Volume 13, No.21

AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH...

March 19, 2008



"God put me in a family that set high standards. There were wonderful examples of excellence all around me. They instilled in me the belief that you have an obligation to make things better than you found them."

#### This Strikes Us...

The Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Who did it? Who called Geraldine Ferraro a racist? Someone out there needs to fess up and put this matter to bed.

We'll confess. We'll confess that our search to uncover the culprit within the Barack Obama campaign has so far been fruitless. We've scanned the media, examined the Obama websites ... so far nothing.

For those of you who missed one of the latest dramas in the race for the Democratic Party nomination for president, here is how it unfolded. Ferraro, former congress-woman from New York, the 1984 Democratic Party nominee for vice president and a Clinton finance committee volunteer, said last week that if Obama were a white man or a woman of any color, he would not be in the advantageous position he currently enjoys

That set off a firestorm and, eventually, as must happen in such cases, Ferraro stepped away from the Clinton campaign to avoid causing further damage. But she was unapologetic about her comments and lashed out at those in the Obama campaign who called her a racist. She also noted that the same scurrilous characters called Bill Clinton a racist after his comments (he has stated that Obama should be expected to win states such as South Carolina with its heavy African-American population) and called Ed Rendell, the governor of Pennsylvania, a racist after he said that a black man could not win in his state.

So we had a lot of searching to do, trying to find out who was pointing the finger at all of these victimized spokespersons for the Hillary Clinton campaign.

Bill himself accused the Obama campaign of calling even Hillary a racist because, according to Bill's take on their comments, she was being held "responsible for the Benazir Bhutto assassination."

And there you have it, Obama and his people are "playing the race card." As we all know by now, playing the race card has become as totally unacceptable in American politics as it has in other pockets of American society. When someone accuses a complainant of "playing the race card," the force of the complainant's contention has been effectively eviscerated – the argument dismissed.

There are two huge problems with the Clinton camp's current strategy. First, of course, no one associated with the Obama campaign, least of all the junior senator from Illinois himself, has been calling the Clinton folks racists. "Ridiculous" ... yes. "Offensive" ... yes. "Divisive" ... yes.

But the "R" word has not been used by Obama or his operatives, to our knowledge. Now, that doesn't mean that everyone who has access to the media has scrupulously avoided using the racist tag. Believe it or not, those such as Rush Limbaugh and Thomas Sowell – right wing pundits – have gleefully accused the Clintons of using racial politics in their campaign – not accusing them of being racists, but of doing anything necessary to win.

They have done so gleefully because for years, conservatives have felt the brunt of the Clinton political savagery and now that the Clintons have started to eat their own, the Limbaughs and Sowells of the world could not be happier.

But as restrained and as moderate as the Obama campaign has been on the subject of the Clintons' obsession with his race, the larger point, and this is the second problem, is the matter of Ferraro's assessment of the Obama phenomenon.

How ironic is it that Ferraro and those who agree attribute a certain advantage to being black in national politics? Are they in any way serious?

The general impression that the Clinton campaign has tried to convey is that Obama has not been fully scrutinized because he is black ... that he has been given a pass. From our perspective, we find it hard to believe that anyone in the Clinton campaign can spin this line out with a straight face.

Last year this time, folks were speculating whether Obama was "black enough" to succeed. Now it appears he is too black.

His connections with Islam, with his Louis Farrakhan, with his Christian minister have all been grist for the mill. And while Obama has been careful to limit mentions of race in his stump speeches and debates, the Clintons cannot seem to mention it enough for their own satisfaction.

But, here's where the argument of his "black advantage" makes the least amount of sense. In more than 200 years, never before, *never before*, has a black candidate been given a serious chance of winning his party's nomination, much less winning the presidency. This is the first time ever. Where is the advantage?

The only possible way that Obama could have an advantage in being the first viable black candidate for the most powerful office on earth is if he were indeed the first such qualified black candidate for that office.

Is Obama that much more able than any other African-American who has existed ... is he that much more charismatic, articulate, organized? If not, why wasn't at least one of those other African-Americans who had the ability to lead this country given a chance to do so and given the advantage that Ferraro claims Obama has enjoyed?

George W. Bush was born into a wealthy white family. His grandfather was a U.S. Senator from Connecticut. His father profited from that connection, moved to Texas and managed to use his financial acumen to barely hold on to the family fortune. He also stumbled his way into one undistinguished term as president.

And George W. himself rode his father's coattails into office and eventually into the presidency. Regrettably, this story of political legacy is all too common in American politics. It's even happened with the Clintons, as we can all see.

And somewhere out there, these very same people have the effrontery to talk about what an advantage it is to be black and running for office. And to get offended if anyone even hints that they might be ... you know ... the "R" word.

#### **Community Calendar**

#### March 19

2008 Diversity Symposium: "Diversity Makes the World Go Round;" 7:30 am to noon; The Pinnacle; Keynote speaker Matt Roloff of "Little People, Little World:" 419-885-8505 ext. 12

#### March 20

Women's History Month Celebration: Elle P. Stewart Academy fifth grade class (Ms. Jackie Houston's class); Alpha Kappa Alpha/Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. program; Saluting Dr. Mae Jemison (scientist and astronaut0, Condoleezza Rice (Secretary of State), Ruby Bridges (segregation heroine of the 1960's), among others; Tea at noon: 419-843-9470

#### March 21

Good Friday Service: Beulah Baptist Church; Noon

#### March 22

20 Annual Black History Banquet: Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Clarion Westgate; 6 pm Social hour; Keynote speaker William Lucy; "Bridging Labor and our Community

#### March 24

Board of Community Relations: Open, public focus group session; Sanger Branch Library; 6 to 7:30 pm:  $419\hbox{-}245\hbox{-}1565$ 

#### March 28-29

"Old Fashioned, Holy Ghost, God Sent, Soul Saving Devil Hatin' Evangelical Crusade:"New Beginning Community Church; Speakers Pastor Marilyn Wilson—host, Min. James Brooks, Evang. Ric Trench; 6 to 10 pm:

#### March 29

Style Show Luncheon: "Swing into Spring;" Upton United Methodist; 1 to 4 pm: 419-244-4420

Breakthrough Deliverance Service: Presented by Women of Virtue Ministries; The Salvation Army at 2727 Moorish St; Noon: 419-531-1862

Pew Rally Musical Explosion: Mt. Zion Church of Christ Holiness; 5 pm; Musical groups from Ohio and Indiana; Spoken word "Where Is Your Seat in the Church?" 419-389-4953

Project Excellence Mentoring Program: Prayer luncheon; "Reclaiming Our Youth ... One Child at a Time;" BGSU's BSTURm 228; 12:30 to 2:30 pm:419-392-4511

#### March 30

Women's Day Celebration: Warren AME; 10:45 am; Speaker Monica Ways, former First Lady of Warren; "Faithful Women Loving and Serving a Faithful God:" 419-

#### April 5

"Mother Daughter Luncheon Fashion Show:" Grace Temple COGIC; Fashions by "Elegance with Style;" Designs by "Cabe;" 11 am to 1:30 pm: 419-841-4614

#### April 6

43rd Anniversary: Rev. John and Mother Bernice Roberts of Indiana Avenue MBC; Guest speaker Rev. John Williams of Eastern Star MBC; 3:30 pm: 419-246-3850

#### April 17-18

Intercessory Prayer Conference: City of Zion, Mt. Zion Church: 7 pm nightly; Guests include Bishop William Murphy of Pontiac, MI, Pastor Juandolyn Stokes of Atlanta and Pastor Curtis Beckles of Jacksonville. FL: 419-246-1850

#### The Sojourner's Truth

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#### My View

By Jack Ford The Truth's Political Columnist



Congratulations to the Libbey and Whitmer boys' basketball teams and the Central Catholic girls' team. Great seasons accomplished with class!

