



Local and National News

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The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 14, No.03 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." June 11, 2008

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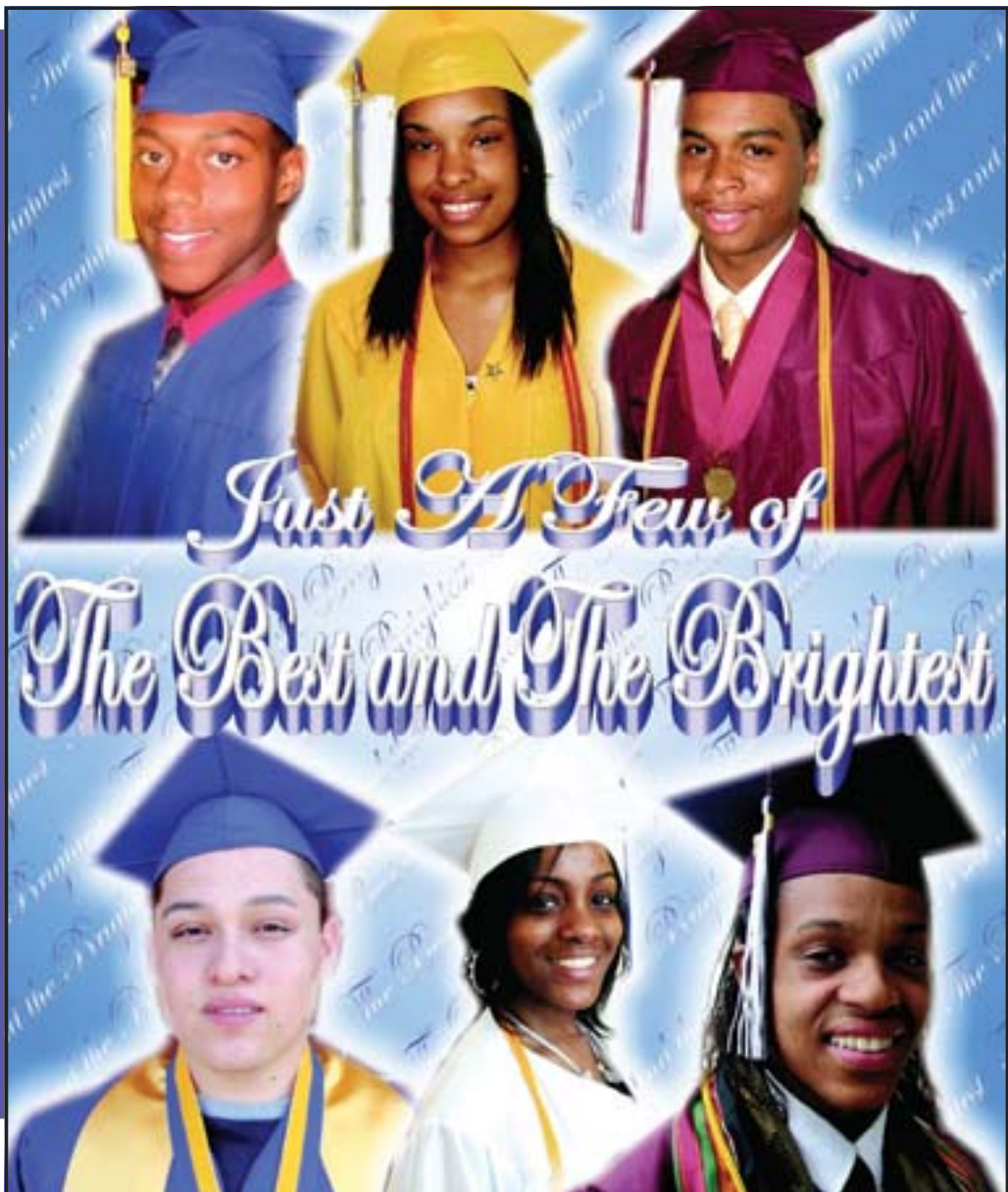
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"As underclassmen, you may have thought about this day quite often. Well, I know I did. Graduation used to seem like it was so far in the future, but now you are probably wondering where all the time has gone."

This Strikes Me ...

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Plenty of articles and expert opinion pieces can dissect Senator Hillary Clinton's campaign coming to an end from a purely political point of view.

I, on the other hand, try to view it in the larger context of our society and culture. First, there have always been parallels drawn between how important Obama's candidacy is to minorities and how important Clinton's candidacy has been for women.

Having encountered my share of white men in my life who truly don't believe there's a such thing as white privilege, it's easy to see how two separate groups of people could have two separate agendas when faced with asserting their own solutions to America's second class citizen status quo.

Having a black man compete against a white woman for a position exclusively held by white men up to now is somewhat poetic.

But in the sense that we've all been victimized by the white male agenda to some extent, there's no real way to celebrate an equal victory for both ends of that spectrum. It's either going to be an issue of racism, or an issue of sexism.

Good thing Oprah didn't run for President or else we might've seen both!

Identifying with Obama has meant so much to Black America.

So many of us feel proud to see "one of our own" (a phrase I use as a loose para-phrase mind you) not only running for the highest office in the western world but having a legitimate chance of winning.

But me, I've been cautious.

