



Mari Evans

Author, Essayist, Playwright, and Poet

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“Speak the truth to the people. Talk sense to the people. Free them with honesty. Free the people with Love and Courage for their Being. Spare them the fantasy. Fantasy enslaves. A slave is enslaved. Can be enslaved by unwisdom.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

As promised, President George Bush vetoed a bill that would have increased spending for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) last week.

According to statements Bush has made over the past few months, he deplores the fact that the program "is going beyond the initial intent of helping poor children." Now the program he claims will be extended through the legislation to families making \$83,000 per year and to adults.

That, says Bush, amounts to congressional attempts to "federalize medicine." And, of course, we can't have federalized medicine in this country or, at least, we can't have too much federalized medicine ... only enough to cover poor children and only enough, to keep the spending, says Bush, at a level of about \$5 billion over five years not the total of \$60 billion Congress would like to authorize.

So a little federalized medicine is okay by Bush, just not a lot of it.

And, by the way, Bush claims to have always supported the program, as president and, before that, as governor of Texas. He does not mention that as governor, he did everything possible to limit the number of children eligible for the program by capping family income at 150 percent of federal poverty levels.

Bush's stance on the SCHIP legislation reflects everything that has gone so wrong for this president in just about everything that may matter for his so-called legacy. It's not enough that the administration opposes a program that a broad coalition of Americans and their representatives in Congress – even conservative Republicans such as Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah – support.

Bush, as always, manages to defend his decisions with reams of misinformation combined with misleading appeals to conservative principles. Bush cannot simply separate principle from politics. He insists, time after time, on muddying the message.

This by the way is Bush's fourth veto in his almost seven years in office. Only once in a blue moon does Mr. Conservative bother to raise a stink about federal spending.

Let's get a few things straight about the SCHIP bill and the increased spending that Congress has tried to allocate in order to cover more children.

First, this program currently insures about six million poor children and the expanded version would help another four million. It is a private/public partnership which health insurance companies endorse.

The bill carries with it a limit on a household's income but within those parameters, states set their own eligibility rules. States can also ask for waivers to move beyond the federal parameters.

So it was that the State of New York, plagued by what its leaders see as an unusually high cost of living, asked for a waiver to permit the state to cover families who had incomes of up to 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and, yes, that means that in New York, families of four with incomes of \$82,600 would be eligible. New Jersey also requested such a waiver to cover families of four with incomes of up to \$73,000. A total of 12 states requested waivers to enable them to extend the coverage to adults.

But the reality of the situation was that none of these provisions are part of the legislation. The states requested waivers, and received them from ... you guessed it, the Bush administration, specifically the Department of Health and Human Services. The requests have been granted – year after year.

The fact is, the administration could have turned down these requests at any given time and, given the reality of the proposed legislation, may do so in the future.

But now Bush can gallivant around the country and decry the fact that families with incomes of \$83,000 are getting relief from the federal government without bothering to mention that such occurrences are rare and that his own people have extended such courtesies.

As usual with the Bush administration, we are perplexed as we try to determine which offends us more – its incompetence or its duplicity.

And then there's the money. The new program will cost American taxpayers \$60 billion over the next five years to insure 10 million children. That's \$12 billion a year to insure, let us repeat this – 10 million children.

If you are looking for some sort of perspective to all of this, we spend more than that in a month and a half waging war in Iraq – speaking of incompetence and duplicity. And there is no end in sight to that debacle.

It appears that the Senate will have no problem overriding the presidential veto but the House of Representatives fell short by 25 votes of a veto-proof majority. Let's hope the bill's supporters can change enough minds in the House to get this legislation back on track without having to compromise too much with the Bush White House.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*October 10-12

Christian Community Church's Kingdom Unlimited 2007: "Responding to the Call;" Prayer Clinic at 6 pm nightly; Simon Gordon of Chicago is the guest speaker on Oct. 10 at 7 pm; Bishop Randy Borders of NC is speaker on Oct. 11 and 12 at 7 pm; 419-536-8357 Mt. Ararat MBC: Fall revival; 7 pm each night; Evangelist Rev. James Savage of Macedonia MBC of Town Creek, AL

*October 11

Fatherhood Parenting Program: Sponsored by Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministries; Applications accepted now; Eight-week program meets weekly for 90 minutes; Addresses real-life issues such as child rearing, values and beliefs, role of fathers, marriage, wellness violence and substance abuse: 419-297-3530

*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

Planned Parenthood of NW Ohio: Eerieeee Street Ball: Erie Street Market; 8 pm to 1 am; Wear a costume, have a ball; Starring Symphony Alexander, Coti Collins, Desiree, Michelle Dupree, KiArra Cartier Fontaine, Rhoda Horse and more; For ticket information call 419-255-1115

*October 13-14

Canaan Baptist Church 44th Anniversary: Musical on Saturday the 13th with choirs from throughout the city; 6 pm; Sunday service at 6 pm featuring Mighty Voices of Canaan

*October 14

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church: Annual women's Day; "A Service Filled Journey;" Morning worship at 10:45 am; Afternoon program at 4 pm

United MBC 24th Church Anniversary: Morning service at 10:45 am with guest speaker Rev. Dana Darby of New Jerusalem MBC; Afternoon service at 4 pm with Rev. Richard Isaiah of Tabernacle of Praise

Servant's Heart Christian Church: Third anniversary; Guest minister and congregation, Elder Dwayne Gibson and True Church of God of the Apostolic Faith; 4 pm: 419-244-1888

Southern MBC: Musical appreciation for musical staff; Choirs from throughout Toledo; 6 pm

Union Grove MBC: Annual Women's Day at 4 pm; Annual Men's Day at 11 am: 419-537-1107

*October 15

Ohio Association of Colored Women's Clubs: Second Annual Black College Tour informational session; Sanger Library; 7 pm: 419-535-0806 or 419-535-5960

*October 19

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

*October 19-21

Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church 2007 Family Conference: Friday – 6 pm "Worship from the Tabernacle;" Saturday – 9 am "Access Granted;" 2 pm "Youth Breakout Session;" 6 pm "Preparing for War;" Sunday – 11 am "The Fight Is On;" 419-242-7906

*October 20

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

"Women Walking In Purpose:" Workshop series sponsored by Empowered 2 Empower; 9 am to 2 pm; Kent Branch Library: 419-450-5943

Naomi Chapter #25 O.E.S.; 50th Annual day and W.M. Vivian Smith 21st Anniversary Celebration; Speaker Mother Lorene Calhoun from Union Grove MBC; 2 to 4 pm at Plaza Community Room: 419-243-3633

The Sojourner's Truth

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One Step Forward and Two Steps Backward

By Warren Woodberry
Guest Editorial



Re Lisa Sobecki: An Involved Parent Enters the Race for the Toledo School Board.

In the Sept 27 issue of The Truth, the reporter asked Lisa Sobecki to comment on four issues of importance to the Toledo community: teacher competence and diversity, student achievement, the charter school/voucher threat to public education and the Intern Plan.

On the diversity question she says: "There have not been enough African-Americans or Hispanics who have been qualified."

I would ask Sobecki what study is she basing her conclusion on that blacks or Hispanics have not been qualified? I have not seen any published statistics on this and could only form such an opinion if I were influenced by or took the word of the Toledo Federation of Teachers.

I am not sure that a person who can make such a statement would help us if elected to the Toledo School Board as many of the questions concern whether the selection of black and Hispanic teachers is fair and impartial!

Would we be served by someone who supports the very logic that we are fighting against? Sobecki further states that "we have to have highly qualified teachers. I don't want a teacher who is not qualified in order to boost numbers."

It appears that Sobecki has already taken a stand as I interpret her statement that "I don't want a teacher who is not qualified in or-

der to boost numbers" to imply that as the African-American community seeks more black teachers, we are in effect just asking to merely boost numbers, since she says that "there have not been enough African-Americans and Hispanics who have been qualified."

