



**Juanita Savage - Person
Kitchen for the Poor**

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“People feel good at Thanksgiving and the holidays when they can give. But I get to feel this way all the time.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Another wrong righted.

Genarlow Wilson, the young man who had been sentenced to a 10-year term of imprisonment in Georgia for accepting oral sex from a 15-year-old girl, was freed last week as the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that such a punishment was "cruel and unusual."

Cruel, perhaps. But unusual?

Wilson was 17 himself at the time of his indiscretion. He was a good student, a good athlete, popular with his classmates. The mandatory 10-year sentence he received was later deemed to be so outlandish that the legislature changed the law and made his crime a misdemeanor. Unfortunately for Wilson, the law could not be applied retroactively, so he was stuck with the dime.

And in one of those twists that has to make a person cringe, Wilson would have actually received a rather modest sentence had he engaged in intercourse with the 15-year-old rather than oral sex. The legislators of Georgia had decided one fine day to put an end to the scourge of oral sex in their state by making the punishment "grossly disproportionate" – as the majority on the court held – to the offense.

Try to explain that logic to a pair of teenagers. Or to most adults for that matter.

So in a vote of 4-3, split largely along racial lines, the high court of Georgia corrected an injustice. That's pretty sad enough in itself ... along racial lines.

But was this punishment unusual, or merely cruel?

Well it certainly would be unusual for a white teenager, in any state in the union, to have received such a sentence, if he had been punished at all. But we don't have to look far to see examples – see Jena, LA – of black teenagers receiving such grossly disproportionate sentences for their offenses.

When the estimable Bill Cosby – and you have to love his candor of recent years in his campaign that urges individuals to take responsibility for their own actions – says of the crack cocaine disparities that put so many young black males into prison with such lengthy terms: "don't sell crack," you can only agree with him to a certain extent.

Don't sell crack? Of course. But that's not the only reason the jails and prisons are filled with so many young black males.

There are so many obstacles strewn about the legal system for young black males that are not as easy to calculate as is the drug issue. Just ask young Wilson or the Jena 6.

* * * *

Democracy, yes, but at what price?

President George Bush wants to not only make the world safe for democracy, he wants to ram democracy down the throats of more than a few unwilling nation states.

Even if it means making a deal with the devil himself.

If you have ever wondered why so many people around the world hate and vilify the United States, you need to look no further than what is happening in the nation of Pakistan and the way our ally Pervez Musharraf is conducting business.

Comparing himself to Abe Lincoln, Musharraf has declared a state of emergency in Pakistan and is in the process of jailing his political opponents and all those who oppose his rule.

He has disbanded and fired the Supreme Court, which was on the verge of handing down an unfavorable decision for Musharraf on two matters - the recent elections which he had pushed through the sitting parliament and sitting provincial assemblies and his declaration of a state of emergency.

In other words, Musharraf did not simply ignore the Supreme Court as did Lincoln when the justices declared his suspension of habeas corpus unconstitutional, Musharraf has arrested the messengers.

And to what end? To preserve power. Not to preserve the nation or democracy or a way of life. But to preserve personal power.

And of what concern is Pakistan to the United States? First and foremost, of course, Musharraf is a staunch ally in America's war on terrorism. This is a war that Bush has defined as one intended to bring democracy to the Middle East.

Some things just never change. During the Cold War, America formed alliances with whichever nations would stand with us in our fight against the red menace, and it did not matter that these allies might be worse in their concerns about human rights than were the communists nations we detested.

Now, in our fight to bring democracy to the region, we have allied ourselves with the very anti-democratic Musharraf.

It's an irony not lost on millions of Muslims around the world.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*November 5-7

Third Baptist Church: Fall revival; Evangelist Tiothe Clarke, pastor First Church of God, Columbus: 419-248-4623

*November 5-9

Annual Fall Revival: Shiloh MBC; Pastor Kenneth Turner of St. James MBC-St. Louis, MO is the guest evangelist: 419-693-6698/419-535-0615

*November 8-9

Rummage Sale: Grace Presbyterian Church; 10 am to 4 pm; ☐ price or \$2 per bag after 2 pm on Friday afternoon: 419-381-3240 or 419-343-3011

*November 9

Bible Trivia Game: How much do you know about the Bible?; Crusaders for Christ; 7:45 pm: 419-376-2331

*November 9-11

"The Power of Sisterhood Conference:" Friday night speaker Shepherdess Connie Johnson-Brown of Savannah; Genesis Dreamplex: 419-255-0097

*November 10

Introduction to Criminal Justice: Ten-week (200 hour) program sponsored by TPS; Monday through Thursday 4 to 9 pm; Laws of arrest, search & seizure, loss prevention, homeland security, domestic violence: 419-671-8700

Newborns in Need: Monthly work day; 10 am to 3 pm; Calvary Assembly of God: 419-865-4470

*November 11

"Friends Day:" Minute Ladies of Warren AME Church; 52nd anniversary celebration; 10:45 am worship; 6 pm service with a concert featuring Alberta Jean Reed
Jerusalem MBC and Greater St. Mary's Combined Concert: At Greater St. Mary's; 6 pm

4th Annual God's Glass City Afr/Am Gospel Fest: "Oh My People;" Olive Mae International Caf☐; 4 to 7 pm; Drumming, dramatic skits, poetry, singing and fashion: 419-242-3010

*November 14

St. Martin de Porres: 4th annual revival; 6:30 pm; Revivalist Deacon Alex Jones from Archdiocese of Detroit

*November 17

Cancer Awareness Luncheon: Calvary Baptist Church; 11 am; Presented by the Women's Ministry

Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord;" Senior Class Tribute; Recognizing individuals 70 years of age and older; 6 pm; Mt. Pilgrim Church: 419-241-7332

*November 18

Women's Day: True Vine Baptist celebrates its 58th Women's Day; Speaker Sis. Shirley Sutton at 10:45 am service; Speaker Sis Sherri Roberts at 4 pm service; "Women Pressing Toward the Mark:" 419-539-9104 or 419-343-4104

*November 28

"What's It All About?:" Free question and answer session about diabetes and participants will receive a blood glucose meter; 10-11:30 am and 2-3:30 pm; Toledo Diabetes Care Center, Ste 200: 419-291-6767

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
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Shaping The Lives of Youth Through Football

By Bishop Stephen Ward
Special to The Truth



Another football season has come to a close at Jesup W. Scott High School. The team will go on to prepare for next season, but for the seniors on the team, the most important game has yet to begin.

On the surface, it may appear that football is just a game or an extracurricular activity, however it prepares students for life. Coaches are on the field and in the locker room to teach our players how to win. Not just on the gridiron, but in any profession they choose. We want to impart habits that will lead them to excellence through-

out their lives. Most of all, we want to teach them the value of loyalty, integrity and teamwork.

Once you know how to work with people, you can accomplish anything. There is no denying the influence coaches have on the lives of young players. One kind word of encouragement or harsh word of criticism can have a lifetime effect.

Coaches take instruction beyond the playing field and have the unique opportunity to provide players with lifetime skills. This is the truly irreplaceable role coaches, as teachers, play in the development of young players. A good football coach will teach players lessons that go far beyond tackling, throwing, blocking, and catching. They teach life lessons that include dealing with adversity, developing a strong work ethic, learning the value of teamwork and character building.

I commend Coach Matt Davis for the dedication and service that he has rendered over the years to the football program at Scott High

School. He has been an example to players imparting into them character, purpose and discipline. Character is not caught, but must be systematically taught to players! Coach Davis is committed to developing life skills in his players, while also emphasizing program success.

When I coached for several years, I would tell my players that I wanted them to be champions in the classroom, champions in the community and champions on the football field. Sending someone back as a contributing member of society is the greatest reward as a football coach. I do believe that if you aren't a champion in the classroom and in the community, you won't see the football field at many institutions. Being a champion on the field is really only the third part of the equation.

So what will the seniors of the Scott High School football team take with them?

Hard work. Football teaches you that if you want to succeed in the game, you have to do things before prac-



tice, during practice and after practice to be the best you can be.

Teamwork. There's no better team sport than football, and being part of a team is true to life. I don't know of anyone who has achieved success by himself. The ability to work with people and make them the best they can

be comes from lessons in practice and in the game.