Not a hater.

Just cautious.

See, I never forget the fact that this country has gone nearly half a century for mostly all Republican presidents.

The so called "liberal" media is ALL owned by conservative Bush backing rich gazillionaires who love to paint Democrats as the perpetual losers hell bent on letting the country run amuck in every way.

But from what I've seen in the four presidents I've been alive to witness, it's a very simple formula:

Republican President = war, high rate of crime, national debt, job loss

Democratic President = no war (but still a few debacles), lower crime, national surplus and job growth AND social programs that make access to education and healthcare easier.

To me, the Clinton family are not saints ... but they have provided the only good I've ever seen come from that level of government.

Whereas most Democrats don't have the power, money and influence to challenge the evil republicans who rule this land...the Clintons have always seemed to have the heart, mind and muscle to make real change occur.

See, I don't need a president who looks like me.

I just wanted someone as fair as the position they are in would allow.

I actually ...yo, in all honesty - I'm not sure if ANY president

can turn around what our country is currently facing anyway.

There are unseen hands at work here, people.

It wouldn't matter if some unprecedented events landed Will Smith in the White House...your gas prices, your lack of money for healthcare, your relatives in Iraq and your outsourced/downsized job are not going to all be magically solved by virtue of which person sits in the Oval Office.

And, after what happened in 2004, I just have VERY little faith in our election process.

Period.

Other places in the world where true democracy is encouraged, polls are open for seven days ... damn near 24 hours.

Here we have about 12 hours, eight of which most of us are at work.

Does that sound like the powers that be really want you to exercise your role in democracy?

And speaking of "democracy".

Just listen to the pledge of allegiance, it says

"... and to the REPUBLIC for which it stands..." -

(Continued on Page 4)

Community Calendar

June 9-13

Vacation Bible School: Friendship Baptist Church; Sonworld Adventure Park; 5:45 to 8pm; 419-531-3242

Vacation Bible School: United MBC; 5:30 to 8 pm; Arts and crafts as well

June 13

50 Men & Women: 28th Annual Scholarship Banquet; Stranahan Complex; 7 pm

June 14

Second Annual Golf Outing: New Prospect Baptist Church; 1 pm; Ottawa Park
Third Annual 50 + Sports Classic: Sponsored by Area Office on Aging; St Francis de Sales HS; Opening ceremony at 9 am; Track and field, volleyball, basketball, softball, swimming, table tennis, bowling and tennis: 1-800-472-7277

Charity Baptist Pre-Fathers' Day Male Chorus Musical: Male choruses to appear - Greater Harvest, Charity Baptist, Union Grove, Calvary Baptist and Rev. Kevin Reese of United Methodist; 5 pm

June 15

Third Baptist Church Father's Day and Men's Day: Guest speaker Leroy Bates of Libbey HS; 11 am

June 16-19

City-Wide Dance Team Tryouts: Youths in grades 6 to 12; Mon at Reynolds Corner Library; 4 to 5:30 pm; Tues at Kent Branch from 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Wed at Sanger Branch from 4 to 5:30 pm; Thurs at Mott Branch from 4 to 5:30 pm; 419-509-1118 or 419-266-5308

June 16-20

Sixth Annual Carnel Smith Summer Youth Football Camp: Boys in grades 3 thru 8; Scott HS; 11 am to 2:45 pm daily; 419-917-3547

June 17

Dorr Street Coalition/TPS Community Meeting: Mott Branch Library; Discussion about King Elementary School; 6 pm; 419-255-8876

June 19

Spirit of Faith Adoptions: Informational meeting; 7 pm; 3315 Centennial Rd. Ste A-2; 419-843-5355

June 21

Women of Virtue Ministries' Prophetic Prayer Summit: "Stirring Up the Gift of God;" Noon Prophetic Prayer; Worship Service at 1:30 pm with guest Bishop George Bostic of Asah Praise and Worship Center; Genesis Dreamplex; 419-531-1862

Warren AME Church: Recognition of High School graduates; 6 pm; Gesu Hall: 419-535-1090

June 22

15th Pastoral Anniversary at Mt. Nebo MBC for Rev. Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock; 4 pm; "Worthy Laborer for 21st Century Ministry;" Guest Pastor Tellis Chapman of Galilee of Detroit

Sistas With a Vision: Women's sexual reproductive health seminar; 6 pm; 419-936-8989

June 23

27th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Bobby L. and First Lady Vickey Wellborn: Charity MBC; 4 pm fellowship; "Setting the Church in Order;" Guests are Rev. Theodis Horton and Shiloh; 419-726-4975

June 23-27

Vacation Bible School; 3rd Baptist Church; 5:30 to 8:30 pm; 419-248-4623

Vacation Bible School: Union Grove MBC; 6 to 8 pm (Fri- 5:30 to 8 pm); "God's Big Backyard; where kids have a blast serving Jesus!" Ages 4 to adult: 419-531-1994



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Open Letter to the Toledo Board of Education and the Black Community

There has been much speculation as to where we, African American Parents' Association and the TPS Policy Committee, chaired by Jack Ford and co-chaired by Darlene Fisher, are going with the TPS Discipline Policy changes needed in the Toledo Public School System. There has been subtle talk of an alternative school coming out of these meetings.

