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“We need to reach more women. It is part of our mission of improving the human condition. We need to address domestic violence and intimate violence and educate people about that. We want to eliminate that as an issue in families and communities.”

This Strikes Me ...

The O.O.P.S. Factor: Oprah-Obama, Political Suicide?

Commentary By Geneva Chapman
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Barak Obama's endorsement by billionaire TV star Oprah Winfrey may make it difficult for him to continue in the role of "man of the people."

Sure Oprah is perceived as the warm shoulder everybody wants to cry on, but she's no more the middle class soccer mom than George Bush is the good ol' boy buying drinks for his buddies at the neighborhood bar. Perhaps that explains the president's appearance on Oprah's show just before the 2004 election: two posers making nice for a TV audience full of voters and viewers ... their "raisons d'etre," respectively.

But back to Obama. Say Oprah pulls it off and gets her man in the White House (remember, first he has to get the nomination as the Democrats' candidate). What will she get out of it? Probably nothing more than the satisfaction of being a kingmaker, that rarest of powerbrokers who can select heads of state.

Regardless of whether true or not, people would probably think that the Big O owned a president she "single-handedly" put in office (there is a little thing called an election that has always been a factor in choosing U.S. presidents - well, until the last two, anyway, if you ask certain disgruntled parties, including yours truly).

One more politician at the beck and call of Big Business. Make no mistake about it, with HARPO Productions, her magazine and other interests, Oprah is BIG Business with three capital B's, and that last one stands for the billions she's worth. Just as veep Cheney has been viewed as the political pawn of Halliburton, Obama could very well be viewed as Oprah's "Man in the Big House" should he get elected President.

Although, close association with a corporate giant hasn't hurt Mr. Cheney, despite all of the negative press.

So Obama might survive the cheap shots about being bought and paid for by a TV star. But what about the feminists and other assorted women's factions? Will Obama lose the support of women if he takes away our only hope of having a woman for President? Don't get me wrong. As an African-American female, I am thrilled to have both an African-American and a woman vying for the top job in our government.

Actually, as a proponent of laying claim to our unique heritage of having roots in Africa and descending from African slaves, their white owners and native tribes, I think Obama is representative of this unique mixture of races that I call AfrAm (a blending of the words African and American in the tradition of the language created by African slaves). Although his connections with slavery aren't as extensive as most of those of us that were born here, since he is only one generation removed from Africa (I understand some of his mother's ancestors owned slaves), he is, like us, a blend of cultures, ethnicities and races; which makes him very American.

But we could have a **woman for President!** I would have bet that Oprah would have put her influence and money behind the first viable woman candidate for the office, since she has been a champion for women's issues all these years.

Perhaps she can prevail on Obama to choose a female running mate if he gets the nomination. I guess she could take that spot, but I'm not sure she can stand up to the pressure of running for office in this country. One weepfest and she's history!

No, he'd be better off choosing Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (the first woman speaker!) or his worthy opponent, Senator Hillary Clinton - that is if either of these formidable women would assent to being his second in command.

Perhaps, he should cross party lines and choose a woman who seems to be content standing in the shadow of a powerful man, Condoleezza Rice.

At any rate, Oprah's endorsement of Obama does present a variety of possible problems, any of which could cost him the nomination, or, should he wrangle that, the election. Think about it. The majority of American voters are women. It's rather doubtful that even Ms. "I'm Every Woman" can convince her network of sisters, survivors, big losers and book lovers to vote for any man, even one as charismatic as Obama, when they could put a woman in the White House - finally!

OOPS! Nice try, Oprah. Maybe you should have backed Hillary.

Community Calendar

*September 17-22

JJ Express Drill & Drum Corp annual tryouts; Car Spa at Dorr and Upton; 5 pm each day: 419-514-6580

*September 21

Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge Hall; 11 am to 5 pm

*September 22

End-of-the-Summer Chicken Barbecue: Margaret Hunt Senior Center; 1 to 4 pm; John Pickle performs; Games and bingo: 419-385-2595

Free Car Wash: Support Scott High School Band; 10 am to 5 pm; School parking lot: 419-866-3831

Tommy Kaye's Old School Hip Hop Party @ L.A. Cafe 4460 W. Maumee Adrian, Michigan; call 419-727-1185 for more info

*September 29

Monroe Street Neighborhood Center; Parents Week Neighborhood Fair; 10 am to noon; Food, cooking, dancing, sewing: 419-473-1167

Connecting Point's Dream Ride: Motorcycle Poker Run to benefit kids and their dreams; 10 am; Toledo Harley Davidson on Central; Registration at 10 am; First bike out at noon led by Mike Bell; Parking lot party, 3 to 7 pm: 419-243-6326

Daughters of Isis: Commandress Ball; 6 to 10 pm; Park Inn: 419-382-7283

*September 30

A Wine Event: Wine sampling session for wine makers; 4 to 7 pm; Bring a bottle of home-made wine for tasting: 419-241-2632

Transportation Ministry of United Missionary Baptist Church: "Male Voices" spiritual musical; 4 pm

*October 6

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

*October 7

52nd Annual Women's Day Program: St Mark MBC; Morning speaker - Sis. Tammy Freeman of Columbus; Evening speaker - Sis. Willie Mae Ellis: 419-241-1726

*October 12-14

Scott High School 30th Year Reunion: Call 419-244-3677 or email scotthighschool30years@yahoo.com to register

*October 13

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

*October 20

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

*October 26-27

Revival: Youth, young adults and adults; Revival vy Trendsetta! Inc; Guest speaker Pastor Weldon Smith IV of New Life Community Church: 419-870-7335

*October 27

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

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Enough Is Enough



By Bishop Stephen Ward
Guest Editorial

It is time for us to address the social and civic injustice and discord that permeates from the 22nd floor of Government Center and embraces unethical values that zero into and destroys the zenith of one's character, while plaguing communities and families...yes, innocent citizens of Toledo.

Upon Carleton Finkbeiner taking leadership of this city as mayor, he listed 34-campaign pledges. He stated that his administration would unite and promote, in every way possible, a clean, green, and safe city with vibrant colors everywhere – a city that inspires our citizens to improve our neighborhoods,

educate our children, and create jobs that offer a future in their hometown.

Mayor Finkbeiner stated that job creation comes with an environment that invites new investment in our city. He stated that he would focus on building and maintaining the business base of Toledo, to ensure jobs, and opportunity for all.

He stated that too many Toledoans lack pride and confidence. Pride in our past, pride in our present and confidence in our future. Mayor Finkbeiner stated that he promoted full accountability for all city employees, and that even during the difficult times the citizens of Toledo would receive the best quality services we can deliver to them.

We are here to say that Mayor Finkbeiner has been a golden child in front of the cameras during election time, but he has been a deceptive advocate, a drum major for injustice behind close doors. We recommend that the \$9,996 shower on the 22nd floor of Government Center be used to wash away the injustice and the malfeasance that stains this city.

Please allow me to state the facts:

In May 2006 he called Toledo's first African-American Fire Chief...King Kong. He later violated the First Amendment Provisions regarding Freedom of the Press, when his press secretary forcibly kept a WSPD reporter out of a public press conference. He also disregarded and discredited Michael Ashford as being elected city council president. He accused Gary Daugherty, a respectable man with an engineering degree, as being lazy.

He fired the Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance Director Perlean Griffin, and he also stated that those city directors who spoke to Perlean Griffin would also be dealt with. Which brings me to this...

Dwayne Morehead did not heed the strong-armed threats of Mayor Finkbeiner, but rather chose the path of righteousness by standing for what was right. Because Morehead continued to speak with Perlean Griffin, he was demoted from being the co-director of the city's Youth Commission to being an administrative specialist, and was placed on a 30-day probation period and was instructed to report to Juanita

Greene who is the executive director of the Board of Community Relations. He knew that he was being set-up to be fired. Dwayne Morehead has become a casualty of the cause of injustice.

On April 18, 2007 Dwayne Morehead received a letter signed by Mayor Finkbeiner congratulating him on being nominated for the 2006 Toledoan of the Year Awards, and expressing his gratitude for and for the outstanding work he has done in this city.

Those same qualities that allowed Morehead to be nominated, also gave him the courage and the strength to stand up for what is right. In doing so, On June 29 Dwayne Morehead was suspended for 30 days and recently he was fired.

Mayor Finkbeiner, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! We will no longer be strong-armed. We send a message that we will not lie down on the bed of injustice, but that we will stand up and ensure that everyone is protected equally, fairly, equitably and that everyone has the same opportunity. This issue is one of race and it is about doing what is ethical, what is morally right. We all have a civil right to success. That is not a privilege, it is a civil right!