Rules. The rules don't bend in football or in life. You might not like a law, but you live by it. You might not like a rule, but you play by it - or be penalized.

Life. Many times a player may turn his life around through a coach's influence.

What the players do off the field in life is what is most important.

For the senior football players at Scott High School, always remember the principles of hard work, dedication and persistence and you will succeed in life.



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OUR POLL, FOR OUR QUESTIONS, FOR OUR OPINIONS

By Warren Woodberry
pollnobma@yahoo.com

The Northwest Ohio Black Media Association, NOBMA (is the Toledo-based local affiliate of the National Association of Black Journalists, the largest organization of black communicators in the country. NOBMA was founded in 1990 by a diverse group of African-American communicators. In an effort to let them know what you really think, NOBMA has authored a poll. PollNobma will cover issues that affects your future. All we ask is that you place an X behind the answers that come the closest to your personal opinions and then by return email or by cutting out the article in The Truth, send your checked answer reply to:

pollnobma@yahoo.com or
PO.Box 352675 Tol.Oh 43635-2675

PollNobma will ask for your response periodically to questions that are related to urban issues. It will also present polls suggested by you. These findings will be published at a later date. PollNobma does not want to know where you work, what you earn or if you are Republican or Democrat. Your name will not be utilized in any manner and only the collective opinions will be pub-

lished.

OBJECTIVES:

According to the Zogby International Poll, the Internet is the fastest growing communications medium in the history of the world, and as the Internet continues to revolutionize the way we communicate, it is certain that the computer will gradually replace the telephone as the most efficient vehicle for survey research. But snail mail will never disappear and so we will utilize both in our PollNobma.

PollNobma, with your help, intends to play a major role in airing your views and concerns to the public and to the powers that be. We need your help, on issues that affects our future, politically, economically, educationally, socially and other. It will be a multiple choice poll that will be emailed to a select group of individuals. The target amount of poll respondents will be 200. Most polls including the Zogby, Gallup, ESPN and the Pew Poll utilize from 200 to 1500 people on their polls. The results of these polls affect millions of people around the world. The PollNobma hopes to change the mindset of a few thousands in Toledo and throughout the state of Ohio. From my point of view, most opinions in the urban communi-

ties are usually solicited from a small group of selected religious or business leaders, usually selected or approved by the powers that be that wish to have their opinion validated. Occasionally a microphone is thrust in our face for a brief response, many times never aired or published. This does not properly reflect the wider opinions or the views that disagree with these selections.

November Online poll for PollNobma

1. Are you satisfied with the Toledo School System?
Yes No Somewhat.
2. During election many promises were made to the urban community by new candidates to the school board. Do you have any confidence that they will be honored?
Yes No Mostly Not at all
3. What should be Toledo's priority?
Jobs Education Race relations Other
4. Do black organizations in Toledo work well together?
Yes No Somewhat

(Continued on Page 4)

Is Toledo Becoming Another Jena?

Commentary by Geneva Chapman
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Thirteen-year old Christopher Jenkins of Toledo has only been in trouble a couple of times in his young life. The first time was last summer when he and a friend did a real dumb thing. They stole some shoe strings from a local store.

The young African-American boys were caught and Jenkins' parents had to pay an \$80.00 fine to the store. They hoped their son learned a lesson about breaking the law. The next time the teenager got in trouble, he and another friend were teasing a schoolmate on their school bus. Jenkins' version of what happened is that he took the

girl's shoe, put it inside the waistband of his pants and told her to come get it.

Not very appropriate behavior, to be sure, and an act that deserved some type of consequences on the part of the school and his parents, all of whom would have taken appropriate action, given the opportunity to deal with Jenkins' behavior.

However, the girl's parents filed charges against Jenkins, stating that he fondled their daughter and made lewd comments to her, both of which he denies. So, on October 23, the 13-year-old was put into juvenile detention, where he remains awaiting a court date and a possible 90-day sentence, \$250.00 fine, 500 hours of community service and having to register as a sexual predator.

His mother, Wendy McVay, says the girl's mother now wants to drop the charges, stating that all she wanted was for her daughter to not be teased any more. But it may be too late for that.

An incident that should have been handled by the school and the parents is now

in the hands of a justice system that seems to target African-American males for harsher punishment across this nation, not just in Southern cities like Jena, Louisiana.

"Numerous reports, including two by the *Building Blocks for Youth* initiative, have shown that youth of color are over-represented in the populations held in detention facilities and transferred from juvenile to adult court. In the *Building Blocks for Youth* report, *"And Justice For Some: Differential Treatment of Minority Youth in the Justice System,"* the research demonstrates that minority youth experience a 'cumulative disadvantage' as they move from arrest to referral on charges, to adjudication, to disposition or sentencing, and finally to incarceration" (*"Youth Crime/Adult Time: Is Justice Served?"*) by Jolanta Juszkiewicz, from the Pretrial Services Resource Center).

If Jenkins is labeled as a sexual predator at the age of 13, what kind of life can he hope to have? He will be excluded from any occupation that involves working with

children or that requires a police check. There seems to be a national trend toward labeling black males as sex offenders, regardless of the crime, as demonstrated by the 10-year sentence given to the African-American male honor student in Georgia for having consensual oral sex with a girl in his age group and who was recently released after serving two years in prison.

Is this 21st Century lynching that uses the judicial system and labels like "sexual predator" to keep a noose around the necks of our young black men that holds them educationally, socially, economically and psychologically?

What young Jenkins did was wrong, but is this child a sexual predator? Should he have to wear that label? And should he be in juvenile detention for an act that a white middle-class youth would most likely only get school detention?

We need to seek "Justice for Christopher Jenkins" in Toledo as well as for all of the other young African-American, Hispanic, Asian and poor white males that our courts are prosecuting at younger and younger ages.

Economic Empowerment Luncheon Series Continues

The Committee of the Whole, the Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. are hosting the fifth in a series of monthly luncheons on "Economic Empowerment in the Black Community." The monthly luncheon series has been an excellent forum for black professionals in our community to meet and discuss a variety of current and relevant topics impacting the black business community.

Each luncheon has featured a successful black business person as the keynote speaker. The speakers make a 20-25 minute presentation on their experience and observations and how they have built their businesses. The speakers also share their unique strategies, concepts, philosophies, and techniques that they have applied to achieve their current and future level of success and wealth. And finally, the keynote speaker shares his or her perspective on ways to nurture and foster others to build wealth in the Black community.

November's keynote speaker will be Amy Hall, president and CEO of Ebony Construction Company, Inc. Hall assumed the reigns of the company in 2003 after the unexpected death of her father Billy Joe Smith. Hall has run the company very successfully during her first four years at the helm and says that change has been the true constant in her life during this time. Apparently change has shown favorably upon the business as sales have grown to \$9.2 million and the company now employs 20 people. Hall life says that by welcoming and embracing new ideas we can solve old problems and revitalize our communities and economy. However, a new culture and mindset must be created in northwest Ohio in order for real change to take place. Hall developed her business skills in Atlanta, Georgia as an executive. She is excited

(Continued on Page 8)

OUR POLL, FOR OUR QUESTIONS, FOR OUR OPINIONS

(Continued from Page 3)

5. Are there adequate facilities for the youth in the urban neighborhood?

Yes No Somewhat Don't know

6. Did you attend one of the following high schools?

Scott Libby Woodward Macomber Waite Whitney

7. Do you have children or grandchildren in one of these schools?

Scott Libby Waite Woodward Rogers

8. Which of these groups has the most influence with the quality of education in Toledo?

Parents The School Board The teachers union

9. Do we need more black role models/teachers in our schools?

Yes No Not important.

10. In three words or less what question would you like to see polled on PollNobma?

If you would like to be selected as a member of our select polling group, please fill out the following information and send it with your PollNobma response to:

pollnobma@yahoo.com
Mail to: PO. Box 352675 Tol. Oh 43635-2675

Email address:

Male Female

Age Married: Yes No Student

What city do you live in?

Additionally NOBMA has a new website which can also be utilized to air your views.