We have been meeting since late March in response to the horrific rates of suspension/expulsions that have rendered our "inner city" schools useless as educational establishments.

It is only fitting, after almost 10 years of imploring that the school board act to prevent so many students being sent from the school yard door, that thanks and appreciation are given to Jack Ford for acknowledging these shocking statistics that puts almost one quarter (1/4) of TPS students on the street in any given year. The majority of

these students are black males from kindergarten to 12th grade, ages five through 18. Mr. Ford has done an admirable job in getting people to the table who otherwise have been blowing this problem off for years.

Since 1999 we (AAPA) have asked for a moratorium on all suspensions/expulsions that do not involve violence such as the suspensions/expulsions for Failure to Follow Directions, Repeated Violations and Dress Code Violations. This appeal had fallen on deaf ears. During that time to the present, more central city schools have fallen into Academic Watch or Academic Emergency or have fallen deeper into these two categories. We now know the impact that the wholesale suspending and expelling of students has on the academic progress of the school and its students.

Intervention has been the theme song of these meetings when it appeared that there are no social service agencies that are in-

involved in attempting to change the behavior of misbehaving students and impacting the families of these students.

Granted there are children in need of "interventions," but these interventions are needed across the board. The problem with intervention comes into play when large numbers of black boys are targeted for suspension and expulsions that white children are given a time out in the principals office, get on the yellow light as a warning or some other punishment that lets a child rein in his/her behavior. Black boys and girls are given the boot by either suspension, expulsion or a BIC depending on the discretion of the teacher and backed up by the principal as to how many days are spent out of the learning environment.

The African American Parents' Association and the black community with children in this system are not going to accept a bait and switch type of trade off

simply because we have been invited to the table. But by being at the table we have been given somewhat of a voice to help make systemic, sweeping and immediate changes in the landscape of the Toledo Public Schools Discipline Code of Conduct policies. We will not squander this opportunity by OKing anything that does not benefit these targeted students their families and their community. We have been given a seat at the table to alter the outcomes for students who are put on the street with unfair, arbitrary and unjust punishments with no way to recover from these punishments and we are up to the task.

There has been talk of an alternative school coming out of these "Thursday Meetings with Jack Ford." Let me be clear in what our expectations are:

We will not accept just any alternative school initiated to mitigate the failure of black students due to discretionary, arbitrary and unfair uses of the Discipline Code of Conduct. Uses that put black students, mainly black boys, on the street to fend for themselves academically, unless the school meets standards that will enhance and extend the academic performance of these

students. Because there are already "alternative" schools in the TPS district such as Mayfair, Ryder and Phoenix Academy we will only accept an "alternative" school whose mission is clear, attainable and sustainable. The mission of this school should be to prepare students for success who are having problems learning in their present environment.

This "alternative" school must have high academic standards, a rigorous curriculum, high expectations, a volunteer community service component and exceptional extra curricular activities overseen by experts in these activities. Extra curricular activities should include an orchestra, a chess club, National Honor Society, sports activities that include tennis, swimming, and soccer along with basketball and football, a choir, a poetry club, a college club and any other activity that will enhance the whole student.

The curriculum must be language rich that celebrates the achievements of all peoples who have made America the country that it is. A school that does not contain these amenities will not be acceptable to AAPA

and should not be acceptable to the black community from which the majority of the students will be drawn.

If, according to Kathy Riley, a participant at the table, a behavior specialist and teacher at Bowsher High School, aberrant behavior can be predicted at an early age, this alternative way to educate students should have an elementary and a secondary school component.

Lastly, the school must have a head master/mistress strong principal element that reflects the predicted make up of the school's population. If the population is predicted to be white female then the school should have a strong white female head-mistress/principal. If the school is predicted to be populated by black males then the school should have a strong black male head-master/principal at the helm, even if a nationwide search needs to be completed to fill this position.

This is not a wish list as African American Parents' Association is unashamedly for children and we will not sit at the table without making our voices heard.

Twila Page
African American Parents' Association



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Barack Obama Becomes the Presumptive Democratic Party Nominee

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Seventeen months ago, virtually every political pundit and commentator referred to Senator Hillary Clinton of New York as the inevitable presidential nominee of the Democratic Party.

Last week Barack Obama, the first-term senator from the Land of Lincoln, became the first African-American to claim the nomination of a major political party, tossing all of those early assumptions

out the window.

Obama, whose rise to prominence has been as sudden as it has been improbable, earned the right to face presumptive Republican nominee Senator John

This Strikes Me

(Continued from Page 3)

now, historically I understand that reference but truly look at our form of government.

If we have a true democracy, why not do away with the slavery-era electoral college and just allow the popular vote to decide?

If we have a true democracy, why was Hillary forced out of the election? Oops?

Did I offend someone out there?

Now, true indeed, even though I was supporting Hillary for the majority of this whole thing I did have to think twice when some of the bull coming out of her and Bill's mouth seemed as if they were allowing some deep-seated racism to peek out here and there in how they handled a tough race with Senator Barack Obama.

It felt weird even wondering if Black America's favorite white family could have racist undertones in how they spoke of Obama at some point.

But I did notice it, and I didn't like it.