State Representative Mat Szollosi is hoping that the Dems win majority control of the Ohio House this fall. If so. Szollosi may be elected Speaker of the Ohio House, one of the three  $most powerful \, posts \, in \, the \, Ohio \,$ state government.

Szollosi needs for certain things to happen.

The Dems need to pick up just four seats and Szollosi needs to hold off Cleveland area representative, Armond Budish, Budish is a canny politician and the Cleveland delegation has not had a speaker for many, many years.

If you want to help Matt Szollosi become speaker, simply write a check for up to \$2,300 to his campaign for his fundraiser on March 24. Special guests will include both Governor Ted Strickland and House Minority Leader Joyce Beatty. Their mere presence should tell you that Szollosi is well connected in Columbus. Well connected!

Szollosi will use the money he raises on March 24 to help other Democrats in tight races around the state. Once they are elected, they will repay the support by voting Szollosi in as

A recent editorial by The Blade questioned the reason behind the \$40,000 golden parachute which Jim Mettler received when he quietly left the Port Authority as a \$100,000 a vear employee. The long editorial intimates that Mettler may have been able to extract 40 K in severance in exchange for his silence or acquiescence on some issue.

Maybe there is some fire here but I think not. Mettler was a Republican state representative who served a district that was not normally a GOP stronghold. He lost a tough race to Teresa Fedor, a female Democrat who later jumped to the Senate and rose to be minority leader before a mid-term coup toppled her earlier this year.

So long as Bob Taft, a Republican, was in the saddle and Republican Mike Dewine was in the U.S. Senate, it made good sense for the Lucas County Democratic-dominated Port Authority to have a Republican in house to call Taft or Dewine or Republican senator George Voinivich - still in of-

But with the ascendancy of Strickland and Dewine's loss to Democrat Sherrod Brown, why keep a Republican on staff? Who is he going to call?

Makes perfect political sense to jettison Mettler to open the door for a Democrat to be added to the staff of the Port Authority. A send off of 40 K is rather cheap if it opens up new lines of communication to Strickland.

Like most long-serving pols in Lucas County, I crossed Metzenbaum who died recently at the age of 90. Once, when the senator was seeking re-election to the U.S. Senate, I was asked by his Lucas County coordinator. Peter Uivagi, to pick up Metzenbaum at the airport and drive him to Bethlehem Baptist Church for a speaking

engagement

When I picked up the senator in my 10-year-old Ford. he said very little but continued to make phone callstoraise money. He would say something like, "Frank ... Howard here. Can you send me the money? Thanks, Ineed it now. So long.

He did not mince words. He just asked for the money and kept calling. But once we got near the church, Metzenbaum suddenly said to me: "You must be the best politician in Toledo

Here you are a city councilman and you still drive an old beat up car, even on Sundays.

LittledidMetzenbaumknow that that car was the best I could do. I never said a word other than "thank you" for the com-

When Barack Obama's pastor came under fire for his incendiary rhetoric, Obama should have used it as an opportunity to teach about liberation theology. Obama should have pointed

out that over-the-top phraseology is part and parcel for many pastors as they rail against "Pharoah" and strike for "freedom." It appears that Obama completely separated himself over mostly spiritual rhetoric that one can hear in many pulpits from time to time.

And if it was Bill or Hillary Clinton who "outed" Jeremiah, shame on them. A veteran like Bill would have heard liberation preaching many a time

#### Five Random Thoughts ... Still on The Loose ...

By Lafe Tolliver Guest Column

(1) It is commendable that John Jones Jr., is the new head of the local chapter of

the Urban League. A very respectable and needed workhorse entity in Toledo but ... to indicate that a priority of his would be the foreclosure crisis gravely misses the point that the local chapter will have zero influence on such a systemic and ingrained policy that is causing financial havoc throughout the nation. Solving this crisis will require both White House and congressional influence and massive amounts of tax dollars. The local chapter does not have the economic clout nor does it own any banks or investment firms that can impact such a mammoth financial meltdown. Rather, the Urban League's strong suits should be: (a) reducing teenage pregnancy, (b) re-training workers for the 21st Century global work force, (c) intervention regarding black on black crime, (d) buttressing the beleaguered black family, (e) drug and alcohol dependency reduction and (f) entrepreneurship development.

(2) I have never seen any conglomeration of grinning white pastors at Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's lunches and staged media events but it is always certain black pastors that he is able to trout out like docile sheep on a lease? Why is that? It is because the white

pastors of any significant numerically strong churches

do not need Carty for anything and they are not sitting by their phones hoping this "intellectually challenged" mayor calls them. He is an embarrassment to them...but for far too many black pastors, Carty is their favorite uncle...an empty cloud but regrettably still a favorite. Sadly, too many pastors do not have enough mother wit to see past Carty and his rantings to understand that Carty does not give a glass of warm week-old flat beer about them or their congregants. Any politician who can call a black man King Kong is not

(Continued on Page 4)



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#### The Superintendent's Thanks for Passing the **School Renewal Levy**

I want to take this opportunity to say thank-you to the voters who supported Toledo Public Schools. Your "yes" vote expresses a strong commitment to our students and to

It has been an exciting school year for TPS. Our students continue to excel in the classroom. We celebrated record-setting test scores at several grade levels in Reading and Math last year and are looking forward to even greater results this year. Math scores increased at every grade level from third through eighth grade.

Third grade reading scores from October testing are up five percent overall. TPS also posted an increase in participation in parent-teacher conferences which sends a strong message that parents are becoming more involved in their child's education and that is certainly encouraging.

District-wide we have introduced academic pacing guides and strategic school improvement plans both of which are sure to have a positive impact on our student's  $over all \, a cademic \, success. \, There \, is \, a \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, now \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \, momentum \, building \, in \, our \, schools \, and \, positive \,$ that Toledo has resoundingly passed our renewal levy, that momentum will continue.

As superintendent, I realize TPS faces challenges on several fronts. I assure you that we are working strategically and collaboratively to overcome the obstacles and are focused on building a strong educational foundation for our students. Our number one priority remains providing a quality education to our students in a supportive learning environment

The overwhelming support we received from voters on March 4 allows Toledo Public Schools to continue focusing on student achievement by maintaining smaller class sizes and personalized instruction. Passage of the districts' renewal levy also provides funding to continue essential programs that directly impact student learning, while improving classroom services, enhancing technology, updating textbooks and other important instructional materials and supplies

Again, I say thank you, Toledo, for your vote of confidence.

Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools

# Lucas County Departments Explore Merger Opportunities

Sojourner's Truth Staff

For the past 18 months, staff members of three Lucas County departments have been holding exploratory discussions in an effort to determine how the public service agencies can be merged.

Lucas County Job & Family Services (JFS), Lucas County Child Supone day under the same roof and located near The Source – are delineated in the study group's report. Some are:

All three agencies are mission oriented on improving the lives of children and their families;

W o r k i n g collaboratively will improve the way services are deliv-

of the discussions include giving a CSEA staff member computer access to CS scanned court orders to expedite case processing; conducting cross-training exercises for employees to educate them about the totality of services available for clients; examining workflows between the



port Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and Lucas County Children Services (CS) employ a total of almost 1,000 employees and have acombined budget of about \$132 million, including federal funds.

"We knew we owed it to our taxpayers," said Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak of the collaborative effort to explore merging of the agencies. "Knowing the amount of money we are responsible for made us come together."

By 2010, the plan is to have at least JFS and CSEA in the same location but the agencies have already made strides in improving communication, according to those on the committee. As the representatives of the agencies stressed during Monday's announcement of the merger effort, part of the impetus to merge is because they serve a common clientele. Approximately 75 to 80 percent of their combined clientele utilize the services of all three agencies.

"We were steadfast in our efforts to work together," said Skeldon Wozniak. "We have first merged our mindsets."