See:

<http://www.nobma.homestead.com>

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open your
home

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Jacqueline L. (Banks) Rivers Joins Seymour & Associates

Special to The Truth

Seymour & Associates of Maumee, Ohio, a General Agency of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) is pleased to announce the association of Jacqueline Rivers as a Financial Services Professional.

Rivers received her undergraduate degree at Bowling Green State University, where she majored in International Business and specialized in Marketing. She has been a resident of northwest Ohio for over 25 years and has offered a great deal of time volunteering and working in the community.

Rivers is joining Seymour & Associates, one of the leading agencies in the MassMutual organization. She has a solid background in financial products and services as well as customer service.

Seymour & Associates is located at 1760 Manley Road, Maumee, Ohio, and offers life insurance, fixed

annuities, financial analysis, and disability income insurance coverage to clients throughout Ohio, Michigan, and many other states.

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INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – ARLINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on November 28th, 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 new **Arlington Elementary School Bid**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by The Collaborative 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 25th, 2007** which can be purchased from **Toledo Blue Print, 6964 Mc Nerney Road, 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 **November 8th, 2007** at 2:00 p.m. at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

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

Bid Item No. 1 Site Work	\$	508,994.
Bid Item No. 2 General Trades	\$	3,283,700.
Bid Item No. 3 Fire Protection	\$	92,000.
Bid Item No. 4 Plumbing	\$	306,600.
Bid Item No. 5 HVAC	\$	1,050,100.
Bid Item No. 6 Electrical	\$	774,500.
Total Estimate:	\$	6,015,894.

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the game
mondays 9-30pm

aliens in america
mondays 8:30pm

everybody hates chris
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Juanita Savage Person: Carrying on Her Father's Legacy and Helping Those in Need

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"She is the glue that holds that place together," says Kitchen for the Poor board member Mario Goveia of Juanita Savage Person, director of the non-profit agency her father, Rev. Harvey Victor Savage, Sr., started in 1969. Person has been at the helm of the agency for the last 15 years.

The story of just why Savage founded the Kitchen for the Poor is now the stuff of legends.

"My father saw a guy getting food out of a garbage can and thought he was getting it for his dog," recalls Person. So began the agency that now prepares 36,000 meals a year, delivers 3,600 and provides an additional 1,000 summer meals for kids ... all on annual budget of approximately \$155,000.

And as tight as the budget is - finding funds is a constant battle Person and Goveia remind their visitor during a conversation just after the daily lunch meal - Person takes enormous pride in the quality of the offerings they try to provide for their clientele.

"Don't give anybody anything you don't want" my father told us," says Person. "I'm very sensitive about that and what my father taught us."



So as careful as Person, and her sister and head cook Henrietta Spearman, are about the budget, they are equally proud of the product.

And the daily lunches are not the only part of the Kitchen's services. Person and her staff are also avidly trying to make sure that their clients have housing and can locate other essential services. Recently, the Kitchen obtained a grant in order to bring on a case manager to assist in such efforts.

Of course, some individuals simply stumble into such callings as helping others. Not Person. She was born into a family dedicated to such service and was groomed for it under the tutelage of her late father.

"It's a ministry for me,"

she says. "It started off founded by a pastor and his wife. The greatest thing I witnessed was that they were always giving. They birthed 15 kids, but they loved all kids."

And when asked about the key lesson her father handed down, Person does not take long to recall what she learned. "Stay humble, he told us, and always be willing to ask for help," she replies. "Because of him, I feel like I'm an advocate for poor people and it's very rewarding."

Harvey Savage and his wife, Martha, arrived in Toledo from Watley, Alabama in 1944 and he began working at Jeep (then the Willys-Overland Motors Company). He would remain there for 30 years.

In 1954, Savage was ordained and in 1964 he founded the Lo Salem Baptist Church. Lo Salem was first located on Dorr Street and later relocated to Nebraska Avenue before moving to its present site at 660 Vance Street. The Kitchen is in the adjacent building.

Savage was renowned for his community service and received numerous awards and acknowledgements, hundreds of certificates, plaques and proclamations. The City of Toledo honored Savage by naming a city recreation park for him at Ne-

braska and City Park Street.

In addition to all of his other duties, Savage also served on the Economic Community Development Board during President John F. Kennedy's administration and was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Republican Presidential Task Force. Here in Toledo, he served with four different Lucas County Sheriffs as a deputy sheriff for 25 years and founded the Lone Eagle and Hawk Private Detective Agency.

And while the primary focus of the agency Savage founded is on daily, Monday through Friday, lunches for the poor and homeless, his successor Person continually strives to make a difference in any other number of ways.

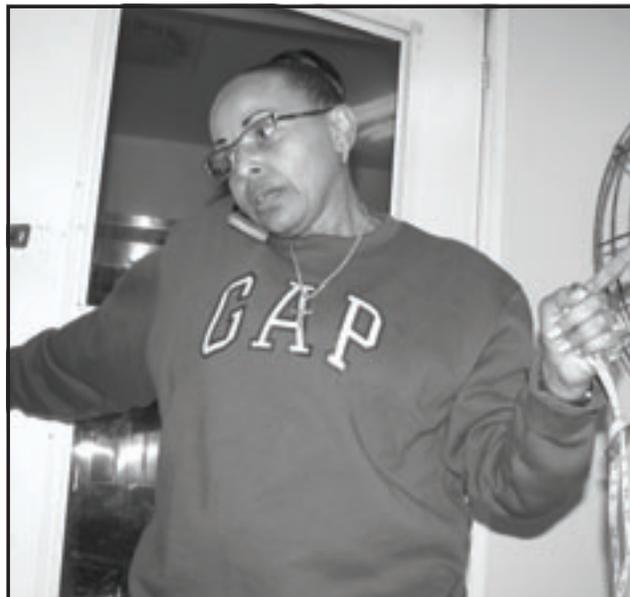
She networks with other agencies such as the Frederick Douglass Community Center, Toledo Seagate and Glass City Church. Recently the agency has started to take part in a poverty program funded by the United Way of Greater Toledo through the Toledo Community Foundation titled Bridges out of Poverty.

At the end of the summer, she puts together back-to-school giveaways of school supplies and uniforms. Kids, in fact, get fed anytime she happens to spot one who needs a meal.

"One in six Ohio children go hungry," says Person. "If a kid comes by here, he's going to get something to eat. We also try to have hats, scarves and gloves in the winter for kids."

But the lessons Rev. Savage imparted did not just make an impact on only one of his offspring. Person receives help from a number of her siblings in her efforts to alleviate hunger in the inner city. In addition to her sister Henrietta, brother Harvey Savage, Jr. is the chairman of the agency's board of directors and brother Raymond is the driver who gets the meals to those who are shut in and can't make the trip down to the Kitchen.

Person's ministry is not limited to the Kitchen for the Poor. She is also a pastor's





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-Tony Brown

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Perry Burroughs Club Hosts Evening of Dancing

By Artisha S. Lawson
The Sojourner's Truth
Reporter

Professionals, politicians, and candidates attended The Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club annual Red, White & Blue Dance on Saturday, November 3 at the Civic Center Promenade in downtown Toledo.

Club members dressed in the patriotic red and the Democratic mascot served as generous hostess and welcomed guests with friendly faces. As the evening began

with the opening dance, guests were encouraged to participate in their first annual ballroom dance competition, which offered over \$925 in prize money for the winners.

Club President Yvonne Harper enjoyed the mixture of politics and socializing that the annual ball provides for the Toledo community. "This is the first year for the ballroom competition, but the dance itself has been around for over 30 years. The ball is always the weekend before the election to allow candi-



Mary Chris and Marty Skeldon



Michael and Ruth Ashford

dates a chance to talk with those who support the Democratic Party," explained Harper.

Locally, the club has supported fundraising efforts for endorsed Democratic candidates since 1942, through their annual Black History event, Father's Day tribute, and also the Red, White & Blueball.

Since the main event was the ballroom competition, the club sent advertisements to local ballroom clubs and classes to attract more atten-

tion. As a fan of ballroom dancing for the past five years, Tony Grey explained that ballroom can be fun for all.

"Ballroom is a cross between classic 1950's swing and the waltz. It just became more popular over the years, and I've been teaching ballroom for the past three years and haven't really seen an increase in students because of popular shows. The best advice to give the competitors is to focus on the basics, put on a great show and be

creative," Grey said.

