



Ashley Minj'on Wilbert, Miss Junior Toledo, and Tricia Allen, Miss Junior Toledo Founder and CEO

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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Socialized medicine or universal health care?

If you watched the Republican presidential debate on Sunday, you witnessed all of the candidates denounce what they call socialized medicine. Democrats on the other hand call the same thing universal health care. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out which political party is in favor of such a concept.

It's not the place of government, said Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO), to provide health care for its citizens. The job of government, said Tancredo is to defend its citizens not to keep them healthy.

It's a curious place to draw a line. It's okay for a government to build bridges, for example, but not okay to try to make sure its citizens live long lives. Otherwise we get socialized medicine. Socialized highways and bridges make perfect sense, but socialized medicine is another matter indeed.

What Tancredo and the rest of his fellow candidates would advocate, in a perfect capitalist world, is a free market economy to deal with the issues of health care. No government interference at all in health care and let the chips fall where they may.

And don't be fooled, say conservatives, with the fact that Canada and France and Great Britain, all of whom have socialized medicine, have a citizenry who live longer than Americans and have much lower infant mortality rates – to throw out a few stats. Conservatives can find some folks in all of those countries who are not satisfied with how quickly they can get a hip replaced.

Still, the statistics speak for themselves, don't they?

This is not a perfect world and we have two problems with leaving health care to the whimsy of a free market economy.

First, a free market economy depends on the balance established between supply and demand. Supplies get more costly, demand goes down, for example. Demand dries up and the cost of supplies decreases. The problem with illness – the demand part in our model here – is that it just doesn't decrease except in the long run as cures or preventions are discovered for chronic diseases.

That is, people are going to become ill and as patients they are going to need treatment, no matter the cost of the treatment.

And in the second matter, the presence of third parties in this so-called free market economy – the health insurance industry – totally skews the supply/demand relationship. Typically, the supplier in a free market economy tries to provide quality and low costs in order to compete in the marketplace. If the supplier is competitive, he will have customers seeking his services.

But insurance carriers are unconcerned with quality and they are able to control their costs not by ensuring that the actual costs of the services are minimized but by denying clients services the carriers deem too expensive.

In other words, insurance carriers don't need to check with a variety of hospitals to determine which one offers the least expensive MRI, they can control their costs through denying an insured customer access to an MRI by deciding that it is unnecessary. And they do so well after they have received payment, the insurance premium, for services rendered – not before.

In no way does the current system resemble a free market economy. We could get nearer to a free market economy by eliminating health insurers and have patients pay health care providers directly, but what a blow that would be to a segment of the economy that profits so much because of the misery of so many.

On the other hand, Democratic candidates seem to be just as united in their belief that universal health care is an inevitability whose time should arrive shortly after the November 2008 elections. The problem is, we've been down this road before with First Lady Hillary Clinton. Her handling of that fiasco left a bad taste in everyone's mouth, including her own.

We certainly appreciate the widespread skepticism that everyone feels about having the government oversee anything but this nation has to get this done. We have to move towards ... call it socialized medicine if you will. There are simply no manageable alternatives to establishing a single-payer health care system.

Other countries have established health care systems that permit the patient to see the doctor of his or her choice and that provide enough financial rewards to health care professionals so that medicine is still a career that the best and the brightest seek to enter.

If France, Great Britain and Canada can get it done, there is no reason why the richest nation on earth cannot.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*August 5-26

Central MBC: Second Pastoral Anniversary for Pastor Victor Reed and First Lady Kathy Reed: 419-244-6096 or 419-450-6320

*August 6-10

Warren AME Church: Vacation Bible School; 5:30 to 8 pm; Pre-schoolers to adults: 419-865-5960

*August 7

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

*August 8-11

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedrals' 10 Annual Holy Convocation: "Destined for Greatness;" Featuring Recording Artist Psalmist Mary Wynn; Clarion Reynolds Rd

*August 9-11

Area's Largest Garage Sale Sponsored by The Friendly Center: 9 am to 7 pm daily; Epworth United Methodist Church: 419-243-1289

*August 9-12

Scott High School Class of '87 Reunion: Friday – Pearson Park from 10 am to 6 pm, Family Fun Day; Saturday – Tour of Scott at 10:30 am, 6:30 pm – Erie Street Market; Sunday – Breakfast at Golden Corral at 9:30 am: 419-917-6090 or 419-410-1483

*August 10

Crusaders for Christ Church: Back 2 School Youth Explosion 2007; 7:45pm; "Are you growing in God?" Celebration and Supplies Give-Away: 419.376.2331

*August 11

A Midsummer Night – Up on the Roof: Main Branch Library; 8 pm
CD Release: Nikki "D" & The Browns; "God Is So Wonderful;" 6 pm; Ebenezer MBC Project F.B.I. (Fathers Being Involved): Open House at Mott Branch Library; 2 to 4 pm: 419-536-4419

United Missionary Baptist Church: Men's Day Prayer Breakfast; Speaker Rev. Calvin Reese; "Mentoring Today's Youth;" 10 am: 419-206-8993 or 419-729-2852

*August 12

Center of Hope Men's Day: Speaker Jack Ford; 11:30 am

*August 13-17

Pilgrim Church Vacation Bible School: "Rescue Zone: Saved by God's Power;" 6 to 8:30 pm; Children ages four to 11: 419-478-6012

*August 16-19

St. Paul AME Zion: 90 Church Anniversary; Thursday and Friday – old fashioned tent revival at 7 pm; Saturday – a black and white gala at the Clarion Westgate at 5:30 pm; Sunday – morning and afternoon services: 419-243-1065

*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 20

Third Baptist Church of Holland: 10th Annual Community Fun Day; For residents of Spencer Township; Sponsored by Odis McGee Agency, Toledo Urban League Young Professionals and Minority Counsel of 5/3 Bank; Free food provided by Ribs D Lite; 1 to 4pm: 419-243-1980

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



Jack Ford

Herbert Glenn's funeral was held on August 6, 2007 at the historic Warren AME Church. Glenn was 84 years old and had lived a long, event-filled life. He was one of the last remaining Tuskegee Airmen from World War II. Glenn was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Bush just this past summer.

Thanks to Councilman Michael Ashford who was there representing the citizens of Toledo. This again was the homecoming of a national gold medal winner and that does not happen very much.

Governor Ted Strickland keeps battling 1000 in my book. Just check out one of his latest appointments.

During the 1990's in the Ohio legislature, there was often a solitary voice in the wilderness lamenting the sorry state of Ohio's school buildings, particularly those in the foothills and back hills of Appalachia. This voice would not be stilled. You could set your watch on the likelihood that this voice would stand on the floor of the Ohio House and castigate the political leaders of Ohio for continuing to neglect the citizens of Ohio. That voice belonged to Mike Shoemaker, state representative and son of former Lt. Gov. Myrl Shoemaker.

Mike moved from the House to the Senate where he kept up his jeremiad until he ran for higher office and lost. Now, that voice is heard again as Strickland's guy on the Ohio School Facilities Commission. Talk about poetic justice!

This past June was the 40th anniversary of the start of the firefighting career of Earl Landry, Jr. Landry and Ray Gregory were civil rights activists within the Toledo

Fire Department two decades ago. They broke in when it was still commonplace for certain fire stations to openly use the N-word in calling out black officers. The fight these two waged, along with some others, was often a lonely battle to diversify the ranks of officers in the city's fire department.

Landry ultimately reached battalion chief and retired. Gregory died far too young but is still missed by many of us. Landry moved south and was victimized by Hurricane Katrina as was his sister. But I hear he has rebounded which is not surprising given how tough he was when he worked for the fire department.

One casualty for Toledo in its ongoing "brain drain" was the loss of Ford Weber. Weber left the city ranks around 2004 or so to take a position as housing chief in Roanoke, VA. I have heard that Weber is now the LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) leader for the state of Virginia. He is now living in Richmond, VA, the state capital. We will probably see him in Washington, D.C. one day. Weber's parents, Ed and Alice, celebrated

their 50th Anniversary this past weekend!