We charge Mayor Finkbeiner with being out of order and in direct disobedience and violation to the Family Medical Leave Act which states: Employees are entitled to leave from employment due to a serious health condition. The Family Medical Leave Act states that the employee provide a certification from a health care provider.

We send a clarion call that Dwayne Morehead has been fired due to retaliation. We proclaim that Morehead has legitimate disease conditions that are under the care and supervision of Dr. Baldwin, who submitted the proper paperwork stating that Morehead could not report to work, and that he is to be on medical leave. Mayor Finkbeiner and Juanita Greene blatantly ignored and discredited the professional experience of Dr. Baldwin, by rejecting and ignoring her assessment of Dwayne Morehead's condition of illness.

We will not tolerate or ignore Mayor Finkbeiner's tactics in the dismissal of Dwayne Morehead or any other city employee unjustly...regardless of your race. This is an issue of morality that not only affects one, but it affects an entire family. It affects the lives of Morehead's six children and wife at home. It affects the citizens of Toledo, it discredits the phrase "Toledo Pride."

This is not about what party you're part of, this is about right and wrong...the conscience of this city.

Since its inception in 1946, The Board of Community Relations has served the conscience of this city, and as such, has sought to create a heightened sense of awareness that inequality and discrimination still exist. The board exists to promote, empower and support citizens to create social justice, equal opportunity and a harmonious environment. They are to intervene in conflicts and disputes, by providing investigation into unlawful discriminatory practices.

Because Morehead's termination letter was signed by Juanita Greene by the orders of Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner, this creates an unethical conflict of interest for the Board of Community Relations to do there job by investigating this matter. Morehead has a charge with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission against the Executive Director of the Board of Community Relations, Juanita Greene. Therefore, any investigation conducted by the board would surely be bias...as Juanita Greene is the one who does the investigations, and surely it would be unprofessional and unethical for her to investigate herself concerning this matter. In addition, Mayor Finkbeiner can not ignore and he can not minimize the charges for his actions. The facts don't lie. In addition, Brian Schwartz, the mayor's public information officer, someone who gets paid to speak for the Mayor...stated on a local blog website called Swamp Bubbles...that Morehead should be fired! Brian Schwartz also stated that Morehead should be grateful the mayor took him from a blue-collar worker to management, and that Morehead betrayed the mayor. Isn't it a big coincidence...that the suspension letter given to Dwayne Morehead stated that all the problems began on or about March 7, 2007...which happens to be the day after Morehead filed charges against the Finkbeiner administration?

In addition, at a press conference on Monday, September 10, 2007 Brian Schwartz passed out the employee file of Dwayne Morehead outside of Government Center to anyone who wanted it. First and foremost, this just shows that the Finkbeiner administration is desperate and will do anything they can to discredit Morehead. In addition, we obtained the files and isn't it interesting that the letter that Mayor Finkbeiner sent Mr.

Morehead congratulating him for being nominated for the Toledoan of the Year Award wasn't in his file? Also there are NO violations or disciplinary issues noted in Morehead's file from Finkbeiner's inauguration in January 2005 until March 2007 incidents that began with his demotionthe day after Morehead filed his charges against Finkbeiner!

Perhaps the Finkbeiner administration should study the law a bit more, before passing out employee files to total strangers at will. The law states: "The public has a right to know certain information about its employees, such as name, work address, salary, job classification and title, job performance. (See R.C. 124.09(C), R.C. 149.43(B)(1)). However, a public employee also has the right to non-disclosure of personal or confidential information contained in his or her personnel file. In applying the Public Records Act to public record requests involving personnel files of governmental employees, the Ohio Supreme Court has balanced the public's interest in accessing public records against the employee's interest in protecting his or her privacy.

In State ex rel. Fant v. Enright (1993), 66 Ohio St.3d 186, Appellant made a public records request of the Clerk of Courts of Franklin County to inspect the personnel file of the former Franklin County Deputy Clerk. The Clerk of Courts refused to release the requested personnel file for inspection; Appellant filed a complaint for a writ of mandamus to compel release of the personnel file. The lower court denied the writ. On appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court emphasized that an item contained in a personnel file is a public record only when it is kept by a public office and serves to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations or other activities of the office.

The Court observed that not all information contained in a personnel file would be considered a public record and that, pursuant to R.C. 1347.01(E), a public office has an affirmative duty to protect from disclosure personal or confidential information contained in a personnel file. Accordingly, the personal or confidential information must be redacted or removed from the personnel file prior to inspection and/or copying. (See, also Sunshine Laws Update (May 2001), Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery; Sunshine Law An Update, Public Practice Continuation) (Continued on Page 6)



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The Week in Local Politics: Candidates Lined up for General Election

*By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor*

One of the few election surprises last week in the Toledo City Council district primary contests was the victory of D. Michael Collins. The retired Toledo Police Department officer finished second in the 10-person scramble in District 2. He and top finisher, Democrat Molly McHugh Branyan, will compete for the district seat in the November general election.

Collins and his wife put up \$2,000 of their own money and refused offers of all other contributions in the run-up to the September 11 primary. He targeted independent and Republican voters in his door-to-door efforts calculating that his higher profile Democratic opponents – Karen Shanahan and Ed Cichy – had a stranglehold on Democratic voters.

“Are we viable?” Collins asked of his campaign for elective office. If not, he did not want to waste others’ money in a futile effort.

That test certainly has been passed, viability has been demonstrated and now the first-time candidate who is running as an independent will put together a more conventional campaign in his general election battle against Branyan, daughter of former Mayor John McHugh,

he has an uphill fight against the Branyan juggernaut. Branyan finished on top with more than 21 percent of the vote in the crowded field – more than five percentage points than Collins tallied.

It could not have taken anyone by surprise that incumbent Republican Councilman Joe Birmingham fin-



Ronnell Traynum

ished out of the running in his District 6 contest against endorsed Democrat Lindsay Webb and Green Party candidate David Ball. Apparently the results did indeed shock Birmingham who failed to either campaign for re-election or to use the power of the

14.72 percent of the vote – 10 votes ahead of third-place finisher Thomas Meinecke. Terry Shankland finished fourth.

Traynum conducted her campaign with even fewer funds than Collins had at his disposal in his District 2 con-

experience in elective politics and her campaign staff had none either. Will experienced volunteers step forward now to lend a hand?

In other local political news, a complaint filed against Lisa Canales, president of the Washington Local School Board who is up for re-election this year, was tossed out by the Lucas County Board of Elections last Thursday during a hearing on the matter. The board ruled that Canales can stay on the ballot.

Ronald Levi, a challenger for the board seat, had filed a complaint charging that Canales, who missed two campaign filing deadlines in previous elections, could not be on this year’s ballot.

But as Canales noted, those problems with the Ohio Elections Commission have been resolved and she has been informed that her campaign will only be faced with a \$250 fine for the filing delays. However, regardless of the status of those filings,



Lisa Canales

the Board of Elections noted that by state law she could not be kept off of the ballot over such tardiness. The complaint was dismissed.

Canales is a long-time member of the Washington Local School board and the district has been rated as “ef-

fective” on the State of Ohio report card passing 22 out of 30 possible standards. Toledo Public Schools slipped into the “academic watch” category this year after three years in “continuous improvement.”



Ruth and Michael Ashford celebrate the president of City Council's birthday during backyard fundraiser

who is managing her campaign.

He will be seeking contributions and endorsements, particularly from his strong base of former and current police and fire department members and their unions.

Collins acknowledges that

incumbency to heighten his profile.

Webb finished first with a majority of the votes – 56.57 percent, while Ball, a three-time candidate for the District 6 post, garnered almost 25 percent. That left Birmingham with a paltry 18.63 per-

cent. Calling for a change in her District 4 push, Traynum, a nurse and the founder of GirlsSense (Young Girls on the Move), a mentoring group for young girls, relied almost solely on a door-to-door effort.

Traynum had virtually no



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Professor Charlene Gilbert: Acclaimed Filmmaker Now Focuses upon Improving Lives of NW Ohio Women

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

She's a highly acclaimed award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work explores American culture, history and the social constructions of both gender and race.

She is also a tenured full professor in The University of Toledo's Women's and Gender studies program.

And since Aug. 1, Charlene Gilbert has been the director of the Catherine S. Eberly Center for Women on UT's campus—becoming the first African American to serve as permanent director of the resource center.

So how does she do it all and still find the time to be a loving and devoted mother to her two young daughters?

"When you're a mother with two kids, you learn not to waste time," says Gilbert, who is also now editing a documentary project on Juvenile Justice she hopes to complete next year.