The reasons for the proposed merger – Skeldon Wozniak envisions the three agencies all together

ered to clients

All three are under the supervision of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services;

The trend in Ohio is towards combining the agencies—only 11 of Ohio's counties have the three agencies standing alone, the other 77 counties have at least two agencies that are combined and 48 counties have all three combined in one fashion or another;

Combined agencies may be able to maximize federal funding;

There will be an opportunity to minimize the cost to the county's general fund.

The Steering Committee that is responsible for the study and its recommendations included the three county commissioners, Skeldon Wozniak, Pete Gerken and Ben Konop, as well as the heads of the three agencies: Dean Sparks of CS, MariCarol Torsok of CSEA and Deb Ortiz-Flores of JFS. Also on the panel were a number of staff and line employees from each agency. Steve Kowalik of AFSCME facilitated the meetings.

"The true impact of this collaboration was on the line staff," said Ortiz-Flores. "The directors have communicated effectively for years."

The changes that have already occurred as a result

agencies especially in the area of paternity establishment and genetic testing procedures; JFS funding Reach Out and Read program for CSEA clients; providing employment services and PRC funds for non-custodial parents and holding JFS Bridges Out of Poverty classes for CSEA management and supervisory staff.

The long-term recommendations of the merger committee include combining JFS and CSEA into a single agency as soon as space permits. The stumbling block to accomplishing this merger any sooner is the fact that the JFS building at 3210 Monroe still has debt to be paid off.

In the meantime, the study group will continue to work on improving the sharing of client information, cross training for staff members, eliminating bureaucratic red tape among the agencies and fostering collaborative efforts with other groups such as the Area Office on Aging, Kinship Care and Juvenile Court.

"It has been a great experience," said Sparks of the committee's work. "We have had a close examination of clients in common and we are continuing to work on ways we can streamline communication."

#### Five Random Thoughts ...

(Continued from Page 3)

your friend.

(3) Well, the grand jury in Lima has made a finding against the police officer who shot and killed the young mother who was also holding a child (also wounded) when the house she was in was raided.

The grand jury, in my opinion, took the cowardly way out and simply charged the shooter with negligent homicide and negligent assault. Both are misdemeanors with the maximum charge of one year in jail and a thousand dollar fine. Not a felony homicide but a mere misdemeanor. Not a charge of reckless homicide which is a felony but a misdemeanor! What an outrage!

Regrettably, the Lima minority community has not engaged from "the git go" in protracted and intense fund raising efforts in order to secure legal counsel and experts so as to body slam both this shooter and the City of Lima.

You can march and have rallies until you are tired and hoarse but until you raise the bucks to fight... you are viewed as an irritable and vexatious child

The federal government needs to intervene and press their own investigation and charges against this homicide.

Lima, it is time to stop praying and start passing the

(4) I hope City Council will tell Block & Veatch (the yet favored waterways contractor) in no uncertain terms



that their minority inclusion proposal regarding the upcoming \$480 million waterworks project falls short of the mark and have them redo it to include black suppliers and contractors in greater numbers.

Republicans Betty Schultz and George Sarantou were practically fawning over their pitch presented at a recent council hearing. I was there.

Sometimes, I had to turn my head since it was so palpably painful to view

such political groveling in public. Block & Veatch should award both of them

public relations jobs when they retire from council.

(5) With only great sorrow and remorse can one view the recent spate of national and local criminal activity in which black males were the purported aggressors in both the two white female college student deaths and the alleged rape at the local Defiance College.

Why there was (and is there) no public outcry from the normally vociferous

Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton is not much of a mystery since to confront such despicable behavior is to turn a spotlight on negative behavior that all too often we, as black people, want to hide and hope no one sees it since it is an acute embarrassment and a point of shame

Yes, I still believe in collective community guilt.



# Ireatha Hollie: Milestones Honoree Dedicated to God, Family and Pharmacy

By Fletcher Word Sojourner's Truth Editor



Three subjects dominate ti a conversation with Ireatha le Hollie: God, family and M pharmacy.

Hollie, an associate pastor at Phillips Temple CME for the last eight years, credits her family for setting high standards for its members, for her faith and for her professional success.

And it is that professional success – she has been a staffpharmacist with ProMedica for nearly 40 years – that has earned Hollie one of the most pres-

tigious accolades in the Toledo area. On Thursday, March 20, Hollie will be honored by the Greater Toledo YWCA with its 2008 Milestones Award for Science.

What was Hollie's reaction when she learned of the honor about to be bestowed on her?

"'To God be the glory,' was my first reaction," recalls Hollie. "There are so many people out there doing such good things."

And Hollie is certainly one of such people. She is

being honored not just for her contributions to the world of science as a pharmacist but also because of the many contributions to the community outside of the hospital.

"I am who I've become because of the people I've interacted with," says Hollie. First and foremost on that list of people who have been so important to her are members of her family, past and present.

"God put me in a family that set high standards. There were wonderful examples of excellence all around me," says Hollie of her parents and their siblings. They instilled in her the belief that "you have an obligation to make things better than you found them."

Certainly one of the ways in which Hollie achieved her own excellence was in academics. Scott High School graduate, Hollie obtained a full academic scholarship to The University of Toledo. She initially intended to become a physician, but the length of time required to do so prompted her to switch career goals and enter the UT pharmacy program. At that time she was the only black female in the program and one of only two black students.

She was greatly influenced in this decision by

weight, for example. There are a lot of factors involved and if you make a mistake in a decimal, that's a life and death decision."

Indeed, over the years, Hollie has seen her role as a staff pharmacist evolve to the point where physicians routinely inscribe on a patient's chart "pharmacy to dose" as opposed to the procedure of decades past was starting to move me into the ministry."

And the Lord, in fact, had some earthly assistance in that movement Hollie gives credit to Rev. Shirley Sparks, pastor of Walls Memorial Zion AME Church, who has been a mentor to her for many years.

Hollie and family members have founded an organization called Granny's Haven to assist women being released from the penal system re-acclimate to the world. The non-profit agency will provide transitional housing, job readiness and other services for female ex-offenders. "We don't want to re-invent the wheel. We want to work collaboratively with existing agencies and we are modeling what we are doing after groups who are active in the area now.

The name of the agency was inspired by Hollie's childhood memories of her grandmother's home that became a haven for so many friends and family members who sought each other's company there for warm, engaged conversation on just about every subject under the sun. That's the type of atmosphere Hollie would like to replicate within her new agency.

And, of course, family will be of assistance. Her older sister, Doris Allen, will serve as the chief financial officer and Hollie herself will be the CEO.

Ireatha Hollie is married to Michael Hollie. She has two children: H. Phillip McFarlin, Jr. who is in management with Federal Express and Anitra Wright, a student.

#### "We do more crucial things than in retail pharmacy," ... "We are involved in life and death decisions not just counting and pouring.

the late Clayton Umbles, a black pharmacist who owned a corner drugstore. "He talked to me about pharmacy and I switched from pre-med to pharmacy. I wanted to be an entrepre-

Becoming an entrepreneur – starting her own retail pharmacy – might have brought Hollie greater riches but while in the UT program, she was exposed to clinical pharmacy and "fell in love with it." She stayed in clinical pharmacy with ProMedica and has received enormous satisfaction from that career choice.

"We do more crucial things than in retail pharmacy," she says. "We are involved in life and death decisions not just counting and pouring. We determine antibiotics and dosages. A patient comes out of surgery and we program or determine the dosage based on the patient's needs. his height and

when doctors would micromanage such aspects of the patient's care.

"We are accepted now as the drug experts," says Hollie

As critical as her scientific contributions are, science plays only a part in Hollie's life. She is an active member of the Links, Inc, the Girlfriends, Inc. and is on the board of directors of the Area Office on Aging. Hollie is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

And eight years ago, Hollie, always an active church participant, assumed the duties of associate pastor at Phillips Temple.

