

The  
Sojourner's



# Truth

Local and  
National News



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AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH...

November 14, 2007



*Second Lieutenant Harold Brown*  
**332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron**

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Lisa Holden  
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## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

Rail at the voters for being stupid and not properly vetting the issues if you so desire. However, the recent decisions on the various levy issues that were placed before the voters of the City of Toledo and Lucas County demonstrated that those voters have some very clear ideas about how and where they want their money spent.

And what they want, as a community, is to spend hard-earned money for certain amenities that improve the community's quality of life.

In this recent election, local voters decided that they want to maintain the services offered by the library, the park system and the bus system. None of these votes was especially close. The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library replacement levy, in fact, won over voters by slightly more than a two-to-one margin.

The one issue that failed was COSI, however narrowly, and there are probably several reasons for this. In spite of the relatively low cost of the levy, COSI does not impact as great a number of people who take advantage of the other services. The site is not as convenient and it does not have an appeal for the entire age range of local residents. And, of course, there were any number of questions raised about how well COSI had managed its money and resources over the years.

Additionally, many folks would say, and did say last week, that we need the buses, we need the library and we need the parks. Do we need COSI?

But as for the other issues that did pass, over the last week or so, we have heard a lot of sniping from those who either voted against the issues or did not vote one way or another. We have even heard suggestions that there is something vaguely un-American about a small number of voters approving tax measures that impact the entire working population.

We heard one disgruntled observer suggest that such issues should be decided by a majority of residents, not just a majority of voters.

Our reaction to that suggestion is two-fold. First, you don't vote, you lose your voice. Second, we don't require that political candidates muster a majority of eligible voters in order to assume office and the winners of those elections have a much greater say over how much we will pay in taxes than do a few votes on property levies that pop up every now and then.

But the fact is, we do want, as a community, our neighborhoods to offer certain amenities that improve our quality of life and we expect our governments to do things in a collective fashion that we can not all do for ourselves on an individual basis. That's the primary reason that we form communities and governments.

"I don't know why anyone would want the government to do anything for them," we have overheard a media pundit say recently. Then we have to ask, how did he get home after he finished his shift railing against governments?

Did he drive his car (which the government has helped to make safe for him) on highways (that the government has built for him) and stop at the traffic lights (that the government has set up so he won't be running into car after car)?

We cannot expect private libraries to meet the needs of the great mass of people. That simply does not work. We know it does not work because we tried it for centuries before figuring out that it does not work. In order for all people to have access to books, we need to have public facilities dedicated to the concept that even a poor child can enter, sit at a desk or table, and start reading to her heart's content.

So the question can no longer be whether or not the government needs to exist. We passed that point quite a long time ago. The question now needs to be, how much is too much government?

Well, it's a democracy and most people in our democracy, or at least in this northwest Ohio corner of our democracy, want to continue paying 1.5 mils for bus service, 1.4 mils for park maintenance and 2.0 mils to maintain one of the best library systems in the nation.

The Truth did not endorse all of these issues. Two of them we could not even explain to our readers properly because of the paucity of information that was distributed. Nevertheless, we have no qualms about the voters' decisions. They wanted them, they got them.

All three of them passed by a greater margin than that Bush guy ever did.

## Community Calendar

### \*November 14

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

### \*November 16-17

Women's Conference: "Women of War;" 7 pm nightly; Latter Day Kingdom Church of God in Christ; Evangelist Tabatha Williams from Perfecting Praise Church in Detroit on the 16<sup>th</sup>; Rev. April Summrow from St. Paul AME Zion on the 17<sup>th</sup>: 419-810-8168

### \*November 16-18

Men's Day: Indiana Avenue MBC; Friday from 5 to 7 pm "My Brother's Keeper, Helping Hands, Shoes and Clothing Give-Away;" Saturday from 9 to 11 am Pre-Men's Day Breakfast and men's health and information seminar from 11:15 am to noon; Sunday 9:30 to 10:30 am Sunday School and 11 am service featuring Deacon Johnathon Whitlock, evening service at 6 pm featuring Bishop Neal Roberson of Lansing, MI

### \*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

Harvest Music Festival: Presented by the Women's Ministry of the City of Zion, Mt. Zion Church; Women's Choir and other musicians; 7 pm: 419-297-6134

### \*November 18

Women's Day: True Vine Baptist celebrates its 58<sup>th</sup> 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

Pre-Women's Day Program: St. Paul AME Zion Church The Twelve Women of the Bible; 5 pm: 419-243-1065

TBN Taping: Mt. Pilgrim church; Musical guests Rizen; Speakers Pastors Raymond Bishop, Pat McKinstry and John Williams

### \*November 19

Birthday Celebration: Honoring Rance Allen; New Bethel C. O. G. I. C.; 7 pm; Guests—Queens of Harmony, Jerome Williams, Givenaires, City Wide Mass Choir, Mark Ivory, Pilgrim Wonders, Rose Marie Rimson/Brown and Twinkle Clark; Guest speaker Pastor Spencer Ellis

### \*November 22

Happy Thanksgiving!!  
Thanksgiving Day Dinner: St. Mark MBC; 11 am to 2 pm; Free of Charge: 419-241-1728  
"Day of Thakers:" City of Zion: Mt. Zion Church, 701 Vance Street worship experience; City-wide prayer and combined choirs; 10 am to noon

### \*November 25

Women's Day: St. Paul AME Zion Church; "Women Ready for Service;" 10:45 am: 419-243-1065

Brian Thomas Chorale: 23rd Anniversary Concert; 6 pm; Bibleway Temple; Guests include the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir, The Prodigals and Min. Darius Twyman

### \*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

### \*November 30

Father's Day at "The City:" Mt. Zion Church; Special guest Pastor W.C. Thomas from Greater St. Mary's in Wichita, KS; 7 pm

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The Sojourner's Truth, 616<sup>1/2</sup> Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

## My View

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political Columnist



Jack Ford

The Robert Jobe murder trial is over. He has been found guilty and awaits final sentencing by Judge Charles Doneghy. The range of sentencing for young Jobe is 15 years to life. Although the front end may seem to be too little, for all practical purposes Jobe will spend his life in prison.

Even when he is eligible for parole, say 30 years from now, the police union and other forces will fight any possible release. He will not be getting out. And, based on my experience as a correctional guard years ago, Jobe will not have much to

look forward to in the next few decades.

He will be segregated from older inmates initially but eventually he will be mixed in with the adult population. At that point, Jobe will have a struggle to survive. He will face possible physical harm and little hope of freedom, ever again. Is this the end of a terrible crime? Could or should it have been prevented?

This summer I coordinated a study at Bowling Green State University which looked at the scope and coordination, and lack thereof, of the various youth programs in greater Toledo. The numbers are astounding!

There are over 125 youth-serving agencies in greater Toledo. We spend over \$100 million a year on these programs. Yet, there is no real coordination among the various programs.

We do a poor job of preventing fragmentation and duplication. And we utterly fail to catch kids falling through the cracks. I think

we could have caught Robert Jobe before he was lost. This is an awkward thing to say right now but it is true.

Jobe was in a program for kids who have gotten into trouble. Jobe stopped attending his assigned treatment program. We, as a community, should have picked up on Jobe's failure and placed him in a different program or tightened the screws on him in the program in which he had been placed.

My simple point now is that our community should not let a Robert Jobe fall between the cracks again. We can do just that by putting in place a system-wide case management plan which will flag and pick up any future Robert Jobs who drop out of a treatment program. Maybe we can prevent a future killing of a police officer by a gun-wielding adolescent.

Troy Lee James was a 34-year veteran of the Ohio legislature. James was a peer of the late Casey Jones, our long-time state representative in the Ohio legislature.

James was the dean of the Democratic Caucus in the House in 1998 when I was elected the House Democratic leader.

James was pivotal in my election. He changed his vote and supported me after we shared a four-hour dinner at the Claremont Restaurant in Columbus the night before the caucus vote. James, who was the last child in a poor family of 19 on a cotton farm in Arkansas was an old-school politician.

He had been committed to the old guard candidate, Ross Boggs of Andover, but changed his mind. I won that vote 20 to 19. The switch by James made all the difference for me. James died last week in Cleveland. May he rest in peace.