She then steps directly on the corns and bunions of many of us in the hood who question the Toledo Plan. "The Toledo Plan is not something that board members can demolish," says Sobecki of the controversial plan that assigns mentors (veteran teachers) to first-year teachers in order to guide them and evaluate their progress. The evaluation function has drawn the ire of many observers.

"The Toledo Plan has been accredited nationally," she adds. "And if you open it up and start going through it, you would have to have something as a replacement. Do I agree with it 100 percent? No. Has it

been successful for the most part? Yes."

Am I to take it that although not 100 percent, Sobecki will continue to support the Toledo Plan which so many in the community feel is one of our major obstacles. It is possible that the black community would disagree with her for the most part - 100 percent. Nationally the Toledo-style plan has been questioned across the board wherever it is employed, as it insures that African-American teachers are excluded.

Mrs Sobecki, I would invite you to examine this issue with me so that you can draw a conclusion based on the facts. The Truth then asks Sobecki what part of the program she would tweak. That inquiry draws a "no comment." I believe that given the opportunity to show the urban community what she would tweak, her "no comment" signifies to me that the Teachers Federation is getting another supporter for business as usual and that, coupled with the current board, it's one step forward and two steps backward unless we elect someone more sensitive to our urban needs.

Are we going to go for the Okie Duke again?

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Voting at the Precinct Polling Place

Where do I vote?

You cast your ballot at your precinct's designated polling place, unless you vote a provisional ballot. If you do not know where your precinct polling place is located, contact your county board of elections. If you have access to the Internet, you may visit the Secretary of State's Web site, www.sos.state.oh.us, for the location of your polling place.

How do I vote?

Instructions for casting a ballot are posted in each polling place. If you have any question about how to mark or cast your ballot, or if you have incorrectly marked or torn a ballot, immediately contact the precinct election officials (poll workers) for instructions before you cast your ballot.

May I receive assistance in voting?

A voter with a physical or mental disability or who is unable to read or write may be assisted by anyone of the voter's choice, except a candidate whose candidacy is being voted on in that precinct, the voter's employer or the employer's agent, or an officer or agent of the voter's union. The voter also may be assisted by two poll workers of different political parties. No one who assists a voter may

disclose any information about how that person voted.

How do I establish which political party's ballot I am entitled to vote?

You may vote the primary ballot of the political party with which you currently wish to be affiliated. If you voted the primary ballot of a different political party in 2005 or 2006, you will complete a statement at your polling place confirming the change in your political party affiliation.

May I vote on ballot issues at a primary election without declaring my party affiliation?

Yes. You may vote on the issues and questions, if any, that are on the ballot in your precinct by requesting an "issues-only" ballot.

Will I need an ID to Vote?

Yes. Every voter will be required to provide proof of identity before voting. The form of identification that you may use includes your current and valid photo identification card, military identification, copy of utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or government document showing your name and current address. (Note: You cannot use as proof of identification a notice that the board of elections mailed to you.) If you do not have, or fail or refuse

(Continued on Page 6)

From Petroleum to Physics

Touch the Future

Kilian King always believed he should give back and make a difference in someone's life. After years as an engineer in the petroleum industry, Kilian joined the **UT³ program - UToledo. UTeach. UTouch the Future**, a program for science and mathematics education. Kilian is now touching the future by teaching science in urban schools.

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Jack Ford Shifts His Campaign for School Board Into High Gear

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Jack Ford, former mayor of Toledo and current Toledo Board of Education member, held his first press conference this week to announce a number of initiatives he is proposing as a candidate for election to the board.

Ford put forth 10 proposals, including his own commitment to serve on the board for four years and then run for re-election in 2011.

Ford suggested that: 1. Board collegiality has improved and civility has increased but needs to continue; 2. The Toledo community and its various school systems need to work more closely with pre-school institutions; 3. Toledo Public Schools need to "expand their plan to utilize community resources to support students" particularly those at at-risk schools; 4. TPS must eliminate its bunker mentality and open itself up to constructive criticism; 5. The district needs to implement a major campaign to "openly and loudly urge our children to excel and focus on school;" 6. A special deputy needs to

be assigned to help eliminate the educational attainment gap between inner city schools and those in outlying areas; 7. The district should encourage support of unconventional initiatives to bring forward "best practices" systems to the district; 8. End the "plethora of memos of understanding;" 9. Renovate, rather than rebuild, Scott High School; and, as noted previously, Ford made a commitment to stay on the board for eight years.

"My fear is that if we just try to bump up our [state report card scores] a little, we'll feel good as a community but it's a prescription for mediocrity," said Ford of the district's commitment to move back into the continuous improvement category from the academic watch rating. TPS moved into continuous improvement four years ago and remained there for three. During the 2006-2007 academic year, the district slipped back into "academic watch."

"I think that TPS needs to change its perspective in opening its schools to the community," said Ford as he elaborated on his concerns

about the school district. "We have a two-tiered system in which the outlying schools are doing well. Study after study shows that when you bring race and poverty together, the results are dismal."

As to the matter of the memoranda of understanding, Ford explained that far too many of these "mini-collective bargaining pacts" exist. He voiced his displeasure at having to constantly deal with negotiated agreements on individual employees of the district that too often attempt to resolve difficult situations through financial settlements.

When asked if the district's bargaining units had the upper hand with respect to current agreements, Ford responded that "unions have out-negotiated the board and the district in the past." He also offered the fact that he did not blame the district's unions for protecting their people.

Ford emphasized that he did not intend to serve quietly on the school board and overlook problems. With respect to a recent conversa-



tion with Superintendent John Foley, he recalled that "I've made it clear that if things don't change, I shall be an outspoken critic."

Asked about Foley's reaction, Ford answered: "I think he's still trying to decide if I'm serious."

Ford, who was selected by board members in the spring to complete the unexpired term of former member Deborah Barnett, announced his own candidacy for the position in late summer.

Just last week, he was denied the endorsement of

the Lucas County Democratic Party for the school board position after he declined to screen for the bid before a membership that had denied him, as an incumbent mayor, its endorsement during his re-election campaign.

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“Speak the Truth to the People”

Mari Evans: 2007 Honoree at the Third Annual African American Legacy Luncheon

By Warren Woodberry
Guest Contributor

“Speak the truth to the people. Talk sense to the people. Free them with honesty. Free the people with Love and Courage for their Being. Spare them the fantasy. Fantasy enslaves. A slave is enslaved. Can be enslaved by unwisdom.”

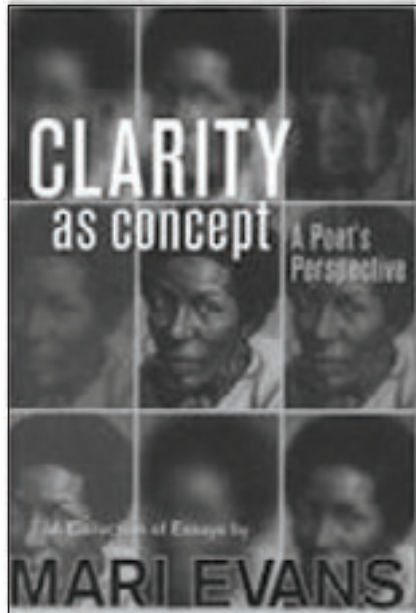
These excerpts from a poem by Mari Evans should be the national anthem of all urban residents.

“To identify the enemy is to free the mind. A free mind has no need to scream. A free mind is ready for other things. To BUILD black schools. To BUILD black children. To BUILD black minds. To BUILD black love.”

David Hoppe, writer, columnist and editor, writes of her accomplishments: “Mari Evans is an influential member of the 1960s Black Arts movement, which included Amiri Baraka, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni and Etheridge Knight. Evans’ previous books include *I Am*

a Black Woman, Nightstar and A Dark and Splendid Mass. She edited the first significant collection of black women’s poetry, the ground-breaking *Black Women Writers (1950-1980).*

Evans has been a voice, and a force, writing, teaching and speaking out on a range of issues. Clarity as Concept collects essays she has written for a variety of publications over the years.”