"I come from a family of Christian folks," she says by way of explanation of how she became attracted to the pulpit. "My dad was a preacher, my uncle was a preacher. We have always been a spiritual family. I began to believe that the Lord



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#### The Sojourner's Truth

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#### 11th Annual Urban League Banquet Is About Advancing The Common Good

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The 2008 Greater Toledo Urban League dinner on March 13 at Gladieux Meadows served to highlight the common goals of the Urban League and the United Way and also turned the spotlight on the local chapter's new leadership.

 $Gloria\,Pace\,King, president$ of the United Way of Central Carolinas, presented the evening's keynote address and stressed the fact that the two organizations have both focused on issues such as "advancing the common good of health, income and education."

And collaboration was also on the mind of the Urban League's new president, John Jones, who was introduced to the membership and guests on that very same day.

"We can do positive things in the City of Toledo," said Jones in the evening's last moments. "We can work together, we can cross party lines, we can cross racial divides."

This 11th Annual Urban League Banquet also spotlighted the achievements of Billie Johnson, director of the Area Office on Aging. Johnson

And King, the keynote speaker, followed the Penn Award and spoke of "how the Urban League and the United Way can partner to make a difference.

United Way, of course, is a fundraising organization and, in turn, provides various Urban Leagues around the country with a good portion of their operating expenses for their community programs.

The United Way has a brand that is top 10 nationally," said King. "The problem is . no one knows what we do. We are all about the same thing.

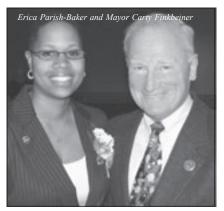
"My challenge to you is to join together in this community and let's get the train out of the station," King continued. "It's notaboutgoing backwards, it's about going forward. The Urban League and the United Way can get people to the table, but we can't figure all of this out by ourselves.

That theme of reaching out to the membership for help was echoed by Jones in his closing remarks. "My task is to organize a movement and I ask that you join us in that movement.'











This year's event was organized by the Annual Dinner Committee under the direction of Chairman Darlene Miller and Co-Chairman Erica Parish-

was presented with the Charles H. Penn Humanitarian Award.

"She is the epitome of style and grace," said Tamara Mickler as she introduced the winner, which is always a surprise for the actual recipient. "She is cool, calmand collected, truly a sophisticated lady.'

Johnson received her award and shared the stage with her daughter Rhonda Sewell. Sewell praised her mother as "a compassionate woman.

"She's not only a mentor but she knows how to be a best friend "said Sewell "She's my









• Business Section • Business Se

#### **ASK YVON**

By Yvon Harper, CEO Focus on Finance,LLC



#### Dear Yvon:

I have a little money saved up. I want to participate in the stock market. What are the steps I need to take to get started with investing?

#### ~Sevmoura Moneygrow

#### Dear Seymoura:

While a step to begin investing does include having available funds, it's not the first step I advise you to consider. Investing in the stock market is a long term savings path that requires that the funds dedicated to it will be allowed to work without interruntions. We will assume the following: that you have already established a spending plan (budget), paid off credit or high interest debt and contribute to a savings vehicle separate from the funds you are looking to invest.

The first step you must consider before making any investment is your tolerance for risk. This is important because stocks can move horizontally as well as vertically any given time. If the thought of your investments losing

value is scary to you consider yourself a 'Low Risk' taker. If you are open to greater risks in order to potentially achieve higher financial gains then consider yourself in the 'High Risk' category. In addition, factor into your risk level your timing for investments, your age and long-term goals.

How you will invest is another consideration. Will you be making all of your investment choices or will you enlist the help of a stock broker? Plus, you'll need to consider how you will continue to fund the stock investments you are looking to begin. Let alone determining if you will invest in stocks only, commodities, mutual funds, bonds....I'm sure you get the picture. At any rate, it is to your advantage to learn as much about investing in the stock market before putting in a dime. Remember, you're in this for the long haul. One source of good infor-

mation can be found online at Motley (www.fool.com). While there are a variety of investing websites available the Motley Fool is all about investment education. Information on the basics of investing is free. If you want more advance information they offer a paid subscription as well. One note of caution is don't get caught up by the sites advertising. They have to pay for their free education tools some how. Once you are ready to begin putting money into the market consider using a Financial Professional, for a period of time, to review your investment

choices and ensure you are on the right track. Most will not charge you for this, but may be able to also provide some other services that can enhance your overall financial portfolio. These steps should help to provide a solid foundation for you future financial success.

Stay bullish on investing,

~Yvon

#### DearYvon:

My son just experienced another financial 'disaster' with his checking account. My wife and I are trying to 'bail' himout once more. My wife is suggesting that we close out his checking account, but he's away at school. How can we help him to avoid any more 'disasters'?~

#### DumbfoundedDad

#### Dear D-Dad:

Ouch! I empathize with your financial pinch. While your wife's suggestion may appear to be practical I wouldn't advise it. Instead seize this opportunity as a 'teachable moment' for your son to learn about financial responsibility. His reaching out for help is the perfect open door to do so.

If you are choosing to 'bail' your son out then the help should come with conditions. At the very least it should include his commitment to timely balancing of his checking account, establishing a spending plan to account for all purchases, and accountability to you, for a period of time, to provide oversight that he is

staying on track with his spending. You may also want to consider putting the agreed upon terms of your help in writing. Any variance on his part from the conditions you've agreed upon should then come with the consequence of weathering a next financial disaster on his own

As a word of caution: be sure that the conditions are reasonable, fair and doable for all involved. Otherwise you could establish resentment in your son with the avoidance of including you in future financial decisions. Decisions that may have the potential to lead to a moreunfavorable outcome than what's at hand presently.

These types of lessons are painful, but they can be navigated to become future success stories.

~Yvon

#### Dear Yvon-

Please settle a dispute between my wife and me. Whatis the difference between a 'major' vs. a 'minor' purchase? I say there's no difference, but my wife insists that it's based on how much the purchase costs. Wanna Be Right, Atlanta, GA

#### Dear Wanna Be-

First off, let me assure vou there is definitely a difference between a 'major' vs. a 'minor' purchase. The biggest difference between major and minor purchases should not be based solely on how much the purchase costs, but rather where the money to pay for it will come from. In my opinion, any purchase that requires funding from a long term savings vehicles, such as investments or emergency funds, should be considered a major purchase. Before making any major purchase requiring this method of funding review your long-term financial goals. If the purchase is inconsistent with your goals delay it until financial resources are more readily available to proceed.

Minor purchases, generally, can be made with cash funds that are more readily available. An example of this type of capital includes takehome pay, cash on hand reserves or an anticipated bonus. To ensure that your purchase offers the best returns

for your money analyze the transaction against your spending plan prior to making the purchase. Doing so could reveal that the financial resources in question could better be utilized in other areas impacting your total financial goals.

So in essence, you can both be right, when you closely examine all aspects of your future purchases against your stated financial goals.

~Yvon

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There are no warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy and/or completeness of the information posted in this column or any referenced material. Readers are strongly urged to consult with a qualified legal or tax advisor to analyze your specific financial situation.

#### INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – LARCHMONT K – 8

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8th, 2008, 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 Larchmont K – 8 School Bid, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger and Munger 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 Wednesday, March 12th, 2008 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 **Monday, March 24**<sup>th</sup>, **2008** 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 Jeannene. Hill@lgb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

 Bid Item No. 1 Site Work
 \$ 665,400.00

 Bid Item No. 2 General Trades
 \$ 5,299,500.00

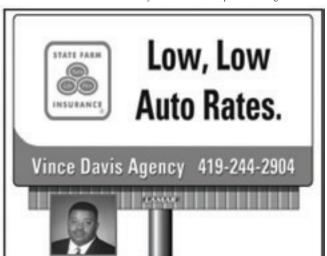
 Bid Item No. 3 Fire Protection
 \$ 139,900.00

 Bid Item No. 4 Plumbing \$ 521,800.00
 521,800.00

 Bid Item No. 5 HVAC
 \$ 1,785,000.00

 Bid Item No. 6 Electrical \$ 1,100,200.00
 \$ 663,368.00

 Total Estimate:
 \$10,175,168.00









# Museum's Juneteenth Wins Institutional Excellence Award

Special to The Truth

The Ohio Museums Association (OMA) announced last week that the Toledo Museum of Art's annual Juneteenth celebration has received an Institutional Excellence Award at the 2007 OMA Outstanding Achievement Awards. This is the third Institutional Excellence award for the Museum in the past four years.