Thanks to those of you who called the mayor's office to complain about his proposed reduction of City Council to just eight members. There is no justification for this idea other than the fact that Hizzoner got ticked off by Councilman Joe McNamara. By the way, isn't McNamara having a lot of fun in politics? He is driving

the mayor crazy.

One last thing on the mayor. A mayor's time whips by each day. You end up grateful if you can sneak away for 10 minutes to go to the bathroom without interruption. So I understood how Mayor Finkbeiner could get jammed up on his therapy program last week. The whole incident may be just a little bit of overkill on all of our parts. Join us this Sunday, Au-

gust 12, at 11 a.m. at Center Of Hope Church at 1656 Dorr Street when I will be the Men's Day speaker. Our theme will be "Speaking the Truth to Power." And, as Liz Taylor said to her seventh husband: "Just hold on, I won't keep you too long."

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

City Manager a Better Way Forward?

The most recent column by Jack Ford regarding the city manager and reduction of city council size efforts in Toledo requires a response because it contained unsubstantiated statements and is insulting to the intelligence of this fine newspaper's readers. Jack only looks at the charter changes in racial terms, inaccurately of course, and not from a geographical standpoint. He buys into Copeland's misguided view that there will be less minority representation on an all district council. Currently, African-Americans represent 25 percent of the council. Under an eight district council they would represent 25 percent with a good chance of 3/8 representation. That issue is a straw man and is hereby rejected as such.

Balancing the geographic representation will provide representation to parts of the city, primarily minority areas, that have gone unrepresented and under-represented for many years.

Regarding the assertions that the city manager form of government is akin to Jim Crow laws is outlandish and over the top. Such remarks only serve to inflame and duck the real issues of the debate and again is without factual backing. By 2000, as reported by the executive director of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the council-manager form had become the dominant one operating in 63 per cent of cities with populations of 25,000 or more and this included an average of 63 US local units per year that had adopted the council-manager form of government between 1984 and 2000.

This may or may not be how the citizens of Toledo decide to proceed if given a chance to vote but after 15 years it is about time the citizens have a vote to determine if this experiment is worth continuing or whether there is a better way forward given our challenges.

Dave Schulz
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EOE

The Evil of War Is Permanent

General Omar Bradley said, "We have learned how to destroy, but not to create; how to waste, but not to build; how to kill men, but not how to save them; how to die but not how to live."

And President Jimmy Carter said, "We can never learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children."

When my wife and I were married in 1961, her father said to me, "Son, the only way to win an argument is to avoid having it." So it is with war.

The existence of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons makes it impossible to win another war. Invading another country, even if it has something we want, produces more trouble than benefit. After all, what difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is brought about by a dictator named Saddam Hussein or a president named George Bush.

As of August 3, 2007, more than 3,646 Americans have died and another 25,950 have

been wounded in the Iraq war; many of whom have returned to their families with armless sleeves, no legs, sightless, and mentally deranged. An estimated 600,000 Iraqis have lost their lives and another 150,000 have fled to neighboring Syria and Jordan to escape the violence. Perhaps, Mahatma Gandhi was right: "We must reject war as a means of settling differences because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil is permanent."

In the aftermath of the attacks of 9/11, we asked who, what and how, but not why. And our thirst for vengeance led us into a war that we cannot win. We might do well to remember an unusually strong man named Samson who, when he was deceived by Delilah, blinded by the Philistines, and taken to the Temple to be made mockery of, asked God to avenge his enemies. When God granted his wish, Samson pulled down the columns of the Temple and destroyed his enemies, but his lifeless body

was found among the dead. Retaliatory violence is always self-destructive.

The eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, foot for a foot, and life for a life philosophy leaves everybody blind, toothless, cripple and dead.

The time has come for us to heed the words of President John F. Kennedy, "Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind."

Floyd Rose, President



Valdosta-Lowndes County chapter Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Is Anybody in This Town Not Endorsed by the Democrats?



Two weeks ago, The Truth had some comments about the fact that Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford has been singled out for censure for displaying campaign signs that claimed he was endorsed by the Democratic Party.

Apparently Ashford is not the only one making that claim, although he's still the only one being rebuked. Hmmm!

Statement on the Toledo Prostitution Ring

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has recently become aware through news reports of a criminal act for which we have no connection. Kevin Murphy, a resident of Toledo, Ohio and not a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, has been accused of and pled guilty to providing prostitutes to persons in and around the area where our Centennial Convention was being conducted in 2006.

Beside their illegality these activities are despicable. Under no circumstances does Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. condone this behavior. The reporting of these facts along with the alleged links to the fraternity suggests irresponsible journalism.

There was no basis (legal

nor factual) on which to impugn the reputation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and its stellar record of service for over one hundred years. The acts complained of are criminal. The fraternity will cooperate with the law enforcement authorities in their investigation and if any member is found to have violated the law by participating in such activities they will be disciplined.

For over a century Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated has been an organization that develops leaders, promotes academic excellence and illuminates the importance of social responsibility.

Submitted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated

Local Politics: Councilman Objects to City Reorganization

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Late last week Toledo City Councilman Joe McNamara sent a letter to Council President Rob Ludeman stating that the City of Toledo is in violation of the city charter in the wake of the administration's unauthorized alteration of its original departments.

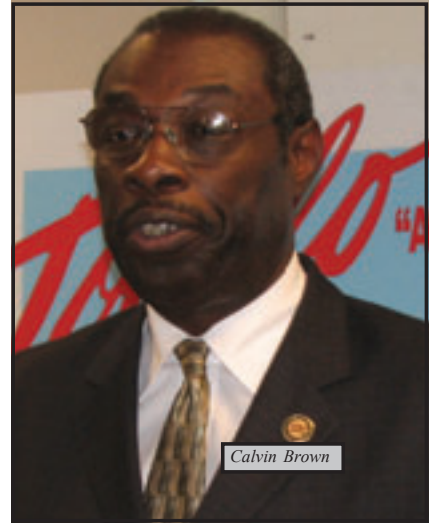
According to McNamara's letter, City Council must approve, by a two-thirds majority, any change, combination, abolishment or rearrangement of the departments and division of the city government. McNamara cited Sections 102 and 103 of the charter as ref-

erence points.

McNamara specifically objected to the fact that earlier in the year, the administration had split up the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and has now proposed that Calvin Brown be named commissioner of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC).

The Department of Neighborhoods took over the Parks and Recreation divisions while Public Service assumed the functions of the Forestry division.

As for AA/CC, that department was the subject of some controversy when



Calvin Brown

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner decided to eviscerate the department and split up the two major functions, moving contract compliance under the Purchasing division in the Finance Department and demoting the Director Perlean Griffin to a commissioner while moving her into the Department of Human Resources.

Griffin declined to move and was dismissed. She has since filed complaints with several federal agencies. The mayor later agreed, after meeting with several citizens groups such as the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA), to keep the af-

firmative action and contract compliance functions together, and a rather complicated reporting system was structured to enable the future commissioner to report both to the chief of staff in the mayor's office and to the Human Resources Director.


In the meantime, the appointment of Calvin Brown was due to be reviewed by City Council this week which occasioned McNamara's immediate concern. He called on Ludeman to request that the administration submit legislation to City Council so that the charter could be followed.



Councilman Joe McNamara

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Tricia Allen Celebrates 12 Years of Promoting Young African-American Women

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

One plans to study broadcasting at Harvard University. Another plans to study African-American students who took top honors at local high schools this year. Actu-



Tricia Allen and Pageant Contestants

ally, it is none of the above. Believe it or not, the four young people described above were contestants in the 2007 Miss Junior Teen Pageant, held Sunday, July 29, at the New Life Center. No mere 'beauty' pageant, the contest celebrated its 12th anniversary this year and founder Patricia (Osby) Allen

couldn't be happier. "The most significant things, in my opinion, that pageants have to offer is self confidence and a belief in one's own abilities," says Allen. "Learning to believe in yourself is not an easy thing from some to do. One can have the outward appearance of being confident but, not believe in their abilities. Pageants bring out your strengths, weaknesses, test your patience, challenge your intellectual concepts and force you to see who you really are. With me, what you see is what you get-just keeping it real."