Mari Evans will be honored on Saturday, October 13, at the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio Luncheon at the former Wyndham Hotel, now the Riverfront, at 1:00 p.m. But she will be forever honored in the hearts and minds of those in Toledo who went to Scott High School.

Evans is but yet another example of the value of the Scott incubator for talent at the highest level. Born on July 16, 1923, in Toledo, Ohio, Mari attended Scott and The University of Toledo where she not only developed her talents as writer, but also exhibited talent as a musician, educator and lecturer.

After leaving Toledo, Evans obviously had words and deeds to share with the world as she has distinguished herself as a writer and assistant professor at the African American and Resource Center, Cornell University, Indiana University, the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Miami at Coral Gables and at Spelman Col-



Jackson-Brown, director of the African-American Cultural Center Library, which had sponsored a lecture for Evans. “Her career spans four decades of writing, and she’s considered a mentor to a lot of younger African American poets.”

Evans has combined teaching, writing, and publishing with many other activities. She directed “The Black Experience,” a television program in Indianapo-

place in the annals of African-American literature was assured. As Wallace R. Peppers wrote in Dictionary of Literary Biography: “Her volumes of poetry, her books for adolescents, her work for television and other media, and her recently published volume on black women writers between 1950 and 1980 ensure her a lasting place among those who have made significant contributions to Afro-American life and culture.”

The African American Legacy Project will be honoring not only Mari Evans but also Federal Magistrate Vernelis Armstrong, Dorothy Day of Day Funeral Home, retired Judge Robert V. Franklin, Frank Goldie, retired postmaster of Chicago, and Emerson Ross Jr., retired businessman and current member of the Ohio Board of Education.

For some of these heroes, like Evans, Scott High School was the cornerstone of development.

The third annual celebration of northwest Ohio’s African-American contributors will start at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the African American Legacy Project at 2321 Upton Avenue – 419-720-4369 or at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at 1339 Dorr Street – 419-255-8876.

“To identify the enemy is to free the mind. A free mind has no need to scream. A free mind is ready for other things. To BUILD black schools. To BUILD black children. To BUILD black minds. To BUILD black love.”

Welcome home Mari, your words have inspired us all.

Once a Bulldog ... always a Bulldog

Contact
The Truth
at
thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com



lege in Atlanta.

They have all benefited from her words for the world. She has authored many articles, essays, children’s books, plays, musicals and books of poetry and she was also a leader in expanding the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s.

Her play, “River of My Song,” was produced in 1977 and, in 1979, her musical “Eyes” was produced.

“She’s one of the early African-American poets who is still living,” said Grace

lis, between 1968 and 1973. She has consulted for agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts (1969-1970), as well as for the Indiana Arts Commission (1976-1977). She is a popular and much-sought after lecturer, and she has made repeated appearances at the National Black Writers Festival held biannually at Medgar Evers College. Evans resides in Indianapolis and is an assistant professor at Cornell University. By the mid-1980s, Evans’

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All Toledo-Area Young Business Professionals

You are urged to attend our monthly **Networking Forum**, sponsored by the **Greater Toledo Urban League Young Professionals**. We will discuss “Philanthropic Giving: One Dollar at a Time”, and the role we should have in building our community. We will also kick off our fall community service project: **Food for the Soul**

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Organized in February 2005 as an auxiliary organization of the Greater Toledo Urban League, the membership of the **GTULYP** runs the gamut — from entrepreneur to engineer, scientist to social worker, production worker to politician. Our mission is “to engage young professionals, from all industry backgrounds, in the movement towards the achievement of social and economic equality”. Despite varied backgrounds, all **GTUL Young Professionals** are: **1) Young** – between the ages of 21 and 40; **2) Dedicated** – to their communities, and, **3) Committed** – to seeking innovative solutions to persistent economic and societal problems.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead, 1982

Toledo's Own Tyler Perry, Avery Sutton, Overcomes Adversity with Creativity

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth
Reporter

Avery Sutton's story is an inspiration to all those artists who are struggling to make it in the volatile world of show business. The writer, director and star of the hit stage comedy, "Don't Start No Stuff @ 30,000 Feet!" did not always have it easy.

Working as a flight attendant for American Airlines, Sutton was laid off after the tragic events of 9/11/2001. "They came and took my car and I lost my apartment," he says. Homeless and away from home in Dallas, Texas, an American Airlines hub, Sutton found lodging with a friend who let him live with her and do some painting and other odd jobs until he was on his feet.

"Don't take for granted what you have today," he advises, "for you may not always have it tomorrow."

Sutton's salvation came from his faith and writing about his experiences on airplanes and the variety of people and situations he encountered.

"I would get up every morning and write and write," he says. "That made me laugh." Sutton wrote about his experiences with passengers of different races and nationalities. "They were all similar, regardless of race and nationality," he observes.

Compiling these funny incidents into a comic play with a host of hilarious characters, Sutton has created a play that keeps its audiences in stitches. Asked to describe "Don't Start No Stuff @ 30,000 Feet!" Sutton tries to give a general idea of the play without giving away the plot.

"Three sisters travel on a plane. They're all in their 70's, but they all think they're superstars," he says, chuckling. "One thinks she's Beyonce, one thinks she's Whitney and one thinks her name is Shirley Caesar Salad."

Creating funny names for his characters is just one of Sutton's talents. He is also featured in the play, but wants his character to be a surprise.

There are a host of talented performers in his play from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, but Sutton is conduct-

ing a talent search, October 17, at the Frederick Douglass Center, to recruit Toledo talent for the show.

One talented Toledoan, childhood friend, Nadine "Michelle" Lewis is already

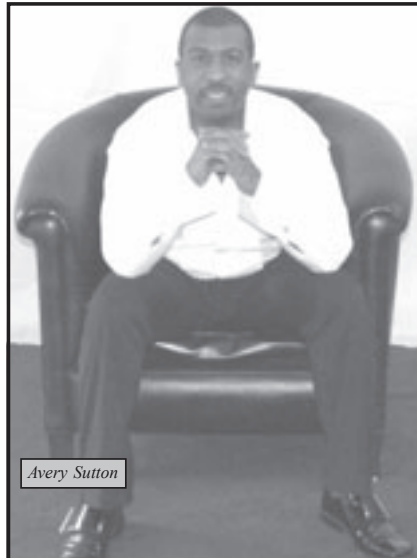
won't want to come down! Anyone wanting to see the show should get tickets in advance (they're \$17.50 for general admission and \$22.50 for VIP seats - up front - plus a reception with

Future plays and soundtracks will include Toledo talent discovered at the October 17 casting call, sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Afterschool Tutoring program, beginning at 4 p.m. Actors, dancers, vocalists, rappers, musicians, models, hairstylists, barbers, make-up artists, models, writers and directors can audition for jobs with Sutton's Dallas-based company.

Winners will be announced at each of the Toledo performances of his show October 26 and 27.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets for "Don't Start No Stuff @ 30,000 Feet!" can pick them up at Marie's Designer Fashions, 709 N. Reynolds Road, Jack's Menswear, 3414 Dorr Street and from the sponsor, Friendship New Vision, Inc., 5301 Nebraska Avenue.

Call (419) 531-3242 or (419) 534-5437 to reserve tickets.



in the cast as "Bula." Lewis, a comedienne, adds to the hilarity with her version of "I'm Tellin' You I'm Not Goin'." It's worth the price of admission just to see her perform this number!

"One of the actors sung live before President Nelson Mandela. She sang solo for him in South Africa," Sutton says, bragging on his cast. "Another one is on Fox's "Prison Break."

The male model is in national magazines and he made Teacher of the Year in Dallas. He's going to drive the women crazy!"

The show is not all laughs; there's a variety of entertainment available for the audience. "There's choreography and live music," says Sutton. "It's fast-paced, energetic. It will keep you on your toes. You will not want to go the restroom!"