I don't know for sure, but somewhere along the petty and covertly hostile campaign trail ... Hillary made careless comments that even further split the party along racial lines.

At one point, you couldn't tell who was who and that was good.

Black folks were loving them some Hill, and many white people were already on the Obama bandwagon while the rest of us were still learning how to correctly pronounce and spell his name.

At one point early on, it was all up for grabs.

But as Barack Obama became one of the most charming and seemingly sincere personalities this country has ever seen, the tide turning against Hillary Clinton seemed to be less about the issues and more about other things.

Some her fault.

Some not her fault.

They say a feminist is anyone who feels that women should be equal to

men.

I learned that and other little quotes while talking a couple women's studies courses at UT during my last year.

I understand, at least to some degree, the oppression that kept women in this country under the foot of white men for centuries.

In my opinion, "Take Your Daughter To Work Day" – good idea.

WNBA – good idea.

Being a black male, of course, I can empathize with struggling to find your place in a society that would love nothing better than to remove you of your recently awarded human, political and social rights.

When you have been marginalized, all you want is a chance to excel and make your mark based on your own merit.

So I understand, at least to some degree, how running and losing would have been a more noble defeat than having to suspend a campaign without even getting the official nod from the party.

I understand how Hillary Clinton's defeat will be shared for all the women over 60 who still remember women not being allowed to vote or work.

This was important to them.

I was also bothered by much of the language used to refer to Senator Clinton during this past year in the media.

If Obama won a particular state the headline would say something like "Obama victorious in Louisiana" but if she won it would be like "Ohio falls to Clinton" or some mess.

Little things in the media that I pick up on.

Then when things got tough and she didn't stop, she was even made fun of for NOT quitting... like having the tenacity to go ahead was a bad thing, but then again if she had quit too early they would've said she wasn't tough enough to stick it out.

Yo, I really do sympathize for her because it really seemed to be a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" type of thing.

But I can only sympathize but so much.

Yeah, I do feel that Hillary and Bill's return to the White House

would've carried with it the experience and power to effect some real change in policy and law – not just nicely written speeches, but real change.

But alas... it seems they ended up getting the treatment many would've guessed would've been reserved for the black candidate.

One sided comments in the media.

A few weeks worth of hot-headed, argumentative responses to a worthy foe.

Just an all-around proverbial shorter end of the stick.

Yeah, seems Shock G and Humpty Hump were right... we're all in the same gang.

But can the party recover?

I'm like most independents, I would be a Democrat if it was worth it... I still care about the Democratic Party and basically hate the Republican Party – but an independent I will be especially after all I went through in the last election.

But I do care that the Dems are strong enough to beat McCain.

I mean, damn.

If the Republicans are gonna steal the thing again, can we at least just make the numbers so heavy that it will be obvious they stole it and we can all get back to our normal lives in this New World Order?

Now, you're right.

That'll never work either.

John Mayer said it best for all us Generation Y peeps ---

"... so I'll keep waiting, waiting on the world to change...

it's NOT that we don't care, we just KNOW THAT THE FIGHT AIN'T FAIR, so we just keep waiting.... (waiting) waiting on the world to change".

...and I'm spent.



McCain of Arizona when he closed out the most grueling primary season ever with an insurmountable lead in both pledged and super delegates. Last Saturday, Clinton conceded the match, thanked her almost 18 million supporters and promised to do all in her power to work with Obama and help him win the presidency in November.

This primary season was like no other. The candidates competed, as never before, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, before drawing a concession from Clinton at week's end. Even then, many of her supporters urged to her carry the fight onward in order to become the first fe-

male nominee for the presidency of a major political party.

In the end, the Clinton campaign was left to ponder how they had managed to let the prize slip from their grasp, a prize that seemed to be theirs for the taking just a few short months ago, just a few days before the inaugural Iowa

(Continued on Page 5)

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Obama

(Continued from Page 4)

caucuses.

The Clinton's campaign decision to downplay their effort in the all-important caucus battles, to portray their candidate as entitled, to rely on party machinery rather than grass roots effort, to fail to realize the fund-raising capabilities of the Internet and to overlook the need for a strategy that would carry the fight past Super Tuesday

doomed their candidate almost from the beginning when Obama shocked the world and scored a huge win in Iowa.

Clinton rebounded to win New Hampshire, but by then the die was cast. African-American voters, who had viewed Obama's chances of victory with a healthy skepticism, reacted to the victory in almost all-white Iowa by

climbing aboard the bandwagon. By the time he reached South Carolina and its large percentage of black voters, Obama could rely on huge turnouts in urban areas and as much as 90 percent of the African-American vote.

Obama more than held his own on Super Tuesday, losing the big states but piling up votes and delegates in smaller ones. He won 13 of 22 states and then went on to win state after state in the following weeks. By the time that voters in the big states of Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania had their say, the contest was just about out of reach for Clinton.

Now what?

As we saw on Tuesday and in the following days, there will be pressure on Obama to name Clinton to the ticket. She has made it clear that she would accept.

Such a move assures her supporters that she would have a place at the table and would be the "inevitable" — once more — nominee in 2016. But at what price for Obama?

Does he want Clinton looking over his shoulder in the West Wing? Does he want her husband looking over both of their shoulders? Can he even trust former President Bill Clinton on the campaign trail with his habit of shooting from the hip and losing his composure?