Gilbert's first feature documentary film, *Home-*

coming, Sometimes I am haunted by memories of red dirt and clay, received its national premiere on PBS. Widely recognized as being the first film to explore the rural roots of African-American life, it earned her the NBPC Prized Pieces Award for Best Documentary in 1999 and the Paul Robeson



Award for Best Documentary the following year.

Quinn Eli, a companion book to the film titled *Homecoming: The Story of African American Farmers*, which was published by Beacon Press.

Her most recent documentary, *Children Will Listen*, also received a national primetime premiere on PBS in the fall of 2004. That film

tracks the junior production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* featuring 140

Washington, D.C. public school children.

Both films will be shown to the public at UT in the Center for Performing Arts Room 1039 on Mon. Sept. 24 at 7:30 pm.

Gilbert has successfully channeled her passion for filmmaking into a vehicle for social change and social justice.

As Pat Murphy, Gilbert's immediate predecessor at the Eberly Center said, "Charlene brings a new level of creativity and energy to the center as evidenced by her experience as a documentary filmmaker."

Gilbert's films and videos have been screened at

vocate when I was a rape crisis counselor," recalls Gilbert. "I later became an activist and legislative coordinator for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless when I realized that so many of the homeless families were headed by women," she adds.

As she also told a reporter from the *Blade* last week, Gilbert believes she has a "responsibility and commitment to do whatever I can do in my lifetime to enhance the lives of women, people of color and poor people."

"We need to reach more women," Gilbert told *The Sojourner's Truth*. "It is part of our mission of improving

She points to the Single Mom Support Group, which met Sept. 19, and is "focused upon particular needs and situations facing single mothers such as child care."

Gilbert also plans to maximize using the Internet as a resource. "We are revamping our Web site which will be totally new and operational by Jan. 1. It is an important element of the social network."

"We are also trying to find public partners. I hope that we can work together with [Toledo Public Schools] in a program that would also leverage women and girls in schools," says Gilbert.

"I also want to build com-

"[I want] to create a center that is a safe, nurturing and enriching environment for a broad spectrum of women both on campus and in the surrounding Toledo Community."

numerous international and national festivals including the Athens International Film and Video Festival, the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, the Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, the Women in the Director's Chair Festival, the Chicago International Television Festival and the Silverdocs AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival.

She has received several awards and fellowships including Harvard University's Bunting Fellowship, the Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship and the Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship award.

Gilbert was born in Montezuma, Georgia, near Warner Robins. She is the daughter of Charles Gilbert, Ph.D. (his doctorate is in organization management) and Earlene Gilbert. She has one brother, Chuck Gilbert.

Charlene Gilbert received her bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Yale University and her Master of Fine Arts degree in film and media from Temple University.

She came to UT from the School of Communication at American University in Washington, D.C. where she was an associate professor for six years. Previously Gilbert taught at SUNY Buffalo, which put her just a short drive on the QEW away from the state-of-the-art film editing studios in Toronto.

Gilbert's credentials in women's and gender studies are equally as impressive. "I became a public ad-

the human condition. We need to address domestic violence and intimate violence and educate people about that. We want to eliminate that as an issue in families and communities."

The center is also in the forefront of an innovative program on why Muslim families should be free of domestic violence.

"My goal is to bring the Eberly Center in front of the community. I want to get the word out on the center. I want to make sure all women know that the doors are open. Our resources are valuable, take advantage of them."

"[I want] to create a center that is a safe, nurturing and enriching environment for a broad spectrum of women both on campus and in the surrounding Toledo Community. I want to build on the work that has been done for years here at the center through our Project Succeed program which serves women in transition as a result of a divorce, death of a spouse, a layoff or any other situation that requires a woman to move in new directions. The Center will continue to offer a variety of workshops and resources for women seeking assistance to move forward in terms of a career or higher education."

She is excited about the work the center is doing to support single mothers at UT. "Women with a college degree earn 75 percent more. A college education is an avenue available to most women," says Gilbert.

community partnerships with institutions serving girls in the greater Toledo area particularly around the development and support of girls interested in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine. I want to leverage the resources of the Center in a way that contributes to positive outcome for girls in a variety of situations throughout this region.

The center's Women in Transition Groups focus upon computer tutoring, assertiveness training for women, understanding self-esteem, returning to learning and they offer a stress reduction seminar.

Thursday Brown Bag Seminars at the center includes topics such as the Oct. 18 *Womanhood, HIV and Sexual Assault in Tanzania*.

Beginning this week and running until Nov. 16, the center is also hosting an art exhibition featuring photographs by Stephanie Matthews titled *Red Thread Photographic Collection, Vol. 1*. There will be a reception for the photographer on Oct. 4.

"I would be happy to speak to any group and to help with any issues relating to women," says Gilbert.

You can call her at (419) 530-8570 or visit womenscenter.utoledo.edu

Gilbert lives in Sylvania Twp. with her daughters Ashara, 8, and Simone, 4. "My youngest daughter is named after the legendary singer Nina Simone," explains Gilbert.

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Enough Is Enough

(Continued from Page 3)

ing Legal Education (November 2001), Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery – advises keeping confidential files in a separate drawer, file cabinet or office to reduce the possibility of someone reviewing an inappropriate file.)”

In addition, apparently in the files were offenses allegedly committed by Morehead under the Ford administration. There is only one problem, Morehead never worked for Mayor Ford, he was a union employee. Furthermore, the city rules state that the information was supposed to be removed 18 months after the document was placed in the file. It's been four years since the last document was placed in the file. It appears to me that this is such a gross injustice and the only thing the city can do to protect themselves is to slur Morehead. If the Finkbeiner administration is able to reveal Morehead's employee files to the general public ... than perhaps the general public should request to see the employee files of the Finkbeiner administration beginning with Mayor Finkbeiner himself.

Therefore, we are requesting that the NAACP, the To-

ledo Urban League along with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission fully investigate the wrongful discharge of Dwayne Morehead and report it's findings back to the citizens of Toledo. The citizens of Toledo have a right to hold Mayor Finkbeiner accountable for his frivolous actions.

Why should the NAACP and the Urban League get involved? According to the NAACP mission statement listed on their website it states, "they are to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination." According to the Urban League website their mission states they are to "enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. So, the question is...Why? Why don't the Toledo chapters of the NAACP and Urban League get involved?"

Where are the religious leaders? Being a religious leader is more than just going to church. It is not about having big billboards, selling chicken dinners, who has the most members or the biggest church ... what about being

involved and caring about the injustice that often affects the lives of so many people. When will we as leaders stop trying to build megachurches? When will we learn to stop using hurting people coming to us for help, as a way to get rich off their tithes and offerings? When will we stop expecting the people to serve us? As pastors ... we are to serve the people! It is time for the religious community to wake up and realize that it is not about us, and it has never been about us. It is time for us to take a stand against the injustices that continue to happen within this city ... after all, we should consider Matthew 25:31-46.

In conclusion, we are cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities. We cannot sit idly by and not be concerned about what is happening in this city. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Toledo Pride, Toledo Pride ... Mayor Finkbeiner, pride comes before a fall. And if this city falls, it is only a direct reflection of its leadership.

Library Starts Replacement Levy Campaign

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library has placed a two-mill, five-year replacement levy on this year's ballot for the November general election. Last week, library staff, associated groups, elected officials and a host of other volunteers and supporters gathered to jump start the campaign to convince voters that the levy is essential

nearly half of our budget will be dramatically cut," said Library Director Clyde Scoles. "We will need to close some of our branches, cut Sunday hours and reduce staffing if this replacement levy is not approved."

"We are a creative people," said Toledo City Councilman Joe McNamara during his speech in support of the levy. "We need to make sure innovators have re-

The levy kick-off featured the music of Steve Jada and Joe Koziarski who led the audience of about 100 – most of whom were clad in the library's signature red color – in their rendition of "Read to Me."

In addition to McNamara, the featured speakers also included Bob and Kathie Maxwell, who are serving as the honorary chairmen of the levy campaign; President of the Lucas County Commissioners Tina Skeldon Wozniak; Jamie black, secretary of the library's Board of Trustees; Chuck Shaub, president of the Library Legacy Foundation, Ernie Walker and Dennis Wisebaker of the Friends of the Library; Jon Henley, unit director for the Communication Workers of America Local 4319; David Lutz of the Association of Public Library Employees, David McClellan of the United Auto Workers, Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and Margaret Danziger, deputy director of the Library.

"I cannot understand why so many people speak so critically of Toledo when so many are coming back (Continued on Page 13)



Photo by: Lisa Schmidt

for the continued success of the library system.