So, go before you go because once you're at 30,000 feet with this show, you

the cast after the show), because, although tickets will be sold at the door (for \$20 and \$25), there may not be any left.

The demand for tickets started before they even went on sale. Also, this may be the last opportunity for Toledoans to see "Don't Start No Stuff @ 30,000 Feet!" before it starts its tour, which if Sutton has his way, will end up in New York.

"I want to get this off-Broadway," says the ambitious young man, who once had his own modeling/talent agency, TALMAR, here in Toledo, in partnership with the late Dr. Karen Flowers and this writer.

"I want to do a series of four plays," he says. "The next one is "Don't Start No Stuff @ Aunt Lula Mae's Funeral!" in 2009." The plays go backward chronologically and continue the antics of some of the characters in "Don't Start No Stuff @ 30,000 Feet!"

Voting at the Precinct Polling Place

(Continued from Page 3)

to provide, the required proof of identity, you may cast a provisional ballot.

Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification that shows the voter's name and current address, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a reminder or a voter registration notification, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by provisional ballot. Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a Social Security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot. R.C. 3505.18(A)

Voters must bring iden-

tification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification that shows the voter's name and current address, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a reminder or a voter registration notification, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by providing the last four digits of the voter's social security number and by casting a provisional ballot.

Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a social security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot. (The above requirement is effective June 1, 2006)

INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS - ARLINGTON, SPRING, RAYMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & BYRNEDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL DEMOLITION

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on October 31st, 2007**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the demolition of Arlington, Raymer, Spring Elementary School & Byrnedale Middle School Bid, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by The Collaborative, Inc and Munger Munger & Associates Architects, Inc., and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo - Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. - Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **October 10th, 2007** which can be purchased from **Toledo Blueprint, 6964 Mc Nerney Rd., Northwood, Ohio 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **October 15th, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.** at Waite Brand Auditorium Summit Annex 1530 N. Superior. A walk-thru schedule will be provided at the pre-bid meeting.

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to don.hill@lgb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No. 1 Arlington Elementary School Demolition	\$
260,664.00	
Bid Item No. 2 Byrnedale Junior High School Demolition	\$
461,993.00	
Bid Item No. 3 Raymer Elementary School Demolition	\$
337,893.00	
Bid Item No. 4 Spring Elementary School Demolition	\$
275,062.00	
Total	\$1,335,612.00

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The Sojourner's Truth Education

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Chris Myers: Two-Year Evolution Brings Greater Understanding

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Chris Myers is still here. Myers, who finished out of the running in 2005 for a seat on the Toledo Board of Education, never really left the Toledo public school arena.

As he points out in a recent conversation with The Truth, Myers has been on the scene in the inter-

points – the ABC building blocks he carted around.

Nevertheless, he still emphasizes that his plan to improve the district has three priorities.

“The first thing is academics,” he says. “We have to have a strong school system and a curriculum that is keeping up with changes in which students are mastering the basics, teachers are using technol-

formation of a business committee to assist the district with its budget concerns. “We live in an era when it’s okay to collaborate,” he says.

We asked Myers to address the four topics that we have been or will be putting before all of the school board candidates we interview prior to the November general election: teacher competence and diversity,

try to recruit [more minorities] but it’s hard because every district does that.”

Myers suggests that a student-to-teacher program be implemented here in Toledo in order to move Toledo students into college educational programs.

“We have to have a strong curriculum and strong teachers to have strong schools,” he says on the issue of the lack of

tives, he says, is parental frustration with what’s going on in schools. “If the Toledo Public Schools fixed their problems, that would eliminate that [issue]. And if the governor wants to get rid of charters, he should encourage public schools to fix their problems. When you have a Fulton and a Pickett that have been in academic emergency for so long, are you going to force

else because there is nothing wrong with tweaking the system.”

In 2005, Myers, a Republican, ran as part of the “3 for Change” partnership along with current board members Robert Torres and Darlene Fisher, both Democrats. The trio was sponsored by the Urban Coalition, a school district watchdog group.

These days, says Myers, he still is closely aligned with the Urban Coalition’s principles of reform.

“I’m aligned with their point of view but I am involved with so many other groups ... the Urban Coalition is just one extension of that involvement. You can still be involved with a group and not be in agreement with everything.”

Myers grew up in Huron, OH and earned both his bachelor’s (secondary education/Comprehensive social studies) and master’s (education technology) degrees from The University of Toledo. He gained teaching experience during his stints as a student teacher at Clay and Woodward High Schools.

His interest in technology and the relatively low pay that teachers’ command took him to the University of Michigan where he has been employed for the past seven years, most recently as the School of Education’s webmaster.

But in spite of his decision to forgo a teaching career, his passion for the educational process remains intact, he says.

“Our schools are one of the two best offerings for Toledo,” says Myers. “But our competition is global. Our board members need a long-term vision and it’s the short-term vision that has caused problems. The Toledo Public Schools need to match up against systems from around the world. My passion comes from my desire to want to make education work here.”

“All of our teachers graduate and are certified,” he says of the first issue. “That’s step one, but one of the biggest failings is that once they are in, there is no incentive to improve.”

vening two years attending school board meetings, using his experience as a webmaster to get information to the public and enhancing his own understanding of the problems that the district faces.

“I really understand the problems more than ever,” says Myers. “The solutions I have proposed are based on that observation.

One thing that has changed from the last campaign would be the ubiquitous props Myers used in 2005 to illustrate his central

ogy and we are using the [area] universities as partners.”

Myers second point of emphasis is fiscal responsibility. “If we are going to have a good educational system, we have to be confident that the money we are spending is going towards that goal,” he says.

And the third issue is openness. On matters of budgets, curriculum and board policies, says Myers, “everyone needs to be involved before the fact.”

Myers has proposed the

student achievement, vouchers and charter schools and the Toledo Intern Plan.

“All of our teachers graduate and are certified,” he says of the first issue. “That’s step one, but one of the biggest failings is that once they are in, there is no incentive to improve. I recommend a merit pay system which will reward those who deserve it.

“As for diversity, that is really a pipeline problem that the educational system poses. The district can



your child to go to them? “A month and a half ago, I called for a new evaluation program,” says Myers of the controversial Intern Program that pairs first-year teachers with veteran teachers who both mentor and evaluate the neophytes.

“The balance of power needs to return to individual schools in the district so they can have a greater say in who they have,” he says. “The mentoring part is good – that helps to retain teachers. The evaluation ... we need a more accountable system. Let’s try something

The second reason for the existence of alterna-




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“What Can I Do With an Africana Studies Degree?”

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Sidney Ribeau, Ph.D., president of Bowling Green State University, shared his expertise in matters involving Africana Studies last week and helped The University of Toledo's Africana Studies Program kick off a lecture series titled “What Can I Do with an Africana Studies Degree?”

The short answer, accord-

meant to be a college student, he said.

“My first year was challenging,” he recalled. It was, in fact, a course he took in African-American literature that managed to inspire him as a student. “It became an opportunity to realize my intellectual potential,” he said of the course.

Due in part to that experience, Ribeau ended up majoring in English. “I was power-

the eyes of winners and losers. That's what general education is all about.”

As for his second point, Ribeau noted that students need to develop academic skills for any course of study. Ribeau referred to such skills as writing, analysis and reasoning, use of available technology and critical thinking to make that point.

“A solid program build skills and knowledge ... an

arts, pre-professional degree that provides students with a general body of knowledge concerning African-descended peoples, an appreciation for competing-thought traditions and effective communication skills,” said Patterson. “It also allows exposure to social science research, cultural criticisms, creative productions and historical narration.

“In addition to this general knowledge content, Africana Studies is also about specific, marketable skills,” added Patterson. “Africana Studies has always been about an intellectual journey of self-discovery, successful careers and social transformation.”

For more information about the UT Africana Studies Program, contact Rubin Patterson at 419-530-7252 or by email at rubin.patterson@utoledo.edu.