Thanks to the voters who came out and exercised their right to vote. And I thank the unions who endorsed me: The UAW, the Toledo Federation of Teachers, the Ironworkers Local 55, the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 50, the Laborers Local 500. I am grateful for the endorsements of La Prensa and The Blade.

The defeat of the COSI levy was a stunner. It lost by a wider margin this time than it did in its previous effort. I have proposed a six-point plan to Dave Waterman, chairman of the COSI Board of Directors. That plan includes the following: 1. Transform COSI into a STEM school focusing on math and science; 2. Use TPS teachers, principals and advisors; 3. Use \$300,000 from the city to upgrade COSI, \$500,000

from the state and \$200,000 from the federal government to build and equip math and science classrooms; 4. Limit enrollment to around 200-10 classrooms of 20 each; 5. Recruit UT and BGSU to assign doctoral and grad students to work one-on-one with the students; 6. Open the facility to visitors seven days a week.

The big winner in the election was a third party in Toledo - The Blade. Once again, the persuasive power of The Blade came through with flying colors. The Blade-endorsed candidates won each of the City Council district races, including D. Michael Collins, who came from behind to beat Molly McHugh Branyan, former Mayor John McHugh's daughter.

Collins will be a force on council and will challenge President Michael Ashford on occasion. Collins has been politically ambitious for quite a while. I suspect we will see his name in a future mayoral campaign.

The Blade's endorsed candidates for the school board lapped the field. As a former mayor, who went on TV during the last weekend of the campaign, I was supposed to do well in a crowded field. In addition, most of the candidates were quite good so it was hard for voters to pick out only two of a strong six-person field. Television always helps in that situation.

Lisa Sobecki and I were the only two who went on TV. Sobecki also had the endorsement of the Democratic Party, the UAW and the teachers' union. That is

a powerful hat trick when added to a late-minute television barrage.

I think that Harold Mosley acquitted himself very well in the debates. Mosley could not raise the kind of money he needed to get on television. But he got a taste of politics and I suspect he will try again once he retires from the police department in a few years. He would be an impressive candidate for Lucas County Sheriff.

Both Chris Myers and Cheryl Catlin came across rather shrill in some of the debates and I heard that Catlin can be pretty rough in some of her telephone calls to people she was trying to get support from in her campaign.

Some folks called me regarding the snippy comments about me in The Journal. That is just The Journal. Remember they endorsed Ray "I'm working on my Ph.D. on your dime" Kest. But then Kest was buying a pretty hefty number of ads from The Journal as County Treasurer. In addition, I had the audacity years ago to question the loan portfolio of a relative of the publisher. Remember his threats to politically "assassinate" me some years ago?

*Ed. Note: Jack Ford took a little sabbatical from his political column during his campaign for the Toledo Board of Education in order to avoid any suggestion of a conflict of interest. He will be back on a regular basis with The Truth. Ford can be contacted at jack@thetruthtoledo.com.*



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## We've Had Enough of Blaming the Victim

I want to applaud Jan K. M. Scotland's "Beware the Naked Man" as both insightful and compelling. At the same time I don't think he went far enough.

This is a clear case of "blaming the victim" and so prevalent in our society that it is downright scary. And I'm afraid "blaming the victim" is found not just in the media but in our national government as well.

It seems to me that the current administration (and maybe it goes beyond that) believes that corporations (the largest "Naked Men") and the millions of dollars in profits they make, thus generating dividends for their investors, are the "shirts" they are trying to give us - those of us who work for a living (or can't find work for a living) and don't have thousands of shares of stock.

We have to stop accepting those "shirts" - all of the BS they are trying to feed us - and hit the corporations and their politicians where it hurts, in their sales and profits. It is buying more and more of what we don't really need, which keeps us from buying the essentials of life, that puts us more and more in debt to those very corporations whose "shirts" are crowding out the really good things in life.

So, I join with Scotland's call for naming the "Naked Men" and throwing them out in the cold, not us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister, First Unitarian Church of Toledo

## Mixed Bag of Election Results ... As Usual

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

This year's election results produced a few surprises, confirmed the power of the incumbency – as long as the incumbent knows how to use that power – and validated the fact that voters are concerned with "quality of life" issues even at the cost of increased taxes.

In two tightly-contested Toledo City Council races for open seats, independent D. Michael Collins edged Democrat Molly McHugh Branyan to capture the District 2 seat and Republican Tom Waniewski topped Democrat Marty Skeldon in District 5.

Collins, a retired police officer and part-time lecturer at The University of Toledo, put \$2,000 of his own money into his campaign coffers to conduct a primary race while refusing, during that period, to accept donations. His door-to-door strategy enabled him to finish second in the runoff – to Branyan.

Collins ran an aggressive general campaign, garnering the support of safety unions, raising his profile on a host of city issues and continuing the door-to-door effort that initially put him in the position to move onto the general election. He won by about two and a half percentage points – less than 300 votes.

In District 5, Waniewski, a former telecaster and currently the director of development for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo, also took on a familiar Toledo political name. His energy during the campaign – conducting community forums and dealing directly with council issues – coupled with, perhaps, a Lucas County Democratic Party that has not yet found its footing after the controversies of the past several years, earned him a seven and a half point margin of victory over Skeldon.

Two district councilmen were unopposed in their re-election efforts. Councilwoman Wilma Brown in District 4 had no challenger for her third and last run for district office and no one stepped up to run against District 3 Councilman Michael Craig in his first re-election attempt.

First timer, and endorsed Democrat, Lindsay Webb in District 6 swamped her opponent, Green Party candidate David Ball, gaining over

67 percent of the vote.

But the top individual vote getter last Tuesday was Toledo City Council President Michael Ashford who received over 72 percent of the vote in his District 4 contest. Ashford, the endorsed



Michael Ashford

Democrat, topped Ronnell Traynum, a Democratic neophyte.

### Having four black candidates in a field of six meant that the African-American vote would naturally be split.

Ashford, who would have been expected to easily win his race for re-election, took nothing for granted in his effort as he plied his full court press even through Election Day with numerous poll workers in attendance at all election sites.

Ashford will be campaigning next to retain the presidency of City Council and it would appear that the overall election results did no damage to his chances. Given his own impressive showing, he certainly would



Lisa Sobecki

seem to be operating from a position of strength.

The Democrats, who might have hoped to pick up two seats and hold a 10 to two advantage over the Republicans, fell short of those expectations but nevertheless maintained an overall total of eight of the 12 council seats. The Republicans fell from four to three since Collins is, at least nominally, an independent.

More of a surprise than the District 2 and 5 outcomes, perhaps, was the result of the Toledo Board of Education race. Six candidates were on the ballot for two empty seats – caused by the resignation in June

of Deborah Barnett and the decision by Larry Sykes not to run for re-election.

Former Mayor Jack Ford and education activist Lisa Sobecki had been expected to win but the margins of their victory – with 31.16 and 30.61 percent respectively – were a bit of a shock. The third and fourth place finishers – Chris Myers and Cheryl Catlin, both of whom have been affiliated with the Urban Coalition watchdog group – earned only 13.07 and 11.04 percent of the vote respectively.

Both Myers and Catlin were handicapped, perhaps, by the fact that they could not simplify or clarify their

COSI was seeking an additional levy to raise about \$1.5 million to remain open. That levy was rejected – the second such defeat in two years – even though the amount was almost negligible – only about five dollars on a home valued at \$100,000. At week's end, local elected officials were pressing the COSI board to hang on until other solutions could be found.

Ford has proposed the idea of turning COSI into a middle school that would focus on math and science during the weekdays. That way, said Ford, COSI could remain open to the public during the evenings and on

weekends.

The amendment requiring the mayor to send to City Council a balanced budget by November 15 for the following fiscal year was

approved by a vote of 82 percent. The administration and City Council Republicans had decided the amendment as unnecessary but the voters were apparently convinced that city government could operate more efficiently if councilmen had greater access to information in a more-timely manner.

Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman-English won her position in 2003 after a bruising battle with Republican incumbent Theresa M. Gabriel – a contest that pitted African-American female candidates against one another. There was no such struggle this time as Bowman-English ran unopposed.