Guests enjoyed a few line dances before Club President Harper gave a special tribute to the 55 active members of The Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club for the hard work and dedication over the years.

She also acknowledged

four ballroom groups who encouraged their students to participate in the competition. Ballroom groups Steppers United; Mind, Body & Soul; Smooth Flavor and Fancy Footwork were each given two minutes to highlight their best presentations.



State Representative Edna Brown

Wall Portrait list
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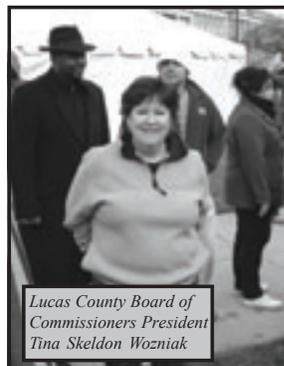
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Homeless Awareness Project's Tent City

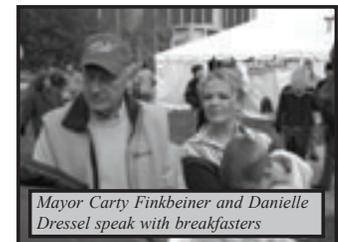
Sojourner's Truth Staff



Ed Cichy, Commissioner Pete Gerken and Councilman Joe McNamara



Lucas County Board of Commissioners President Tina Skeldon Wozniak



Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and Danielle Dressel speak with breakfasters

This year's Tent City, sponsored by the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board, the Lucas County Veteran Services Commission and the Toledo Area Alliance to End Homelessness (TAAEH), brought together about 300 volunteers over the weekend to serve five meals, donate winter clothing and provide legal help, medical attention, haircuts and referrals for jobs, among other services, to hundreds of area homeless people.

The event, which was held annually from 1990 to 2000, resumed last year in downtown Toledo's Civic Center Mall between the courthouses and safety buildings.

Along with the services, music was a featured part of the event. Local bluesman Pat Lewandowski closed the show on both Friday and Saturday nights.

The event ended on Sunday with a prayer service and closing ceremony at 10 a.m.

Why Did I Get Married ... Toledo Style

By Alexis Randles
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Actor and Producer, Tyler Perry may have posed the question, why did I get married? But it is Toledo-area couples like Pastor Robert Witty, and his wife Rhonda Witty, of New Beginnings church, who are a living testament that marriage can work.

On Saturday, October 27, at New Beginnings Church, Pastor and Lady Witty hosted their first marriage enrichment seminar. God proposed the idea to them for the event, said the couple, through a vision and, after 16 years of marriage, they were able to make it a reality.

"This enrichment seminar is meant to bring together couples from all walks and creeds, to show examples of God-centered marriages that can stand life's test and last," said Lady Witty. "Our hope and prayer is that you walk away feeling enriched and more secure in yourselves and in your marriages."

This event was not limited solely to married couples but was also extended to singles. Single attendees were able to discuss what characteristics they are looking for in a mate and receive advice on how to enter into a marriage on the right foot.

The married couples received advice on how to keep the flame burning within their relationships as well as how to resolve conflicts.

Nearly 50 couples and singles were in attendance for the event that began at 6 p.m. The mood for the evening

was set early on and, although attire was formal, a relaxing vibe resonated throughout the room. Candid conversations interweaved with sudden bursts of laughter echoing from table to table. The night's events, quite simply, reminded one of a visit with old friends.

"Tonight we're going to keep it real and we are going to take off our church faces," Lady Witty joked.

The panel for the seminar included five local ministers and their spouses. The panel consisted of: Elder Edward . Cook and Lady Sheila Lynn Cook, who have been married for 35 years and have served as Pastor and First Lady of New life Church of God and Christ (COGIC) for 13 years.

Joining them were Superintendent Pastor Chester B. and First Lady Donna M. Trail. The Superintendent and Lady Trail have been married for 43 years and have been serving at Grace Temple COGIC, since 2001.

Next on the panel, were Pastor William L. Lucas Sr. and his wife Lady Elaine Lucas. The Lucases began counseling couples in 1990 and have, over the years, dedicated their life to uniting marriages that work and can be a reflection of ministry.

They have been married for 29 years and serve their ministry at Liberty Ministries COGIC.

Also the panel were Pastor Anthony and Lady Crystal Smith, who have been married for eight years. Pas-

tor and Lady Smith are the founders of The Garden of Prayer in Toledo, Ohio and The Garden of Praise in Detroit, Michigan. They are the first church to ever be broadcasted on WIMX 95.7 during *Sunday Morning Praise*.

The recurring theme for the seminar was "What God Has Joined Together." And throughout the evening this theme was celebrated in various ways to keep those in attendance eager to participate.

Lady Lucas started off the night's activities, with an icebreaker. She asked the married couples to turn face to face and think about the last time they really looked in their spouse's eyes. "Play some love music," she teased to one of the hostesses. "We are doing this because sometimes we let things get so busy around us we do not even take time to look at each other."

She then instructed the singles to write out and discuss, among their tables, qualities that they want in a relationship that can mature.

Lady Trail continued with a poem, called "Loving him Forever." The poem was an ode to loving your spouse within the greatest capacity that God allows you to.

After a brief intermission for door prizes and dinner the seminar continued with the open panel session. The Channel 24 News weekday anchor, Shenikwa Stratford, served as moderator.

All questions that were discussed were collected from those in attendance



Panel (SEATING) Pastor Robert & Lady Rhonda Witty, (STANDING l-r) Elder Edward T. Cook & Lady Sheila Lynn Cook, Pastor William L. Lucas & Wife Lady Elaine Lucas, First Lady Donna M. Trail & Pastor Chester B. Trail, Lady Crystal Smith & Pastor Anthony Smith

during the icebreaker. The topics ranged from "keeping the romance" to "should I get a divorce."

"How do you end a marriage after the spouse has cheated," asked Stratford to the panel. Rather quickly, Superintendent Trail responded that if you are committed to making it work then God will bring you through it.

"How do you learn how to forgive that person that has violated your bond," followed up Stratford.

"You can't completely wipe it of your mind but I believe with God's help you will ... we cannot do it on our own," replied Lady Cook.

Other highly debated issues were defining the meaning of love and addressing

whether a marriage can survive without it. Pastor Trail concluded this portion by passionately exclaiming, "Love is when you do the utmost good for the object intended." For example, God so loved the world, said Trail.

The closing prayer for the seminar was given by Pastor Cook

Economic Empowerment Luncheon

(Continued from Page 4)

about the opportunity to share her perspective and experience and welcomes all inquiries during her presentation.

November's luncheon will take place on Friday, November 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Toledo Restaurant and Training Center Caf^e In The Park located at Parklane Apartments, 142 23rd Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604. A four course gourmet lunch will be prepared by the chefs of the TRTC and will be offered for an excellent price of \$12.99 per meal. Those interested in attending should RSVP Karen Everage at (419) 241-5100 or trtc@buckeye-express.com to ensure that an adequate number of meals are available. The luncheon is open to the public. All are welcome. Future luncheon dates, times, and location, will be published



Amy Hall

in the near future.

Event volunteers are still needed. Sponsors and partners are still needed. For more information on how to get involved please call Vince Davis at (419) 244-2904 or

Ethel Scott at (419) 255-4174. Or you can also send email to vince.davis.bunl@statefarm.com and Scott at ethel_scott@keybank.com

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Recovery Council Hosts Informational Forum

Special to The Truth

On October 15, the Recovery Council of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) sponsored an informational forum at St. Paul Lutheran Church. More than 70 consumers, case workers, service providers and Lucas County residents attended the forum which was held in recognition of Mental Health Week, October 7 through 13.

The Recovery Skill Building Forum was designed by the Recovery Council to provide valuable information to those in recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Jacqueline Berkey, Recovery Council member, spoke about the history and focus of the council, a consumer-driven leadership or-

ganization which is focused on facilitating the recovery process.

"We are very pleased this forum was so well attended. The forum served as an exchange of vital information about services to individuals living with mental illness and/or drug use disorders. Individuals who provide services learned about consumer needs, and consumers learned necessary skills to take charge of their recovery," said MHRSB Executive Director Jacqueline Martin.