"I have seen too many young women, and my pageant is not exempt, who go through pageants and other areas thinking they have it all wrapped up and in the bag. Yes, there is a certain attitude that you must have in pageants but it is a positive force not one that consists of being cocky and over-confident. If you display this type of behavior, I call it 'tude,' which I can do without!"

The only attitude the four young ladies who entered this year's Miss Junior Toledo Pageant had was a positive one. That positive attitude

was in evidence from the moment they introduced themselves in novel and interesting ways until the winner was crowned in the final

While all four young ladies are beautiful, talented, well-spoken and intelligent, several stood out for various reasons. Simpson's confi-

trimed with sequins and Farmer's fuchsia gown, sprinkled with glitter.

However, perhaps more dazzling than the brilliance of her competitor's gowns was Wilbert's answer to one of the contests more difficult questions during the question and answer segment of the competition. Since she plans to major in nursing and Spanish and open a bi-lingual clinic, Wilbert was asked how she would solve the problem of illegal immigration.

Her answer was that all those seeking U.S. citizen-



Pageant Winner Ashley Wilbert



Christien Simpson
1st Runner Up

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moments of the gala event.

Alvelia Farmer (13), Christien Simpson (15), Diamonique White (12) and Ashley Min'jon Wilbert (16) were a pageant director's dream. Each of these four exemplary young ladies demonstrated good upbringing, poise, personality and positivity. And each was a credit to her home, family, school, church and community.

Most novel of the introductions were Farmer's glimpse into her future as a television anchorwoman and Wilbert's portrayal of herself as a nurse practitioner, complete with hospital scrubs.

dence and self-assuredness impressed the judges from the moment she completed her interview with the panel the day before the pageant. So did Wilbert's intelligence, maturity and character.

Farmer's grace and skill performing a praise dance showed extensive training in dance as did Wilbert's piano performance of an intricately difficult classical piece. White's beauty in a fairy tale princess gown fashioned from pale pink chiffon and boasting a cinched-waist, embroidered and bedazzled bodice gave the statuesque 12-year-old sophistication beyond her years as did Simpson's royal blue gown

ship should have to follow the same rules. "Thanks for asking her a difficult question," said her father, Walther Wilbert, to the judge who posed the question and elicited one of the contest's best answers, an answer that may have determined the outcome of the pageant.

Sixteen year-old Ashley Min'jon Wilbert was crowned Miss Junior Toledo 2007. First Runner-Up was confident Christien Simpson; Second Runner-Up was talented Alvelia Farmer and Third Runner-Up was beautiful Diamond White.

Judges at this year's pageant included Taylor James, Miss Junior Toledo 2003-

(Continued on Page 6)

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Tricia Allen

(Continued from Page 5)

2004; renowned author Keith Lee Johnson; Keahna Sawyer, Miss Junior Toledo 2005-2006; 2003 Bowsher graduate Vincent G. Fitzgerald and this writer.

Escorts for this year's pageant were Terin Henderson (Farmer), Isaiah Lee Slaughter (Simpson), Gary White, Jr. (White) and Antonio Hunter II (Wilbert). Entertainment was provided before the competition by "A Little Wisdom," a group of four to 12 year-old girls who perform African, gospel, cultural and inspirational pieces under the direction of Alicia Murphy and "Positive Force Christian School of Dance" under the direction of Toledo's Prima Ballerina, Sheila Gibson.

Community support for the event was evident in the presence of Audrey Johnson, community activist and youth leader and Diane Gordon, founder/chair of Toledo Kwanzaa House, as well as other community leaders, entrepreneurs and artists.

Mr. BigStuff's Plantation Bar-B-Que caterer for the annual event, provided his usual delectable and bounteous buffet. Previous pageant winners participated in this year's pageant in addition to the two judges who won the title of Miss Junior Toledo. Former Miss Junior Toledo Brandy Jones served as a hostess, along with her older sister, Tiffany Yvette Jones, the youngest member of the board of the Miss Junior Toledo Pageant Organization, was crowned Miss Junior Toledo in 1999, and attended Owens Community College where she majored in communications and broadcasting with a minor in dance. Two other members of the organization's board are also dedicated to helping young women. K. Zaheerah Sultan, retired GM employee and who just completed her masters in theatre marketing, is the founder of L'Aime, Inc., which sponsored this year's Miss Junior Toledo Pageant, and which also sponsors the Phenomenal Women's Awards Dinner to honor extraordinary women, as well as mentoring program and educational workshops.

Board member Schylar Meadows holds distinction as the youngest female in the history of the State of Ohio to manage a mayoral election campaign in a major city. She hosts Juice Talk, a public affairs program on Sundays on "The Juice" FM107.3, WJUC, and was selected as one of only 40 women in the nation to attend The Campaign School, held at Yale University last year.

Another board member Roshaundra Ellington, like Jones and Allen, is a former beauty pageant contestant, as well as a professional model. In honor of the 12th anniversary of the pageant, Toledo's mayor sent a proclamation acknowledging the

importance of this event.

Allen founded the pageant with the goal to enrich and enhance cultural sensitivity, socialization skills, communication development, education and confidence in young women between the ages of 12 and 18 who possess a performing talent, as well as provide a scholarship to help defray the expanding cost of college and/or other learning institutions.

"I take pageantry very seriously and I take it every where I go—it's a way of life," she said in an interview following the July 29 pageant. "It's how you speak with



Taylor James and Vincent Fitzgerald

confidence in your tone of voice; it's in your eyes and how you view the world; it's in your walk as you step into your destiny. My pageant and every life that I touch continue to help me grow and understand that there is a lot of work to be done."

Allen's interest in beauty pageants started at a very young age and grew as the role of African-American women grew in pageants in the United States and the world grew from non-inclusion to glaring representation as more and more African-American women have entered these contests.

"My first experience was at the age of 7 years old," she recalls. "My father was watching a sporting event. When he left to eat dinner, I wanted to watch something else so, I kept turning the channel and came upon the Miss America Pageant. The talent portion was on and I was hooked from there. I have been watching and taping everything from Miss America to Miss USA, Miss Universe, Miss World, Mrs. America and at a time Miss Black Galaxy."

Allen's own history in pageants is both remarkable and purposeful. "Pageants are confidence builders," she says. "It really does not matter if you are 'in it to win it' or if you just need to step up your self esteem. With each step, you should come away with more than what you took in. When I entered into my first pageant, I did so at the urging of others when the opportunity arose. My friends and family knew how much I enjoyed pageants and I could often pick out the top five or tell who the winner would be. I was scared to death! But, I had a blast. I met new people and learned a lot

about myself - what I would accept and what was not acceptable. I developed a 'resolve' that enabled me to continue on with my 12th Annual Miss Junior Toledo Pageant. I know firsthand from coaching, judging, personal involvement with young women making the Miss America and Miss USA circuits, the sorrow, the near misses and the euphoric feeling of making it into the top 10 or the top five in your county and State - which leads you to 'the big dance,' i.e. televised in the homes of millions of people. I continue to share what I know and what I have

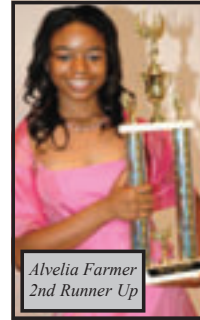
exposed to without the pageant. This compelled me to compete in other pageants, such as Miss Teen Toledo, which was held in December 2006, [and] where I was fourth runner-up."

The veteran pageant contestant and former pageant winner also offered this year's contestants the benefit of her experience. "My advice to the contestants, try your hardest in everything you do and never give up regardless of what anyone tells you. You decide your own destiny."