And Larry Kaczala, the long-time Republican Lucas County Auditor who was defeated for re-election in 2006 by Democrat Anita Lopez may have put himself back on the political scene. Kaczala, running as an unendorsed Republican, finished second in a race for Municipal Court Judge to

incumbent Republican Mike Goulding, but ahead of Democratic challenger Jim



Lisa Canales

Bishop.

And in the Washington Local School Board race, Board President Lisa Canales retained her seat after a couple difficult years in which inadvertent campaign errors prevented her from running for the Toledo City Council District 6 seat. A name change and some filing errors apparently did not prevent voters in the school district from recognizing her abilities as an elected official.

Could Canales be positioning herself for a run in a couple of years for a city-wide post?



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# Dorr Street Coalition Receives Much Needed Financial Boost

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Dorr Street Coalition is alive and well according to the presentations offered last Wednesday evening during a town hall meeting at Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

The Lucas County Commissioners coughed up the seed money to get the project moving along and the group may have received an additional big boost from Toledo City



Council President Michael Ashford's mayoral arm twisting.

The first town hall meeting in June brought to-

gether about 500 people to Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church to hear the principal organizers of the effort - Rev. Raymond Bishop, pastor of Mt. Pilgrim, Suzette Cowell, CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFUCU), Charles Welch, president of Welch Communications/WJUC-FM and business owner Edwin Mabry - describe the vision they had for the corridor and invite the community to participate in a series of meetings.

"Ambitious plans take courageous people with staying power to make them happen," said Mayor Carty Finkbeiner at the onset of last week's event. Finkbeiner reminded his audience of how long it has taken to firm up plans for the Marina District which was first conceived, he said, in 2000.

"There isn't a house up yet ... after seven years," said the mayor. "There isn't a commercial business up

... after seven years." Nevertheless, he noted, the groundbreaking for that development is just around the

corner. "We can make anything happen we want to make happen ... within limits. Government money must be matched with private

money," he added. "You must attend every meeting so that your vision is put into play. It's all doable. We need to be steadfast, we need to be courageous."

... a private company, OmniSource Corp, located on Hill Avenue. "It's a nice blend of public and private dollars," said Gerken. According to Cowell, a team of three consultants has been hired to put together a feasibility plan for the corridor - The Collaborative, The Mannik & Smith Group and The Woodlands Consulting Group. The consultants are, in addition, already at work trying to assemble an investment package of private funds for the project. Perhaps the highlight of the evening came during Ashford's address to the hundred or so Coalition supporters in his remarks directed to Mayor Carty Finkbeiner. Ashford reminded the audience, and the mayor, of the rationale for setting aside \$55,000 to spruce up Reynolds Street. Reynolds, acknowledged Ashford, is so important because it is one of the first thoroughfares that visitors encounter when they exit the toll road. It creates, said Ashford, an indelible im-

pression on so many travelers.

pressure on so many travelers.

Dorr Street, added Ashford, is just as important in terms of the amount of travel on the corridor. "Let's do the same for Dorr Street as we did for Reynolds, let's find \$55,000 to beautify Dorr," said Ashford to the mayor.

"We want to make sure the city steps up with the money. Can we do that, mayor?" The mayor seemed to be caught off-guard by the question, but he flashed a thumbs-up in response.

"Thank you, mayor," said the council president. "I know just where the money is."

In addition to the promises of money, the audience also was presented with plans, already in progress, for various portions of Dorr Street.

City Councilwoman Wilma Brown re-emphasized that the real matter holding up the Brownstones on Dorr Street project is the fact that two pre-sales have not yet been completed. Pre-sales of two of the first six units are the conditions put on the developers by the lending institution.

Cowell brought her listeners up to date on the plans to build a new TUFUCU at the corner of Dorr and Detroit. Pastor Willie Perryman of Jerusalem and the architects for the new church structure provided updates on that venture as well.

TPS architects also introduced their new concepts for the rebuilding of King Elementary School. They had been influenced to re-think the project after the community, especially through the meetings generated by the Dorr Street Coalition, sought modifications in placement of the new building and the access to it.

Doni Miller, chairman of the Port Authority board of directors, summed up the mood of the audience and the presenters during her address shortly after the check for \$80,000 was handed over to the Coalition leaders.

"We understand that nothing comes without hard work," said Miller. "I'm proud of this project because it gives us an opportunity to show the community that we can get it done."



Doni Miller, Commissioners Pete Gerken, and Ben Konop, Treasurer Wade Kapszkiewicz

**"I'm proud of this project because it gives us an opportunity to show the community that we can get it done."~ Doni Miller**

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# NAACP Annual Banquet: "Firm, Focused and Moving Forward"

By Alexis Randles  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The organization was founded in 1909, when many would say segregation and racism was as American as apple pie. Men and women of color did not need to be recruited to join the cause because quite frankly it was evident that there could be no change or progress without action.

This past Friday evening, at the Pinnacle, members and supporters of the Toledo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) came together to celebrate their 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Freedom Fund Banquet. The theme for the evening was "Firm, Focused and Moving Forward."

Since the NAACP's inception, the status of the African-American community has come great distances from what many consider "the best and worst of times." Today the NAACP is one of the oldest and largest civil rights organizations in the world. They are commended for their continuous focus

and efforts towards voter empowerment, the development of young leaders, educational excellence and individual responsibility and for creating an infrastructure for economic and social development.

"If not us, then who? And if not now, then when?" said Sybil Edwards McNabb, president of the Ohio NAACP State Conference. "We have got to do it early. We must tell the story so they can appreciate where we are and yet understand how far we had to go."

More than 300 people, who sought to rededicate themselves to social justice, attended the Freedom Fund Banquet. The banquet is held each year to raise money to support youth programs and to honor an outstanding member within the Toledo-area community who upholds and promotes the core values of the organization.

"We have a fabulous history and heritage that we want to leave with our children because they are getting too many mixed messages in our community. We need to change the culture. It is every

generation's responsibility," said Teresa Fedor, Ohio State Senator.

During Fedor's presentation to the Toledo Branch NAACP, she spoke about the organizations numerous achievements under their



WilliAnn Moore, Francine Lawrence and Sybil Edwards-McNabb

current president, WilliAnn Moore. "I feel gratitude for all the work that you have done and you certainly have left many marks and seeds in this community and it shows," she said. "We are honored to honor you tonight and we will carry forth all the

work and justice you have done."

Official presentations during the banquet were given by the Toledo City Council, the Lucas County Commissioners and Ohio State legislators to McNabb, president

of Ohio State NAACP chapter, to Moore, president of Toledo Branch NAACP and to Rev. James Robert A. Culp, activist and pastor of First Church of God.

Shortly after the presentations, Moore was invited to present the *Out-*

*standing Community Service Award* to Edward Scrutchins. Scrutchins has served as the Toledo Public Schools director of athletics and the City Athletic League Commissioner since 1986. He is also a former professional football player for the Houston Oilers and long-time substitute teacher with TPS.

"Walk with me Lord, Lord Walk with me," sung Moore as she took the podium. "As I travel on my journey, I ask Jesus just to walk with me." After welcoming her with a round of applause, the crowd fell silent upon hearing her voice. The passion that incapitated her voice was evidence of victories won and battles yet to come.

"That is my theme song (*Walk With Me*)... because I know that Jesus walks with me," said Moore. "I know that I am bountifully blessed and highly favored."

During her brief speech before welcoming the night's honoree, she emphasized that the NAACP is a volunteer organization. "We do not get paid! When you can not call anybody else, you call Jesus and the

NAACP," she joked.

The Freedom Fund Banquet's honoree of the night was the recipient of the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award—Culp. He served as president of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP from 1966-1967, although that is only a brief portion of the service that he has contributed within the community.

Culp is the founder of F.A.C.T.S. and F.O.R.W.A.R.D. house for substance abusers. He is the founder and board member of Family House, which is a homeless shelter and is also the founder and board chairman of Toledo Academy Charter School. Culp, in addition, is known for his work in helping establish the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union.

When he approached the podium he carried an aura of humbleness. However, when he opened his month, you could hear a voice so powerful that it commanded attention. During his address, he tackled the topics of fulfilling your passion and the systemic problems of America.