MHRSB staff speakers included Karen Durniat-Suehrstedt, Clients Rights officer and director of Quality Improvement and Training, and Jimmy McKeller, manager of Community Support Services. McKeller was instrumental in organizing and moderating the forum.

Additional speakers are: Holly Eichner, Activity Therapy administrator for Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare; Toledo Police Department Lt. Cheryl Hunt, CIT Coordinator; TPD Officer Pam Kujawa; Rosie Dickens-Managhan, therapist, Unison Behavioral Healthcare Group; Jesus Salas, managing attorney, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality Inc. (ABLE); Mark Lindberg of Legal Aid of NWOH; Kim Jensen and Sr. Brigid Kelly, Wellness Recovery Action Plan trainers, and Dawn Kluck, clinical manager, Central Access and Vickie Congrove of St. Paul's Community Center.

The program addressed Client Rights; Crisis Intervention Training; Dual Disorders of both mental illness and drug addiction; Build-



Jimmike



J. Berkey speaks

ing Advanced Directive Skills; the Wellness Recovery Action Plan, and Central Access, an organization housed at Rescue Mental Health Services, designed to serve as a primary point of entry into the MHRSB behavioral health system.

Results of an evaluation form distributed at the event, revealed more than 89 percent of those attending found the day-long forum to be a valuable source of information.

For more information, please contact the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County at 419-213-4600 or visit www.co.lucas.oh.us/MHRSB.



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The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., The Committee of the Whole, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. presents

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
in the Black Community

Friday, November 9, 2007
12 Noon - 1:30 PM

Held at the Toledo Restaurant Training Center at the Park Lane Apartments 1421 23rd St. at Warren, Toledo, OH

Guests are required to purchase a government lunch for \$12.99
RSVP: 419-241-1000
Attire: Business Casual

Keynote Speaker:
Amy Hall
President of Elmsy Construction

Siblings, Family Support and Musical Programs

Submitted by Single Parent Glenda Gamble-Brown

Friday, October 10, 2007 was a special day when siblings Preston Brown 18 years old, Candace Brown, 17, and Whitney Gamble, 12, joined together to play in the band at the Rogers High School Homecoming Game.

Whitney and the McTigue Jr High School band members joined the Rogers marching band to help celebrate the event beginning with practice on Thursday evening and moving on to Friday's parade. They then played together at the game.

Preston and Candace, senior band members, embraced the opportunity for the siblings and McTigue's band to play together for this special event.

Glenda Gamble-Brown, mother of the three children, continues to encourage and support her children as they explore their musical talents but it has not always been easy. When youth participate in the band, or any school activities, much time is sacrificed. It requires commitment, discipline and juggling schedules. Last, but not least, it takes financial assistance for instruments and other expenses that are needed for the particular activity, in this case, instruments. But music is no stranger to the Gamble family and has been a part of the family for over 50 years and it continues to live on from generation to generation.

Preston, the percussionist has received great support and mentoring from some of Toledo percussionist and musicians. The fam-

ily extends special thanks to Minister Tim Williams, Johnnie Willis, Kelvin Heath, Vertis Clark, and Del Ray Grace, Jr.

Preston's uncle Patrick Gamble of Columbus, Ohio is one of his special mentors. His uncle purchased Preston a drum set in Columbus and delivered it to him after Preston reached his academic achievements one year. Preston's uncle was also a percussionist and president of the band at Libbey High School in 1974.

Preston has been playing the drums since the age of two. He started tapping on everything, going through drum set after drum set until he was able to play for the Singing Angels Choir at Friendship Baptist Church.

He joined the music program in the fifth grade and began reading music. He remained a member of the band from elementary to his senior year. He has played in the Joyful Noise Drum Line at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church and community events when asked. Preston is currently section leader for Roger's Drum Line, plays the drums for Rogers Gospel Choir and also employed at P. F. Chang China Bistro at Fallen Timbers in Maumee, Ohio.

Candace, president of Rogers High School marching band, plays the clarinet and is the section leader of the clarinetists.

Candace has been playing the clarinet since sixth grade. When she needed a clarinet to play in the band, the Columbus family came through for her. Her clarinet was handed down from her cousin Makiya of Columbus, Ohio who played

it in her high school band. Her uncle had it tuned up and forwarded it to Candace in Toledo. The instrument is still providing a way in which music can be heard by others and a youth is able to participate in the music programs at school and achievements are reached.

Candace received an award for honors band. Candace is currently employed at McDonalds on Reynolds Rd. and the family thanks the company for working around her band schedule.

Whitney, the youngest sibling, joined the band in fifth grade at McTigue Jr. High School. Whitney wanted to play the saxophone but, unfortunately, there were not enough saxophones for her to use at school so the search began to help get her an instrument so she could participate in the music program.

The rental fees were too much for the family budget so they had to go to an alternate plan. Thank God for a "ram in the bush" in Columbus once again. Whitney was blessed to have her cousin Patrick Jr. pass down his saxophone for her to use for the music program. Whitney, in the seventh grade now, loves playing the saxophone in the band and is also in the jazz band at McTigue Jr. High School.

During this season of Thanksgiving, Glenda is thankful for the musical gifts provided to her family, the support of a family and the achievements of her children. The music plays on from generation to generation because of opportunities to empower our youth and people willing to help



Band Members Preston, Whitney and Candace

empower them.

Glenda and family thanked Ellen D. Gamble (Aunt "D") for her support and for providing transportation when needed. They also thanked Toledo Public Schools for providing musical programs where youth can pursue their musical interest and even pursue other musical achievements.

Last but not least they extended a heartfelt thank you to the band directors Joel Gronsteh (McTigue) and David Heath (Rogers) for their patience and working to empower youth through music. Glenda admits as an employed single parent she could not have provided all of the instruments and transportation for

her children without the family support.

If you are a single parent and have a child who plays a musical instrument contact Glenda at 419-346-5275 or email her at glendatgbtg@yahoo.com to share your child's achievements.

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"An Evening Of Words IV" MADD Poets Society, Inc., Holds Annual Fundraiser at Main Library

Madd Poets Society, Inc., is scheduled to present its annual fundraiser, "An Evening of Words IV" from 6-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 8 in the Huntington Meeting Room (former Sky Bank Meeting Room) at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. This free event will feature food, poetry performances and fun! Donations are welcome.

The mission of the Madd Poets Society, Inc., (MPS) is to empower the development of citizens and individuals. The organization actively facilitates learning through service, preservation, discovery, synthesis and the dissemination of knowledge while fostering an inclusive, culturally diverse environment.

The goal of Madd Poets Society's Youth Program is to expose at-risk teens to a positive and well-rounded environment. Through the gift of self-expression and the appreciation of the cultural arts, participants are encouraged to embrace the possibilities of one's self-worth and are challenged to succeed. To learn more about Madd Poets Society, Inc., log on to www.maddpoetsociety.org.

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The Toledo African-American Bureau of Commerce (TAABC) Launches with a New Vision of Collective Pride and Business Ownership

Special to The Truth

Under its new brand, The Toledo African-American Bureau of Commerce (TAABC), formerly named the Northwest Ohio Black Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce its first conference titled, *Strategic Alliances: An Effective Way to Build Capacity and Community*.

The conference, a completely free event that takes place on November 16 at Owens Corning boasts a powerful lineup of experts on minority business development and strategy which include Darryl Peal, deputy director & State EEO coordinator Equal Opportunity Division for the Department of Administrative Services and Andrew Jackson, executive director of the Greater Cleveland Partnership's Commission on Economic Inclusion.

The conference also offers perspectives from business owners who have ex-

ecuted successful strategic alliances, mergers and acquisitions. Through the conference and subsequent programs and tactics, the TAABC hopes to generate a movement and sense of urgency regarding the need for resource-sharing through various forms of minority business to minority business (MBE to MBE) mergers and alliances.