"It the levy does not pass,

sources. The libraries are the cornerstones of our neighborhoods."

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The Return of *My Real Name*

By Carol Chehade
Special to The Truth

In February 2007, Celia Williamson, Ph.D., of Second Chance and the founder of the Conference for Prostitution, which is being held on September 27 and 28 at the University of Toledo Student Union afforded me the opportunity to debut the play I created titled *My Real Name*.

I have since been blessed to do two more shows in Toledo, with added shows in Grand Rapids, MI and San Francisco, CA, and there are other tentative performances in the works.

I hate to call it a play because when we are up there, we are not doing anything remotely close to playing. We are reflecting real life. Although the play concentrates on sex trafficking and prostitution, the essence of this

play is about the labels ALL people get stuck with, the labels that others give us rather than our having the power to label or not label ourselves.

What inspired the dramatic portrayal is as closely linked as to who inspired it. The label of *survivor* is over-used. It is not enough to physically survive something. Anyone can do that. Real survivors are rare.

A real survivor is free from treachery and bitterness of the streets. When you look at them you see a warrior of peace. You feel redemptive and strong, somehow better around them. They do not make you feel bad about yourself or fearful for your safety. They inspire purity of heart.

You cannot believe that this person survived hell because they shine with the

addictive light of God. That is a survivor.

All the women and men in the play are made of that light. I am very picky about who represents *My Real Name* because there are a lot who haven't yet reached their heights or their lights. The men and women of the play have been my extended family.

The first time I did the play, I was due with my baby in four weeks, had just lost my job with nobody remotely interested in hiring a pregnant woman, was behind on all my bills and rent and had all kinds of negative people trying to block my creative flow with their envy and negativity.

In reality, these people weren't blocking the higher message we were trying to share, they were really block-

ing the Christ-consciousness within them. During that time, the people I met who inspired these stories, who donated their time to be in the play, were my spiritual currency. I am forever loyal to them.

What attracted me to the issue of sex trafficking is sex

from that cycle and reminds the world about keeping to the path of true freedom. I have met them and they are anointed.

Those who saw the show in February will see a different show this time around. We have added different stories, as well as a photo slide

liveries, perfect lines. This is real life with all its bumps and bruises in full view. It is us. That is why people who most judge men and women who have been sex trafficked and prostituted are really judging their own blindness.

Those who most harshly judge our street warriors have



About 482,000 More Homeowners Have Applied for Property Tax relief Tax Commissioner: Deadline is Oct. 1

Time is running out to sign up for the newly-expanded homestead exemption, which offers more than a half million additional senior citizens and disabled Ohioans hundreds of dollars of property tax savings starting with taxes paid next year.

Tax Commissioner Richard A. Levin said today that county auditors must receive homestead exemption applications by Oct. 1 in order for taxpayers to receive property tax relief on their 2007 bills, which are payable next year. Forms postmarked by Oct. 1 – but received after that day – will not be accepted by auditors, he said.

“Homeowners who haven't signed up yet need to act fast,” Levin said. “Get that application in the mail today. Or, better yet, pay a visit to your local county auditor.”

Fortunately, hundreds of thousands of Ohioans have already signed up for the newly-expanded exemption, according to a new

survey of county auditors. (Note: County-by-county results are available on the department's Web site.)

The statewide survey shows that an estimated 482,000 senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans had applied for the property tax relief program as of Thursday, Sept. 13. That's nearly 88 percent of the estimated 550,000 additional homeowners thought to be eligible.

“Ohio's county auditors are doing an outstanding job getting the word out,” Levin said. “Still, it's clear that there are more Ohioans out there eligible for meaningful property tax relief.”

The above figures do not include approximately 224,000 homeowners who were already signed up under the old homestead exemption rules, which excluded Ohioans who earned more than \$26,200. Homeowners who were already signed up for the homestead exemption be-

fore July 1 do not have to reapply.

The expansion of the homestead exemption was a key component of the two-year state budget bill signed into law on June 30 by Governor Ted Strickland. The changes generally mean that, regardless of income, senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans who owned their home on Jan. 1 may shield \$25,000 of the market value of their home from property taxes.

The exact amount of savings from the exemption, which is nonrefundable, will vary from community to community based on local tax rates. On average across Ohio, newly-signed up homeowners are expected to save about \$400 per year.

Applications for the homestead exemption are available from any county auditor or on the Ohio Department of Taxation's Web site: www.tax.ohio.gov.

itself. Sexuality is one of the most beautiful parts of our humanity. It is a divine expression of physical creation and pleasure. To have something so powerful be whored and crowded on auction blocks of the world stage is blasphemous.

Only evil can take something breathtaking in its scope and turn it into something destructive instead of creative. It robs freedom because we become trained to see ourselves as mere body parts – a mouth, a vagina, a hand, or anything on our bodies that can be turned into a receptacle – all of which will do whatever necessary to fill humanity's void for the right price.

We literally become bonded and branded to being defined as a body that becomes interchangeable for newer parts that are worth more. What does that do to the liberation of our souls?

There is a price and it is much higher than any trick can ever pay. The more choices one has the more freedom they have. Everyone is entitled to a choice but when one has been exploited by molestation, rape, inequality, violence and poverty, the choices are oppressive.

Sex trafficking exploits that oppression. It is modern-day slavery. But there is nothing more incredible than when that slave runs away

show being mounted behind the stage that documents very powerful images of street life. This is an ever-evolving experience.

We are currently interviewing child soldiers in the Philippines and prisoners in the notorious Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York. We are adding all voices of the oppressed who are surviving.

The Toledo community has impressed me with its communal blanket of support to myself, the eloquent survivors and talented actors of this play. I feel honored to perform for Toledo. Toledo responded well because there are so many creative beings and survivors in the city that care and want to be part of the solution in a creative way.

A true artist sees everything as connected. The people on the stage are connected to that person at her computer who is getting her GED so she can have a better life. It is the human drama where life is less about right and wrong and much more about live and learn.

We are as much connected in our oppression as we are in our freedom. We need to learn how to be a community, with all our differences and commonalities. This isn't conventional theater where they will hear perfect stories, with perfect de-

also been trafficked and prostituted because they allowed their very own souls to be trafficked and prostituted by their disconnection from the struggle. You want to find out our real name? Come and maybe you will share your real name with us too.

Thursday, September 27th, 2007 at 7:00pm

Located at Scott Park Auditorium

On the corner of Nebraska & Parkside

And Friday, September 28th, 2007 at 7:00pm

Located at The University of Toledo Doerman Theater Located at 2801 W. Bancroft St

Please call for tickets or questions: (419) 244-6050

Or stop by to purchase tickets between 9-4pm at Toledo Area Ministries located at 444 Floyd St. (off Collingwood, near Bancroft) or at the University of Toledo, Social Work Department in the Health & Human Services Bldg, Room 2630 on the main campus (2801 W. Bancroft St.)

*Also, the Prostitution Conference is on September 27 & 28 at Student Union from 8am to 5pm,

To Place an ad
Call Pam
at
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MTV Celebrities To Raise Money For Ohio Flood Charity Event September 29, 2007

Special to the Truth ~On Saturday September 29, the winners of MTV's #1 rated reality show talent competition "Making The Band 4" will appear in Toledo to help raise funds for flood victims of the North Central Ohio Flood devastation. The event, coordinated

Que, Mike and Robert—out sung and out danced thousands of contestants to win the record deal with music mogul Sean "Diddy" Comb's "Bad Boy" label. The last singers to do so now comprise the group "Danity Kane", who have since achieved double platinum record sales and

at www.ahluve.com. Additionally, the MTV celebrities will lend their appearance to an adult only evening gala at 20 North Art Gallery (18 North St. Clair). The silent auction, from 6-8 PM will offer unique and special gifts, hors d'oeuvres, fine wine and



by Ahluve Consulting in cooperation with The Findlay Ohio Red Cross, will raise money to aid victims in Hancock, Putnam, Hardin, Seneca, Wyandot, Crawford, Richland County and Allen Counties.

"Making The Band 4" was ranked #1 in its time period among females ages 12-34 versus all cable nets this summer and reached over 57.5 million total viewers. The soul singers—Will, Brian A.,

will release their second album in 2008.