Rubin Patterson and Sydney Ribeau

ing to Ribeau, is that you can do just about anything with such a degree that you can do with any liberal arts degree as long as you are prepared properly.

The A.S.P.I.R.E. (Africana Studies Prepares Individuals with Relevant Expertise) Lecture Series, according to Ruben Patterson, Ph.D., head of the program, will bring to the UT campus a number of “highly distinguished individuals ... who either got degrees in or have contributed extensively to Africana Studies.”

Ribeau, as he noted during his speech last week, has often found himself, during his extensive career in academia, on the cutting edge of programs developed to assist students in concentrating in Africana Studies.

And as Ribeau told his audience of about 40 students, faculty and staff, it did not take long for him to become involved in studies involving African-American history, literature and culture.

Ribeau entered Wayne State as a freshman in 1966 without any idea of what it

fully impacted by it,” he said. “Africana studies became the centerpiece as I was trying to determine what career choices I would make.”

Ribeau went on to pursue a higher degree at the University of Illinois in Champagne-Urbana and then onto the faculty, and ultimately the administration, of California State University in Los Angeles where he would be instrumental in developing an Africana Studies program that would flourish under his guidance.

Ribeau spoke of two factors which are important for a successful academic program – imparting knowledge and the development of skills.

“Africana Studies provides students with a perspective and better understanding of the world in which he lives. He can begin to see from a unique point of view our institutions, for example, American democracy, through the eyes of others, many of whom are outsiders. That gives one a much more complex understanding of American democracy, in some sense through

intellectual perspective,” said Ribeau.

“And with such skills you can go onto graduate school and be successful.”

Ultimately, Ribeau noted, Africana Studies programs contribute to diversity. “Diversity is not an option, diversity is not an add-on. Diversity is a core academic value,” said Ribeau.

Ribeau, however, did not isolate the value of Africana Studies to continued academic success in graduate programs. He spoke of the success that former students encountered in a wide range of career choices and also related that his department at Cal State was active in preparing its students for life after college. He established an intern program with the state legislature for Africana Studies students, for example. “I want to get students out in the world as early as we can.”

Ribeau's experiences in Africana Studies reflected the mission that the UT program has set for itself.

“A bachelor of arts degree in Africana Studies is a liberal

The Study Hour Club

Who says young people aren't striving for excellence anymore and don't know “good music” when they hear it?

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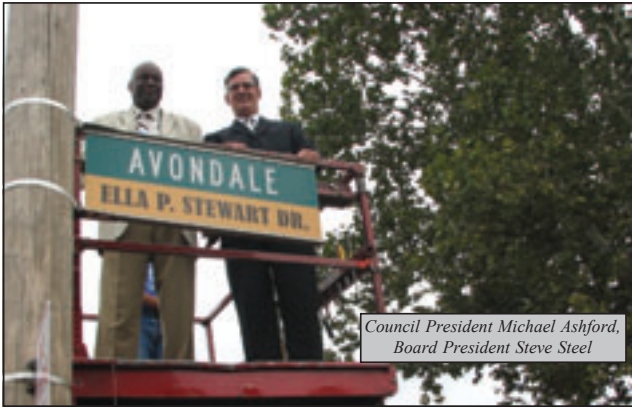


Mrs. Dorothy E. Day and four other honorees, Vernelis Armstrong, Mari Evans, Robert W. Franklin, Frank Goldie, and Emerson Ross, Jr., also, the family of the late Lemaxie Glover are to be honored at this the 3rd luncheon, on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at the Wyndham Hotel, Two Seagate - Toledo, OH, downtown, at 1 p.m.

Tickets are available at African American Legacy Project
2321 Upton Ave., Phone 419.729.4369
and
Toledo Credit Union, 1339 Dorr St., Phone 419.255.8876

Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls Rebuilt



Council President Michael Ashford, Board President Steve Steel

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Thursday, October 4, 2007, was the occasion for a dual commemoration on the site of the new Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls.

During the morning, a host of Toledo elected and appointed officials gathered in front of the school, along with dozens of Stewart students, to participate in a ceremony to name that portion of Avondale after the school's namesake.

The Ella P. Stewart Drive was dedicated to the first African-American female pharmacist in Toledo's his-



tory. In the late afternoon, many of the same dignitaries along with dozens of par-

ents and students, gathered in the new gymnasium to officially open the newly constructed school.



Principal William Keaton, Assistant Principal Suzanne Muggy

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Owens Delivers Backpacks and Supplies To Toledo Public Schools' Elementary School Children

Owens Community College's Alumni Association in collaboration with Books-A-Million and three Great Lakes Credit Union branches recently brightened many children's lives through a unique community service endeavor titled "Backpack to the Future." Over 300 backpacks and nearly 4,320 school supply items collected throughout the summer months were donated to several area elementary schools, including Toledo Public Schools' Riverside Elementary School, Nathan Hale Elementary School and Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls.

Children with new supplies. Our goal is to ensure that such occurrences do not happen and that all children begin their school year with new



school supplies from area residents to assist underprivileged school children throughout Northwest Ohio. In addition to backpacks, individuals donated crayons, markers, bottles of glue, glue sticks, colored pencils, pencils, pink erasers, school boxes, pocket folders, marbled covered composition books and Kleenex tissues.

"Our motto at Riverside Elementary School states learning is the way of life," said Romules Durant, Principal of Riverside Elementary School. "Our goal is to ensure student success and these graciously donated supplies play a significant part in the learning process. Riverside Elementary School is proud to collaborate with Owens Community College and the mission of stressing the importance of education."

In addition to the donated supplies, the program collected over \$1,200 from community members. The chari-

table donations will go toward the purchase of even more school supplies.

"I really like school and my teachers," said Ke-Nisha, an elementary student at Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls in Toledo. "We get to color with crayons in school. I like to color rainbow fishes that are purple and yellow."

The Owens Alumni Association established "Backpack to the Future" supply drive in 2004 as a way to provide educational outreach to the surrounding communities. To date, the program has given over 850 backpacks and more than 11,300 school supplies to benefit underprivileged children throughout Northwest Ohio.

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

"The impressive response area residents and businesses continue to make to the 'Backpack to the Future' supply drive is outstanding," said Kaye Koevenig, Owens Alumni Association Community Service Chair. "There are many low-income families that can barely afford to pay their bills, and may not be able to provide their chil-

educational resources."

Koevenig added, "We look forward to continuing the 'Backpack to the Future' program in the coming years so that even more children may continue to benefit from such a worthy cause."

Over the past four months, "Backpack to the Future" accepted gently-used or new backpacks and

Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund Awards \$763,674 In Need-Based Scholarships to Students

Special to The Truth

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, Inc. (NWOSF) has awarded \$763,674 in need-based scholarships to 866 students so that they can attend Kindergarten through eighth grade private schools for the 2007-2008 school year. These 866 students are attending one of 53 private schools located in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, such as Toledo Islamic Academy, West Side Montessori, Trinity Lutheran School, and Gesu Catholic School.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund believes that all children, regardless of their economic circumstances, deserve access to quality educational opportunities. The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund is one of 38 programs throughout the country affiliated with the national Children's Scholarship Fund, founded in 1998 by Ted Forstmann and John Walton in New York City.

Each year families are invited to add their name to the waiting list for the program. A lottery is then held in July by the national Children's Scholarship Fund. If a family is selected, they submit finan-

cial information to determine the amount of their child's scholarship: 25 percent, 50 percent, or 75 percent of the total tuition with the first \$500 coming from the family. Eligible families are required to demonstrate their financial need as measured by standards similar to the Federal School Lunch program.

"Sharing the joy and blessing with parents that God has provided financially through the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has been a thrill," reflected Robert Flamm, Administrator of Emmanuel Christian School. "The families are grateful that NOSF has assisted them in providing a Christian education that teaches the val-

ues they desire for their children."