The Toledo African-American Bureau of Commerce is a non-profit organization that fosters African-American collaboration for the purposes of economic and community development. Its vision is to make all African-Americans who live or work in northwest Ohio proud to be members of the Toledo African-American Bureau of Commerce and its mission is to provide services to develop businesses as a means of fostering growth and ensuring the viability of the African-American Community. The Toledo African-American Bureau of Com-

merce board is comprised of the following individuals: Ainsworth Bailey, PhD - The University of Toledo College of Business; Tom Bebley, Bebley Enterprises; Robert Gilchrist, Ford Motor Company; Larry Hamme, Ph.D., Unison; Art Jones, retired, former city councilman; Robert Langford, Columbia Gas; Lafayette Tolliver, Esq; Vincent Wiggins, The DanielleVincent Agency (Board President)

According to Wiggins, "The non-profit, municipal and corporate interest in minority Business Development in Toledo is much different than it is in our neighboring cities. African-Americans in Toledo need to be exposed to other economic inclusion models and start to ask why the same things can't be implemented here."

In 2006, Wiggins hired Thomas Schramko, Ph.D., the recently named interim director of the Lucas County Improvement Corporation

(LCIC) to help develop TAABC's strategic plan. The result is a simplified vision and four part strategy. Together, the core areas of the strategy are meant to create an environment where African-American businesses of all sizes have at their disposal, the tools to reduce the administrative burden of running a company.

Another feature of the plan is the development of an "equity-based networking model" where any individual member of the community can have an ownership stake in a specific business enterprise.

"Recently, a variety of studies and reports such as Foreign Direct Investment (fDi) Magazine's, 'Cities of the Future' ranking have been published touting the friendliness of Toledo's business environment. However,

the fDi report seems to refer to Toledo's potential yet the contrasting but factual 2007 Forbes and Milken reports rank Toledo based on a more concrete economic indicators. The implication is that there is a gap between perception or Toledo's potential and its reality. The missing links are the people. It takes the right people in the right environment to help Toledo realize its full potential. African-Americans can not continue to solely rely on the municipal and federal officials to grant us opportunities. We have to create our own not as individuals but as a community. That should be our reality," said Wiggins.

To help bring about this new reality, early in 2008, the TAABC will announce several strategic partnerships while focusing on board de-

velopment and increasing membership. Upcoming programs include an Executive Auction and in April 2008, a Branding Seminar delivered by one of the nation's pre-eminent branding experts.

According to the TAABC Board of Directors, corporate, private and municipal contributions are welcome. However, TAABC will carefully choose its strategic partners. Individuals, organizations or corporate representatives desiring to make a donation or partner with the Toledo African-American Bureau of Commerce may contact members of the board by email at info@ToledoAABC.com or by phone at 419-867-3357. More information is available on the TAABC website at www.ToledoAABC.com.

African American Bureau of Commerce

Strategic Alliance Conference
Strategic Alliances & Mergers - A Tool To Build Capacity & Community
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007
OWENS CORNING-PANTHER HALL
 9AM - 5:00PM

Topics Include:

- The Corporate Role in Minority Business Development
- Building an Inclusive Economic Environment
- Benefits of Strategic Planning & Alliances
- Strategic Alliance Workshop for African-American Businesses

This event is FREE! For more details and registration visit www.ToledoAABC.com today!

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 Deputy Director & State EEO Coordinator
 Equal Opportunity Division, DWS

Leon Richardson
 CEO
 Chemica-Magn, Incorporated

David Bartfield
 Executive Vice President
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Andrew Jackson
 Senior Vice President and Executive Director
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Or Near elderly (50 yrs or older and handicapped/disabled)

Bring photo ID, Social Security card and proof of income

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Community Health, Wellness, and Weight Loss Challenge Health Fair

Saturday, December 1, 2007
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Held at: The Cordelia Martin Health Center
430 Nebraska at Division, Toledo, OH

FREE Food, Entertainment, and Medical Testing for:
 Diabetes, Prostate Cancer, Breast Cancer, Cholesterol, Hypertension and HIV

Sponsored by: State Apartments, Team Council of Black Women, The Committee for Black Women, The Toledo Chamber of Commerce, Westwood Park, African American Society, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women Clubs, Inc., and the NAACP

A Cause for Celebration

The Hy-Ho Club Reaches Its 50 Year Milestone

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Phenomenal Women. Women of virtue, honor and exceptional quality. And courage.

In 1957 things were just starting to heat up for African-Americans or "Negroes" as the time period would designate. History focuses a lot of time on the

Lowery, Ethel Nelson, Bertha W. Perry, Martha Singleton, Margaret Spicer, Virginia Stephens and Georgia Williams. Several are still active members.

This year, 2007, is the 50th anniversary of that idea and the banquet room of the Old Barn Out Back was graced with the presence of the newest crop of phenomenal women who make up the current Hy-Ho Club giv-

African-American youth. As many of the members of Hy-Ho, Garrett is a retired teacher from the Lima City school system. She taught Spanish in the schools and on television becoming the first African-American show telecast on the local NBC station.

The evening was also highlighted by two keynote speakers; also scholarship recipients, who have made

"As an attorney, I spend a lot of time 'helping others' because the Hy-Ho Club helped me," ~ Renny J. Tyson

men who were making things happen in this country, and as the adage goes ... behind every great man, there's a woman.

In Lima, there were several of them and they forged for themselves a great legacy of hope, pride and opportunity that can only come from the self-assurance of a community standing on its own two feet.

Letteria Dalton came to a disturbing realization when watching the graduation ceremonies at Lima Senior High School - there was not one student of color

receiving honor and gratitude to the founding mothers of their organization, some of whom are still active members.

The elegant evening was uplifting as scholars, physicians, lawyers and executives stood with pride when the question was posed - will you stand if you have been a recipient of a Hy-Ho Club scholarship. And the statement by Ethel Nelson: "Sisters - look at the fruits of our labor" brought thunderous applause from the audience.

The Honorable David J.

successful strides because of the opportunity presented by Hy-Ho. Both stated it wasn't the money but the encouragement from someone other than your parents saying - "we believe in you, we know you are capable of greatness, you have great value in our minds and in our hearts!"

Prominent Columbus attorney Renny J. Tyson says that's what makes the Hy-Ho scholarship more meaningful than the others he received. "As an attorney, I spend a lot of time 'helping others' because the Hy-Ho Club helped me," said Tyson. "I have never forgotten the way it felt when all of us that were given the scholarship that year stood together for the picture for the newspaper. We were proud."

"I'll never forget the day these two elegant women came to our house to speak with my mother and me about giving me a scholarship," said Shirel Woodley-Youngblood, a retired educator. "I remember thinking: these women believe I am worthy of receiving support for college. I never thought anyone even noticed little me, just working at getting the good grades that were expected of me in our house. I never even knew there was a choice about going to college.... I always knew I was going, just hadn't worked out the details. Their visit that day let me know my dream would be a reality - and I thank them for that."

Dalton would be happy to know the club she began is still a vital part of the educational tapestry of Lima Senior High School.



The club continues to provide money for those students who are working toward positive goals and know the importance of higher learning. They are still recruiting new members and encouraging more women to join. The club has hosted successful theater/shopping trips to raise scholarship money; they are currently selling tickets for their next trip.

One of the highlights of the evening was a tribute to Alberta Johnson, who just this past May at the age of

81 earned a BA in sociology from Ohio Northern University. "I had a dream of going to college. I didn't do it when I was younger; I struggled with alcohol and stubbornness - but I had a dream that this was the way I could help people who are substance abusers. It was hard, going to school, but I did it, I'm glad and now I'm ready to help people!"

It was a great way to end the evening. Two dreams more than 50 years in the making. An impressive legacy to Letteria Dalton,

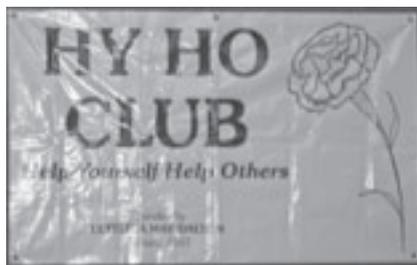
who uncovered such a simple philosophy for the success of Lima's minority population: education is the key.

Contributions to the Hy-Ho Club are encouraged and are tax deductible.

Help Yourself. Help Others.

Contact Vickie Shurelds at vickie@sojournertruth.com

Visit Us
Online at
thetruthtoledo.com



receiving scholarship dollars. Not one.