"God has given us re-

(Continued on Page 16)

girlfriends  
Mondays 9pm

the game  
Mondays 9:30pm

aliens in america  
Mondays 8:30pm

everybody hates chris  
Mondays 8pm

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Veteran's Day Special Issue • Veteran's Day Special Issue • Veteran's Day Special Issue • Veteran's Day Special Issue • Veteran's Day

# Harold Brown: Tuskegee Airman ... There By Request

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

After a long, fitful night, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harold Brown was once again taken from his cell and brought before his Oxford-educated interrogator.

Name, rank and serial number was all he had offered on the previous day but ... name, rank and serial number had proven to be unsatisfactory responses to the German major's inquiries at the Nuremberg interrogation center. The major, in perfect English, assured the 20-year-old fighter pilot who had been shot down on his 30<sup>th</sup> mission that if more complete answers were not forthcoming, he would be turned over to the German civilians.

German civilians were particularly hard on downed Allied pilots who, after all, had been responsible for such extensive damage to their country. And Brown had just recently seen the toll that civilian justice had exacted on one of his fellow Red Tail pilot colleagues.

"He was a mess," recalled Brown of his comrade in arms.

Fortunately the following morning somehow produced a change in attitude on the part of the German. He greeted Brown and offered him a large, sweet orange—a gift Brown accepted without hesitation.

"He then told me I didn't know anything about my outfit that he didn't already know," said Brown. As if to prove that his statements were not empty boasts, the German took the young lieutenant into his office and produced books on each of the four squadrons that comprised the by then well-



Second Lieutenant Harold Brown  
332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron

known 332 Fighter Group—the Tuskegee Airmen. Well known, it appeared not only to the American bomber pilots who were requesting the "red tails" with increasing urgency as the strategic air campaign raged on but also to the Germans who had taken note of the black pilots' exploits—exploits that included never losing any of the bombers they escorted to enemy aircraft fire.

The German major had concluded that Brown was in the 99<sup>th</sup> Squadron and that, given his age, he must have graduated the previous year in class 44C, 44D, 44E or 44F. Brown, a graduate of class 44E and member of the 99<sup>th</sup>, munched on his sweet orange in silence wondering at that time how the Germans had obtained such information.

"They had so much," said

Brown recently as he recounted a few war stories for a visitor recently at his home on Catawba Island. "I heard later that the sources of so



much information were the newspapers of every major city in the United States."

The orange was not the only thing the major had to offer his prisoner. "Let me

give you some advice' he told me," recalled Brown. "This war is going to end in the next three to four months. You are going to be transferred to [a prisoner of war camp]. Keep your nose clean ... don't try to escape or give a guard any reason to shoot you."

The major, who also told Brown that his own goal was to try to get to the United States after the war, was nothing if not unerringly accurate in his assessment of the status of the war. Brown, along with about 10,000 other Allied prisoners, was forced marched to his new home at Stalag VII-A in Moosberg and remained there until May 3 or 4 when General George Patton and his 3<sup>rd</sup> Army arrived to liberate the prisoners of war.

Brown has no idea what happened to the German officer who extended more courtesies to him than just about any white American officer, or enlisted man for that fact, would during those

Jr., the commanding officer of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group and the first African-American general of the Air Force, with a fourth star and celebrated the Tuskegee Airmen's collective heroism. In March of this year, President George W. Bush presented the pilots the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"I have a strong interest in World War II airmen," said Bush during that ceremony on March 29, 2007. "I was raised by one. He flew with a group of brave young men who endured difficult times in the defense of our country. Yet for all they sacrificed and all they lost, in a way, they were very fortunate, because they never had the burden of having their every mission, their every success, their every failure viewed through the color of their skin. Nobody told them they were a credit to their race. Nobody refused to return their salutes. Nobody expected them to bear the daily humiliations while wearing

time. He passed the written test easily, but flunked the physical.

"I weighed 128 and one quarter pounds," said Brown. "You needed to weigh 128 and a half pounds. I couldn't believe they would reject me over a quarter pound."

They did.

But the examiner did clue Brown in on how to pass the physical when he would be permitted to retake it in a week's time.

"He asked me if I liked chocolate malts, which of course I did," said Brown. "He told me 'on Wednesday, start early with a chocolate malted in the morning and one in the evening and put a raw egg in both of them.'"

Brown did as he was advised and on the following week, he had ballooned up to 128 and three quarters pound, safely passing the physical by a quarter pound. He would leave for Biloxi, MS in December 1942 to start

his flying lessons, graduating in 1944 when he went overseas to Italy to begin flying his 30 missions.

After the war, Brown reenlisted in what would become the Air Force. He remained in the military for 23 years. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in math from Ohio University and his master's and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University.

Brown joined Columbus State Community College as the vice president for academic affairs in the mid 1960's when the two-year institution had 67 students and was located in a basement. He retired about 20 years ago having witnessed the school become the third largest community college in Ohio. Today CSCC has over 24,000 students.

But retirement doesn't exactly describe Brown's current life. He was still in high school at the

uniform of their country."

Bush praised the Tuskegee Airmen for doing so much for a nation that had done so little for them and he told the story of one such pilot who had sacrificed virtually all of his worldly possessions in order to get to the training site to become a pilot. It's a story with which Brown was thoroughly familiar.

Brown's own love of flying was instilled at an early age when he dreamed of becoming a pilot while building model airplanes and reading books such as "The Life of a Flying Cadet," a book Brown read so often he said later he could probably recite it from memory.

A Minneapolis native, Brown volunteered in 1942, at the tender age of 17, for the Army Air Corps in order to become an airman. He was still in high school at the

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(Continued on Page 8)

# Harold Brown... There By Request

(Continued from Page 7)

rent status. He formed a consulting company and the curriculum specialist stays on the road these days visiting two-year institutions around Ohio.

And he stays in touch, of course, with the rest of the surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen. At one time, there was only one group of airmen in Ohio, headquartered in Columbus. Over the years, pilots along the Ohio north coast formed their own group, as did those clustered in Cincinnati, in order to cut down on the travel.

And the reunions continue. Brown cites estimates that under 30 percent of the original 992 trained pilots are still alive. In the last several months, Toledo lost its only Tuskegee Airman resident and Detroit lost Richard Macon whom this newspaper featured back in 2002.

In his home on Catawba Island, as he spoke of the war days and the exploits of the pilots, Brown pulled out a miniature replica of a Mustang P-51 in which the Tuskegee Airmen flew so many sorties. The model has the familiar "red tail" that the black pilots painted on in order to identify their group.

Near the door of the model plane is a replica of a bit of writing that then-Captain Davis painted on his own plane and that message is a



Harold Brown, Ph.D.

reference to the fact that white bomber pilots kept insisting more and more that the red tails escort them on their particular missions as the war went on. It's also a reference to the fact that their nation, however reluctantly, had called upon them for their assistance.

The two-word message describes ultimately just why the Tuskegee Airmen were in that place at that time. They were there ... "by request."

Contact the Editor at [fletcher@thetruthtoleado.com](mailto:fletcher@thetruthtoleado.com)



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## The Tuskegee Airmen, A Brief History

*Special to The Truth*  
William F. Holton,  
National Historian

In 1941, a strongly resistant military establishment agreed to launch the "Tuskegee Experiment" to test the suitability of blacks for aircrew and ground support duties in the United States Army Air Corps. The first phase of the experiment was the activation of the 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, later designated a Fighter Squadron, at Chanute Army Airfield near Rantoul, Illinois.

The first contingent consisted of five cadets who would become commissioned officers at the conclusion of their training and a group of enlisted men who would train to become technical and administrative specialists.

Due to the existing pat-

tern of segregation, the airfield was activated at an iso-



lated airfield near Tuskegee, Alabama.

The first pilot training class had 12 cadets and one commissioned officer, Captain Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr. Captain Davis and four cadets completed flight training and became the first black military pilots in the Army Air Corps.

Captain Davis became commander of the 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter

Squadron and later commanded the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter

Group in the air war over Europe. He went on to command the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group as well and eventually became the first black general officer in the U.S. Air Force.