Allen's inclusion of Sawyer in her list of winners who exemplify the pageant's purpose seems more than justified. Like others mentioned, such as Taylor James, a biology major at Cornell University whose ambition is to pursue a career in genetic engineering and use genetic research to help find cures for illnesses like AIDS, Sickle Cell Anemia, influenza and diabetes, Sawyer, Jones and this year's winner Ashley Min'jon Wilbert represent a realization of a vision of young black womanhood at its best, brightest and most gracious. This was Allen's vision for Miss Junior Toledo: to provide young women the opportunity to show themselves at their best and pursue their dreams with confidence. Allen's vision for

her pageant having been realized, she now has her sights on fulfilling some of her other goals.

Allen is currently employed as a case manager with the Area Office on Aging's PassPort Program and she is working on an advanced degree. "My cur-



Alvelia Farmer
2nd Runner Up

rent goals and plans are to complete my Masters Program of Social Work at Eastern Michigan University (expected year of graduation 2009) and continue to improve and build upon my ministry - which is my pageant," she says.

"A ministry is fulfilling a need. There are many issues from large to small. I am here to be a blessing to someone else. A dream is only something that has yet to become

a reality." Allen's vision is no longer a dream, but a reality, one that she would like to expand on, creating opportunities for even more young people.

"If I could create another pageant (I am seriously considering it) it would be one for young men within the same age bracket 12-18 years old," she says. "I would base it on the same principle but I would tweak it a little, of course, to come from the male perspective. I believe that the bar needs to be raised along with the lower awareness of some of the young men in our community and surrounding area."

If anyone could make this dream a reality, Allen can. She's already done it once for Toledo's young women. Just imagine what she might do for our young men.

If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 and will not be turning 19 before July 2007, have a performing talent and are serious about wanting to develop your inner strength and beauty, mail your name, age, date of birth, phone number, address, zip code and a description of your talent to The Miss Junior Toledo Pageant, Inc., 2124 Calumet Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43607, or fax the above information to (419) 531-9406.

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The Sojourner's Truth Education

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The Real HBCU Experience: Back to Hampton University

By Charon Spruce
Sojourner's Truth Summer Intern



As the car moved closer and closer my stomach started to do flip-flops. I felt as if I had just received a harsh punch to the gut. Wait, why was I so nervous? I had prepared for this.

"Hampton University Keep Straight" the sign read. Rounding the corner I saw a relatively large group of students standing near the entrance. Oh no! Real Hamptonians... my stomach lurched again. We turned to pull onto the campus and... they started screaming and yelling while clapping their hands as they welcomed me to my new "home by the sea."

Arriving on campus that June day last summer was the culmination of perhaps one of the best decisions that I've made thus far in life. By senior year many students are still undecided on their col-

lege choice. Yet, I was so sure of my destiny that I only applied for early decision to one school, Hampton University.

I was first introduced to my future alma mater through a black college tour in the summer of 2003. As a stellar teen leader for the Positive Choices Program I received the opportunity to visit some of our nation's top historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). Among the stops were Washington, D.C. to visit Howard University and Atlanta, GA to tour both Morehouse College and Spelman College. While I liked all of the schools, none made a lasting impression until the last stop.

Arriving on the Hampton campus for the first time I fell in love with the brick-covered buildings. Rolling lawns surrounded all of the campus

with a view of the water from three sides. A statue of Booker T. Washington, Hampton's most illustrious alumni, caught my eye. This man who had worked so hard to change the dismal conditions of blacks was an alumnus. That has made a lasting impression on me. Walking along the water's edge in front of my future dormitory, I knew that this was the institution where I would receive my undergraduate degree.

Receiving an education at an HBCU is a unique experience. For the first time in my life I was being taught amidst the motivated future black professionals of America, whereas previously I stuck out like a sore thumb in my honors and advanced placement courses, often times the only black student in my Start High School class. I finally felt comfortable with being myself in an educational setting. Gone were the second guesses from my white peers, the teasing from my brothers and sisters for "acting white." I was accepted for being myself. I had found my niche. Socially I have always been a butterfly. But in my new environment there wasn't any good ole boy system so the opportunities were endless. I was not gawking at for having the nerve to want a position of leadership on my campus. On a campus where pretty much all the students are active, this allows for a fast-paced social scene.

I became involved with the student recruitment team helping to recruit future

Hamptonians, the Dean's Six O'clock Club to improve my journalism skills and NewFace Entertainment which hosts events for the students on our campus. Being involved in so much did not leave me much free time but I loved it!

Next week I will return to Hampton for my second year. At Hampton I am able to embrace a part of me that I had always been made to feel was inferior to that of my white classmates. This summer I have missed the yard

barbeques, the step shows, the fashion shows, the student center parties, the informative seminars, the socially conscious debates, movie nights, probates and just talking to people about life. I have missed the way upperclassmen "adopt" freshmen to make sure that they make the transition smoothly onto our campus, the commitment and dedication of my professors, the help that my dorm mates gave me in learning how to wash clothes and even comb

my hair and the support and comfort that I felt when I was unsure of myself at times.

But most of all I have missed my new home.

Charon Spruce, the daughter of Charles and Rhonda Spruce, is a rising sophomore at Hampton University in Hampton, Va. She is a public relations major, marketing minor carrying a current 3.61 semester grade point average.

Paying for College: Scholarships, Loans and Savings

By Richard Cordray, Ohio Treasurer
Special to The Truth

As summer begins to decend into autumn and children return to school, you will no doubt see an increase in your credit card bills and out-of-pocket spending. August is a time to purchase pencils, folders and other supplies as well as update the wardrobes of returning scholars. However, these expenditures feel small compared to the task of paying for a college education.

The average tuition at a four-year public university in Ohio is \$8,553—almost twice the national average. A private college costs even more, at an average of \$22,218. Financial aid offices expect the students' families to shoulder much of this burden and ask you to use the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" to calculate an 'Expected Family Contribution' based on the income and assets of the parents of each student who is unmarried and under the age of 25. You may choose not to put that amount toward your child's tuition, but a student will only receive financial aid up to limits calculated from your response to that application. Some schools may take account of very special circumstances such as an unforeseen illness or job loss, but that is rare. Typically, you and your child will have to find ways to finance the rest of the cost.

Right now, two-thirds of undergraduates leave school with an average of about \$17,000 in student loans. At

that level, interest rates add up to about \$550 each year.

To help your child avoid taking on debt to receive a college degree, start saving today. There are many avenues for you to begin investing in your child's education. Remember that different investments have various benefits and risks. You may want to do your own research or consult with a financial planner to find out what will be right for you depending on your child's age and educational goals.

Ohio offers a 529 college savings plan that has tax benefits and no enrollment fees. The money you put in can be invested in several ways, ranging from certificates of deposits to bonds and stocks. However, depending on the type of investment you choose, there may be no guarantee that your principal is secure. The money you invest in this account must be used for approved educational expenses or there will be penalties.

The federal Coverdell Education Savings Account is another option. It is similar to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). You may contribute up to \$2,000 a year in pre-tax dollars to the account (and deduct that amount off your income taxes) and you have a nearly unlimited choice of investments. These accounts are a bit more flexible: if not used for educational expenses, the child named as the beneficiary may receive the proceeds when

he or she turns 30 years old. Another choice is to put the money in traditional savings and investment vehicles. There are no tax benefits for this option, but there is also no contribution limit and no restrictions on how or when the money may be used.

Ask your children to begin contributing, or to set up their own college savings plan, when they are old enough to earn their own money. It may motivate them to work harder and be more careful with their spending now, so they can avoid being burdened later with thousands of dollars of debt. Teaching them to think along those lines is crucial to prepare them for their life as an adult. Also encourage them to seek out scholarships. Many obscure scholarships are available that go unused each year. Your child's guidance counselor should have suggestions and there are many FREE websites that list available scholarship opportunities. This research is well worth the effort. But please note: you should never have to pay anyone to learn about or apply for scholarships, so be careful about such offers.