Obama has formed a three-person committee to vet vice presidential candidates. Mentioned prominently so far are former Senator and presidential candidate John Edwards,

Govs Ted Strickland of Ohio, Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania, Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas, Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Tim Kaine of Virginia. Senators Joe Biden of Delaware, Jim Webb of Virginia and Chris Dodd of Connecticut have also been mentioned, particularly for their foreign policy experience.

Perhaps the most intriguing name on the list of possibilities is former Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia who, along with Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater in the 1980's, was instrumental in re-organizing the military. Nunn might also bring the State of Georgia into play.

As his team makes lists and collects opinions, Obama is back on the campaign trail focusing on the

economy and promising to unveil a detailed long-term economic plan next week.

McCain, for his part, has found himself a bit back on his heels. He tried to steal the Democrat's thunder on election night only to give a speech that caused one Republican Party strategist to compare it to an AARP bingo game. Reading off a teleprompter is apparently not the GOP nominee's strength.

With gas prices zooming out of sight, the stock exchange plummeting and most Americans starting to believe that a recession is here for real, McCain will have a difficult time turning his message to foreign policy and Iraq, the subject he believes would be his alone. The economy, ac-

ording to his own words, is not something he feels confident in discussing.

Nevertheless, it's a hunt for electoral votes and the map is a toss-up at this stage. Obama needs to hold on to everything Senator John Kerry got in 2004 when he won 252 electoral votes and still find another 18 to win the top prize. That means turning Ohio or Florida around while maintaining the edge in Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Or, Obama can try to turn New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado to his advantage.

He has five months to secure victory and bring about the most momentous presidential victory of this nation's history.

Rev. I.J. Johnson Gets His Day in the Sun

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Rev. I. J. Johnson, pastor of St. Mark's Baptist Church, and dozens of congregants gathered last Thursday for a street naming in honor of the central city's longest serving pastor.

Johnson, who has been at the helm of St. Mark's for 53 years, was also joined by Toledo City Councilmen Michael Ashford and Wilma Brown, along with Lucas County Commissioners Tina Skeldon Wozniak and Pete Gerken for the unveiling of the new street sign.

A portion of Detroit Avenue that borders St. Mark's will now also bear the words "Rev. I.J. Johnson Way."

Lucas County Approves Historic Sweatshop-Free Policy, Paves way for Governor to Follow Suit

Proactive policy will help ensure Taxpayer dollars are not spent on Sweatshop labor

Special to The Truth

Last week, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution that prohibits use of taxpayer dollars to purchase goods for the county that were made in sweatshop conditions. The policy is aimed at using taxpayers' dollars ethically to level the playing field for Ohio workers and improve working conditions worldwide, and is supported by local religious, labor, and community organizations.

The move adds Lucas

Governor Ted Strickland to follow suit and implement such a policy for the entire state, and are preparing to launch a statewide campaign July 1.

"The use of sweatshop labor is unacceptable in the 21st Century. Our community values human rights and workers rights and, as such, we should not, and will not, be spending taxpayer dollars on businesses that rely on inhumane and unsafe labor practices to make a buck," said Commissioner Ben Konop, who introduced the resolu-

enforcement mechanisms. The policy includes a commitment for Lucas County to join a national Sweatfree Consortium of local and state governments opposed to spending taxpayer dollars on sweatshop labor. The national consortium, organized by SweatFree Communities, will pool purchasing power and create economies of scale, helping create a viable market for sweatfree manufacturing.

"We applaud Lucas County Commissioners for their commitment to end tax dollar support for sweatshops," said Victoria Kaplan, Midwest Regional Organizer for SweatFree Communities. "We look forward to Governor Strickland and other elected leaders following Lucas County's lead to make our entire state sweatshop-free."

Konop acknowledged that Lucas County has done business with the North Carolina-based Bob Barker Company that has been linked to sweatshop abuses that left 300 work-



County to a list of 10 other Ohio cities and counties with sweatfree policies. Organizers are calling on

Lucas County's sweatfree policy is unique in that it includes strong

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Mayor Forms Commission to Cope With Rising Poverty Levels

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner announced the formation of the Mayor's Commission on Poverty last week in order to fight poverty "one individual, one family, one house and one neighborhood at a time," he said during a news conference on Thursday, June 5.

"This group is a proactive, action-oriented group designed to implement best practices, to assist existing organizations and to attack poverty," said Finkbeiner.

The Mayor's Commis-

sion on Poverty will consist of community leaders from the Equal Opportunity Planning Association (E.O.P.A.), the United Way

Awareness Tent City, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality and Legal Aid of Western Ohio (ABLE and LAWO), the AFL-CIO,

from the Board of Community Relations and Department of Neighborhoods (Juanita Greene, Kattie Bond and Mike Badik).

"This group is a proactive, action-oriented group designed to implement best practices, to assist existing organizations and to attack poverty,"

of Greater Toledo, the Greater Toledo Urban League, I Matters Homeless

Women Blessing Women, two students from Scott High School and city staff

"Rather than reinvent, this group will be connecting and developing existing resources," said the mayor.

