations. LAL is the initial telephone point of contact for clients of ABLE and Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO). LAL screens all client applications for financial eligibility, and determines the nature of the client's problem for appropriate referral to an attorney or other source of assistance. Where appropriate, LAL gives immediate legal advice to clients whose problems do not require litigation or other advocacy services. Membership in Ohio Bar or ability to be admitted by motion or temporary certification required. Applicant must have excellent computer and telephone skills; have excellent communication skills and be able to relate to and work well with low-income persons who may be experiencing immediate legal, financial or personal stress. Internet and e-mail familiarity, and word processing experience in a Windows-based environment is required. A minimum of three years relevant legal experience and prior experience with legal services programs or in a comparable legal professional environment are required. Ability to communicate in Spanish is highly preferred. Salary is based upon relevant legal experience. Excellent fringe benefits. Send resume electronically as soon as possible, in Microsoft Word format only, to:



E-mail: jobs@ablelaw.org
Subject: Supervising Attorney LAL

Applications will only be accepted by e-mail. Equal access to ABLE's office is available. Applicants requiring accommodation to the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at the e-mail address listed above. **EOE**

Secretary

Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio seeks an experienced Secretary with exceptional computer skills. Some college, experience working with a Board and history of working with confidential information is essential. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to: HR, P.O. Box 346, Toledo, OH 43697 or e-mail ppnwo.hr@ppnwo.org.

OPEN HOUSES

***4151 Bowen/\$121,000** 7/26
6 to 8 pm

***6229 Foxcroft/\$116,000** 7/28
2 to 4 pm

***1002 Homer/\$54,900** 7/28
6 to 8 pm

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CALL NOW: 419-865-7787

CSP/DUAL DIAGNOSIS

Unison is seeking a case manager to work on the Dual Diagnosis team providing chemical dependency treatment and case management to adults with mental illness and chemical dependency. Must possess a Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or a related field and previous mental health experience. Individual with CDCA or LCDCI is strongly preferred but will consider unlicensed individual willing to complete requirements to secure. LSW or PC is preferred.

Send or fax resume to:



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

Place your classified in The Sojourner's Truth
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HEALTH EDUCATOR
Student Health Service/Wellness Connection - Student Affairs
Bowling Green State University

Based on the evidence-based practice of college health promotion, the Health Educator implements and participates in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary health promotions program for the diverse BGSU student, faculty and staff population. Using population-level prevention, s/he works to make the campus healthier by cultivating healthy attitudes and behaviors, coordinating efforts amongst various university constituencies and fostering a culture that values and supports a healthy community. S/he gathers data to determine what health issues are most impacting the academic performance of BGSU students, and partners with student affairs and health professionals to create interventions that address those issues.

Minimum qualifications: A minimum of a bachelor's degree in health promotion, health education, community health or related field. Master's degree in Health Education, Public Health, College Student Personnel or related field preferred. Minimum of one to three years in the field of health promotion in a college health setting. CHES is encouraged but not required.

Candidates applying for this position may be required to complete additional credentialing processes. Offers made for this position are contingent upon the successful completion of all required pre-employment screens and verification of required educational degrees, professional licenses, registrations or certifications. Official transcript(s) will be required of final candidates.

For the first four years, a full-time 12 month administrative position. Administrative grade level 14. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Full benefit package available. To apply: submit cover letter with e-mail address, resume, and names/addresses/telephone numbers of 3 professional references to Ofc. of Human Resources (Search L-60827), 100 College Park Ofc. Bldg., Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201. Review of applicants will begin on August 3, 2007 and will continue until the position is filled. (419) 372-8421. (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr>) BGSU is an AA/EEO employer/educator.

Center of Hope Freedom School Opens Doors for



Opening day at the Center of Hope Freedom School at The University of Toledo was a celebration of life, literacy, learning, and social action. The enthusiastic students were inspired by the life lessons and wisdom shared by Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown.

"One of the reasons I have been able to make it this far," she said, "was because of the many people who helped me and shared their expertise. Learn how to be around and seek advice from people who can help you. Also, you don't always get paid for everything you do. Be willing to volunteer and to serve. You will find that the experience and the connections

you make will be more valuable than a paycheck."

The enthusiasm and excitement spread from the rhythmic chants, song, and dance of harambee to social action. The children as well



as parents were very excited about making a difference in the community as they designed t-shirts, made banners and wrote letters to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur to campaign on behalf of the Healthy Child Campaign and CDF Freedom Schools Social Action Day.

Center of Hope Family Services implemented Toledo's first CDF Freedom School. The program is a nationally recognized out growth of the Children's Defense Fund and is a five-week summer enrichment program that gives children a head start, fair start, safe start and moral start.

Since 1992, over 55,000 students and families have been touched by the CDF Freedom Schools. More than 5,000 college students, 1,900 high school students and 1,000 adult site coordinators and project directors have been trained to deliver this model.

The Center of Hope Freedom School, under the guidance of Executive Director Tracee Perryman-Stewart, will serve 50 children this summer and has plans to double its enrollment for the following year.

HUNDREDS OF LOCAL YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN FREEDOM SCHOOLS® DAY OF ACTION:

Ohio Youth Join National Effort to Lobby for Health Care for All Children



On Wednesday, July 18th, hundreds of local youth from the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools® Program participated in a "Day of Action" and lobbied their member of Congress to provide health care for all children.

An award winning after-school and summer program, the Freedom School curriculum includes a "Day of Action" which teaches youth how to engage in social justice activities. This year, with

Congress preparing to reconsider the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), *Freedom School* participants lobbied their local elected officials for health care coverage for all children.

50 youth from Center of Hope Freedom School site in Toledo will be joined youth from more than 120 Freedom School sites nationwide as part of this national health care campaign.

The Center of Hope Freedom School students took their concerns to the office of U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (Dem-Oh).



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Thurgood Marshall Law Association

The Thurgood Marshall Law Association is an organization of attorneys whose primary objectives are to:

- Educate and enhance the African-American community's access to the legal system;
- Increase the presence of African-American attorneys and law students in the City of Toledo; and
- Provide support, assistance, and advocacy to African-American attorneys.

In our organizational efforts we especially salute the Honorable Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and continually strive toward the perfection and impact he exhibited in his legal career.

For more information about the Thurgood Marshall Law Association, contact any of our members.

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