Few investments pay off as well as a college degree. Long after your son or daughter forgets that you rented a prom limo or sent them to Florida for spring break, they will appreciate that their financial obligations are lighter because you helped them find a way to pay the high price of a college education.

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Back to School Special * Back to School Special * Back to School Special * Back to School Special * Back to School Special

These Guys (And Girls) Are Good ... Really Good!

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On a clear, beautiful summer morning, one can stand behind the ninth hole at Detwiler Golf Course and barely see the tee of the long par four finishing hole on the far four finishing hole on the far nine.

This past Saturday, as the first foursome of the participants of Chuck Cohen's Toledo Minority Golf Association (TMGA) Inc. National Invitation were strolling down the fairway after their drives,

that landed softly within five feet of the flag. "Kid's got a little touch, too," said the onlooker. Cohen just shook his head in wonderment.

Tiger and Phil and Vijay and are amazing, no doubt about it

But the 38 young minority golfers - 28 boys and seven girls - who came from as far away as Massachusetts and Oklahoma to compete in the 16th annual Chuck Cohen/

championship in the tournament for 13 to 20-year-old minority golfers.

Mack finished with a two-day total of 139 at almost the same time that Tiger Woods, was claiming his sixth Bridgestone title at the same time in Akron. Jerel Whiting of Suffolk, VA finished second with a score of 142 and Worthington ended in third place with a score of 144.

Iman Ellis, of Reynoldsburg, OH took top honors in the girls' flight with a two-day total of 155 as Tameka Demps of Las Vegas finished second with 164 and Donne West of Upper Marlboro, MD claimed third place with a total of 165.

Ellis, a rising senior at Reynoldsburg High School, came to Toledo with more than just the tournament on her mind. She is seriously considering attending The University of Toledo and would love to have a scholarship to do so. She met with Rockets golf coach Nicole Hollingsworth over the weekend and Hollingsworth followed her on the course on Sunday. As Ellis racked up her nine-stroke victory, Hollingsworth must have been impressed by what she saw.

There were other trophies awarded during Sunday's

son was first while Omarray James of Dorchester, MA and Andrew Pleasant of Louisville, KY took second and third place respectively.

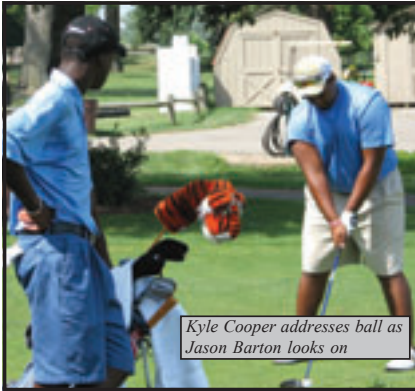
In the boys' second flight, Dorian Vauls of Dayton finished in first place and Malcolm Parrish of Detroit and Aaron Koonce of To-

ledo finished in second and third place.

A golf tournament of any sort can't function without a host of volunteers and the Charles Cohen Invitational is no exception. This year's volunteers included Ervin Arme, Jennifer Bembry, Susan Bowman, Charles Cohen

Jr, Quinters Jean Cohen, John Foster, Tommy Gaston, Richard Grant, U.S. Grant, Ron Harbour, Fred Haygood, Rick Hogan, Ernie Jackson, Wes Jones, Sam Koonce, Charlene Mack, Henry Mack, David Menefee, Alice Montgomery, Richard McCray, Tony Moody, Gerald Renfroe, Bobby Shorter, Anthony Smith, Mark Smith, Phillip Smith, Valerie Smith, Melvin Thomas, Leo Walton, Tony Warfield and Sam Young.

The invitational is sponsored by Eleanor, Don and Mel Harbaugh.



Kyle Cooper addresses ball as Jason Barton looks on



Edward Hill



Charles Cohen

Cohen, a pioneer amongst Toledo' black golfers, pointed out to an onlooker the location of each drive.

Cohen and the rest of the small gallery of friends, media and tournament volunteers watched as each youngster safely placed his second shot on the green. The last one to hit his second shot, Wyatt Worthington II of Reynoldsburg, OH, drew particular praise from Cohen who noted that the ninth is 446 yards. Worthington's drive was past the 150 yard marker meaning his drive would have drawn the admiration of Tiger Woods and the rest of the PGA pros who were competing 100 miles away at the Akron Bridgestone Invitational tournament for the big

TMGA Invitational Championship are on the rise. Look out PGA and LPGA.

These guys are good ... really, really good.

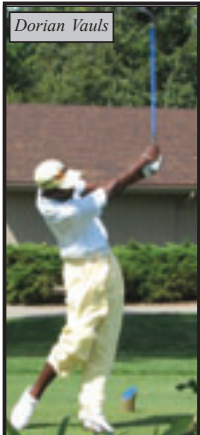
Worthington's birdie on the ninth hole on Saturday put him in the lead over defending champion Willie Mack of Flint, MI ... temporarily. Mack stormed back to claim the lead before Satur-



Jerel Whiting (orange) and Blake Benjamin line up their putts

day was over and went on to win his second straight cham-

afternoon ceremonies. In the boys' first flight, Elijah Jack-



Dorian Vauls

bucks.

As Cohen was singing the praises of the young amateur, Worthington launched a shot with a lofted wedge



Mark Smith presents trophy to Iman Ellis

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Jerusalem Baptist Church Celebrates Youth at Awards Luncheon

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Jerusalem Baptist Church sent three high school graduates off to college during a luncheon celebration last Saturday afternoon armed with messages of inspiration, a call to exercise caution and, of course, scholarships to help meet the mounting costs of higher education.

"If you do your best, you can accomplish more than those who do not try," said one parent during audience remarks to the two young ladies in attendance – Anna-Stacia L. Allen, a Rogers High School graduate who will be entering The Ohio State University next month, and Lakita Peals, a Libbey graduate who has not yet decided between Bowling Green State University and Benedict College.

"Let nothing distract you; let nothing deter you," the parent continued for the students' benefit.

Deacon John Gray was equally inspirational as he exhorted the students to set their sights high. "Reach for the stars and anything is



Deacon John Gray

possible," said Gray. "Reach high and if you fall short you will surely end up with something worthwhile."

The luncheon drew about 30 family members, church

members and friends. The speaker for the occasion, immediately following the luncheon, was Jerusalem pastor, Rev. W.L. Perryman.



Anna-Stacia Allen and Lakita Peals

New Officers Elected for BGSU's Student Government

Special to The Truth

Johnnie Lewis of Southfield, Mich., has been elected president and his running mate, Nicholas Gamero of Medina, has been elected vice president of the Bowling Green State University Undergraduate Student Government.

2006. Undercin is a doctoral student in higher education administration and works as a graduate assistant at the Career Center. A graduate of Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville, Mich., she

holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in counseling and student personnel from Minnesota State University.

In addition, Jeannie M. Sabaroff of Philadelphia, Pa. has been voted president, and Gina Ondercin of Toledo, vice president, of the University's Graduate Student Senate.

Lewis is a junior majoring in criminal justice with a double minor in political science and theatre. He was in the 2005 cohort of the President's Leadership Academy and is involved in the Latino Student Union, Vision, the Sailing Club, and public and alumni relations for Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. His parents are Jimmie and Turesa D. Lewis of Southfield, Mich. (27250 Shagbark Drive).

Gamero is a junior majoring in liberal studies. He is involved with the Latino Student Union and the IMPACT (Integrating Moral Principles and Critical Thinking) learning community. Former editor of The Obsidian, Gamero is interested in politics, art, soccer and writing. He is the son of Juan and Donna Gamero of Medina (4001 E. Normandy Park Drive).