The 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron began their combat operations in North Africa where, for the first time in their flying careers, they had the luxury of flying brand new P-40 aircraft. Later, they joined the 332<sup>nd</sup>

Fighter Group and flew P-39 and P-47 aircraft for a short period before being moved to the most advanced fighter aircraft of the WWII era, the P-51 Mustang.

The Airmen destroyed and damaged more than 400 enemy aircraft and more than 1,000 ground and sea targets. They established the incredible record of flying over 200 bomber escort missions without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft.

However, there records were not gained without cost. Sixty-six Airmen were killed and another 32 were shot down and became prisoners of war.

While the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group was achieving its enviable record in the European Theatre, members of the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group were undergoing training as twin-engine pilots, navigators,

bombardiers, gunners and ground support personnel.

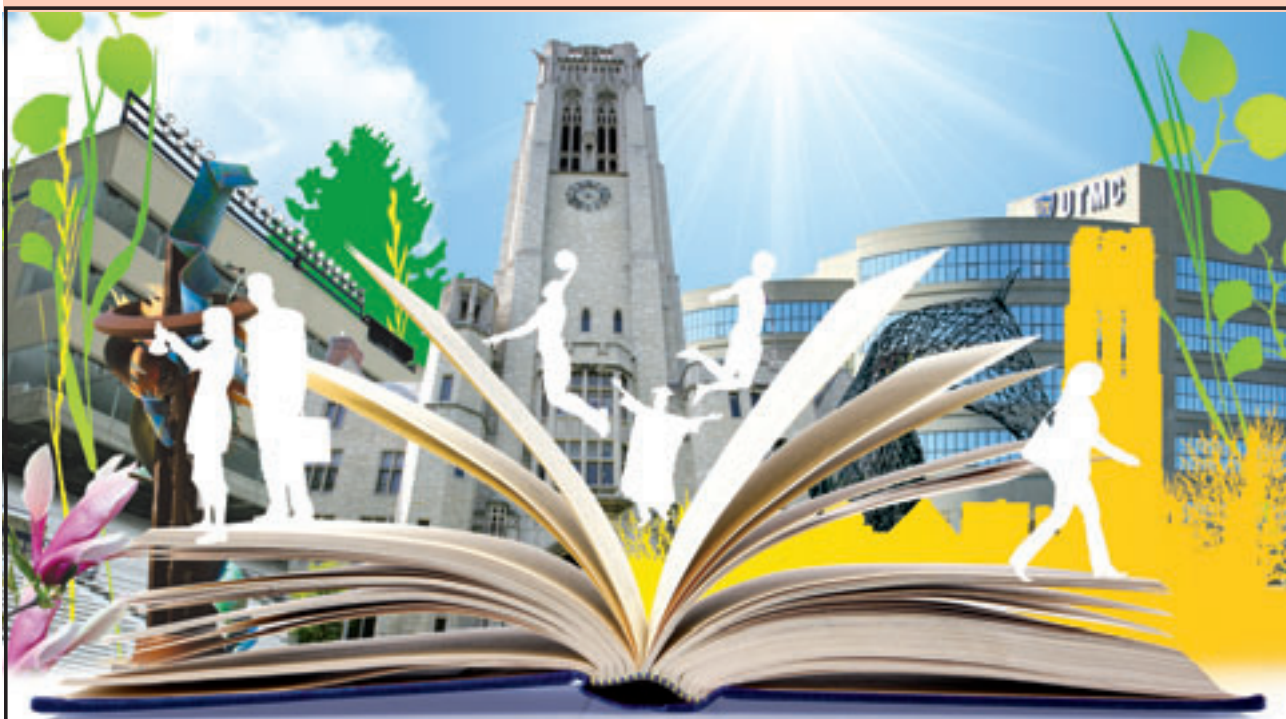
The war ended before they deployed overseas, however, they fought an equally important war here at home. When the black officers attempted to enter the unlawfully segregated Freeman Field Officers' Club, 103 were arrested and faced courts martial. Their actions were a precursor to what was later to be defined as the civil rights movement. Although only one officer was convicted, all of them carried the stigma of an arrest record, which may have limited their career opportunities.

In 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9811 - directing equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces. This led to the eventual end of racial segregation in the military services and was the first step toward

integration in the nation.

Many of the Tuskegee Airmen remained in the military while many others embarked on various civilian careers. The very strong bonds of friendship and camaraderie led to a number of reunions during the post-war years. The reunion in Detroit in 1972 led to the development of a national organization, which was incorporated in 1975 in Washington, D.C.

Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated is organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Membership is open to anyone willing to pledge to support the present-day mission of motivating and assisting young people toward aviation and space careers and to preserve the legacy of the pioneering Airmen.



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## Danny Glover Visits Lourdes College for Informal 'Conversation'

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"I was going to say, 'Please help me welcome Danny Glover,' but you beat me to it," said Robert Helmer, Ph.D., the president of Lourdes College, introducing actor/activist Danny Glover, Sunday, November 4, 2007, in a conversational setting at the Franciscan Life Center.

Earlier, a reception was held at the center for Glover. Prior to his introduction there was thunderous applause following a video montage of Glover's television and film career. Technical difficulty prevented the 'conversation' from starting right away as Glover's mic was adjusted when it didn't pick up his voice.

"Drama department?" Glover said in a stage voice that could be heard in the back of the auditorium. Helmer traded mics with Glover so the conversation could start. "They want to hear you more than me," he said. "You're going to have to guess what the questions are," said Glover.

It didn't take long for the tech crew to get the other mic working and the audience was able to hear Helmer's questions. The first one was which of Glover's movies had the greatest impact on him.

"For the most part," answered Glover, "The *Lethal Weapons* movies." He shared that a lot of what happened in those movies was improvisation. Glover talked about having accrued a body of work, confessing that he rarely watches his films. "The real joy of doing it is the moment you find a moment," he said. "I carry those moments around with me until the very next moment."

Readily revealing his emotional side, Glover said he'd just lost his mother when he did the movie *Places in the Heart* with Sally Field. "I will never see that movie," he said. "I cried going to the set, on the set." He said there were moments in the movie that were emotional for him, including one between him and his co-star. "The little handkerchief I gave Sally at the end."

Explaining his ability to be heard in the back of the auditorium without a mic, Glover said that his early training as an actor was done on stage. "My stage training provided me with the basics of finding the character's center," he said. "When you're on stage, every performance is a new performance."

Glover recalled fondly his

role in Athol Fugard's play, *Master Harold and the Boys* as the middle-aged, ballroom-dancing African servant, Willie, in apartheid South Africa.

"I would dedicate a per-

Glover said after that all of his fights in school were about being called "Lips." Having grown up in San Francisco schools, Glover was exposed to many opportunities for extra-curricula

talk to him. "They'll joke and say, 'I couldn't stand that Mister!'" he said, eliciting shouts of agreement and applause from the audience. "It offered a chance for self-reflection." Again, Glover

the movie.

"The response, the reaction to that was denial. 'There's no child abuse in the black community!' It happens in all communities."

Glover credits *The Color Purple* and Alice Walker's courage in writing the book on which the novel was based with facilitating healing around this issue. "The most important thing about that film is the vibrant discussion about image," he said.

Glover talked about his incredulity when a cabdriver of East Indian descent, who was darker than him, refused to pick him up in New York. "Where did these images of me come from? How did he get these images of me?" Glover asked rhetorically.

"This was an important novel and I'm glad it was made into an important movie. It was an opportunity for it to reach a larger audience."

Discussing a movie he made for TNT, *The Buffalo Soldiers*, Glover brought up the issue of how Native Americans are treated in this country. "I always wanted to

do a story about Seminole Indians," he said. "I never could get that story off the ground."

Glover shared how he found a way to blend the story of the Buffalo Soldiers, African-American soldiers who'd been freed after the Civil War, with that of the Seminoles. "Sixty percent of African-Americans have Native American blood. My grandmother was part Choctaw," he said. "I took this one guy who lived in two worlds - one was African-American, one was Native American."