This season's stars of "Making The Band 4" will serve as judges at a charitable event entitled "Dancing FOR the Stars" at the Maumee Indoor Theater on Saturday September 29. The open dance competition, from 11-2 P.M., will feature local talented teens that can dance and win the grand prize, a chance to have lunch with the band. Registration forms for interested young dancers are available

at www.ahluve.com. Additionally, the MTV celebrities will lend their appearance to an adult only evening gala at 20 North Art Gallery (18 North St. Clair). The silent auction, from 6-8 PM will offer unique and special gifts, hors d'oeuvres, fine wine and

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ALMA DRUM & DANCE PRESENTS A 4-WEEK SERIES OF WEST AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES IN MONCLOVA THIS MONTH

A four-week series of introductory West African dance classes begins this month in Monclova, Ohio. The classes run on Thursday evenings, from September 20 through October 11, 2007, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The classes will take place in the studio of Still Waters Yoga, located in the Monclova Community Center, 8115 Monclova Rd, in Monclova Ohio (www.stillwatersyoga.com).

The classes are \$10 per individual session, but with pre-registration, four classes are only \$35. Participants are encouraged to pre-register by calling 419-810-2800.

Commissioners Help Hendricks Celebrate His 86th

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"This is by far the best commissioners' meeting of the year," exclaimed Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop after Toledo legend Jon Hendricks and a few of his friends had entertained the packed chambers of the commissioners on Tuesday morning.

The occasion was Hendricks' 86th birthday.

Hendricks, a distinguished professor of jazz history at The University of Toledo and the recipient of numerous awards and accolades during his career of scat singing, was joined by bassist Clifford Murphy, pianist Claude Black and his daughter Aria Hendricks in a rare early morning jazz session.



"We are honored and grateful to have him here," said Konop.

Aria Hendricks enthralled the audience with her reminiscences of growing up un-

der the jazz tutelage of her eminent father. "Thank you for giving me the gift of jazz," she told him. "It's like being one with your art."

ONE NEW EARTH In Conjunction With SECOND CHANCE PRESENTS

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My Name is Auctioned.
My Name is Acquired.

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EVERY MINUTE SOMEBODY GETS OFF FROM THIS TRADING BLOCK AND IT IS NOT THOSE WHO ARE PROSTITUTED.

Come listen at the streets school you see how the world's auction blocks get crowded by sharing MY REAL NAME. A theatrical play that doesn't play with the real life stories from the underground.

Thursday, September 27th, 2007 at 7:00pm
At Scott Park Auditorium (Located on the corner of Nebraska & Parkside)

Friday, September 28th, 2007 at 7:00pm
At The University of Toledo Doornan Theater (Located at 2901 W. Bancroft St.)

For Tickets & Info. Please Call: (419) 244-6050

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Artomatic 419 Lite Breathes Life into fort Industry Square

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Artomatic 419 last year was amazing, but this year the paired-down version may

Fort Industry Square. It's sad, but I guess I'm so much of a Toledo person that maybe I shouldn't be surprised when other folks don't

headquarters in that joint.

But, anyway, Artomatic 419 Lite made 2007 a vast improvement by filling three separate wings of Fort Industry Square. On the Water Street level, an art for sale gallery and an open sound stage greet visitors. Live music courtesy of local acts such as neo-soul singer/songwriter Yasu as well as rock band Phantasmagoria and hip-hop collective Great Lakes Crew were all on point.

I witnessed all of those acts personally and I can tell you, they were all amazing. Each gave the type of show

that made you say "Damn, I wish more people were here to see this."

Oh yeah, while those acts and many others were on stage.... there was a tattoo artist at the back of the room laying down ink on whomever wanted it.

Upstairs, Hylife Media was hosting poetry.

Spoken Word heavyweights Imani Lateef and John Dorsey blessed the spot as well as a newcomer ... I can't remember her name (sorry) – but she was amazing.

She's a regular at Hylife's



have actually outdone the original in many ways.

Born in DC, Artomatic is a clash of local art of all kinds under one roof for a few weeks.

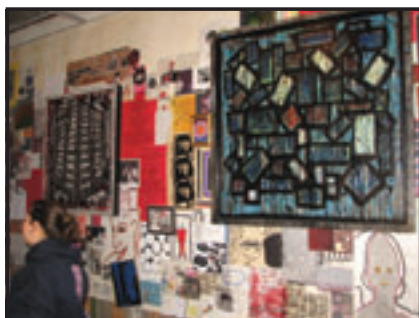
After years in the chocolate city, this event made its way to the Glass City last year.

But this year the venue alone was enough to pique my interest.

know about this historical landmark.

Downtown on Summit St. directly between the Maumee River and the Seagate Center is a block-long brick four-story building that is probably one of the oldest usable structures in the state. Fort Industry Square is a beautiful building.

I've always dreamed of having our record company



Yasu

Monday night Poetry at Club Prestige... she does this piece called "C.O.P." – my favorite official favorite poem of 2007.

And then on the fourth floor there was even more visual art.

And I mean literally amazing pieces of any type you can imagine.

Photography. Still life painting. Pencil drawing.

Anything! I was in Ashley Eichner's

gallery for a while and I was amazed.



Imani Lateef

The whole event was punctuated by that atmosphere down there at Fort Industry Square.

Right on the water with a view of the downtown area, it was easy to appreciate all our city has to offer.

Some would end up saying "you almost forget you're in Toledo... this is really nice."

But for those in the know.... going to an event with forward-thinking individuals who have created an atmosphere of expression and power... that sounds like the Toledo I know.

And that was the point. Good job, Artomatic 419! (Marc Folk – getatme!!... got idea for this art district)

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

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No More Starving ARTISTS For Visual, Performance and Literary Arts

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and Arts Council Lake Erie West present, **No More Starving Artists: For Visual, Performance and Literary Arts** on September 13 and 26, and October 3 and 17 at Main Library, 325 Michigan Street.

At these presentations, artists will discover sources of grant money, the ins and outs of proposal writing and copyright for individual artists. The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo (ACGT) will join the programs as participants all take part in Artomatic 419 Lite (www.acgt.org)

Programs include:

*Wednesday, September 26 – **Grant Writing for the Individual Artist (Sky Bank Meeting Room):** 6:30-8 p.m. **Martin Nagy**, Executive Director of Arts Council Lake Erie West, will lead a session instructing the individual artist on effective grant writing. This session is limited to 25 people. **Registration required. Call 419.259.5209.**

*Wednesday, October 3 – **What the Artist Needs to Know About Copyright (McMaster Center):** 7-8 p.m. **Rick Martin**, an intellectual property attorney with *Fraser Clemens Martin & Miller, LLC* will discuss copyright law and take questions from the audience.

*Wednesday, October 17 – **How Fiscal Sponsorship Can Help You Land a Grant (McMaster Center):** 7-8 p.m. A panel will discuss how fiscal sponsorship by an organization can help individual artists get the grant money they need for their work. For more details, please call 419.259.5209.

Divorced and Under 30

By *Michael Hayes*
Minister of Culture

Terrifying thought, isn't it?

I've been thinking of writing this for a while but I've been putting it off.

For me, it's a very hard moment when your concept of what love should be seems to be torn apart by every war story told by a friend or acquaintance.

For us hopeless romantics, divorce is a cuss word.

For those of us who are Gen Y lovers, divorce sounds like something a 37-year old person might talk about ... but not us, right? Guess we were wrong.

At this very moment, I can think of five people close to me and another five who are casual friends of mine ... all under 30. All divorced.

Every situation but one has children involved.

Most situations seem to still have at least one bitter party.

It seems this recent rash of failed marriages still stings.

It's not like those 40+ year olds who say things like "my first wife blah blah blah, and then my third husband blah blah blah."

For them, it's like love has lost all the enchantment it once held.

It seems more like a custodial maneuver. A way to go along and get along.

But for my friends who are still in their 20's or early 30's, the pain of being wrong about the fairytale they imagined is still very clear.

There's no grizzled wisdom to mask the hurt, it's

just raw.

I won't go into any of the specific details of the situations and I, of course, won't divulge names seeing as how half of the people who inspired me to write this still reside in Toledo.

But there are a few traits that are a common thread when it comes to failed relationships of all age groups, wedding ring or not.

INFIDELITY:

For some reason or another, that sacred marital vow to forsake all others ... maybe that stuff is just lost on some folks. Maybe it just goes over their head.

I used to try and make a case for women being the more devious of the two

sexes, but I'm learning recently that males and females cheat equally.

However, they seem to have reasons that vary.

A lot of cheating men start off cheating convinced that they can outsmart their mate. Don't know where these brothers get this from, because I wouldn't dare try to pull anything over on the average sister ... but yo.

That same confidence that women are attracted to can sometimes indicate a pig-headed, self-absorbed balloon mind state in a man with an unchecked ego – a situation in which this dude thinks he is just that slick that he can do as he pleases and his girl will never find out about his growing number of indis-

(Continued on Page 11)

Let Me Clarify A Few Things ...