She decided on a path that would change the lives of hundreds of black students at that moment - to raise money to give to black students who wanted to go to college and to encourage black students to believe that higher education was not only attainable but their birthright.

She banded together a group of like-minded women and they began the Hy-Ho Club. Help Yourself-Help Others. It's a simple concept that still has merit today. The original members included Muriel Archer, Joyce J. Garrett, Rose Jefferson, Carol Green

Berger, mayor of the City of Lima, proclaimed October 27, 2007 as Hy-Ho Club Day in Lima, Ohio heralding the fact that their promotion of educational values for area students helped mold the success stories of many of Lima's most prominent citizens of color.

Joyce Garrett, one of the club's original members, delivered an eloquent historic view of the past 50 years aided by photographs and stories that gave the audience a look behind the scenes of this honorable legacy. From dinners to dances to traveling excursions, the club has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to give to Lima's

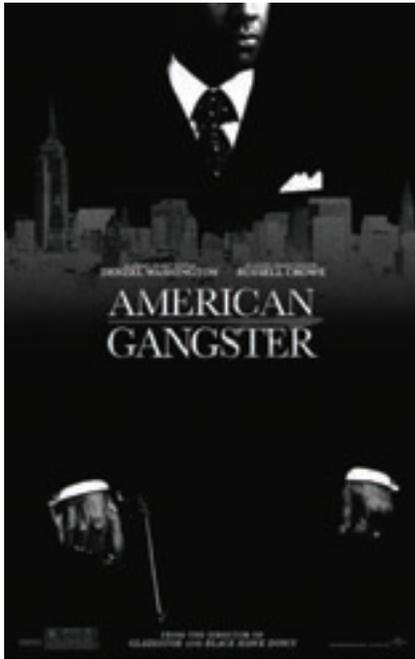
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Reel Review

American Gangster Denzel Washington



By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Crime. Law enforcement. Drugs.

How much do you know about that world?

One day a few years ago I was at work. It was in an office and I wore business attire.

Co-workers were having a conversation about someone they knew who was a local criminal on his way to jail. One of these co-workers, who was close to my age, looked at me and said "Mike, you used to run with that dude right? I know you remember him."

And the rest of the office laughed. One dude even remarked, "Mike don't know no gangstas, look at him."

I thought that was funny,

but I kept my mouth shut and did my work. They figured since I walk around in a tie and shirt in my early 20s that I must come from the suburbs, or that I didn't know anything about hood stuff.

A few other places where I have worked had similar environments in which people looked at me while I'm at work and made complete misjudgments about where I'm from.

In all actuality, I've been closer to drugs and death and crime than I care to talk about.

So I don't talk about it.

I remember when I was in high school – there were a few crews known for selling weed and a few crews known for moving hand-to-hand crack. This one crew would have these shirts made that said "Look What The Fiends

Bought Me" – and I would think how silly they were for wanting all that attention.

Now, I'm grown. I'm a law abiding citizen and all that.

But I don't talk about crime that much because my opinion on that subject might shock some folks. It's a known fact that I don't too much care for police though.

I've witnessed evidence being planted and unnecessary use of excessive force just far too many times.

I've never really thought of the police as people who offer any real help.

All I've been shown is the complete opposite.

Now, just this past weekend I had an incident occur and I witnessed a few Maumee police officers treat me and my family and friends with courtesy and respect.

I was shocked and amazed ... hell, I'm STILL shocked and amazed.

They were good people, they listened, they didn't yell or threaten.

That was new.

American Gangster starts off by showing audiences that having a badge doesn't make you a saint. If anything, the honesty that old school hustlers have about their work gives them a sense of honor that the dirty cops don't even have.

That rawness made this film appealing from jump.

Because a police officer is just a person.

Whatever prejudice, whatever weakness, whatever corruption that person already has... becoming a police officer simply magnifies it by giving him a gun and the power to kill a person either through firepower or paperwork.

They can re-write history, lie about events in paperwork, wrongfully arrest and harm people. But we're supposed to trust in the sanctity of their 'oath to protect and serve?'

Not hardly. These days that's a hard sell.

And it was even harder to convince people to trust cops back in the days of Frank Lucas because there was no difference between the drug pusher and the man who puts handcuffs on the drug pusher.

You may think it's twisted, but in my mind – crime and law enforcement share so many traits it's sometimes difficult to see who are really the good guys and who are really the bad guys.

Drugs.

Our government makes the drug trade possible.

Anyone with any sense knows that already.

But it all boils down to the single moment a regular human being becomes an addict.

It's that substance being taken into the body, that sensation of brain cells frying, that temporary alleviation of life's most pressing problems... all that makes the user repeat.

So, yeah, the drug problem would be solved if people made the choice to simply not get high.

But let's be real.

As long as life has been effed up, people have been finding ways to cope.

Church, meditation, music, etc. – are positive ways. Crime and drug use are negative ways.

But that's a problem PEOPLE have in our society, people of all kinds.

Politicians have been using drugs, committing adultery and stealing money for centuries.

White men have been profiting on BOTH sides of the drug trade for years.

They profit when the drugs come in the country, they profit when the drugs are sold, they profit when the drugs are confiscated by police and they profit when the drugs are re-sold.

That much is present in this film, *American Gangster*, but if you needed a movie to tell you that then there may not be much hope for you as an enlightened individual.

The drug trade is big business just like the so-called war on drugs is big business.

Anytime there's war, there's money exchanging hands. So a war on drugs means fresh, new, salaried jobs, it means new police vehicles and weapons, it means an allocation of tax dollars to a specific cause.

So as usual, it's a win/win for those who legislate, up-

hold and circumvent the law.

But it's a lose/lose for those of us who many times are victimized by the law.

Criminals in the white community were highly revered in this country.

Virtually untouched by the law, praised by local communities – all the illegal operations run by white men in this country were in some way viewed as legitimate because, hey... even organized crime is still an organization.

The music business and Hollywood can trace much of their early history to individuals heavily involved in racketeering, bootlegging and drug sales.

But when a black man like Frank Lucas (or Supreme, or Black Mafia – take ya pick) starts to show that he has the business acumen to run successful operations, he doesn't enjoy the same notoriety and quiet admiration as do his white counterparts.

You know what?

I don't condone drug use. I don't condone drug selling.

But I've known many, many drug dealers on various echelons of the game throughout my 29 years on this planet. The devastation done to our communities is deplorable. The lives ruined are countless. And the shoot outs, arrests, fights and stealing that occur as collateral effects of the game are a BIG part of what has turned inner-city America into the jungle that kills many of us who are in now way involved and are just trying to live.

HOWEVER, there is something to be said for the businessman who conducts his business and keeps to himself while following an unwritten code of ethics.

Those guys who I used to see in the hallways in high school, they wanted everyone to know they were the bomb, which only made them look foolish to me, even though so many others were impressed.

I was already hip to some REAL dudes, doing real things. Without saying too much, I will disclose that in my early teens I was friends with some guys who were six to 10 years older than me.

They were from around the way and were involved in

illegal actions but they were quiet about it.

They wore no loud colors, never blasted their car stereos near where they lived and never stood out on the corner with their workers. Not even to collect.

They didn't flash guns, they didn't start fights, they didn't brag about what they had.

Last I heard they had separated and moved to various parts of the East Coast (going back home for a few of them). They got in, didn't get too greedy and got out.

I respected them highly.

Every true hustler is nothing more than a businessman. And every successful businessman is nothing more than a hustler.

Now, there is a difference between someone who HUSTLES for his own, and someone who SWINDLES others out of theirs (just to put some wisdom out there).

Drugs are a plague on our society. But at a certain level, drugs are a product and once you have a product and a system of supply and demand you are *officially in business*. Alcohol is a drug. Nicotine is a drug. Some drugs are illegal, some are not.

Pookie and Ray Ray out on the corner selling little \$5 chunks of crack can go to jail for a long time because they are selling an illegal drug.

But the men who own Budweiser beer and Camel cigarettes have lobbyists and the right to sell their drug legally on every corner in America.

That's called cornering the market – L.O.L.

Alcohol kills people and people drunk on alcohol kill people.

Cigarettes kill people who smoke and even people who don't smoke.

Those are substances which are harmful to the human body but they produce a sensation.