Glover explained how this character's story provided potential for the emotional conflict that he feels is so essential to telling an authentic story. He said that after the movie aired on cable television, a Native American woman contacted him. "She said their folklore had such a story," he said. "What validation!"

When asked again about his acting career, Glover turned the subject to another issue dear to him. "Why do

(Continued on Page 13)



formance to Mandela," he said. "I always tell actors that acting is listening." Asked about his grandson, Glover laughed and told the story of his grandson seeing him in *The Color Purple* for the first time.

"He calls me 'Baba' and when the movie came on, he said, 'There's Baba,'" said Glover. "He looked at it and looked at me and said, 'No Baba.'" The audience laughed with him. "I spend as much time as I can with him. I travel with him because my daughter is a single mom," said the proud grandfather. "He is the best person to travel with."

Glover talked for some time about the lessons he's learned from his grandson. "What defined my father, he was a wonderful father," he said. "And what defines me is being a father and being a grandfather is another step."

Asked if there was an emphasis on the arts in his household as a child, Glover said he recently discovered that his mother wrote in her college yearbook that she wanted to be an actress. "My mother never mentioned that," he said. "There wasn't a great deal of emphasis on that. My sister took the obligatory ballet lessons."

He laughingly recalled how he and his sister tried to be as unobtrusive as possible in the church Christmas and Easter pageants. "When I was in elementary school, they thought I had a nice voice," he said, adding that he chose to learn to play the trumpet as an elective. "The teacher said to me, 'You can't play the trumpet; your lips are too big to play the trumpet!' He could have said, 'We've run out of trumpets.'"

activities. "There were art classes, Glee Clubs, intramural sports," he said. "There was no vision of myself as an artist."

However, that all changed when he enrolled in San Francisco State College in 1967. "There was this amazing thrust around black art," he said. "Art is used in reflecting on one's identity, as well and there was this thrust around black art; so for the first time I became involved in art."

Glover admitted he had limitations, including a mild form of dyslexia. Glover, as he often did during the 'conversation,' attempted to move the discussion beyond the banal questions he was being asked to the kinds of issues he addresses in his celebrated activism.

Talking about the black arts movement, he brought up the issue of redevelopment in San Francisco or 'gentrification' of poorer neighborhoods, an issue that was addressed by the black arts movement. "There were many movements that were happening in the theatre," he said. "It allowed the students to see themselves in the characters."

Glover talked about becoming involved in South African playwright Fugard's work. "I felt that I learned the craft of acting," he said. "I also felt the work was purposeful." Glover was candid about the impact of this kind of writing on his life. "A great deal of my career and my work is to give shape to those ideas," he said.

Asked what role he's played that has affected him the most, Glover revisited *The Color Purple*, which he admits people talk about most when they get a chance to

brought up an issue not anticipated by the question. "In this country, we don't understand the insidiousness of racism and what it does to the psyche," he said, then addressed reaction from some African-Americans to



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Adopt a Haircut Program a Big Success ... Needs Help

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Over 200 young boys have taken advantage of an offer to receive a free haircut courtesy of Mt. Nebo's Missionary Baptist Church, the Mott Branch of Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and Poor Clark's Barbershop in the three months since the program's inception.

"Adopt a Haircut," explained Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo and ombudsman for the Toledo Public Schools, back in July, is a program designed "to focus on young African-American boys because that is what mentoring is all about."

The partners have asked members of the community to donate \$10 to this program for the haircuts. All a boy had to do is go to the library, check out a book, take the book to the barbershop and then receive his free haircut.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness," said Brock. "A fresh haircut makes a child feel so much better." Mt. Nebo's Voice of Hope ministry contributed the first 10 haircuts to the program.

Poor Clark's was chosen "because it is in the heart of our community," said Brock. "And it's right next to an all-boys school [Lincoln Academy for Boys]."

The barbershop also happens to be the place where Brock, as a boy, received his very first haircut, underscoring the significance of this long-time neighborhood institution.

Judy Jones, manager of the Mott Branch, said that this program is just part of a series of initiatives aimed at encouraging young boys to read. "We're losing them in terms of reading," said Jones, "and we're starting all kinds of initiatives because if they don't know how to read, how are they going to succeed?"

Or, as Henry Clark - a/k/a "Poor Clark" - said: "there's no elevation without education."

But the program needs help from the community.

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



Pastor Cedric Brock, Henry Clark, Judy Jones

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

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Advertisement for State Farm Insurance. It features the State Farm logo, the text 'Low, Low Auto Rates.', and contact information for Vince Davis Agency: 419-244-2904. There is a small photo of Vince Davis.

Advertisement for 'Experience THE FLIPSIDE' by DJ Reese. It includes the text 'VIDEOS FLIPPED & REARXED', 'Produced and Seen Locally', and 'Only On Toledo's my 58'. There is a photo of DJ Reese wearing a cap and sunglasses.

Dear Ryan,

I was reading another local paper a few weeks ago and they were talking about steroids. The people they were asking were just average people with no credibility in my opinion. I am a sophomore in high school and I plan on getting a football scholarship for college. I want to take steroids to better my odds. My question to you is, do you think I could improve much in the next two years if I took them?

J.J.

Dear J.J.,

Well, slow down man!! You are what? 16, maybe? Taking steroids and getting a scholarship are two different things! First of all steroids are illegal and if you get busted you won't get a free ride to anywhere except prison. The last I heard they don't have a team.

As far as you getting better, work on it! If you want to get a scholarship, work at the grades as well as the sports and that will increase your odds. You need to forget about the quick, easy way and put in your time. The health risks that go along with it isn't worth the results.

I personally know guys who have taken steroids and are now suffering from kidney failure, heart problems, liver troubles ... and it doesn't stop there. Plus, you never know what you're getting! I know guys that have shot up with vegetable oil, thinking it was the real stuff, I know people that have gotten bad infections from bad steroids.

Would you even know what you were getting if you were to get some?

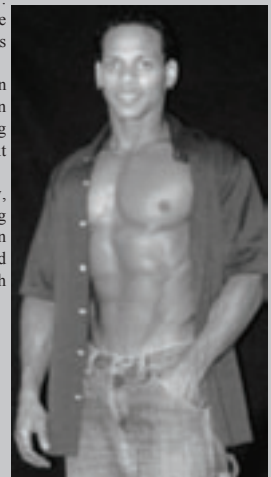
My man, this isn't like taking something for a head ache or a bad cough. It's playing with your life and at your age, I say just forget about it!! You're so young and you haven't even begun to reach the potential of which you are capable. Get in the gym and lift heavy, learn plyometrics for your position and know there is no off season now.

You have to train smart, hard and efficiently. You have to eat properly and feed your body the way it needs to be fed in order to perform the tasks at hand.

Get as much information about your position as possible, watch tapes, do your homework on your position and master it. That's what's going to get you that scholarship and take you to the next level.

If getting a scholarship in football was easy, everyone would have one. It's not about taking steroids to better your odds, it's about putting in the work and bettering your game. Make good choices and be smart as well as talented. Reach your God-given potential naturally.

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# The Hip Hop Generation

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



Frank Lucas recently issued a statement basically telling Jay Z to fall back and stop talking so reckless about his name and his past and all that.

Which kind of hit me like, WOW!

See, to many of us... Jay Z is like an elder statesman.

A village griot, maybe not a hero but definitely someone we've grown up idolizing in a way.

So what do you do when your elder gets put in check his elder?

Kind of puts some things in perspective a little, right?

Jay Z is pushing 40 years old. He calls himself an 80's baby.

In his definition he means that his hustle was born during that Reagan-era hardship. Y'all can debate if that makes him an 80's baby or not, but I'll stick to facts.

## GENERATIONS

Much of how modern America looks at generations all starts with the infamous Baby Boom generation (who are heading into retirement soon and there's so many of them that there won't be any social security left for the rest of us later on – or so I've read).

Soldiers came home from WWII and a little thing in American happened:

Massive amounts of people had sex.

Okay, that's a funny way of putting it but all those soldiers came home to their wives and girlfriends and millions upon millions of babies were conceived.

Sounds somewhat weird, but it's a sociological event in our society that changed everything.

There were so many of them, it was more like two waves of baby boomers.