Interested families can find information on the program and the application form on the NWOSF website at www.nosf.org

For more information please contact Ann Riddle, Coordinator of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 244-6711 x 219.

College Resource Night At Main Library October 24

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library presents College Resource Night, a free program designed for students, parents and educators from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24 in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan Street.

Hear Mary Plews, the Library's Teen Specialist, provide invaluable information on available resources concerning careers, colleges, scholarships and financial aid . . . everything that's needed in planning your educational future. You don't want to miss this important program.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms (fafsa.ed.gov) will be available for participants to take home. Mrs. Plews will provide beneficial information all about FAFSA. Registration is required.

For more details and to register, please call 419.259.5297.

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"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."

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Reel Review

Good Luck Chuck Dane Cook, Jessica Alba (Rated R)

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

There's an awful lot of bull in the theatres right now.

But something told me I needed to see this one joint. Okay, maybe it was the fact that Jessica Alba is in it. I mean, really, every guy loves Jessica Alba – right?

Even if she has gotten a little "Olsen-skinny" lately. But I digress.

The Ben Stiller flick, *Heartbreak Kid*, is a remake that some feel may not be as funny as the previews lead you to believe. *Mr. Woodcock* seems like it might be decent, but I wanted to see something that I wasn't exactly sure what I'd be getting. So what is *Good Luck Chuck*?

Okay, back to the whole Jessica Alba thing — from the previews, I thought he was lucky because he had her. Dane Cook plays Charlie Logan, a late 20-something bachelor who possibly wants to find love instead of just continuing to play the field.

Now, let me stop right here to say that this movie is, well ... crude.

People who like soft little comedies with predictable and lovable characters need to look elsewhere.

Charlie and his boy Stu are the complete stereotypical guys' guys.

Charlie only seems the least bit gentleman like because he's standing next to Stu.

A plastic surgeon whose chauvinistic, hormone driven frat boy mentality towards women is so over the top, it's non-stop laughs. It's a comedy people, so we have to take it as such.

But Charlie's best quality is how flawed he is. He's

a good guy in a way, but still quite shady.

He still sleeps around even after believing to have found the love of his life.

Not funny in real life, but once again ... it's a comedy, people.

So, why would Charlie keep sleeping around?

Why does he have his game so tight that he can have any woman he wants?

A childhood hex was put on him, but he never really believes in it until he experiences the heartbreaking aftermath of a former relationship.

And this is where the movie got deeper than comedy for me.

Guys ... have any of you out there ever felt like you were just the gateway boyfriend?

Like every girl that you go with, when you two break-up the girl always seems to end up pregnant and/or married?

That's my word—I swear that happens to me.

Dating back to high school yo, fa real! – LOL.

So seeing that in this movie was crazy funny (you might think I'm crazy, but I'm being real).

But Charlie is experiencing the same thing, only creepier.

Seems this childhood hex has cursed him to never find a love of his own, but he can lead others to love after they leave him. Okay, not leave. It becomes public knowledge that having sex with Charlie will lead any female to the promised land of soul-mated matrimonial bliss.

Now when he comes into work at his dental office, there's a sea of hot ready and willing females who want nothing less than to jump his bones.

Of course his buddy Stu is thinking 'JACKPOT!'

For every guy who only wants sex and nothing more, there are those guys who want much more.

But like I said before, even Charlie isn't as good as good guys get.

Along the way he is persuaded to use his powers for good.

After all these beautiful women throw themselves at him and he's unsure of how to react, his good luck charm status has made him the target of a woman who really needs to find love at any cost because she may not have a lot of opportunities.

So, when Charlie and a girl do the deed (thankfully, they don't show it – it's hilarious onscreen, but this scene was kinda deep), it gives Stu the perfect chance to use this 'charm' status for evil... disguised as good. Now Charlie puts it down on dozens and dozens of females.

This part of the film is kinda sexual, so I wouldn't recommend anyone under high school age seeing this and guys who might go see this with their girls... warning: you might get a few sharp elbow jabs if you drool too much. (Chris Rock's last movie *I Think I Love My Wife* is still the front runner for the most sharp elbow jabs, tho).

Anyway, after all that sex Charlie starts to feel used.

Girl after girl, they all just want to get him in bed and get on with their lives.

And true to the curse, sure enough – each and every one of the girls ends up meeting her soul mate and getting married. Now in the midst of all this, Charlie has developed feelings for a special someone.

Cam Wexler (Jessica Alba) is exactly the type of girl any self-respecting good guy would fall for.

Where most girls want to be a diva with flawless fashion style and all the right everything, Cam is very regular and somewhat goofy. She's so accident prone that it seems cute at first, but you start actually fearing for Chuck's well being. By trade she is a penguin caretaker.

Weird, huh? But that's part of her charm. Chuck is completely falling for her

and the little game of cat and mouse that ensues is some of the best romance-comedy screen writing I've seen all year.

They fall for each other and it's all good. However, Cam is keeping her distance because she knows about Chucks' rumored curse.

Things get really interesting once Cam lets her guard down and the two of them are about to become a full-fledged relationship when Charlie realizes how the curse might affect his new found love. He's feel-

ing Cam, he's swept her off her feet, but as soon as they have sex the curse will send her off away to meet her true soul mate. Now how's that for a dilemma?

Good Luck Chuck turns out to be an endearingly sweet film disguised as an in-your-face styled comedy. I guarantee you will laugh. HARD!

Oh yeah, and who would turn down the chance to see Jessica Alba play the relationship girl?

The true grade for *Good Luck Chuck* is B.

Dear Ryan,

I am trying to build my arms bigger and I'm a little confused on which exercises are the best for me to do. I've read the magazines and they all say something different. What should I do to increase the size of my arms? It seems that there are also a lot of different routines, how do I know which is the best one to follow? Thank-u.

A Call to Arms

Dear Call,

First I would like to thank you for having so much faith in me and my knowledge of training and nutrition. It means a lot knowing that you would still ask me after reading all the magazine hype.

I believe if you stick to the basics that you will get the results that you desire. Yes, the more you read in the books the more confused you can get. I tend to stay away from all of that confusion. I only read the research and nutritional information in those books. If it's not backed by science and/or college testing I really don't pay much attention to it.

It's nice to see other workout routines to give you a change but what works for one person may not work for another. As I just said, if you stick to the basics you can't and won't go wrong!

The biceps are two different muscles. You have the long head (outside) and the short head (inside). Straight bar curls are the best for building nice size biceps. Taking a wide grip works mostly the short head and a narrow grip works the long head of the biceps. Take a grip that's shoulder width and hit both heads of the bicep at the same time.

Start out with a light weight and do 20 reps to make sure that you can feel the muscle work and a nice little burn in the biceps. Then raise the weight progressively throughout four sets so that your last set ends with a hard eight-12 reps.

The next good exercise is alternating curls. Start with your palms facing each other. Then as soon as you clear your thighs, supinate (turn) your wrist so that your pinky is heading towards the outside of your shoulder. Squeeze the biceps and return to the starting position. Then begin your rep with the other hand. Continue to alternate hands in this fashion until your desired repetitions are completed.

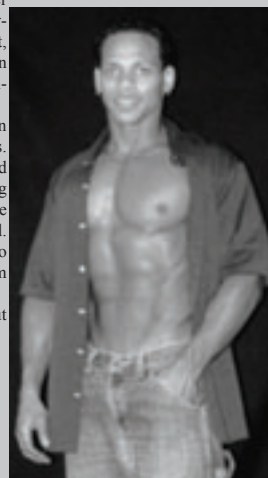
The last biceps exercise I will suggest is the hammer curl. You start the same way as you do with alternating curls except you do not turn the wrist. This works part of the forearm and adds thickness to the outside of the bicep.

Now, onto your triceps. Your triceps are three different muscles and should be worked no less than the biceps. Triceps pushdowns are an excellent exercise for the triceps. Be sure that when doing this exercise you do not move your shoulders. Only the elbow joint should move and you don't want to go much higher than your chest. Kickbacks are another great exercise for this muscle group. Bend over at the waist, keep your back flat and your elbows up. Straighten the arm into the locking position so that you contract the muscle then release slowly and repeat.