By *Michael Hayes*
Minister of Culture

I'm officially going to wait on reviewing the new Kanye West and 50 Cent albums.

Why?

Because I wanna sit and listen and get a really in depth listen so I can treat this momentous occasion with all the respect it deserves.

But ... it's only fair to say that I may have been right about the sales.

People are just getting sick of 50 Cent – the big bully.

His talents are not at the level that he can just run around bad mouthing half of the rap community for years and expect the fans to still be on his side.

That might be part of the reason why latest sales figures at press time show that Kanye's album was ahead of 50 Cent's album by about 100,000 copies as both might even settle far above gold status for the first week.

Platinum in a week isn't out of the question with these two titans of the hip-hop world.

Hey, "Titans of the Hip-Hop World" – that was some ish a critic would say huh?

Aww stuff!

Speaking of me being a critic and all things critical.

It would appear I have

my share of haters.

Didn't really ever see myself as someone who could have haters.

I always figured you had to be really big willie out here to have people who will dedicate their time to tearing you down. Well, it seems ya boy truly has more than a few haters.

I really ... in all honesty, I don't read my article until it's time for me to type my next one.

And when folks tell me "I don't read your paper, and I don't like your article."

I take it at face value and say "okay".

So imagine my surprise when I find these same people running around with copy in hand

using any and every word they can twist so they can build up a case and continue the hateration.

I mean, should I be surprised?

I am.

But then again, I'm not.

One thing tho.

Oh yeah ... another thing about my article.

I AM NOT IN CHARGE of the pictures that Fletcher chooses to print in this piece.

I wish I was.

I actually spent years hiding all the pics of myself and deleting them from office computers. A game of cat and mouse that I thought I had won.

Fletcher is a good boss ... a cruel, merciless – I mean ... yeah ... a good boss. LOL.

But yo – the pics, NOT my idea.

The size of the pics, NOT my idea.

The title "minister of culture" – NOT my idea.

Fletcher's response "no, I'm NOT changing anything – stop whining."

Yeah, he's "tryna to son me, son!" (inside joke – 90,000 people read this ... but I know a good 10 or 12 cats who got it so it's worth it).

Also.

THE SOJOURNER'S TRUTH is a BLACK-OWNED NEWSPAPER.

The emails I get, I don't know where y'all get the rumors from.

YES – our staff is just as multi-cultural as our readership.

However ... Kevin and Fletcher are black men who own this paper.

Period.

Also all the emails I got from a couple of weeks ago when I described my daily grind.

Many people who are in the same position hit me up thanking me because they are in the same boat. That's what I do ... in my writing, in my music ... I speak for us.

Hit me up, y'all.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com



Janice, Hubert's Daughter



Hospice of Northwest Ohio turned my doubt into trust.

"I was very protective of my father, especially after his health failed. I wasn't going to allow just anybody to come in to provide care for him.

"Our family didn't have the resources to hire a private nurse. But together, we decided to contact Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

"When Hospice came into our home, I just sat back and checked them out. They always explained to us what they were going to do and how they were going to do it. And the level of care was awesome. Hospice provided nursing care, aides to help in the home, plus all the medications and equipment my dad needed.

"All the services Hospice provided were covered by Medicare.* I don't think a lot of people are aware of the excellent care available. Families in situations like ours need to call Hospice of Northwest Ohio."

To ask for our free DVD, "Hospice Answers," call 419-661-4001. Or for more information, visit hospicenwo.org.

*Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.

Answers for Living the Last Months of Life.SM

Divorced and Under 30

(Continued from Page 10)

cretions.
And I have to say growing number, because when the guy has cheated and a divorce was the result ... it was usually a case in which he cheated numerous times.

Maybe the ladies should nip it in the bud when they first find out.

Because some (I repeat, SOME) of these dudes are foul and are foul enough to keep getting over with worse and worse crimes if they think for a second that they have the situation under control.

Now, with the cheating females ... it's not so much that they don't think they will get caught - they simply don't give a damn.

That's right.

The dirt I've seen females do that has resulted in a failed marriage was usually some blatant, out in the open, anybody can see it type of bull.

Adding insult to injury, most of the situations that I was really close to where this happened ... the wife actually would try to con-

vince the husband that it was somehow his fault that she crept with another man.

Now, a lot of folks our age are in live in relationships.

Many of us are in serious relationships, maybe not live in but still very serious. This type of drama might seem more commonplace for the dating circle. But I'm talking about folks who have taken vows before God and family.

I'm talking about folks who have made a life changing decision to honor and obey.

Maaan, that word "obey."

I've always wondered how that works in a marriage.

When I get married I might have that part taken out.

Doesn't seem like a good idea to require a person to obey you.

Trying to control anyone (a spouse, a son, a daughter, a sibling etc.) will always backfire.

They will play the role

long enough and then it will blow up in your face because you were evil enough to try and dictate their lives for them.

And that brings me to the second reason I've seen the dissolution of marriages in my age range...

INCOMPATIBILITY:

Before Dr. Phil, before Oprah, before eharmony.com - Chris Rock comedy was the first mainstream media to support the idea of picking the right person from jump. Or at least he was the first to drive it home for me when I was a teenager watching one of his stand up joints with my dad.

I think people make the mistake of jumping into situations based on the wrong reasons.

Good sex, decent conversation and a few dates and all of a sudden folks swear they are in love. Bull!

That's not love. That's the tip of the iceberg.

Personally, I'm a very picky person. And I've tried to encourage my little sis-

ter and really, everyone I care about - I tell them to be picky as they can be. If you are in a room with 100 people in it, there's probably 30 or 40 people that you could get along with and have a good time with.

But breaking it down further from that is where it gets tricky.

One of my distant guy friends, I asked him why he married his ex-wife and he was like "She had it going on." I was like "umm... okay. Elaborate."

And he continued "You know, she was slick... had her own job, was about her business... she was slick!... back then."

I was like "Dude, you know how many women fit that description? There had to be something more to make you ask her to be your wife!"

And back and forth we went and sadly there wasn't much else to it.

So how can you even see if you are compatible with a person when mostly everything you know and love about them is ... well, surface shit?

For me, I have learned the three C's.

Conversation. Criteria. Crisis.

It's not a formula you can break out all the time, but when I look at all my relationships... it was those areas that told me the most about the girl I was with and whether or not we could go all the way.

CONVERSATION - that's key.

If it doesn't flow naturally, you might wanna slow down a bit.

The two of you should literally love to talk to one another, it should be exciting.

CRITERIA - Also very important.

See what your mate's criteria is for who they give

their time to and see how close it comes to your own. If you are taking into account a person's spirituality and political leanings above all else and she's placing their earnings and outward appearance above all else - the two of you ARE NOT even in agreement on what is a priority for you in a relationship, so how can you meet in the middle as a couple.

CRISIS - Very important as well.

I've learned that you don't truly know a person until you've seen them with their back up against the wall. A couple that can successfully manage a crisis together, in my opinion, has a fighting chance at a happy marriage.

But damn, what do I really know since I've never been married.

And I can honestly say that of all those couples I mentioned earlier, the ones I know the best seemed to have all three C's working for them.

Damn.

It's painful, you know?

I'm still like a kid I guess, believing love can conquer all.

But is that so childish?

Maybe all the grizzled oldies have just been warped by failed love so much that they've lost touch with the enchantment and wonder you're supposed to feel.

LOL @ "grizzled oldies" - I know I'm gonna hear it for that one!

For my friends who are in their 20's (or early 30's) who have found themselves having to start over.

I commend you on handling it all with grace and positive vibes.

For those of us still on this side of the broom, I don't know what to say.

Should I offer a warning? Should I admit that I'm

worried now?

Should I side with the 'hit it and quit it' crowd?

Should I even give it any thought at all?

I'm what you call a hopeless romantic type of dude.

Not one to run around even though I've been run around on before.

All the folks who used to come to my poetry night can co-sign for that!

They had to hear many tales of how "so and so" did me wrong - LOL.

But even through all that. Even through watching my own parents grow more and more distant.

Even through coming of age and finding that some of the happiest couples I knew were just ticking time bombs....

Even through all that I still believe.

Why?

Because I can think of nothing better than devoting your life to the right person. The one you would gladly forsake all others for, not out of obligation... but because there simply is no equal to whomever you have.

The one who accepts you just as you are.

The one who makes everything in your world better, just by them being themselves. Growing with that person, learning that person, building a life and a family with that person... I can think of nothing better to do with this time on earth. We all have our careers, but having the right person to come home to is what makes it all really and truly worth it.