The panel of judges included professionals from Ohio museums, small and large, rural and urban. Entries are judged on the projects' descriptions, goals, unique aspects and outcomes. The judges then evaluated how well the Juneteenth celebration helped accomplish the Museum's mission and utilized its collection. Above all, judges closely examined how the project had exceeded TMA's everyday operations to make a lasting impression on



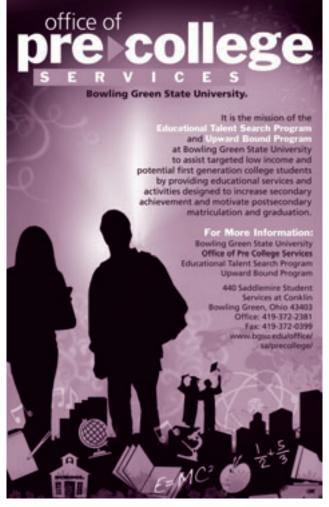
the community.

"Juneteenth energizes the entire Museum – our collection, our studios, our programs and our campus to reach out to our community with this historical and cultural celebration," TMA Director Don Bacigalupi said. "Now in our fourth year, Juneteenth has consistently grown and attracts thousands of visitors annually."

Juneteenth 2008 will take place on Saturday, June 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This free festival features music, dance, film, live demonstrations, food and hands-on art activities—all highlighting the profound impact that African-American culture has on our community.

The OMA is a non-profit organization that serves the museums of Ohio, including art museums, aquariums, zoos, botanical gardens, science and technology centers and historic parks and sites.



#### YWCA MILESTONES PAYS TRIBUTE TO EIGHT EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Awards Luncheon Scheduled for March 20, 2008

YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women awards luncheon will honor seven women all of whom have made extraordinary contributions to Northwest Ohio, on Thursday, March 20, 2008. A prereception will begin at 10:30 am where local government officials and dignitaries will recognize the 2008 YWCA Milestones honorees. The media is invited to attend the prereception. Recognized in the categories of Arts, Business. Education. Government, Sciences, Social Services and Volunteerism, the seven women were selected by an independent panel of women and men. An-

nounced at a press conference in January, the 2008
Milestones honorees are:
Marie Vogt - Arts, Diane
Larson - Business, Joan
Durgin - Education, Tina
Skeldon-Wozniak - Government, Ireatha Hollie Sciences, Sister Dorothy
Thum - Social Services, and
Marna Ramnath Volunteerism.

New this year is an additional category of Woman of Distinction, created to honor a woman who has served the community in extraordinary ways for over 50 years: Ruth Oatis - Woman of Distinction.

The 13th Annual YWCA
Milestones: A Tribute to
Women awards ceremony
takes place at Toledo's

SeaGate Convention Centre, beginning at 11:30 am on March 20. Sponsored by the

YWCA of Greater Toledo, nearly 1,000 people are expected to attend the Milestones luncheon. All proceeds from the event benefit more than 20,000 women and families through the YWCA's dynamic social programs. The 2008 Milestones honoree bios are available at www. ywcatoledo.org.

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Shannon Leadbetter at 419-241-3235, x 157, e-mail marketing@ywcatoledo.org

# Church's Chicken Tuesday Special 2PC \* Leg Thigh \* 99¢ 12 tender strips & 4 biscuits and choice of any large side order \$12.99 50 pieces of dark (original or spicy) only \$35.00 Offer good for Church's Chicken locations at 2124 Franklin Ayenue, Toledo and Byrne & Glendale, Toledo

# 33 Advocates for Abused Children Trained by the Juvenile Court

Special to The Truth

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Department of the Lucas County Juvenile Court announces the graduation of 33 CASA/GAL (Court Appointed Special Advocates / Guardians ad Litem). On Friday, February 15, 2008, Juvenile Court Judges Denise Navarre Cubbon and Connie Zemmelman swore in its newest class of CASA/GAL as officers of the court to serve as the guardians ad litem and to represent the best interests of an abused or neglected child who has been removed from his or her home because of the imminent risk of harm.

CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens from all walks of life who are trained to advocate for abused and neglected children. The CASA volunteer conducts an independent investigation by interviewing the child victim, parents, relatives, school officials, doctors and others involved in the child's life who may have facts about the case or the child's well being. The CASA volunteer remains on the case, making recommendations to the court and advocating for the child until a safe, permanent home is found for the child.

Among those who were sworn in as CASA volunteers were six African-Americans: Fonsa Bell, a mentor and tutor; Jeigh Carstarphen, a Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center employee; Antoinette Gover, a nurse; Danielle Hayward, a 911 emergency dispatcher; Reverend William Lucas, the founding pastor of Liberty Ministries; and Audrey Williams, a security officer.

Half of the foster care youth in Lucas County are African-American or bi-rachildren in our community. The class also received training about sexual offenders, legal report writing, advocacy skills, substance abuse, poverty and confidentiality. The new CASA volunteers learned about local service agencies, attended a mock hearing, and toured Lucas County Children Services.

About CASA

Half of the foster care youth in Lucas County are African-American or bi-racial. The CASA Department works hard to recruit minorities to serve as CASA volunteers.

cial. The CASA Department works hard to recruit minorities to serve as CASA volunteers.

Highlights of the training included presentations by U.T. Child Abuse Medical Director, Randall Schlievert, M.D., on child abuse and neglect; Larry Hamme, Ph.D. on cultural competence; Julie Kenniston, M.S.W., on interviewing children; CeCe Norwood, M.A., C.D.C.A. on domestic violence; Eileen Rood, M.A., L.S.W. on child development; and professionals from Lucas County Children Services on safety assessments, case plans, and the agency's role in protecting

The Lucas County CASA Program, one of the oldest and most respected of the 1,000 CASA programs nationwide, is non-profit and has operated in Lucas County since 1980. CASA volunteers are everyday citizens who are trained to investigate and monitor child abuse cases. CASA volunteers work for the Lucas County Juvenile Court Judges and are sworn officers of the court. CASA's mission is to advocate so that child victims find safe, permanent, nurturing homes and do not get lost in the child welfare system



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# Lucas County EITC Coalition Working to Ensure Residents Qualify for Economic Stimulus Payments

County Leaders Encourage Seniors and Workers to File Tax Returns for 2007

Though economic stimulus payments will soon be in the mail for many, the Lucas County EITC Coalition Leaders want to make sure our neediest residents don't get left behind.

Commissioner Ben Konop and Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz along with Area Office on Aging President/CEO Billie Johnson and Job and Family Services Director Deb Ortiz-Flores encouraged citizens to file their taxes returns to ensure

Economic Stimulus Payments, during a news conference on Tuesday, March 18 at the Margaret Hunt Senior Center.

Economic stimulus payments will be dis-



tributed to residents based on their 2007 federal tax filing, so County Agencies are reaching out to individuals who might not otherwise file a tax return.

"Many low-income workers and Social Security recipients don't always file a tax return because it's not required or they don't owe any federal taxes," said Commissioner Konop. "We want people to know that the only way the will receive between \$300 and \$1200 in stimulus payments is by filing a tax return."

The stimulus plan, passed by Congress and signed into law by the president earlier this year, will provide at least \$300 - \$1200 in a one-time payment, based on a family's size and 2007 income situation.

"Almost anyone with income will receive some economic stimulus payment, but they must file their taxes this year," said Treasurer Kapszukiewicz. "Thankfully, our local coalition is ready to help you file your taxes for free right now."

Lucas County has partnered with United Way to provide free tax preparation and low-income tax advice at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout the community. Individuals who are seeking this assistance should call 2-1-1 to set an appointment.