Dumbbell extensions while you are laying down are also good and very beneficial to the triceps. Laying face up on a bench, take two dumbbells and hold them above you towards the ceiling. Keeping your elbows and upper arms perpendicular to the ground, lower the weights to the sides of your head. Raise the weight back up and repeat. Be sure to keep your shoulders down and your arms from swinging.

Good luck in achieving your Dream Bodies out there and keep the questions coming.

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The Governor's Goals? A Stronger Ohio ... A Stronger Allen County ... A Stronger Lima.

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourners Truth Reporter

What a difference eight months can make! There was a time that government moved so slowly, by the time some bills were made laws and policy changes were renegotiated, most of us had forgotten why we wanted any of those things in the first place.

Now enter the Strickland administration. Amazing occurrences in the past eight months have made Democrats and Republicans both sit up and take notice. Governor Ted Strickland is the driving force behind the changes that are occurring at lightning speed ... governmentally speaking.

This weekend, the governor took a few moments out of his day to sit down with *The Sojourner's Truth* during a visit to Lima and talk about the changes that have been implemented as well as those yet to come. He spoke freely about what the implications were for Ohio and for those living in Allen County.

"We have a team that has put Ohioans first on the agenda. Marc Dann is holding people accountable," the governor told us. "He is seriously looking at programs, like the voucher program, charter schools, and giving a great deal of scrutiny to questions like: is this program demonstrating positive strides for Ohio students. If not, he's challenging their right to continue with their programs. Rich Cordray is investing our money in Ohio. Jennifer Brunner is bringing integrity and trust back to Ohio as Secretary of State, and we have been able to put together a budget that passed the House with only one dissenting vote, and passed the Senate with no dissenting vote - and the budget contains not a single tax increase, or fee increase.

"The proposed budget also has a three percent increase in funding for elementary students, they've dumped more money into the 'Healthy Children' program that takes a good look at students one, two and three years old," Strickland continued. "Research says, the children we provide for at this level, will be the chil-

dren we do not have to prepare for a couple decades later in jail or prison cells. Everybody deserves affordable health care. We have a state child health insurance plan that is for the benefit of Ohio's working families. In order for every child in Ohio to have affordable health care, the state has formed a partnership with the federal



Vickie Shurelds and Gov. Ted Strickland

government to give solid financial support where it can do the most good.

"We've also looked at the high cost of higher education in Ohio. For the past nine years, there has been a steady increase in tuition costs for students. In fact in the past 10 years, there has been a nine percent increase. That has placed us at 47 percent higher than the national average."

The suggested budget, said Strickland, carries with it a stipulation that prevents schools from increasing their budget over the next two years.

The governor spoke of great deals going on across Ohio such as new plants coming into Cincinnati, Cleveland and even Adams County with each manufacturing opportunity providing 1,000 or so jobs for that area.

He asked that we not be so discouraged, "Remember what we have: a strong workforce, and that even with the rough times we've had, Ohio is still fourth in manufacturing," said the governor.

He has strong feelings about the ethanol plant that should begin production by mid-November. "It's slow moving - but we are moving ahead. We had a big hole to

dig out of, but we are coming along, and it's easy to get excited about the future for Ohio."

Strickland is making himself accessible to the citizens of Ohio. He's been making weekly stops in the Allen/Putnam/Hancock County areas for several months now and he says he's choosing to do this because he really

doesn't know what everyone is thinking unless he sits across the table and listens to what they have to say. "How can I represent someone unless I walk around with them, talk to them, hear what it is they have to say?" said Strickland.

He became very serious when the talk turns to the election of 2008. "Ohio will decide on the next president. It's a daunting task, but we're up to it, we're ready for the challenge." He encouraged voters to look at what is happening in Iraq and answer the question - "is the action being taken what is best for the country, or for the profiteers?"

Those in Ohio who are registered must make a commitment to vote, said Strickland. "Take a good look at the candidates, what they've done in the past, as well as what they're doing now before making a decision," he advised.

Another issue at the top of the governor's list is his Council on Closing the Achievement Gap for African American Males' Graduation Rates. He spoke of it with great passion as did he when he speaks of CJ Prentiss, the supervisory force behind the initiative.

"We have no throwaway

kids in Ohio! Every child deserves the chance at a good education," said Strickland. "We've got to figure out what has gone wrong with the system and fix it before any more harm is done to our students.

"Lima is not as challenged as some of the other areas of Ohio, but that doesn't mean the area is left out. There is no room for allowing someone to fall through the cracks. Every child needs to graduate and plan to increase their hiring level by getting adequate training."

His plans for establishing a stronger Ohio have begun taking shape as the different components are put into action. The focus, he noted, is also on creating more opportunities for better lives. He says Lima's time is coming. Be patient. Things are beginning to happen for those who need it most in Ohio.

"Things are better, just remember, we had a large hole to dig ourselves out of, but we are succeeding, the time for change is coming."

Contact Vickie Shurelds at vickie@sojournerstruth.com

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Political Commentary

People Get Ready... There's a Change A-Comin' Political Implications of a Town Divided

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Look down your street, Lima. Something's coming. Can you feel it?

Trouble's Brewing. Do you see it? Springing up all over town. The political season has taken on a new face this year. There are signs in almost every yard, at least in the 5th and 6th Wards. That's new.

Derry Glenn, Ray Magnus. Yep ... Ray Magnus. Why are ALL those Ray Magnus signs all over the 5th and 6th Wards - usually the most neglected wards in the city? Know why? Councilman Magnus knows that there are more registered voters in the 5th and 6th Wards than in any other section of town.

It's true. The registered voters in those wards can turn an election on its ear. That means, if it could happen that all African-Americans in the city of Lima got together and decided on one way to vote, they could change the face of this city. They could put in who they want into any city position.

We witnessed it first hand during a recent election for two seats on the city school board. Only one candidate was on the ballot. Eleven were running for the seats, so 10 of those running were "write in" candidates. With the help of the Minority Caucus working in tandem with the black churches, voters were told how to mark their ballots to vote for the write in candidate of their choice.

They were given flyers with the correct spelling and

directions for voting that could be taken into the voting booths with them on Election Day. The results shook up the board, adding two new African-American faces. Prospective voters have been urged to check the polling place next election and see who's sitting in those precinct judge chairs.

There is some maneuvering going on right now, changing the precinct lines in "certain parts of the city." More than likely it is an attempt to distribute that power to a different set of voters but, for now, concentrate on the power that is in your hands. Only 30.55 percent of registered voters turned out for the May election. You begin to lose the power if you don't use it. Vote. Every Election.

There's a little trouble stirred up at City Council right now. If you read that other paper in town, you'll see the stories, editorials calling for dismissal of Councilmen Tommie Pitts and Ray Magnus because they were talking in "public" exchanging ideas, and then Pitts was not timely with his calling of a meeting of the committee he leads to discuss an idea from another councilman about the marijuana laws in Lima.

Should a meeting have been called? Probably, but if you attend any council meetings or watch them on public access, you know most of these meetings encounter delays. Now there's been a special called meeting of City Council to discuss the 'infraction.' The original councilman with the 'idea on

marijuana law strengthening' has asked to have the discussion held in his committee, the city law director has suggested "tightening up the verbiage" in the rules and regulations stating that as they are, **city council meetings are not in compliance with state open meetings law.** So, they are calling out Councilmen Pitts and Magnus for rule infraction, when they are all committing an infraction against state law each week. Just so we're clear.

So, what's it all about, really? What is the real problem? According to Ray Magnus, the current administration is scared. "It's time for a change. It's time for new leadership," says Magnus. "I'm a successful businessman with a plan for this community that's going to move it forward. They want to keep things as they are, business as usual, the community is tired of that. I have people calling me everyday wanting me to put signs in their yards, sending me checks to help with my campaign. I haven't asked for financial help, but they're sending the checks, anyway."