Sabaroff is a master's degree student in college student personnel. She is the Kappa Kappa Gamma house director and the chapter key adviser for Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority Zeta Omega Chapter. Sabaroff is also the 2007 Bacchus Gamma Region 7 Adviser of the Year. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sabaroff of Philadelphia, Pa. (9 N. Ninth St., Apt. 208), she graduated from Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls in 2002. She received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Temple University in



Johnnie Lewis



Jeannie M. Sabaroff

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Back to School: The Final Year of The BGSU Experience

By Ashlee Austin
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

It seems like it was just yesterday when sweet summertime greeted us with warm weather, endless sunshine and a long-awaited, well-deserved break from the classroom. But it came and went so fast – barely saying hello and quickly approaching its final moments.

In a week or so, many students (myself included) will be starting their first day of fall college classes – many for the first time in their lives and some for the last.

With stores like Wal-Mart and Target bombarding us with their competitive back to school sales, we are constantly reminded that the time is near. So, we may as well just face it and make the most of it. Besides, it's really not that bad when you think about it. Most of your best memories are made in school. You meet your best friends, favorite teachers, get



new clothes, and you're even guaranteed at least six hours away from your parents everyday. What more could you ask for?
Sure, you're back to the wonderful life of hav-

ing a curfew, regular bedtime, early mornings, late night cramming for exams and cafeteria food - which isn't always that bad, but look on the bright side! You will finally be given the opportunity to reunite with friends that you haven't seen in three months and see how much they have changed, show off your new school clothes, see

can't help but to reminisce on all of the things I have experienced in the last three years, the things I have learned, the friends I have made (most of whom I will have to say goodbye to soon), and how much I have grown and matured since the first time I took that two-hour trip from Cleveland to Bowling Green in my mother's over-

screaming and celebrating in honor of our freedom for the first time in our 18-year-old lives. We just knew that from there, everything would be a piece of cake – no more bedtimes, curfews, parents or discipline – just us, God and a beautiful campus waiting for us to explore. And we did just that.

One thing that I admire most about BGSU is the diversity and the support that we receive from the university as African-American students. There are plenty of scholarships, advisors, and special programs available for minority students at most universities – and trust me, they are certainly helpful. There are also other students who are more than willing to guide you through your experience. No matter how alone you think you are, you're never completely independent. And you will learn that not having absolute independence is not as bad as it seems – it's actually

a good thing to know that there is always someone you can call on.

So, all in all, school is more than just an institution that you attend to earn a diploma or degree – it's a learning experience, a place to grow, a place to make life-long friends, and a place to make the best memories of your life – if you try to remain positive and allow yourself to relax a little.

Ashlee Austin, a Cleveland native, is a rising senior at Bowling Green State University majoring in communications.

One thing that I admire most about BGSU is the diversity and the support that we receive from the university as African-American students.

who your new teachers will be and you're even one year closer to graduating!

As I prepare for my final fall semester as an undergraduate student at Bowling Green State University, I

packed Mazda Protégé.

I remember that day as if it was yesterday. I cried like a baby up until the very second my mother put her car into the drive gear to leave me alone in a foreign place. But, not even a minute later, my best friend (who was also my roommate) and I were

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UT Judith Herb College of Education Alumni Affiliate Organizing the "Back(pack) to School Supply Drive"

Throughout August, The University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education Alumni Affiliate is sponsoring a school supplies collection drive for six elementary schools in the Toledo area. Donations of basic supplies will go to schools needing some extra help to launch their students into the new academic year.

Backpacks are the greatest need. Other items being collected are (new supplies only): pencils, pencil holders, paper (notebook and construction), glue, scissors, washable crayons and mark-

ers, facial tissues and antibacterial hand sanitizer.

Supplies can be dropped off to the Driscoll Alumni Center, Room 2003 during the month of August, or at a back-to school social **Tuesday, August 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Dorr Street Café, 5243 Dorr St.** Complimentary appetizers will be provided.

The Judith Herb College of Education Alumni Affiliate is part of the not-for-profit University of Toledo Alumni Association. Its purpose is to support the interests of the Judith Herb Col-

lege of Education by promoting and coordinating activities and by encouraging a spirit of loyalty and unity among alumni and former students, as well as establishing and promoting alumni programs that assist in the cultural and physical growth of the Judith Herb College of Education.

For questions or more information check www.toledoalumni.org or call Liz Schurrer, assistant director of alumni relations, at 419.530.4986.

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Owens Community College Expands Academic Curriculum To Include Three New Certificate Programs

Special to The Truth

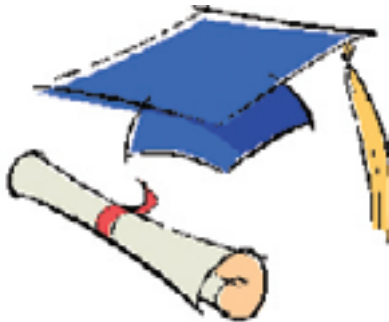
Owens Community College is expanding the number of educational opportunities offered to area residents by announcing the creation of three new fine and performing arts certificate programs. Beginning Fall Semester 2007, certificate programs within the areas of music business technology, commercial photography and interior design will be part of the College's academic curriculum.

"Owens Community College is committed to providing new educational opportunities within fine and performing arts for students aspiring to become future musicians, producers, recording engineers, photographers

and interior designers," said Eric Wallack, Owens Chair of Fine and Performing Arts.

forming arts industry."

The certificate program within music business technology will focus on the essential elements of music business and the related technology with the intention of preparing aspiring musicians, producers and recording engineers for entry-level employment opportunities or further education within the career field.



"Music business technology, commercial photography and interior design are growing fields with very lucrative career paths.

The creation of these three programs will open new educational doors for students and support economic growth in the fine and per-

Offered on the Toledo-area Campus, the program will require approximately 21 credit hours of coursework and provide students with academic instruction in the fundamentals of recording, songwriting, MIDI technology and music business.

Owens' commercial pho-

tography certificate will provide students with the necessary training to enter the ever-growing field of commercial photography. Requiring approximately 21 credit hours of coursework, the program will provide students with hands-on experience and practical application in various curriculum areas, including black and white photography, color photography, digital photography, studio photography, large format and digital photo. Commercial photography will be offered on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses.

The College's new interior design certificate program requires approximately 21 credit hours and includes courses within foundations in 2D and 3D design, introduction to interior design, history of interiors, interior design studio and textiles. The program, which will be offered on the Toledo-area Campus, is designed to provide students with the necessary academic curriculum for a career as an interior designer.

Spencer Township: Home Is Where the Heart Is

By Alexis Randles
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Spencer Township, which is located less than 10 miles outside of Toledo, is literally where my grandparents found opportunity that the South was not willing to share. Called by most of its residents as "the country," it is a community that has often been overlooked by city goers who cannot appreciate the township's lack of shade, street lights and sidewalks. Even though, recently many residents say they have found the fast-paced life slowly but surely invading the once serene surroundings of Spencer Township.

This past Saturday the community, which is known for having the largest percentage of African-Americans in the Lucas County area, joined in celebrating all things familiar; family, friends and traditional fun at the annual Spencer Sharples Community and Class reunion. The community's history can be traced back to the late 1930's and early 1940's when record numbers of southern African-Americans migrated north to escape the brutal racism and poverty.

The day's events were hosted at the community center often called the "drop-in" because it is accessible to everyone within the close-knit community. The center

is located in what was once considered the "New Town" section of Spencer Sharples on Irwin Road. The "New Town" area was the result of an unfinished effort to expand the community and its commerce in the area through government funding in 1969. To any passerby it is quite obvious that the impact of the failed endeavor still resonates within the community in the form of once-booming school buildings and local businesses

Want to Comment on an Article
Email the Editor at thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

The University of Toledo Accepting Applications for the Toledo Starz Program

Applications for the University of Toledo's (UT) Toledo Starz Program are currently being accepted. Toledo Starz is an after-school enrichment program for high school students (particularly those who are historically underrepresented in the sciences) interested in pursuing careers in the health professions.