They are drugs. But what may be seen as drugs to some, is just simple business to others.

Supply and demand. Now just like any business, there are those who will be jealous.

Your competition is always thinking of ways to bring you down.

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The University of Toledo Job #999263 Communications Specialist – Lake Erie Center, College of Arts & Sciences:

The primary function of the position is to coordinate the communications, website presentation, data analyses, and computer technology for the Lake Erie Center. The Communications Specialist will originate, organize, assemble, disseminate, coordinate, integrate, and present communications, website, brochures, posters, displays, and computer technology at the Lake Erie Center focusing on environmental research, education, and outreach activities. The Communications Specialist will be in charge of computer technology as well as database coordination, development, maintenance, and delivery through web based interfaces. The Communications Specialist will actively interface with other universities, agencies, educators, and environmental groups.

Bachelors degree required, preferred in Biology, Computer Science, or Geography, or related field (possibly English); Master of Science or Master of Arts degree preferred. Candidates must have writing, editing, statistical analysis, communication, and design skills. Experience in website development, presentations, information systems, Geographic Information Systems, statistical data analysis, data base development, and information technology. Candidates must be highly skilled in state-of-the-art GIS, information technology, computer web databases, advanced statistics, imaging, and graphic design. Ability to maintain and design information technology, computer systems, and to supervise and train personnel and students. Background knowledge of Lake Erie, the Great Lakes, and the basics in the fields of ecology, fisheries, geography, biology, and chemistry.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 999263), 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 November 16, 2007. The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator**

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Custodial & Building Services Workers CWA Positions The University of Toledo

Job #CUST081, Custodial & Building Services Workers:

The University of Toledo is creating a new applicant pool for Custodial & Building Services Worker positions on the main campus. These positions may be temporary, permanent, part time, or full-time. Applicants who were in the previous pool must reapply.

Custodial & Building Services Workers are responsible for providing cleaning service in University public areas, restrooms, classrooms, labs and/or offices. Knowledge of cleaning practices and procedures and skill in operating cleaning equipment and tools is preferred. Job requirements include the ability to carry out simple instructions; recognize safety warnings, stand, walk, or bend continuously; and lift up to 50 lbs. frequently.

To apply, submit a cover letter (reference position title and job #), resume, and list of three professional references with full contact information. We prefer that you apply via email to recruit@utoledo.edu, referencing job #CUST081 in the subject line or fax to (419) 530-1490 or mail to The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, OH 43606. **Use only one method of application.** Resumes must be received by Friday, November 9, 2007. **No resumes will be accepted after November 9, 2007.**

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The University of Toledo Inventory Control Specialist 1, Purchasing Services Job # 996500

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To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 996500), 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 e-mail recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by November 9, 2007.

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INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DEVEAUX MS, ELMHURST ES, WESTFIELD ES AND WHITTIER ES – FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on November 21st, 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 Furnishings and Equipment of DeVeaux Middle, Elmhurst Elementary, Westfield Elementary and Whittier Elementary Schools, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by SSOE, Inc., MacPherson Architects and The Collaborative 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 31st, 2007 which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615 Phone: 419-385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **November 7th, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.** at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

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

- Bid Item No. 1 DeVeaux MS: School FF&E \$ 296,268.00
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 - Bid Item No. 3 Elmhurst ES: School FF&E \$ 259,173.39
 - Bid Item No. 4 Elmhurst ES: Office FF&E \$ 106,782.07
 - Bid Item No. 5 Westfield ES: School FF&E \$ 227,880.00
 - Bid Item No. 6 Westfield ES: Office FF&E \$ 94,929.00
 - Bid Item No. 7 Whittier ES: School FF&E \$ 259,476.32
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Local Congregation Honors Their Leader, Bishop Marjorie Holt

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Several years ago, under the spiritual direction Bishop Marjorie Holt, Ph.D, a group



of worshipers founded a church that reflected their belief in God and love of families. To honor that great accomplishment and many others of Bishop Holt, the congregation of Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral honored their leader on Sunday, October 28 at the Clarion Hotel in South Toledo.

"We've come to celebrate this great woman of God, let's continue to bless the Lord for our leader. She's such a wonderful woman of excellence. No one should out do Bethesda, when it comes to honoring our own," said Elder Rodney Mason of Bethesda.

The celebration began with a morning service and continued at 5 p.m. with an evening service. Morning service included the debut of Bethesda's own choir Voices of Bethesda. The 17-member choir includes members of all ages and was directed by Elder Mason. They were followed by guest speaker and Holt's close friend, Sharon Dabbs-Johnson, Ph.D., of Integrity & Truth Ministries from Birmingham, Alabama.

Scriptures were read by 11-year old Bethesda minister Demetri McCabe and Bethesda ministers Quintin Smith, LaShawn McCadney and Evangelist Pearl Russell.

how you can speak to that trouble. "Did you know that your mountain has a name? There are mountains of pain, mountains of finances, and mountains of frustration. You

Bethesda feels that it's important to honor their leader. Nine-year member Beverly Brown first joined because of the warm atmosphere, but stayed for another reason. "I first



speak to that mountain and tell it to move," explained Woods.

Members presented gifts to Holt as a token of appreciation. Bethesda's congregation was divided into three groups, called tribes, to accomplish this task. Artina McCabe was one of three leaders of the Joshua Tribe, which included all youth members. "The tribes are based on Old Testament scriptures. Sister Debbie, Sister Linda, and I were youth leaders; we worked hard all year to present Bishop with a great gift. We love our Bishop," said McCabe.

Levite Tribe included all the adult members and Judah Tribe included the ministerial staff. Each presented the bishop with a gift. Voices of Bethesda and the Pastor's Aid Committee also presented a gift.

The congregation of



American Gangster

(Continued from Page 13)

So any person who can survive in an environment where they are being preyed upon, being watched, being challenged and still turn a profit ... that person would be a success if this were business simple and plain.

And even if that business was illegal, if the person was white his success would still be the most important element of his story.

But when you see this film, you will witness the story of Frank Lucas.

A man who knew the code, but also wrote his own rules.

Denzel is amazing as always. A lot more subdued in his villainy than before, and it's refreshing. He's not wilding out like Alonzo, but he does portray that same D.I.Y. mentality of *John Q*. It's like the best of his good and bad sides.

The overall scope of the cinematography is just as guarded and obtuse as the main character. Never giving it all away, only showing you enough to get the point across.

Go see this film which was masterfully acted, directed and adapted from true life.

And if you catch the corresponding episode of B.E.T.'s *American Gangsta* it will give you even more insight.

At nearly three hours in length, it may not be something you will see again and again.

And please be advised - CRIME AND DRUG USE ARE NOT BEING GLORIFIED!

But like I've been saying this whole article, there are many people on both sides of the law who got their hands dirty in this game.

Why not tell the story of a hustler, as if he was any other businessman who simply got ahead.

The true grade for *American Gangster* is A.

Community Club November Schedule of Events

Toledo, Ohio - The Community Club, located at 3353 Franklin Avenue (corner of Franklin and Pearl) presents its November schedule, filled with a mix of social activities and community service to help those in need at the holidays:



Sundays: NFL Ticket continues from Noon - 11 p.m. Watch your favorite NFL teams all day long. **Free admission.**

Mondays: Hustle class 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Learn

the latest hustles and get great exercise with the Glass City Hustlers. **Free admission.**

Monday Night Football 8:30 p.m. - Midnight. **Free admission.**

Wednesdays: The WOW event (Women on Wednesdays) 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Relax, unwind, and network. **Cost: \$10 per person; food and beverage included.**

Fridays and Saturdays: Weekend Jam Session 10 p.m. until nightly. Have a great time with a mix of R&B, Smooth Jazz, and live music. **Free admission.**

Special Holiday Events at the Community Club in November include:

November 10, 2007: Birthday Party for Clifton Beasley. **Free admission.**

November 16, 2007: Founder's Day Celebration Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, 5 p.m. - until. **Free admission.**

November 17, 2007: Ohio State v Michigan Game Day . . . doors open at 11 a.m... **GET THERE EARLY!!! Admission and free food.**

Canned food and non-perishable food items will be collected thru December to help families in need.