"Seniors who normally don't file tax returns, mainly those on Social Security or low-wage workers, must make a special effort to file a tax return so they get the economic stimulus package payment," said Johnson.

Eight senior centers in Lucas County have free tax assistance available to seniors. Interested Seniors can call 419-382-0624 for a complete listing.



# Spring Break Volunteers Make Significant Impact in The Gulf Coast

Alissa Romstadt and Greg Braylock of Toledo Traveled to Louisiana for Alternative Spring Break 2008



United Way of Greater Toledo recently sent two employees, Alissa Romstadt, marketing coordinator, and Greg Braylock, Youth United Way coordinator, to Lake Charles, Louisiana as part of United Way's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) 2008. In its third year, ASB provides college students from across the country the opportunity to help rebuild communities.

Serving as team leaders, Romstadt and Braylock guided about 50 college participants, including two local Youth United Way students, through the ASB experience. The teams worked to repair damage to homes and buildings and improve the quality of life for residents affected by Hurricane Rita, which hit southwest Louisiana on September 24, 2005.

"It's amazing to see the enthusiasm that the ASB

participants have and the genuine desire to improve communities through volunteerism," Romstadt said.

This year United Way of America recruited over 600 participants to help rebuild communities in Detroit, MI; Hancock County, MS; and Lake Charles, LA. Romstadt and Braylock participated in week one, the smallest of four sessions of volunteers in Southwest Louisiana.

"The great thing about ASB is that it motivates young people to take action and become involved once they return to their communities," Braylock said. "This experience definitely helped me realize the ability I have to work with others and ultimately impact lives."



#### The Movement is Coming

Special to The Truth

"Film Movement" will return to Toledo this spring when the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library brings the popular independent film series back to Main Library, 325 Michi-

Every Thursday evening from April 3 through May 8. free independent films will be shown to the public in the McMaster Center.

"It's our way of making sure great films are made available to our patrons," said Tracy Montri, the Library's Audio Visual Manager

The Film Movement series began in 2004 and has returned every year since. In the past, the Library has shown many first-run films previously unavailable in the Toledo area. In 2004, the Library presented "Born into Brothels." the 2004 Academy Award winner for "Best Documentary Feature." The Library has shown many other awardwinning films in the past.

point viewers

This year, the Library will continue to present popular, high-quality films, including Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski's "Madame Tutli-Putli."

The National Film Board of Canada calls this movie "a stunning, stopmotion animated film that takes the viewer on an exhilarating existential journey. The film introduces groundbreaking visual techniques and is supported by a haunting and original score."

Independent film fans will be pleased with the Library's 2008 film offerings, including some short films as well as full-length

Please see additional pages for complete listing of Film Movement offerings.

The complete list of films for the 2008 Film

and 2008 will not disap- Movement series follows:

April 3: "A Map for Saturday" (USA, 2007)

On a trip around the world, every day feels like Saturday. Emmy winning producer Brook Silva-Braga left his cushy gig with HBO to travel the world for a year with five pounds of clothes and 30 pounds of video equipment, travel the world for a year with five pounds of clothes and 30 pounds of video equipment, visiting 26 countries on four continents. The trip is lonely and difficult, yet joyous and adventurous, tracking the emotional arc of extreme long-term travelers; people who wondered, 'What would it be like to travel the world?" then did

April 10: "Darius Goes West" (USA, 2007)

Darius Weems, a 15year-old with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, had never left his hometown of Athens, Georgia. In the summer of 2005, he and a group of young college students traveled across the country in an RV to test accessibility in the United States. Their ultimate goal was to reach Los Angeles and convince MTV's hit show, "Pimp My Ride," to customize Darius's wheelchair. Along the way, they found joy, brotherhood, and the knowledge that life. even when imperfect, is always worth the ride

April "Summercamp!" (USA 2006)

There's S'more to Growing Up. Flapping fans may have been replaced by battery-operated spritzing whirrers, computers are missed as much as mommies, and attention deficit meds are as common as hot dogs and Jell-O, but the yearly schoolbreak tradition of kids attending woodsy retreats continues. Bradley Beesley and Sarah Price's documentary chases campers for three weeks at Wisconsin's Swift Nature Camp, Charm, personality

and camp-life details abound, showing why some thrive in an oasis of animal worship, outdoor revelry and zero-to-hero popularity that forgives a nerdy rep back home.

April 24: "Arranged" (USA 2007)

An Orthodox Jewish-American woman and a Muslim woman from Brooklyn meet as first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn. Over the course of the year they learn they share much in common - not least of which is that they are both going through the process of arranged

marriages. The film sympathetically depicts conservative lifestyles much in the news of late. broadening our understanding and lifestyles much in the news of late, broadening our understanding and appreciation for both.

May 1: "Bothersome Man" (Norwegian with English subtitles 2006)

In this bone-dry, black comedy, Andreas arrives in a strange city with no memory of how he got there. Everything is provided for him, but before long, he notices that something is wrong. The world lacks passion and flavor; the city is spotless, but sterile; everyone and everything is nice, but bland and mechanical. makes an attempt to escape the city in comically bleak Wile E. Covote fashion, but discovers there's no way out. Then he hears music coming from a mysterious comically bleak Wile E. Covote fashion, but discovers there's no way out. Then he hears music coming from a mysterious crack in the wall. . .

May 8: Film Movement Festival of "Shorts" (92. min total-all films):

"Validation" (16 min.) A wonderfully funny fable about a parking attendant who gives his customers REAL validation dispensing both free parking and free compliments.

"Madame Tutli-Putli" (17 min.)

Madame Tutli-Putli boards the Night Train, and

weighed down with all her earthly possessions and the ghosts of her past, she finds herself caught up in a desperate adventure. This stunning, stop-motion

animated film uses groundbreaking visual techniques and a haunting and original score, combining Jungian thrills and Hitchcockian suspense.

"Gimme Green" (27

The lawn is America's largest irrigated crop, as well as a social status symbol. This humorous documentary makes us reflect on our obsession and its widespread economic and environmental effects.

"La Guera" (8 min.)

During WWII, a boy tries to save himself and his baby sister from a German soldier. Gritty cinematography adds suspense and realism to this gut wrenching tale.

"Uncle," "Cousin," and "Brother" (6 min, 6 min, 8 min = 20 min.

Whimsical claymation trilogy of funny and poignant autobiographical stories from Australian filmmaker Adam Elliot.

h t t p : / www.adamelliot.com.au/

"Lucky" (4 min)

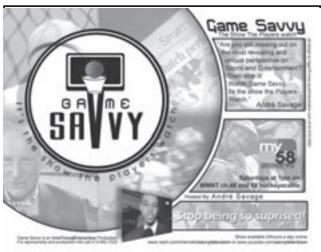
A man is caught in a terrible, yet thrilling, bind - and it's going to take more than a Houdini act to get out of this situation.

For more details, please call

Main Library's Audio Visual Department at 419.259.5285.

or log on to toledolibrary.org





### The Lima Truth

March 05, 2008

#### The Sojourner's Truth

Page 12

# Lima Grand Jury Sets a Value on Human Life ... About \$1,000

By Vickie Shurelds Sojourner's Truth Reporter

How do you determine the value of human life? In 1972, scientists estimated the human body was worth 98 cents. Given the current economic state it's not surprising the number inflated to \$1,000.00 in Lima, OH.

Residents of the city of Lima have been on a wild emotional rollercoaster ride following the events of January 4 when the Lima Police Department's PACE Unit and SWAT teams executed a high risk search warrant for suspected drug dealer Anthony Terry.

Terry had been under surveillance by the police for months and had unknowingly sold illegal drugs to undercover members of the department on numerous occasions. Each time, he had been allowed to walk away, back into the lives of his girlfriend,



Tarika Wilson and her six children.

On January 4, taking Anthony Terry into custody came with a cost that still rocks the Lima community and forces it to look directly into the eyes of its own inconsistency.