In 2006, according to the poverty levels recorded by the federal government, the state of Ohio matched the national average on the poverty index – for the first time – with 13.3 percent of Ohioans living in poverty.

The Mayor's Commission will select one neighborhood in which to implement a pilot program, said Finkbeiner, and then coordinate the implementation of the program in that area.



"One of the first tasks will be to gather residents and other stakeholders to identify solutions based on the actual barriers those in need are experiencing," said the mayor. "We know jobs, job-readiness and education are critical pieces to

breaking the cycle of poverty here in Toledo. But for a poverty-stricken individual and/or family to become self-sufficient, individual and systematic barriers must be removed. Those challenges are to be the focus of our local effort."

New Ohio Tourism Multicultural Campaign

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The State of Ohio has launched a new effort – a multicultural tourism campaign – in order to attract minority visitors to the state.

The campaign will target two primary travel groups – African-Americans and His-

Internet sites and a guide insert for a variety of purposes.

Reece estimates that African-Americans and Hispanic contribute about 20 percent of the annual \$38 billion revenues Ohio earns from tourism. Much of that revenue is spent during day trips to the Buckeye State. "We want to encourage them to spend a night," said Reece. The goal, she said, is to entice visitors who travel to Ohio for events such as festivals to stay to see more permanent sites such as museums.

"Our overall goal is to increase the number of visitors and to upsell overnight stays," she said. Research has shown that for every dollar spent on promoting tourism, the businesses in the state earn \$14 in return,

according to Reece.

Taking center stage in the campaign are the O'Jays, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers. Their song, "Livin' for the Weekend," is the campaign's theme.

"Our campaign aggressively markets the weekend getaway concept and encourages minority travelers to overnight in Ohio by showcasing the state's many notable multicultural events such as the Macy's Music Festival, one of the largest urban music festivals in the country," said Reece.

The bulk of the campaign is targeted towards African-American travelers. Hispanic travelers will be targeted to a lesser degree with print ads running in July as well as online ads.



Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher

panics – in Ohio and surrounding states.

"The multicultural market is \$90 billion nationally," said Alicia Reece, assistant tourism director for the Ohio Tourism Division – a part of the Department of Development under the leadership of Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher.

"African-Americans and Hispanics are two of the fastest growing groups in that market," continued Reece during a telephone conversation with The Truth last week. Reece was in Cleveland to help kick off "Livin' for the Weekend in Ohio!" That event was designed to announce the promotional efforts the division has undertaken in its new \$1 million campaign. Ohio's first multicultural television commercial is set to air this month on BET and several other outlets. There will be commercials on minority radio stations, in minority print press, on minority



Alicia Reece

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

The Class of the Class of 2008: A Few of the Best and Brightest

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Every year at this time The Truth takes a look at the hundreds of graduating seniors who have distinguished themselves academically, many in spite of rather imposing barriers and difficulties. It's the very best time of the year.

This year is certainly no different. As we attend graduation after graduation, from public school to private, from central city to outlying areas, one cannot help be impressed

by the achievements of so many area youth.

So, as we do every year, we pull a few from the crowd to highlight and we do so without any specific criteria. These few just caught our eye after consulting with groups such as Toledo EXCEL, 50 Men and Women, Toledo Public Schools, to name a few.

But there are a few stories here that, as always, prompted us to rejoice and none of them

so much as our student of the year, the valedictorian of his class at Scott High School, and a future engineer, Brandon Sanders.

Sanders recently wrote an essay about his journey to the top of his class.

"HOW I BECAME THE PERSON I AM TODAY"

The beginning of my life started when I was about six years old when my mother

was sent to jail. At the time I didn't know she was a drug dealer and that's why the police came to my house and took her from me and my younger brothers and sister. Immediately after she left, my siblings and I were separated from each other and stayed with family members. I knew my father, but at the time, he was a drug addict and he could not take care of me. I was only in kindergarten, but I went to three different schools in one year which caused me to fail.

ready there and we ran to my mom as fast as we could because we thought it was too good to be true.

I finally started to see my father, he was married and his new wife already had three children. When I was with them I was always made the black sheep and I had to go through situations like sleeping on a cold basement floor without a blanket and pillow and starving at times wishing I was back at home with my mom. Later as I grew up I

like a god mom to me and someone I will never forget."

Sanders will be entering The University of Toledo this fall and plans on majoring in engineering although he is not yet sure on which area of engineering he will concentrate. UT has started a new program titled MedStart which will enable Sanders to focus on bio-engineering and allow him a leg up on getting into medical school.

Sanders, however, gives much credit to his mother for her inspiration as well. From the moment she returned home from prison, he said, she impressed upon him the value of an education. Over the years, Brandon's mother, Schnell Sanders, has had her share of medical difficulties and the family has been mired in deep poverty, but the extended family has rallied around Brandon and helped to keep him focused.

However, nothing kept him more focused, he said, than the poverty. His determination to escape those circumstances was a powerful impetus to excel.

Arturo Ordonez also has a compelling story. Ordonez graduated with a 4.1 grade point average from Libbey High School. As was the situation with Sanders, he got off to a slow start but, also like Sanders, Ordonez was the valedictorian of his class and will be attending UT this fall to major in engineering.