Magnus has John Nixon for an opponent. He believes the power of Lima is in the people who make things happen within the framework already laid out. He's being endorsed by the City Firemen's Union and other city workers who have worked side by side with Nixon for a number of years.

"I've forged relationships with the people in this community, and that's how you get things done, by working

with people, getting to know them and finding ways of combining economics, strategic planning and realistic goal setting to make a way for community growth," says Nixon. "The day of the major industrial giant coming into a town to save the day is gone. The real chance for growth now is in the small business. Those that work day in and day out, not hiring a lot of people, but keeping their employees steadily employed."

Recently, Mayor David Berger approached City Council with a proposal. Two of his chief aides were ready for retirement. Both positions carry impressive salaries. His idea was to allow them to retire; then keep them on at a reduced salary; the city retains their expertise but pays

less because they can draw from their retirement funds.

If you were hoping those were job opportunities for you, think again. Council agreed (those are appointed positions) and now those salaries are reduced by a small fraction - around \$5,000.00 each - plus now they also get their full pensions, and the cabinet remains intact. Not bad.

The position of City Council president carries with it the responsibility of making sure that council follows procedure in getting city business done in a timely fashion. He must be able to work well with all the councilmen and keep track of what is or is not happening in every committee. He must also work well with the city administration, and have a good

working relationship with the heads of safety services, law enforcement, and have the confidence of the city residents that he will guide the council into making decisions that will work for the good of everyone in the city.

It's your choice. It's a good idea to attend a council meeting. They're open to the public and held every other Monday night. October 8, 22 and November 5 at 7 p.m. are the three scheduled before the election on November 6. The meetings are also aired during the week on public access television. The power is in the hands of the African-American voters if you want to put it to the test. Vote, watch your power at work.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Mentoring Services for Substance Abusing Parents.

The goal is to provide mentoring services that will support parents to:

- Engage in and successfully complete substance abuse treatment;
- Retain custody and/or reunify with their children;
- Learn the skills necessary to prevent re-maltreatment of their children.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental units, private for-profit entities/agencies and non-profit entities/agencies. Agencies should have unique information, education, knowledge and experience providing mentoring services to substance abusing parents. RFP materials will be available from October 1 through October 16, 2007, at 705 Adams St. Toledo, OH 43624. To make arrangements to pick up a RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session regarding the RFP will be held at LCCS on October 16, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in Room # 913.

The deadline for completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on November 5, 2007. No proposal will be accepted after the deadline.

By Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

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A Master's degree in Higher Education, College Student Personnel or related field required, Ph.D. preferred. A minimum of five years experience providing high level administrative support in Higher Education required, experience in Student Affairs preferred.

To apply, submit a cover letter, include position title and job #, a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, HR Dept., Toledo, OH 43606 or fax 419.530.1490 or email (preferred) recruit@utoledo.edu. Review of resumes will begin October 22, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Previous applicants do not need to re-apply. The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a request for Proposal (RFP) for Supportive Services to Women and Teenage Females Engaged in the Sex Industry.

The goal of the RFP is to provide services that will:

- Empower and equip women involved in the sex industry to provide emotional and financial support to their children resulting in family stability;
- Maintain children in their own home or reunify in a timely manner;
- Maintain stable placements for teenagers;
- Improve the health and emotional well being of females served.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental units, private for-profit entities/agencies and non-profit entities/agencies. Agencies should have unique information, education, knowledge and experience working with females engaged in the sex industry. RFP materials will be available from October 1 through October 16, 2007 at 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43624. To make arrangements to pick up a RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session regarding the RFP will be held at LCCS on October 16, 2007 at 10:30 A.M. in Room # 913.

The deadline for completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on November 5, 2007. No proposal will be accepted after the deadline.

By Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

Account Clerk 2, Law Library, College of Law:

Under the general supervision of the Head of the Acquisitions/Serials Department, the Account Clerk is responsible for maintaining all law library records relating to orders and payments for books, serials, and electronic resources.

This position requires the ability to calculate fractions, decimals and percentages and to read and write common vocabulary plus: 2 courses or 6 months experience in high school accounting or accounting for bookkeepers offered by college; 1 course in operations of adding machine & calculator (or 3 months experience); 6 months additional experience in bookkeeping. This position requires a successful score on the Account Clerk 2 civil service test for those not already in the classification. Full Time. Starting wage is \$12.51/hr.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 998274), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by Friday, October 19, 2007. **The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator**

Commandress Honored at Annual Daughters of Isis Ball

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth
reporter

Mecca Court No. 73 Daughters of Isis honored their illustrious Commandress Daughter Claudia S. Roberts, on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at the Hotel Seagate in downtown Toledo. The 44th annual dinner and ball is a standing tradition of the Mecca Court and each year they pay tribute to the local court leader in Daughters of Isis and still provide community service by awarding scholarships to

Commandress Roberts who began serving the organization as a member of Order of Eastern Star several years ago. "I've been affiliated with Daughters of Isis for five years now, and this organization as a whole strives to service the community. My project was adopting a school, and then we provided school supplies and support throughout the year. We also donate food to shelters twice each year," said Roberts.

Guests were welcomed into a hall that was draped in white and gold decorations, and highlighted an eight-by-

ten black and white tuxedos and their ceremonial accessories. Jazz and classic oldies music was provided. Opening the event was a processional led by the organization's leaders and their spouses, followed by the honoree and her husband Noble Allen Roberts.

This year's scholarship recipients were Performing Arts School of Metropolitan Toledo graduate and University of Toledo freshman Kailah Hayes, who shared the event with her mother Joy Hayes.

"I worked hard in high school, I was a member of the dance team, student govern-



Daughters of Isis Scholarship Committee

Guests were welcomed into a hall that was draped in white and gold decorations, and highlighted an eight-by-10-inch photo of the honoree in the front of the room

high school students.

The formal affair welcomed guests and Masonic officials from Ohio and Michigan, all of whom came to acknowledge the dedication of illustrious

10-inch photo of the honoree in the front of the room. Daughters of Isis members were dressed in all white attire and ceremonial accessories, while the Nobles of Mecca Court were dressed

ment, French club, Latin Club, Afro-American Club and History Club. This scholarship is really helping with this first year in college," said Kailah Hayes.

The second recipient was



Honoree Illustrious Commandress Daughter Claudia Roberts.

as a singles player, buddy system called Pals and track runner. I am still so proud of my daughter, she has worked hard and stayed well-rounded with her academics and sports." Joan Reasonover.

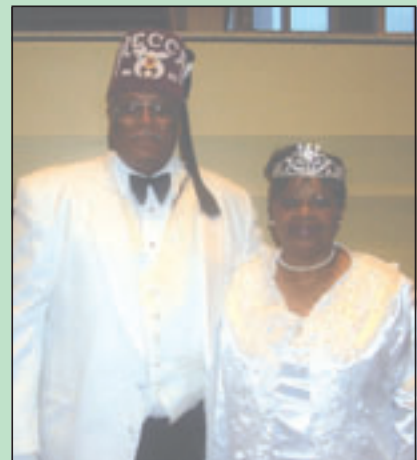
Historically, the Daughters of Isis are a branch of Prince Hall Mason affiliation, which includes Shriners, Order of the Eastern Star and Order of Golden Circle. Prince Hall affiliation first arrived in the U.S. over 200 years ago, and is recognized as the Father of U.S. Black Masonry with more than 4,500 lodges and 300,000 Masonic members.



Ball processional organizational officers and their spouses.

a Start High School graduate and Benedict College of South Carolina freshman DeAndrea Reasonover who was unable to attend the event due to her college obligations. However, her mother spoke of her gratitude to the organization for the scholarship and of her daughter's high school accomplishments.

"She was active in the Spanish Club, Tennis team



Noble Allen Roberts and wife Illustrious Commandress Daughter Claudia Roberts

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