Shortly after the drug raid and Wilson's death, Attorney General Marc Dann addressed the Lima community and made promises as the state's chief law enforcement officer. He promised a thorough report utilizing the best resources at his disposal. He promised timely information which would be released to the public. keeping them in the loop at every exchange of action. He promised the officer would be treated as any other resident of the city who would go through the legal system. Having given those promises, he then asked for patience and understanding as the investigation continued.

Lima's Mayor David Berger released an article written for the local paper asking the community to hold judgment, giving several different scenarios that could have led to Sgt. Chavalia's "accidental" shooting of Tarika Wilson Strausbaugh announced that Chavalia had been indicted. At 11:00 a.m., Sgt. Joe Chavalia turned himself in at his attorney's office. At 11:30 a.m., Chavalia was brought into court, charged with negligent homicide, a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 180 days in

"We let Tarika down when we didn't speak up and demand the state appoint a special prosecutor that was not so close to Lima, when we allowed the mayor to display his alliance with the police department and not remain neutral."

and her son, Sincere. He was immediately asked if he had seen the BCI&I report on the incident. He said he had not.

On Thursday, March 13, a local television station announced a grand jury had been assembled and were already hearing testimony in the case. The public had not been informed; the station obtained the information through a leak in a judge's office.

When Chief Greg Garlock was questioned, he stated he was only made aware of the grand jury having been assembled when 20 officers were subpoenaed to testify. On Friday, March 14, at the close of the business day, special prosecutor Jeffrey Strausbaugh announced that the findings of the grand jury would not be announced until the following week.

Since Friday, January 4, 2008 there has been a steady plea to the community to wait, have patience and believe the law enforcement system in Lima works equally for all residents. The wheels of justice have been turning at a snail's pace since then.

Until Monday, March 17th, 2008, that is. Eleven weeks after the death of Tarika Wilson and the shooting of her son, Sincere the case went into warp-speed. At 10:30 a.m., Special Prosecutor Jeffrey

jail and a \$1,000 fine, and negligent assault, a thirddegree misdemeanor punishable for up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. At 11:34 a.m., court was adjourned, Chavalia was taken to jail to be photographed and fingerprinted and eight minutes later he was standing in the Clerk of Court's office presenting \$5,000 cash bond and was released. He remains on the city payroll on administrative leave.

Continuing the momentum it was determined the case would remain in Common Pleas Court, not turned over to Municipal Court where other misdemeanor cases are heard. Then Judge Richard Warren announced he has asked the Supreme Court to appoint a judge for subsequent hearings. Until another judge is appointed, the next hearing date cannot be set.

The media began seeking out leaders of the minority community for their reaction to the workings of the system. City Councilman Tommy Pitts says he's "not surprised. As far as we're concerned there were no charges filed. It's a joke. But not funny."

FM Jason Upthegrove is the president of the Lima NAACP. "Anytime you can shoot through a baby, kill an unarmed woman and be charged with two misdemeanors, it speaks for itself. He's going to spend \$5,000 to get out of jail, have his pension, stay on a paid leave of absence. It speaks for itself."

City Councilman Derry Glenn responded by saying, "We let her down again. I include myself in that 'we.' We let Tarika down when we didn't speak up and demand the state appoint a special prosecutor that was not so close to Lima, when we allowed the mayor to display his alliance with the police department and not remain neutral. They know we have not been strong in the past, and they used that against us, again. We have not learned to depend on God to take care of us as long as we do the right thing - we're too scared because we gave up our power a long time ago. People are always telling me, 'shut up, Derry' but I will always speak up for what is right and call people out when they are wrong no matter who they are and I'm not scared because I know God is with

The Black Ministerial



Alliance has decided to march in protest stating "We can express our outrage and disapproval within the confines of the law." Marchers under the leadership of Brenda Johnson had been asked to stop their weekly treks and allow the process to work.

Pastor B. Monford, Upthegrove and Pitts have said they are asking the FBI and Justice Department for further investigations of how the incident and case have been handled.

The information revealed during the investigation has not been released as the case moves on. Straugsbaugh says he has no authority over federal charges or a lawsuit against Chavalia if either are pursued.



#### Classic Album Review

#### Notorious B.I.G. - Life After Death

By Michael Hayes Minister of Culture

Just think about it. You remember the cover art right?

B.I.G. posted up against a hearse. A picture worth a few million words.

Not only a visual embodiment of Life After Death, this embattled king standing outside of a hearse freshly dipped out Alfred Hitchcock style.

It's almost like Life After Death, but also kinda like cheating death

As in "haaa haa, thought you'd get me but still I rise."

Okay, now think about how you felt when you got that joint home. The play button has probably never felt so much pressure. This was it. This was going to create or destroy a legacy in one fell swoop. "Damn, why did he have to

"Damn, why did he have to release a double album??"

"Nobody ever has a consistently hot, meaningful double album. Nobody.3

While I have you thinking back to 1997, really put yourself in the midst of what was happening in our beloved hiphop universe at the time.

Double albums were flying out of record companies left and right, but they didn't seem so much like a means of an artist continuing to get his point  $across...just seemed \, like \, a \, way$ to get \$25 instead of \$12 or so.

If you think back to this time period, you've also got to think back to the East Coast vs. West Coast...situation. - why call it a war?

Situation is much more honorable. Right?

Think back to junior high and high school when our young minds were growing more and more exposed with every block we strolled, and also with every CD we bought and listened to rappers tell us of the blocks they strolled. When B.I.G.'s first CD came out, I was in such a pivotal place. Fresh out of Old West End, at Scott High School ... in the

middle of gang culture which I embraced to a certain extent

And then my mentality shifted with every Nas, Wu Tang, Tribe Called Quest song Ilistened to and connected with.

Then came B.I.G. and the cycle was complete.

Fans of East Coast hip-hop who were older than us rejoiced at the coming of a new era in our music, and those of us still squeaking our way out of puberty were met with new sounds and new ideas we took with us into manhood.

I can't tell you how many business meetings I've prepared for while reciting the verses to Mobb Deep "Shook Ones pt.2.

That's my coming of age right there.

So there we are, at the mid point of the 1990s.

And we've been walking around with our heads held high for the past few years because our music was better than it's ever been, and the debate over our music was more heated than it's ever been and certainly the talent was among the best that would ever be.

Life After Death marked a milestone in Hip Hop Music and Music in general for numerous reasons

"Could an East Coast Artist deliver a top notch double album while Tupac has turned the world against us?"

"Is it possible for a double platinum rap superstar to carry a theme from his debut to his sophomore release? And if so. is the whole death theme too dark?

"Do people really understand the deeper context of being Ready To Die on your first album then calling your second album Life After Death?

And then for those of us who produce, we were literally holding our breath to wait and see what would this thing even

mous for what some referred to as "watered-down samples" but anyone who paid any attention would see 70 percent of the music coming out of Daddy's House was original, raw and sometimes completely antiglamorous sounds. The RZA and Dr. Dre were defining two extremes of what rap music should sound like.

The Midwest and the South was just beginning to explode while the East Coast sound clearly dominated the land-

I mean come on, maaan, groups like Capone N Norega were snatching down gold and platinum plaques at the time.

Can you even remember how that felt?

Sure. Puffy had proven that Bad Boy could be the best of both worlds by going platinum with hardcore N.Y. hip-hop as well as slick sounding R&B, but that was project by project... could he blend Bad Boy's entire philosophy into one album?

And for me, that was much

many records, had as many hit singles and set as many trends as Bad Boy (well, the Roc did set an awful lot of trends tho...close, but still).

B.I.G. was Puff's first signed artist, but Craig Mack was the first release and when his debut single went platinum. (I mean really, who was having platinum singles back then on some hip-hop ish? Really?)