Ordonez entered the first grade unable to speak a word of English. The language barrier was a problem for Ordonez for the first three years of school but by the fourth and fifth grade, he recalls, he started to get his bearings.

And what inspired Ordonez to achieve academically? In spite of the language issue, his parents, Mariza Ordonez and Arnulfo Fonseca, "stressed the importance of education and being the best I can be." In addition, a visit from Libbey High School seniors to his third grade class helped a lot as well. One of those visitors was the valedictorian and when it was explained to the

8th Graders Go to Medical School

Special to The Truth

Thirty four soon-to-be northwest Ohio high school freshmen will experience what it's really like to be a physician at UT's CampMed on Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June 20.

CampMed is a two-day intensive program that offers up-close and hands-on activities including laboratory sessions and medical practices. The competitive program required the students to submit a letter of recommendation, a personal essay and a nomination from a math or science teacher or a school counselor.

The students will be guided by medical students and participate in numerous lectures and activities including anatomy, histology, clinical skills, orthopedics, and surgery.

There are some great opportunities for video and pictures on Thursday, June 19. The first session is called "Tools of the Trade" at from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Health and Education Building, Room 100. Another good opportunity would be when the students are rotating through three labs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The labs will introduce the students to the rehab unit, histology, ER trauma room and Life Flight.

Friday, June 20, also offers opportunities for pictures and video during a lab session from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday's labs will introduce the students to "Clinical Skills/Standardized Patient" where students will interact with standardized patients, the "Preoperative Experience" where students will learn about preoperative procedures and dress in surgical gowns and orthopedics where students will learn techniques like casting methods.

CampMed students will be staying on the UT Health Science Campus at the Hilton Hotel.

For more information, call UT College of Medicine Area Health Education Centers program at 419-383-4272.



Brandon Sanders

It was a very hard time for me knowing I was the oldest and could do nothing about the situation. From what I remember, I cried myself to sleep almost every night wishing I would wake up and everything would be a dream.

Over the two years she was gone, I matured a lot trying to be the older brother to my younger brother who stayed with me for a little while. His father was never there as well so I tried my best to comfort him as much as possible. As the months went on I could never stop thinking about the day she would come home and our family would be whole again. One day my aunt came to get my younger brother and I from day care to tell us our mom is at home waiting for us. When we arrived everyone was al-

became stronger and smarter from events like this taking place in my life. I found out I was smart when I was the only student in my sixth grade class of about 28 kids who passed all five parts of the proficiency test. After that year I stayed on top of my grades, played several sports, and I stayed away from the gangs and drugs that terrorized my neighborhood.

After failing kindergarten, Sanders eventually found his academic bearings, especially after he arrived at Scott High School and finished his four-year career there with a 4.2 grade point average.

His inspiration at Scott was Trevor Black, who was his advisor for the four years. "She was encouraging," said Sanders. "She knew what was going on at home. She was

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Ramon Tiggs, Curator

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Jones Middle School Recognizes Eighth Graders

Sojourner's Truth Staff

It was the Samuel M. Jones at Gunckel Park Middle School's first graduation, or recognition, of eighth graders since the school opened for business at its current location on the site of the old Gunckel School.

"If you are about business, you can learn and you can succeed," Principal Pamela King told the eighth graders in her welcome at the onset of the ceremony held in the school's gym on June 2.

graduates had comported themselves well in spite of the difficulties of opening the new school and adjusting to a new environment.

"These eighth graders survived and they did it in a very respectful manner," said King.

The students, who are entering high school next year – most of them are headed for Libbey, added their own personal touch to the program. Heaven Laffartha read her poem and



Vallie Bowman English was the guest speaker for the ceremony and she urged the students to acquire a map. "Not just a road map, but a career map," said Bowman English. "How do you do something you've never done before if no one is there to give you instruction?"

A career map, said Bowman English, keeps one from getting lost.

Bowman English summed up her message by asking the students to follow a simple six-step plan: figure out where you are, where you want to be, map it out, listen to parents, follow the map in spite of peer pressure and don't give up.

Then followed the presentation of certificates and a reception in the cafeteria.



King then addressed the audience comprised primarily of the students' parents and relatives to inform them that the current crop of

Conchita Coffey sang. In the background, the school's string ensemble performed for the event.

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He taught me how to read.

How to tie my shoe.

How to ride on two wheels.

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And not throw like a girl.

And most of all, how to not settle for anyone who was less a man than him.

So when he needed it most,

I just wanted someone to take care of him,

the way he took care of me.



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The Best and Brightest

(Continued from Page 7)

class what that meant, Ordonez knew what his academic goal would be. He was determined from that point on to become the valedictorian of his own graduating class. Mission accomplished.

Ordonez credits his math teacher of three years, Shari McCourt, in making sure "that I never gave up and

encourag[ing] me to do my best." McCourt has told Ordonez that even when he moves on to UT, she will be there to help when he needs it.

In addition to his academic achievements, Ordonez was also the senior class vice president and treasurer of the student council.

Morgan Turner is graduating from Springfield High School, where she was on the Principal's List, the Honor Roll, the National Honor Society and was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. She completed her high school career with a 3.59 GPA. She was also president of DECA (the Dis-

tributive Education Club of America).