So when it comes to Jay Z, who was born in the late 60's... he would be where Generation X begins – perhaps the child of a parent who was born during the baby boom.

Salt N Pepa too, you see them on their show in pushing 40 and all that.

Wayne's World is sup-

posed to be that movie that typified that generation.

Generation X because supposedly they didn't care about much and weren't very inspired.

And just as the Gen Xers were coming of age, rap was becoming the center piece of young people's lives all across this country.

I remember being in fourth and fifth grade watching Kid N Play and Salt N Pepa and all the folks who were already out of high school but they seemed so cool to me.

It was that classic Generation X attitude that came off as passive apathy in the suburbs and straight up "we don't give a f\*\*k" in the hood.

So with that you have NWA, you have Public Enemy, you have X Clan, you have 2 Live Crew and plenty of other rappers who many of us weren't allowed to listen to because we were still too young but they transferred that Gen X rebellion into an art.

That's what made our music and our culture exciting.

It was that first wave of offspring produced by those baby boomers.

Boomers who lived through the 60's and infused what they had learned into their firstborns and sent them out into a world they may not have cared to change but would certainly influence through their rebellion.

Generation Y are the younger siblings and cousins of Generation X.

**Not the children of Gen X.**

The Baby Boom spanned enough time to produce two waves of boomers in the 50's and 60's. Then there were so many of them that they also produced two waves of offspring.

Generation X starts with those born as early as 1967 when the wave of baby boomers who had been born in the late 40's and early 50's were just hitting their adult hood and starting families.

Jay Z, Diddy, etc... their mothers had them in the late 60's, early 70's, so they grew up watching the revolutionary mindset of black people in the ghetto turn into rampant drug use as crack hit the streets. People who are now 32 years old all the way up to about 40 – the older of those people – were probably around to see the epidemic take hold on our communities.

They were also around to see another phenomenon take hold: hip-hop culture.

And the tales of inner city struggle go hand in hand with crime and musical expres-

sion. Which is what makes an artist like Jay Z so potent because he seen it all.

But Jay Z is rare proof of hip-hop's ability to reach across generations.

I mean think of it... it's hip-hop that gave Snoop, Jay Z, Puffy, Dr. Dre, Jermaine Dupri their start when they were in their 20's as the 80's turned into the 90's.

Now those same men run multi-million dollar companies going to work in fitted baseball caps, Jordans and \$1,000 jeans.

As hip-hop has grown, our elders are now in the same shot-calling positions that many of rap music's biggest detractors were in when they first denied them access to the careers they now enjoy.

I once heard someone say that Russell Simmons doesn't dress his age, and I said "the hell he don't!" He's in his 40's, and he's a rap mogul – he can do as he pleases.

And for his fellow Generation X peeps, they have given all of us in the hip-hop generation that same creed to do as we please.

Now, my generation is where Generation Y begins.

Most studies you see online or in text books (maan, I used to love my sociology class at UT) will say that Generation Y includes those born from 1977 to about 1995.

At first I was like "hold up, does that make sense." But as I was told by a professor 'a generation isn't really about what year you were born but more about the generation your parents belong to.'

So, still we are that second wave of offspring produced by the Baby Boomers (who kept having children into the 90's).

Generation Y didn't grow up breaking ground for hip-hop, it was basically already in place by the time we were old enough to tie our shoes.

My older cousins would tell me they remember the day when there was no rap, and the next day there was rap. I was in elementary school when the 80's were ending, me and my people don't remember a time when rap didn't dominate music and influence pop culture.

All those rapping Flintstone Cereal commercials... THAT WAS FOR US! – and boy did they work.

Hip-hop culture and attitude is not something that people my age adopted, it's second nature to us. We are 18 up to 30 or so and we are reported to have more of a world view than our Gen X older siblings. We grew up with a greater exposure to

other races.

We grew up forced to watch those tale of the hood movies as a reminder we need to stop killing each other.

When Gen X was coming up, rap music was becoming the dominant force in black music in America.

When we/Gen Y were coming up, rap music was becoming the dominant force in entertainment across the globe.

We've grown up reading and learning as people like Diddy were becoming bosses in the game so we are much more industry and business savvy whereas those before us had to get abused by the system in order to learn, we grew up learning from their mistakes.

So even though Generation X was credited with being shiftless and without a care, the strives that many of them made are what those of us in Gen Y looked up to and are in the process of emulating. Jay Z has taken people like Lebron and Kanye under his wing, Nelly and Jermaine Dupri work together a lot.

There are plenty of examples where Gen X and Gen Y share the same space in hip-hop because our collective class is becoming known as just that: **The Hip-Hop Generation.**

Spanning probably the last 35 years or so, this new idea focuses on the wide set of priorities and sensibilities shared by such a large number of people that it basically

includes anyone who is in direct contact with Hip-Hop Culture. The entrepreneurial spirit idolized by Generation Y was second nature to us as we grew up watching our favorite artists become owners in the game... that type of thinking is now pre-requisite. As is the fashion, entertainment choice and language we all seem to share.

When Jay Z said "30 is the new 20" it may have been true.

Middle age used to be 30-35. Now since society as a whole has such a longer lifespan, middle age is said to begin closer to 40 and end around 65. Because there are 70 year olds who are just starting to wind down their active lifestyles.

And think about your average 35-year old black man and how much he has in common with your average 15-year old black youth.

In the Hip-Hop Generation, they probably listen to somewhat different spectrums of hip-hop but they are generally playing the same music, using the same language, they might even be dressing the same.

Many of the younger ones are the babies of the Gen Xers who started having kids in the mid to late 90's.

So if you are a 35-year old with a 10-year old at home, you are the Gen X person and your kid is the 106 & Park Generation (until someone thinks of a better term, we gonna roll with this one).

Now, your kid's 20-year

old aunt who is your little sister – she's the Gen Y person.

Even though all three can still fit under this new umbrella of the Hip-Hop Generation,

the 106 & Park Gen has a few quirks that distinguish them even from their slightly older Gen Y aunts, uncles and cousins.

For example – the biggest debate to hit hip-hop in the last three years is the

Lil Wayne vs. Jay Z thing – who is the best rapper on the planet?

This isn't an important debate because of the two rappers or their skills.

This is an important debate because it almost conclusively ear-marks a point in time where hip-hop's fountain of youth has turned on itself.

A 10-year old black boy in the hood has never known a time without Lil Wayne on the radio.

A 10-year old black boy in the hood has probably never had a favorite rap group that had a D.J.

Hell, a little black boy in the hood who is turning 10 this year... would have little-to-no recollection of a time when Biggie ruled the game.

So with no understanding of lyrical mastery, no real exposure to true wordplay ...

how can you tell this kid that Lil Wayne is NOT better than Jay Z?

That little boy is gonna  
(Continued on Next Page)

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## The Hip Hop Generation

(Continued from Page 12)

fight your tooth and nail that Lil Wayne is the best thing on earth.

And his little seven-year old sister is gonna be screaming "crank dat soldier boy" the whole time y'all have this discussion.

Gen X didn't understand the music industry and spent enough time on the outside looking in that some of them mastered it while others fell victim.

Gen Y grew up pre-conditioned to understanding hip-hop and the music business while still respecting the artistry present while the industry celebrated its top talents.

The 106 & Park Gen has grown up listening to mixtapes more than hip-hop radio shows

and are even more pre-conditioned to the grass roots movements of artists because ALL OF THEM WANNA BE RAPPERS!

Their ears are conditioned to hearing rhyme after rhyme because everyone they know is trying to be a rapper, so the local exposure to the culture becomes so constant that they get used to a lower quality of rap than the rest of us would've accepted.

We used to argue about the greats - Biggie, Jay Z and Nas.

But the sophisticated intellect of a great emcee is not what these little kids are familiar with because everyday they hear garbage raps being spit by everyone they know.

Gucci Maine, Crime Mob, Webbie, Soulja Boy and all that other rap that sounds local as hell....

that's EXACTLY what kids (the 106 & Park Gen) prefer because they honestly don't know any better.

While those of us who grew up with Nas, Bad Boy and The Fugees are left wondering where the little bit of artistry we used to have gone.