Right?

Damn... I hope I'm right.

Naw... I'm right, I know I'm right.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

LEGENDS
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1:00pm, Saturday, October 13, 2007
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Fighting For Turf While Losing Ground

By Warren Woodberry
Guest Contributor



Warren Woodberry

This article is not about the Bloods or the Crips or about a football game.

It is about the battle for our future and the future of our kids. It will not set well with those organizations or individuals that I refer to, even if this article sees the light of day.

I recently had an opportunity to research all back issues of the Truth, since its inception, looking for articles concerning a particular subject involving TPS. The Truth's past articles are an historic library and a tribute to the accomplishment of black Toledo and they should be required reading at the

high school level.

While conducting my research I was struck by the multitude of beautiful pictures of smiling men and women celebrating years of existence as a church group, or a pastor and his first lady celebrating years of marriage or an anniversary of leadership, or a family reunion. I was also struck by the many self-help articles that showed ways to invest money in insurance, real estate, and if you needed a car, you should go see "Smiling Bob" or some other colorful individual. Scanning The Truth papers, I saw articles on organizations, individuals and churches that had started admirable programs to help the poor and the needy, the hungry and the down trodden, side by side with pictures of classy ladies in big hats in all shades of the color spectrum.

I also read articles by contributing writers on many different subjects. Many of these groups and individuals, although initially greatly touted, started to fade in some cases and were no longer visible as the years and the pages

turned. Many others still contribute greatly to the fiber of urban society and do great work in the community.

But nothing affected me more than seeing the amount of class reunions by former alumni from Scott and Libbey and then looking to see how many of these are involved in the day to day struggle to save our urban schools.

...for the life of me I cannot understand why our people do not see the plot against the urban school system.

With a lump in my heart, I quickly went back through the papers of The Truth and noted the prominent pastors, lawyers, politicians, athletes, educators, entertainers, business men and women, black civil rights leaders and civic groups and just plain folks who went to Scott and Libbey but do not appear to be in the front ranks of the struggle to save our urban schools. I have attended some of these

class reunions and on occasion have been a guest speaker. But yet on the battlefield of saving our schools, I recognize very few of these individuals or groups who have come to the battle collectively to save Scott and Libbey.

It is like the 17th Century carving over the door of the famous TMshM-gk shrine in NikkM, Japan of three mon-

warned me that the establishment will not look kindly on anyone that attempts to mobilize their "House Folks" (be nice Woodberry), but for the life of me I cannot understand why our people do not see the plot against the urban school system. It is as if the facts, the history, the statistics and the news of failures in the schools do not matter!

Scott and Libbey need your outrage and action. Is the water that black folks drink in Toledo so satisfying that it leaves them in a political stupor, unable or unwilling to come together on such an important issue as the future education of our children?

I have no problem with churches that divorce themselves from other churches or pastors in order to appear to be the new go-to black mediator when a conflict comes up. I don't mind the separation of competing black businesses. I don't mind when black politicians seek to enhance their power base in order to get a leg up in politics and I understand the mentality that feels that since there is so little here in

keys that see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil. It's as if we don't want to know, hear or see what is happening in our school system. It does not take a rocket scientist to calculate the effect of the power of all of these groups if they were united on any issue. But in calling for this unity, I still recall the ominous warnings that I received on my return to Toledo from those who

Toledo to divide, that I can't afford to share.

But for God's sake, can't we all get on the same page when it comes to saving our urban schools and educating our children. As in the game of golf, other golfers are saying that Tiger Woods, most times, plays a game that is far beyond them. Well the powers that be here in Toledo obviously play a game, with our permission and submission that allows them to be far beyond us! Don't think for one minute that a letter to the editor or a letter to TPS is going to impede their plan to do as they like with the urban schools. And while we stand around waiting for Dorr Street to be rebuilt, or for the limitations of beer/wine and bandit check cashing businesses in the hood and a fairer court system that will give blacks equal justice, or for a bank loan that cost us the same as others, it is business as usual in our failing school system.

While we fight among ourselves for turf we are all collectively losing ground!

Toledo Deltas Commemorate 35th Anniversary

The Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held a luncheon on Saturday, September 15, 2007 to celebrate the chapter's 35th Anniversary.

The luncheon, held at Central Park West, featured a presentation by member Karen Sherman-Sorina titled "It's All About Delta."

There were additionally recognitions for charter members, Delta Dears and members with 50 years or more of service.

The event's committee members included chairman Sheryl Riggs, Co-Chairman Clara Brank, Gussie Hawkins, Sue Fletcher, Pascha Jackson, Karen Sherman-Sorina, Tasha Nelson and Angela M. Siner.

The Toledo Chapter president is Bettina Shuford, Ph.D.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in 1913. The local chapter was started in 1972 with more than 50 charter members.



Karen Sherman Sorina, Angela Siner, Pascha Jackson, Bettina Shuford, Sue Fletcher, Clara Brank, Tasha Nelson, Sheryl Riggs and Gussie Hawkins

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Iraq and Vietnam

by Sheldon Richman

President Bush, one of the two most famous pro-Vietnam War members of his generation to avoid fighting in that war, has finally accepted what he previously rejected: that there are parallels between the war he ducked out of and his violent occupation of Iraq. (The other best-known famous pro-war war avoider is Vice President Dick "I had other priorities in the '60s than military service" Cheney.)

Unfortunately, Bush has learned a far different lesson from Vietnam than many others have. "Whatever your position is on that debate [about how we got into the Vietnam War and how we left], one unmistakable legacy of Vietnam is that the price of America's withdrawal was paid by millions of innocent citizens whose agonies would add to our vocabulary new terms like 'boat people,' 'reeducation camps,' and 'killing fields.'" Others have already corrected Bush's predictably bad history. The killing fields of Cambodia began long before the United States exited Vietnam; American carpet bombing starting in 1969 killed as many as three-quarters of a million people and created the opportunity for the murderous Khmer Rouge eventually to rule the country. Moreover, innocent Vietnamese were being slaughtered every day that the United States sustained the war.

Bush's remarks betray a deeper misunderstanding of history. What he didn't learn from Vietnam is this: One good reason for not invading a country is that the invasion itself will create conditions that make leaving problematic. Occupation creates its own quagmire.

No one who thinks clearly about the matter actually be-

lieves that if the United States pulls out of Iraq, it will turn into a tranquil island in the troubled Middle East. Iraq was an artificial country created by Great Britain after World War I; when the British left, it took Sunni strongmen, including Saddam Hussein, to keep it unified by suppressing the Shi'ites and the Kurds. When the United States toppled Saddam's government, the Shi'ites and the Kurds had their chance to get out from under the dominant Sunnis. There were scores to settle. The turmoil that has gone on ever since was predicted by war opponents. It was even predicted by the first President Bush and his war cabi-



Sheldon Richman

net during the Gulf War in 1991, including his secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, who understood that invading Baghdad and overthrowing Saddam would have left the United States with the problem of trying to manage the unmanageable. In a 1994 interview with C-SPAN, Cheney defended the decision not to overthrow Saddam's regime. "What are you going to put in its place?" he asked. He said regional instability would have followed with "pieces of Iraq fly[ing] off. It's a quagmire." The Bush administration in 1991 asked, "How many additional Americans is Saddam worth?" and it answered, "Not very many."

Cheney added, "I think we got it right."

In light of this, it is outrageous that George W. Bush and Cheney use the prospect of chaos as a reason for the United States not to withdraw. They apparently now think staying in the quagmire is worth more American — not to mention Iraqi — lives. Why? They will point to terrorism, but once we realize that the invasion, occupation, and continued violence have recruited terrorists in record numbers, as even the U.S. government admits, this reason turns to dust.

The U.S. government cannot police other countries' internal conflicts. It is an impossibility — especially in the Middle East. Staying in Iraq means more casualties for as far as the eye can see. So why stay? To forestall the casualties that would occur if the United States were not there?

There is at least one parallel between Iraq and Vietnam that holds up. In both cases American presidents continued to send young men to kill and be killed long after the policymakers knew — or should have known — their political objectives were beyond reach.

There is going to be violence in any case. Let's at least make sure the blood is not on American hands.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) and editor of The Freeman magazine.

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

Call PAM at 419-243-0007

Beware Those Who Charge Fees for Assisting Seniors with Homestead Exemption

Special to The Truth

Ohio Tax Commissioner Richard A. Levin last week warned senior citizens to be on the look out for individuals who are attempting to charge seniors fees in order to help sign up for the homestead exemption.