The program runs from September 18, 2007 - May 20, 2008, where students will be involved in monthly interactive medically-related presentations and a research symposium.

To be eligible, students must have at least a 2.0 GPA and enrolled in grades 9-12 in the fall. The deadline for applications is September 7, 2007.

For an application packet or for more information, please contact the Manager of Institutional Diversity Programs at the UT Office of Institutional Diversity at 419-383-3438.



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2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR (K-8)

Call for more information: 419.535.7078

Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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23rd Year Premiere of Self-Expression Teen Theater (SETT) Institute For Academic and Personal Excellence

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, August 11, 2007 Twila Page and the African American Parents Association



Teen Theater will celebrate its 23rd year of community service as a holistic violence and substance abuse prevention program at the Frederick Douglass Community Center 1001 Indiana Ave. Toledo doors open at 2:00 p.m. This year's premiere is titled:

If it's meant to be it's up to me; The State of Black Youth in Toledo

The premiere will be preceded with a press conference led by Minister Charles Muhammad and Muhammad's Mosque #91, Coach Ben Williams and the Concerned Citizens Group, The Rainbow Coalition PUSH, Coach Leroy Bates of Libbey High School, Sis-

and professionals to conquer debilitating obstacles and confront how and the consequences of youth actions may affect their entire lives.

The mission of Self-Expression Teen Theater (SETT) Institute For Academic and Personal Excellence as a holistic, violence, alcohol, tobacco and other (VATOD) prevention program is to educate and train groups of teens/pre-teens to serve as peer educator/help-

ers. In this capacity (peer educators) they perform social



mission is to reduce the attraction, supply and demand for VATOD by fostering communication among teens, their parents, teachers and youth-serving agencies

dramas in schools, churches, public housing projects and other places to promote drug-free lifestyles, non-violent norms and academic excellence among their peers.

For more information, contact Bro. Washington Muhammad and/or call 419-242-2255 or 419-255-3234

Refreshments will be served

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

CALL PAM AT 419-243-0007



Lindsay Webb: Already Representing District 6

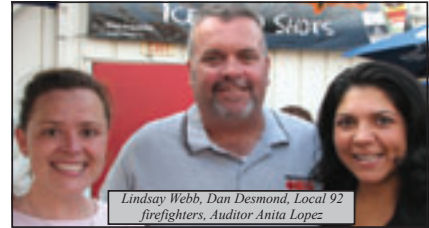
Sojourner's Truth Staff

Lindsay Webb, endorsed Democratic Party candidate for the District 6 Toledo City Council seat, held her first fundraiser on Wednesday August 2 at the Oar House in Point Place.

Webb's event was sponsored by Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez.

Webb, a lifetime resident of Point Place, works for the National Employment Law Project, a non-profit research and advocacy group which assists workers displaced by the loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector. She earned an undergraduate degree in urban studies and a law degree from The University of Toledo.

"I think I'm going to win," said Webb about her effort to unseat incumbent Republican Joe Birmingham who won a special election to the



Lindsay Webb, Dan Desmond, Local 92 firefighters, Auditor Anita Lopez

job in 2005. "I have been going door-to-door telling people that I will work tirelessly on your behalf."

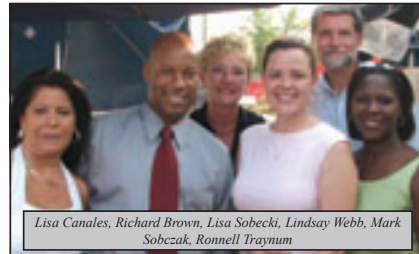
Webb started her efforts in the Lagrange area, an area she calls one of the most neglected in the city and, as a result, has already been contacted by numerous citizens in that area to help address their concerns, she said.

"I'm passionate about these issues," said Webb at

her Wednesday fundraiser.

A range of elected officials, Democratic Party members and candidates attended the fundraiser including Councilman Mark Sobczak; Lopez; Lucas County Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter; Washington Local School Board President Lisa Canales; Lisa Sobceki and Richard Brown, candidates for the Toledo Board of Education and Ronnell Traynum, candidate for the Toledo District 4 City Council seat.

Also in attendance were Dan Desmond of the Local 92 Firefighters whose union has announced its support for the Webb candidacy and Ron Rothenbuhler of the Regional Council of Carpenters who is expected to assume the chairmanship of the Lucas County Democratic Party.



Lisa Canales, Richard Brown, Lisa Sobceki, Lindsay Webb, Mark Sobczak, Ronnell Traynum

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Reel Review

Talk To Me - Don Cheadle, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Taraji P. Henson, Mike Epps, Cedric The Entertainer

(If you know or want to know anything about black radio used to be like, see this movie)

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

THIS MOVIE IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY!

Convict becomes media mogul? Yep, it all happened in real life... but first let's deal with the film and its lead actor. Readers already know that Don Cheadle can basically do no wrong in this critic's humble opinion.

The last film I caught with him as a lead character was *Reign Over Me* and since that didn't get the attention it deserved at the box office, I've been impatiently waiting on its DVD release and I don't even buy DVD's like all that.

Now, just look at that. I critique films so that hard-working folks like yourself will have some kind of road map when deciding how to spend that entertainment budget at the multiplex/cinema (read: cinema, not sidewalk salesman bootleg man selling burnt movies out of a Jordan shoe box). I watch movies all the time and I get to go for free.

You probably think I would have a DVD collection something like Usher's shoe collection but NOPE!

I'm pretty selective with what I buy. But one DVD I own that is among my most prized is *Hotel Rwanda*... starring Don Cheadle.

And as soon as I get my hands on the DVD of *Crash* I'm gonna be proud to own that too.

When you look at Don Cheadle's body of work, it isn't all so sterling. He's done a bit of everything. But this millennium has found him becoming more adept at picking roles that add to his legend.

His lead role in *Hotel Rwanda* is nothing short of

the very definition of Oscar worthy.

And then he comes out that same year by starring in and producing *Crash*... which has to be one of the most important films in our history. I mean that. If *Birth Of A Nation* gets a historical nod then *Crash* deserves to be revered throughout the ages as a continuation of our society's autobiography.

Yeah, he might get that guap playing alongside Brad Pitt and George Clooney... but Don Cheadle is becoming your favorite actor's favorite actor. Terrence Howard gets honorable mention, too. But ya boy Don is hitting them out the park.

Talk To Me is one of those movies that couldn't have had another person play the lead besides Don Cheadle, even though it's a definite contrast to Cheadle's usual characters.

He usually comes across as dutiful and an almost reluctant hero (*Hotel Rwanda*).

He's made it clear that he can portray a savior to someone who has lost their way (*Reign Over Me*).

Hell, he's even proven that he can talk trash on the small screen (his appearance on *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* as Will's friend from Philly - Ice Try).

And then there's the gift to the ghettoes of America... his role as Rocket in the movie *Colors*.

Man, playing any part in a film like that... that would make anyone devote the rest of his career to reaching for higher standards.

But anyway - Cheadle's role as Pety Greene in *Talk To Me*... he's not trying to

be heroic.

In fact, there's a strong chance that he could be the victim who needs a savior this time. But it's not outright in your face, you've got to see all the layers.

The film is pretty easy to watch from start to finish... but the overall tone and context of *Talk To Me* does a complete 180 from start to finish. The screenplay subtly exposes a transformation in the actual style of theatre throughout, but you might just think you're along for the ride of Pety Greene's life.

The place is Washington D.C.

The year is... sometime in the mid-late 1960's.

Even while serving his sentence in a correctional facility, the indomitable Pety Greene just had to be heard.

Oh yeah - this movie is based on a true story, just thought I'd remind y'all.

Using the prison P.A. system, Pety Greene turns himself into an in-house legend by playing soul music and talking straight talk and giving the people the truth they deserve.

A fellow inmate just happens to have a brother who works in the real radio business and Pety sees his opportunity during visitation hours. Milo Hughes (Mike Epps) is a fellow inmate and his brother Dewey Hughes (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is the newly minted program director at D.C. station WOL.