And now the industry is turning away from the polished, slightly over-produced

but still high quality sound of mid-late 90's hip-hop and is instead more accepting of half-assed/any body can do it rap that is sometimes so devoid of talent and skill it boggles the mind.

Jay Z is someone who can traverse those lanes and rock for all aspects of the Hip-Hop Generation. His music is universal at this point.

But since the average 10-year old rap fan has no memory of Jay Z ever NOT being the king of rap, then of course a new movement seems a little more appealing.

And if that new movement doesn't have interesting word play in the rhymes, oh well.

If that new movement isn't necessarily talented, oh well.

So how can our music survive if people are giving less and less of a damn about talent, wordplay, originality, informative rhymes and ALL the things that made hip-hop a way of life?

How can our culture sustain itself when the very foundation of it is being circumvented?

The good thing about this fountain of youth affect that makes us able to fit under the label of Hip-Hop Generation is it allows EVERYONE to be relevant.

That's true even when you watch Run's House... yeah Rev Run can be a cornball of a father at times but he's still respected as a legendary groundbreaking artist.

The junior high kids might not buy that Jay Z album over that Lil Wayne album but they will listen.

So if you are 35 and you got a 10-year old kid, in the midst of all the other training and parenting you're doing...when it's time to talk about hip-hop let them know that there's more out there than what they may be listening to.

Let them know who you used to listen to, quote some Nas rhymes or some L. Boogie for them.

Our collective generation puts us all on the same level really.

The Hip-Hop Generation has opinions on politics, family, and spirituality - not just isolated to entertainment and media.

So, feel free to talk to each other... that's how information is passed through the generations anyway.

Hit me up: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

### SPECIAL SHOUTS!

Everyone who was a part of the EXPOSED play put on by Ms. Adams and the people at Rhema Word Church on Holland Sylvania. Y'all know I came to support my little sister (she played Eve in the Garden of Eden scene!) - but I was entertained and I witnessed some true and fine talent that night.

Great job everyone (especially my man that played the Bum).

### JAY Z AMERICAN GANGSTA REVIEW:

It's coming, I'm still sitting on it.

But here's something to hold you over - That "Roc Boys" song you *think* was produced by Kanye was actually produced by Sean Puffy Combs and his new Hit men.

Actually there's so much Bad Boy involvement in this album that Diddy gets an associate executive producer credit on this album. But it ain't that shiny suit 80's samples you THINK is the Bad Boy sound, it's that dramatic hustler music that true heads remember as some of the label's illest album cuts. Jigga's trying to make that stadium music he told "Ye about, but something feels a bit off.

Catch me next week when I break it down for y'all! Peace.

(as always, check out [www.myspace.com/undergodzent](http://www.myspace.com/undergodzent) - U.G.E. hold me down!)

## Toledo Club of the NANBPWC, Inc. Welcomes New Members



Seated (l. to r.): Leola Haynes, Wanda Terrell, Dee Bates, Barbara Tucker, Mary Dawson

Standing: Donnetta Carter, Denise Black-Poon, Candice Harrison, Phyllis Dunbar, Ruth Ashford, Theresa Braddy, Karen Smith, Clara Brank

The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. welcomed eight new members to its organization last week. The new members inducted were: Ruth Ashford, Denise Black-Poon, Theresa Braddy, Phyllis Dunbar, Candice Harrison, Reneesha Parrish-Nnaji, Sherry Reed and Karen Smith.

The induction was held on November 6 at United Missionary Baptist Church on Monroe Street. Each new member received a yellow tea rose, the official flower of the national organization and given a sisterly welcome by all of the Toledo Club members present.

The evening included a delicious dinner catered by Chef Les. The menu consisted of roast beef, baked turkey and dressing, tossed salad, green beans, mashed potatoes and assorted cakes.

The mission of the NANBPWC, Inc is to promote and protect the interests of African-American business and professional women, to serve as a bridge for young people to enter business and the professions, to improve the quality of life in the local and global communities and to foster good fellowship.

Wanda Terrell is the club president, Delores Bates is first vice president and Donnetta Carter is the membership chairman.

Some of the upcoming events sponsored by the Toledo Club are: Women's History Month Program, Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists, Founders' Day and the Annual Debutante Cotillion.

## Danny Glover

(Continued from Page 10)

we have to make one film for 10 million dollars? Why can't we make 10 films for one million dollars?" Glover, advocating, making smaller, less expensive independent films, called this the 'democratization' of filmmaking that allows diverse stories to be told.

"We'd have a better understanding of this multicultural society if we allow these stories to be told," he said. Glover discovered diversity at 17, he said, from watching foreign films. "What I was doing subconsciously," he said, "I was trying to see other images." Glover said he was able to see a connection between himself and others through their stories.

Using the telling of stories as a connection to Glover's passion for literacy, Helmer asked the actor/activist about that subject. Glover talked about being involved in a tutorial pro-

gram when he was 19 years old at San Francisco State College.

"The best thing that happened is I would tell the kids, 'The best way to invigorate your imagination is to read,'" he said.

Glover launched into a tribute to one of his favorite authors, Toni Morrison, whose novel *Beloved* was made into a movie starring Glover and his *The Color Purple* co-star Oprah Winfrey. Following his 'conversation' with Helmer, Glover answered several questions during a brief "Q&A" before rushing to catch a plane.

Asked how to provide inspiration on college campuses in the future, Glover was circumspect. "I'm a child of the Civil Rights Movement and the movements that came after that," he said.

Asked about the domestic violence issues in *The Color Purple*, Glover an-

swered with a question. "What are we talking about as for as healing and transformation?" he asked. "The story is designed to say, 'How do we empower each other?'"

Asked how young African-Americans can become more involved to prevent situations like Jena, Glover talked about dialoguing. "We have to find ways to dialog," he said. "What are the issues?"

In regard to the Jena, Louisiana, incident, Glover asked why a space wasn't created where there could be a dialog instead of hanging nooses and reacting with violence. He advocates creating a space where people can meet and connect in love and compromise. "It can be just as dynamic and just as active and just as powerful," he said. "You can answer that question for yourself. You've already answered the question by asking it."

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In the picture is the staff of Huron Women Center and the Community Liaison Specialists. This was a project of Neighborhood Health Association.

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sources and we are not lacking," he said. "One of those gifts to me is something better than simply the ability to beg with our hands out all the time."

Culp explained that as a culture we have to often learn "to compromise with the oppressor because we falsely believe he has the resources that we need to survive."

His ability to recognize the leading issues that have debilitated the African-American community was not simply a testament of his faith in God, but as important as his faith in his community to do better.

"One of the things that disturbs me is that, so many

of those who really want to help think that the only way to help is to get yourself in a position where you are on a board, or you have an elected office is when you will be able to change things," said Culp. "Political officials, though they have fancy titles and big offices, it seems that they cannot immediately solve or correct the problem we are faced with it."

He spoke about how his passion has driven him to be so active in his community, with his family and to God.

"Everybody has to be pushed to do something," he replied after telling a joke that related to those who are pushed into doing something

and those who choose to do it. The underlying point that Culp sought to emphasize was how passion and commitment must collide to make a difference.

"It does not matter if you are a lion or gazelle, when the sun comes up you better start running," said Culp.

When this reporter asked him who or what challenged him, Culp replied: "One was a pastor, who challenged me constantly and the second person was my mother, who made me understand that I must never be satisfied but always keep pushing forward to do better."



*Willi Ann Moore, Rev. Robert Culp, and Sybil D. Menabb*



**Myron Duhart, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
316 N. Michigan Ave.  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419.244.3393



**Karyn McConnell Hancock, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
316 N. Michigan Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419.241.6282



**Keith Mitchell, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
124 N. Summit Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419.255.4480



**Richard Mitchell, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
245 N. Erie  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419.246.0528

**Thurgood Marshall Law Association**

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

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

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

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

**Tyrone Riley, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
416 N. Erie Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419.242.2251



**Lafe Tolliver, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
316 N. Michigan Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419.249.2703



**Rebecca West-Estell, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
316 N. Michigan Ave.  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419.241.5560



**Jenelda E. Witcher, Esq.**  
Attorney-At-Law  
1900 Monroe St, Ste 111  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419.243.9873