Bad Boy Entertainment was so successful that every platinum project that came out of there after B.I.G.'s first release only mounted the pressure for whathe could possibly do next. So, think back to them days

in the mid-late 90s When you still bought CD's

and cherished them

When your primary way of hearing the newest hip-hop wasn't the internet or the night club, it was cable TV and FM

Think back to when the game had a king, and you pressed play to hear the proclamation from on high.

Life After Death" previously

even more, it's B.I.G.'s opening shot... a glimpse into his unmatched story telling abil-

Damn, do y'all remember when The Source magazine still mattered and they instructed MC's ...look, if you wanna be among the game's best then you need to up ya weight in flow, metaphor, storytelling etc.

Who remembers that? Where my real head's at, maaan?

Anyway. This opening joint is exactly what Puff orchestrated and B.I.G. was born to do, create audio drama so real you can see this song playing out in your head every time you hear it. So what if it's eleven vears old.

Speaking of being 11 years old, they still play "Hypnotize" on the radio to this day! And not just around Biggie holi-

"Ya crew run run run, ya crew run run" - come on,

And then, the first milestone is created... The Mad Rapper

"This my fourth album ... my fourthalbum, yo ... Iain't made a dime yet!.." "Mr. Rapper, this is a family oriented

O.M.G., maan, that is still hilarious. But laugh now, cry later, because once "Kick In The Door" comes on it's obvious some stuff is not a game on this album. "Ya reign on the top was short like leprechauns"... B.I.G. sets on it all lyrical challengers real and perceived.

Now, this is where the album only slightly missed a beat in my opinion because it's obvious B.I.G. and Puff would want to include the man behind "Unbelievable" from Ready To Die on the sophomore release but... "Kick In The Door." as ill as it is, it doesn't quite measure up to "Unbelievable." But you can't make a classic joint every collab so, hey. "F&\$%n You Tonite" - R. Kelly had B.I.G. on one of his joints, B.I.G. let Kellz (before he was Kellz) on the nastiest of his.

Naw. I take that back...this is the nastiest song only on Disc 1

Darron Jones from 112 produced one of the hottest smooth hip-hop/R&B joints of that year while B I G tells the ladies that all that fancy stuff is GONE!

I remember all the older dudes I knew around the way at that point were swearing by this song. So far, the album is four songs deep and they are all bangers. But what's even more amazing is they all have a different sound.

So then the thought creeps in "Have they really attempted the unthinkable ... are they really trying to make a double album you can play end to

Before you can even take all of that in, how rough is it that Puff managed to get every single active act on his roster represented on this project in some way? (Pam from Total on "Hypnotize" and Faith singing with B.I.G. on the album's final song if you ain't know)

"Last Day" - so crazy because Bad Boy considered Styles the star of the Lox so he gets to rhyme closest to B.I.G. but of course Sheek still the first out the box. Havoc's production was at that point defining Mobb Deep's murda muzik sound so this was a way to reach into that part of NYC that would probably try to front on B.I.G. and Bad Boy.

The rhymes on this song don't really get interesting until B.I.G. comes on, and even though the song is not on par with the other material on this release, you've got to admit it's slick hearing the Black Frank White spit lines like "...analyzing my size and your size and, realizing... a fist fight would be asinine ... you just pop wine, I must pop 9's.'

Come on, who do you know would flip words like "asinine" in a battle rap?

That's some "Biggie, Jay Z and Nas" stuff right there.

At this point on the album. Biggie's verbal mastery is still

Still the king of the game. but things need to get more fun.

There has been a lot of tension on the album, which was great on Ready To Die, but a whole double album won't carry that.

Then the Jay Z collab shifts the entire feel and mood within a few seconds of "I Love The Dough" (also, what rapper you know has Angela Winbush on the album?).

Shaun Carter and Christopher Wallace on the same song, mean those studio sessions should've been recorded and played like historical footage. I remember reading Easy Mo Bee interview saying producing it was just part of the joy but his real treat was watching two of rap's most brilliant minds pace back and forth in the studio, no pen, no paper as they criss-crossed walking paths coming up with their verses.

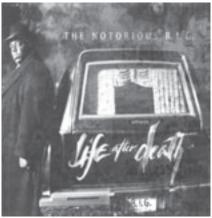
As an album things have improved immensely by this

B.I.G.'s rhymes are everything you expect ... intelligent, nasty, hilarious, uncanny, and undeniably the stuff of kings.

O.M.G. - when "What's Beef' comes on, it's a wrap.

This is a classic. This song and the album so far, long as they don't mess it up.

(Continued on Page 14)



of the weight of the situation right there.

Anyone who knows me can tell you, I was a Bad Boy fa-

Just as much as I was Nas, Jayand Tribe..but I had to speak up for Bad Boy all the time because everyone hated them.

But this company changed the way the world viewed urban music, marketing and media. Not Rocafella, not Cash Money, not Ruff Ryders. None of them can say they sold as

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on Ready To Die" ... the intro to disc one was pure genius and unmistakably haunting. The pianos, the strings, the triangle, the shaker ... those being the only music you hear. That was Bad Boy from a production standpoint. Puffy bedside talking to his fallen comrade.

Then the flat line hits you,

First time I ever heard rain play all the way through a track,

"Somebody's Gotta Die" is amazing in its production but,

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#### Album Review

(Continued from Page 13)

Imagine the weight of hiphop's most embattled superstar, on urban music's most debated record label, produced by urban music's most polarizing figure....amidst all the beef they endured, and they make a  $song to \, set \, you \, completely \, clear$ on what exactly beef is!

Music is amazing, rhymes are amazing...but to keep the  $album\,from\,being\,too\,dark\,right$ up next is the outstanding "Mo Money, Mo Problems." And I won't get deep into that joint, but it's painfully obvious to you at this point that these cats have made a serious attempt at creating the most cohesive double rap album to date.

The disc closes with two more musical dramas that un-

fold so sweet, so vivid it's like B.I.G. is pure narrator... like it's not even his album.

As if it's some theatrical CD set to timeless music. And I do mean timeless. Put on "Niggaz Bleed." If ya head  $don \\ `t start bobbing then \\ ya neck$ must be broken.

"I Got A Story To Tell," finds B.I.G. telling the most

eorge Hicks

hilarious of all his stories about sleeping with a girl whose dating NY Knicks player who comes home right after their episode and the only way he can not get caught cheating with dudes girl is to yoke her up and pretend he's in the house robbing her instead of just getting done getting down with

Hicks Day Care Where Kids Come First!

Disc One concludes and you feel happy to see B.I.G., Puff and his Hit Men and Co. have delivered what you can certify is one outstanding half of a double album.

How many trends were set just in these first 12 joints alone?

The funny skit, the storytelling, the commercial sample right next to the hardcore joint ...the R&B star

You may not know it, but all the hip-hop you've heard in the last 11 years has been directly influenced by Life After

Disc Two, next review

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

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#### Family and Children First Council

The Lucas County Family & Children First Council (aka Family Council) is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. in Conf Rm #1 on the first floor of One Government Center on the following dates: Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13, Sep 12, Nov 14. The Executive Committee of Family Council is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. in Conf Rm #2 on the first floor of One Gov't Center on the following dates: May 30, August 8, Oct 17.

The Lucas County Family & Children First Council's Audit Report for 2006 is available for review at One Government Center, Suite 580.

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#### The Truth Art Gallery Opens in Uptown District

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Truth Art Gallery held its grand opening last Saturday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. and well over 150 guest stopped in to view the offerings of Toledo's newest art gallery.

The gallery, under the direction of Warren and Yolanda Woodberry, is dedicated to providing a place for local artists to display their work year round in a central location – Toledo's Uptown district.

And the artists themselves were in attendance on Saturday, answering questions about their pieces and soaking in the accolades from the many admirers in the audience.

The Truth Art Gallery is located at 1811 Adams Street and will be open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 3 to 7 p.m.

For more information or to set an appointment for a viewing, call 419-243-0007 or 419-867-9733 or email the truth@thetruthtoledo.com.