"Applying for the homestead exemption is free. All you have to do is fill out a simple, one-page form," Levin said. "We are offering meaningful property tax relief to senior citizens, and I'd hate to see it siphoned off by middle men trying to make a quick buck."

Levin said he's aware of at least one taxpayer in Athens County who received a letter from an accounting firm offering to fill out the homestead application form for a \$60 fee. Meanwhile, at least one site on the Internet homesteadtaxexemption.com, is offering to mail taxpayers a homestead exemption application for a \$9.95 fee.

In fact, applications for the homestead exemption are free — available for download at tax.ohio.gov or from any county auditor. Taxpayers needing help may contact their local county auditor or call the Ohio Department of Taxation's hotline for individual taxpayers at (800) 282-1780.

Levin said it doesn't appear to be illegal for individuals to charge a fee to help fill out a homestead exemption form. "But these schemes are troubling," he said. "The fact is, Ohio's

county auditors are more than happy to help sign se-

550,000 homeowners.

All senior citizen



niors up, at no charge."

The expansion and overhaul of Ohio's homestead exemption was a key component of the two-year state budget bill signed into law on June 30 by Governor Ted Strickland.

The changes, approved by the Ohio General Assembly, have simplified the homestead exemption and extended it an additional

homeowners and all permanently and totally disabled homeowners — regardless of income — may now use the exemption to shield \$25,000 of the market value of their home from property taxes.

The deadline to sign up for the new homestead exemption in time for tax bills payable next year is Oct. 1, 2007.

Library

(Continued from Page 6)

[to town]," said Finkbeiner who suggested that the Library's campaign slogan "Help your Library" should be expanded to say

huge part of Toledo," said Finkbeiner. "Let's tell the world about our first class Library."

The two-mill, five-year



"Help your library; help yourself."

Finkbeiner noted that the Library — highly rated as a system — is part of a set of Toledo treasures that includes the Toledo Museum of Art and the Toledo Zoo.

"The library system is a

replacement levy amounts to a tax of about \$60 per year on a house valued at \$100,000. Library officials stress that the levy is so critically important because finances have been impacted by a state funding freeze at 2002 levels.

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Executive Director

Monroe Street Neighborhood Center seeks an Executive Director (ED) to lead the Center's human service programs. The ED reports to the Board of Trustees and with the Board is responsible for planning, financial stability and program development and management. The ED will lead a small staff of both full time and part time employees. Critical skills include a high energy level, being a self starter, vision, organization and planning skills, human resource management, leadership of staff, and excellent verbal and written communication skills. BA degree and two years of administrative experience required. Knowledge of community resources helpful.

Application must be received by Friday September 28th. Send resume and cover letter to: Personnel Committee, Monroe Street Neighborhood Center, 3613 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio, 43606. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Accountant

Start up accounting firm needs full time accountant.
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Owens Community College is a public, state-assisted, two-year institution of higher education. We are seeking applicants for a Toddler Teacher Child Care Technology Lab School (**Toledo Campus**). Position will plan and implement a Reggio Emilia inspired and project approach curriculum for the college childcare lab school. The major responsibilities of this position includes planning, supervising and implementing a daily educational program for young children 2.5 - 5 years of age and insuring that the cognitive, social emotional, physical, creative and language needs of children in the assigned class are met. Candidate will be working with a co-teacher in a team environment as a lab mentor to the Teacher Education department students. **Qualified applicants must possess the following qualifications and must demonstrate in application material how qualifications are met. Required:** Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education or a closely related field (education, home economics, special education, child development, social work). One year experience working with children in a group setting. Strong written and verbal communication skills. Current valid driver's license. Successfully pass a fingerprint background check from BCII or FBI as required. **Preferred:** Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or a closely related field (elementary education, home economics, special education, child development, social work) or Pre K Associate license. Three (3) years experience teaching in a licensed childcare center. Experience teaching in a Reggio Emilia inspired program. **Starting salary is \$10.65/hour. Applications with out salary history completed will not be considered. Completed application materials include application, resume and copies of transcripts required.** Application review will begin after October 1, 2007, position open until filled. **To complete an Owens Community College application go to <https://jobs.owens.edu>. Candidates who do not have access to a computer with Internet connection are welcome to visit our Resource Center in the Human Resources department during lobby hours from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments are encouraged but not necessary. To set up an appointment, please call 567-661-7089.**

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Title of Position: Meter Reader, Utilities

Part-Time position. 1. Must have high school diploma. 2. Must pass EEI Meter Reading Test. 3. Must have the skill to read and comprehend policies, procedures, visual displays on terminals and other information. 4. Must have valid Ohio driver's license. 5. As a condition of employment, Meter Readers are required to provide a personal motor vehicle to perform their daily job duties. 6. Sufficient physical condition. 7. Ability to complete reports accurately and on schedule. 8. Must have communication and human relation skills to handle customer inquiries in accordance with the Company's Service Standards. 9. Must be available to work scheduled hours, which may be nonstandard business hours, and available for emergency call-in as needed, as determined by supervision. 10. Willingness and ability to acquire additional skills and knowledge to meet performance requirements. Average driving record is required. Resume to be submitted by September 26, 2007 to: Toledo Edison Co., T-HLOC-2350, P.O. Box 929, Toledo, Ohio 43682-4025. No telephone calls please.

EOE/AA Employer

STUDENT ACADEMIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST (part time)

Owens Community College is a public, state-assisted, two-year institution of higher education. We are seeking applicants for a Student Academic Information Specialist (part time) (**Toledo Campus**). **Position requires late evenings and some weekends required.** Provide various clerical duties relating to degree evaluations, commencement and grade processing. Reviews all petitions for degree and certificate completion and reviews degree evaluations of students. Assists Associate Registrar in the encoding and maintenance of the degree evaluation system, CAPP. Assists in processing course substitutions, academic plans, grade changes and academic forgiveness policy plans.

Provide assistance in troubleshooting and resolving system and data issues and testing major and minor campus wide computer system upgrades. Applicant must have excellent computer and data entry skills. Maintain confidentiality of student record information in accordance to Owens Community College policy and federal and state mandates. **Qualified applicants must possess the following qualifications and must demonstrate in application material how qualifications are met. Required:** Associate Degree in a business related field. Proficient in Microsoft Suite 2000. 1 year of Customer Service Experience.

Preferred: Prefer customer service experience be in a higher education institution in an admissions, records or college office. Prior knowledge and experience in Banner. Must be organized and detail oriented. Able to multitask. **Starting salary is 10.52 an hour. Applications with out salary history completed will not be considered. Completed application materials include application, resume and scanned copies of transcripts required.** Application review will begin after October 1, 2007, position open until filled. **To complete an Owens Community College application go to <https://jobs.owens.edu>. Candidates who do not have access to a computer with Internet connection are welcome to visit our Resource Center in the Human Resources department during lobby hours from 8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments are encouraged but not necessary. To set up an appointment, please call 567-661-7089.**

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LMHA ACTION ALERT!

This Public Notice is to inform all interested persons of a change in the process for taking applications for the LMHA CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING programs. Beginning Monday, October 1, 2007, the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority will resume taking walk-in applications for CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING.

THIS APPLICATION SOLICITATION IS FOR CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING ONLY

Applications will be accepted two days per week if you are:

- o A family household
- o Near-Elderly (at least 50 years or older)
- o Handicapped or Disabled



Location: 211 S. Byrne Road

Days/Time (s): Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The first 50 prospective applicants who bring the following information will be able to place an application on each day:

- o Picture ID's for all adults in the household
- o Social Security cards for all members of the household
- o Birth Certificates for all members of the household
- o Proof of pregnancy with due date if applicable

REMINDER: You must have ALL requested information in order to place an application.

Applications will be accepted five days per week if you are elderly:

- o Elderly (62 years or older) applications will be taken

Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elderly applicants should bring in the following information in order to place an application.

- o Picture ID's for all adults in the household
- o Social Security cards for all members of the household
- o Birth Certificates for all members of the household

Equal Housing Opportunity

The LMHA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, ancestry, disability or nation origin in the admission or access to its federally assisted programs or activities.

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- ▶ More than 270 ProMedica physicians and medical professionals conduct leading medical research in our facilities each and every day.
- ▶ Here in our community, more than 700 University of Toledo students annually learn to become medical professionals while training in our hospitals and facilities, which include The Toledo Hospital, Toledo Children's Hospital and Flower Hospital.

*When education and medicine cross career paths, everyone benefits.
We're extremely appreciative that our physicians, nurses, medical professionals,
board members and leadership team work so diligently and professionally every day.
We wouldn't have it any other way. We know you wouldn't either.*