He makes it a point to remind folks that he's just a thief and anyone doing crime is responsible for where they land, but even while landing

in prison... Pety Greene is a magnet. People love him.

And he's resourceful too. One day, an inmate climbs to the top of one of the prison buildings. He's running around half naked on the roof and making jokes about the warden's genitals. The place is going bananas!

The warden wants the man shot down but, much to his dismay, is advised that's not the right way to resolve this. So... they call for the help of Lorton Correctional Facility's number one personality... Pety Greene.

Pety makes a deal with the warden... talks dude down in less than two minutes.

Later... Pety remarks "yeah, I talked him down in less than five minutes... but it took me a year to convince him to climb up there" - LOL.

Now that's priceless, isn't it?

This film has heart and soul without bragging about it the way a lot of good movies do.

Honestly... this simmer has been historic in my opinion.

Hollywood complaining about losing money seems as ridiculous as airlines filing for bankruptcy.

A multi-billion-dollar industry with a small handful of companies shouldn't ever complain about financial woes.

But, it's not about how much they make - it's about how much they net.

The summer blockbuster season is to Hollywood what the holiday season is to retail. And for the past three or four years, most of the movies coming out between April and August either plain sucked or didn't make at the box office what they cost the studio to produce and market.

If you feel yourself lagging behind in a perfect storm of must-see films this summer,

It's not all in your head - IT'S REAL! Summer 2007 was perfectly orchestrated to save Tinsel Town's ass. The result is hit movie after hit movie after hit movie.

Hell, I didn't think *Shrek 3* was all that good - but it still brought in hundreds of millions of dollars.

I mean this season was just outrageous with the films... maan.

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer, *Live Free*

or *Die Hard*, *Spiderman 3*, *Transformers* - and new installments in the Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean franchise... ALL OF THOSE MOVIES at near or beyond grossing a quarter of a billion dollars each.

Then there's all the fuss about *The Simpsons*, *I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry* and *Rush Hour 3*. And *The Bourne Ultimatum* is going to be the biggest of them all.

How does a little flick about a late 60's era disc jockey even find a way to make waves in the midst of all that big bodging going on? Power to the people, isn't that what they said in the 60's? It's up to you all out there to go and support this joint. No special effects wizardry to have ya whole brain on lean as you're leaving the theatre. No steamy sex, no gun battles, no caped superheroes.

Just real talk.

The realest real talk, not that "real talk" some sorry rapper uses to discuss his rims and jewelry collection.

Real talk. Don Cheadle's portrayal of Pety Greene hits a particular nerve with me because I know ex-cons who come home and struggle with finding that identity for themselves.

But in their fight to let the past be the past there are always two distinct types of people in their circle.

Those who enable that person to be the same drinking, smoking, fighting, trash-talking person he was when he landed in jail.

And those who have learned how to navigate the system and want nothing more than to show others the way out of the hell they make for themselves. This is what art is SUPPOSED to do.

All the movies we watch and songs we listen to... they are SUPPOSED to touch a nerve.

Paying five bucks for bootlegs isn't just a problem for major corporations, it also says what we think about our art these days.

But our boy Don Cheadle, he brings a certain dislocated swag to Pety Greene that is so native to us as a people because in some way or another we all know this cat.

We've all encountered that person who won't compromise even when it seems to be in their best interest.

We all know that dude who has made dysfunctional seem functional.

And of course we all know that those of us with the most demons seem to be held highest by our masses.

Think of R. Kelly. Think of James Brown.

When it comes to connecting to the people, our people don't want clean and polished sales pitches.

They want the real thing. *Talk To Me* is the real thing. Dewey Hughes and Pety Greene are largely responsible for the foundation of what would later become the Radio One Network... the largest minority-owned radio conglomerate and the seventh largest company of its kind in the country.

Y'all remember my story on The Drummer and The Mad Hatter, local radio legends from back in the day?

My whole family connected with Lady J and I constantly big up local radio... with all of that, it was just kinda ill watching this film and seeing how radio used to be. It's crazy how day in day out I'm thinking of how I can get my artists/my music on the airwaves. And then a movie like *Talk To Me* shows another side of radio... the side where "rapping" to the people is more important than spins or ad revenue.

And like I said earlier, I don't even buy DVD's most of the time - but I'm gonna make sure to cop this one.

Go and see *Talk To Me*, and pay attention goddammit!

I'm about to be like Pety Greene ya'll. Say exactly what I want all the time.

Lets see if I can get the FCC all over my boss like he did back in his day - LOL (Fletcher, just kidding)

I'm giving this movie an A.

Oh yeah - shouts to Tommy K (another radio regional radio legend) for showing us love at our show in Adrian this past Friday.

U.G.E. is here whenever you need us.

Coming soon: Finding Forever, Common - album review

Conspiracy Theories - Hype You Should Believe! I'm signing off'y'all (what does signifying mean? anyone?)

Get at cha boy - glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

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For more information, call 419-245-1565.

Foreclosure Assistance


The Lucas County Foreclosure Prevention Task Force will be hosting two more public forums on foreclosure assistance on the following dates:

- Wednesday, August 8, 2007 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church, 640 Indiana Avenue, Toledo
- Wednesday, August 22, 2007 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Eleanor Kahle Senior Center, 1315 Hillcrest Ave., Toledo

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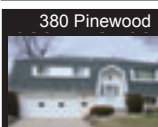
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Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is preparing to submit its Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008.

The Annual Plan is available for review at LMHA's Website (www.lucasmha.org). LMHA invites you to submit comment on the Annual Plan during the next 45 days. Please provide your comments no later than September 24, 2007, to lgarrett@lucasmha.org.

You are invited to a public hearing on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at 4:00 p.m., in the McClinton Nunn Community Building, 425 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604. This hearing will provide interested citizens with pertinent information regarding the strategic goals, and program activities of the LMHA. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and provide additional comments on the PHA Plan.

Should any attendee require auxiliary aids due to a disability, please contact the LMHA administrative office (419) 259-9457, at least one week prior to the hearing date to ensure your needs will be accommodated.

William J. Brennan, Chairman
Linnie B. Willis, Executive Director

Operations Supervisor

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To apply, e-mail resume to jobs@toledomuseum.org or mail to HR, Toledo Museum of Art, PO Box 1013, Toledo, OH 43697.

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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 ppnw.oh@ppnw.oh.org.

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ARCHITECT/ENGINEER REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) on behalf of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting qualifications from experienced architects/engineers to assist in the development of replacement housing units for the planned demolition and redevelopment of the Brand Whitlock and Albertus Brown Public Housing Sites (the "Sites").

The full RFQ can be obtained by contacting Mary Paumen at LISC by e-mail at mpaumen@lisc.org or by phone at 202-739-0887.

Minority-Owned and Women-Owned firms are encouraged to apply. LISC is an equal opportunity employer.

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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.

Motivations Salon's Hair and Fashion Show Moves Back to The Future

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Motivations Salon brought together a score of models, about a dozen vendors, a handful of stylists and makeup artists, a couple of fashion designers and a local comedian and dazzled an appreciative audience on Sunday, July 29 at the Civic Center Promenade in the Erie Street Market.

Bernard Culpepper of Detroit and Toledoan Isha Darrington were the true stars of the evening as they presented period-piece designs from the past 40 years culminating in the grande finale with some glimpses into what the future may look like. One of those futuristic designs came courtesy of Motivations Salon owner Michelle Clark's daughter Moira Evans with her award-winning woven-hair creations.

The purpose for the event, according to Clark, was to thank the community for the success of Motivations, which has been in operation since 1992. The Back to the Future gala opened by celebrating the makeover of six residents of the Sparrow's Nest, a women's shelter. Proceeds were donated to the shelter as well.

"We wanted to give back to the community so we chose to donate our time to the Sparrow's Nest," said Clark. "We intend to do this every year with one of the women's shelters in town."