Turner finished in third place in the talent competition in the 2008 Debutante Cotillion Ball and she represented Group XVI in the category of Academic EXCELlence at the Formal Ball. Her extracurricular activities also included being a high



Letter.

A star athlete as well as a scholar, Sweeney was named to the Toledo League Basketball All City Academic and First Teams, the District 7 All Academic and Nancy Rehm Indiana-Ohio All Star Classic Team and was an All Blade Top 25 2007-08 Basketball Team member. Sweeney was recognized as the BCSN Student of the Month for March. He represented Group XVI at EXCEL's 2004 Annual Ball,

school mentor, a member of the Spanish Club and Afro Club as well as being a community service volunteer at Cherry Street Mission, Quality Time Day Care, the annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth and other EXCEL activities.

Turner enters UT this fall and plans on becoming a physical therapist. She credits her parents, Charles and Stacey Turner, with providing her with the inspiration to excel. The teacher she mentioned as an inspiration is Bonita Adams who teaches business at Springfield. "She was always there for us," said Turner.



he was the Academic Model of EXCELlence winner. Sweeney was involved in Student Council, Afro Club and the Yearbook, and was a volunteer with Rainbow Homes, Inc. plus the Boys & Girls clubs.

David Sweeney, Jr. is graduating from Scott High School with a 4.0 GPA. Sweeney was named to the Honor Roll, Principal's List, the National Honor Society, the National Society of High School Scholars, the U.S. Achievement Academy for Who's Who in American History and Government and won a Whitmer All Academic

Sweeney plans to become a civil engineer. "I like to construct and design roadways and to make transportation easier."

He credits Diane McClellan, his eighth grade science teacher at Robinson Junior High School, with inspiring him early on in his educational career.

Sweeney has not yet de- (Continued on Page 10)

what's IN
Toledo Museum of Art

4TH ANNUAL AWARD-WINNING JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 21, 2008, 11:30 A.M.-7 P.M.

Featuring talk and booksigning by author, actress, and philanthropist **Victoria Rowell**

A limited number of free tickets to the booksigning are available. Call 419.254.5771, ext. 7494.

Juneteenth is presented with the assistance of the Museum's Committee for Cultural Diversity (CCD).

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The Best

(Continued from Page 9)

cided on a college having narrowed his choices to UT, The Ohio State University, George Mason University, Indiana Tech and St. Louis...

Kourtnee Lyons graduated from Whitmer High School with a GPA of 4.073. She was on the Honor Roll for all four years and received an Academic Achievement Letter as a sophomore.

She has also received the Award of Merit, an Honors Diploma Certificate and an Academic Star for being recognized in the top five percent of her class.

She was involved in the African American Club, Skills USA, Criminal Science Chapter and she ran track and field.

Lyons was also a participant in the Debutante Cotillion.

lion. In addition to her community service as a student aid at Whitmer, Lyons volunteered at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award Benefit, the YMCA



Shopping Excursion, the "Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes," and at events in the Office of EXCELlence.

In 2007 Lyons participated in Toledo EXCEL's Global Diversity Study and traveled to South Africa.

The daughter of Geraldine and Carl Lyons, Kourtnee will attend UT. Inspired by her criminal justice teacher, Don Palmer, a former police officer, Lyons plans to enter law school after earning her undergraduate degree with an eye to becoming a prosecutor.

Her role model has been her mother who urged her "to set goals and do the work that is needed to accomplish those goals."

"I would like to personally congratulate my fellow graduates for all the hard work and dedication you put into school even though all odds may have seemed to be against you," said Brandon Sanders in his valedictory. "I would be the first person to understand how it feels to go to sleep and wake up in an environment where you know anything could hap-

pen as you step outside your front door. So, yes, keep up the fight, in and out of school, because the world is crazy and you never know what's going to happen next.

Today is the first step in being prepared for life after high school. And now the next step is to use what you have learned to overcome adversity you may come across."

Ed. Note: The UT Office of EXCELlence contributed to this report.

Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc Start Voter Registration

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The members of the Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc have started their voter registration campaign.

The whole club will be involved in the effort which kicked off this past Sunday at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church after service.

Joining the ladies in the effort is their Youth Club.

The chapter has targeted four churches for attention over the next month.



Kelly Norwood

Kelly Norwood is a lifelong Toledo resident whose love of jewelry began while playing in her mother's jewelry boxes. By the age of 10 she was using her step dad's tools to take pieces apart and redesign them.

Shopping in thrift stores and working retail in jewelry and accessory departments fueled the thirst to create more designs. When she discovered her first bead store she never looked back.

Norwood uses a full array of materials to create her designs. Her favorites are the natural gemstones and wood beads. Nothing escapes being turned into adornments, anything from old chains, nuts & bolts, shells, crystals, computer parts seeds, toys, key chains, buttons, and feathers.

"Kelly's Things" produces unique handcrafted jewelry for the family. Each work of art is unique since the artist does not repeat designs. "Kelly's Things" is the creative outlet of designer and owner Kelly Norwood.

Norwood's line of fine art jewelry can be purchased at The Truth Art Gallery, 1811 Adams Street.

Advertisement for DJ Reese's 'Experience THE FLIPSIDE' featuring 'VIDEOS FLIPPED & REMIXED' and 'Produced and Seen Locally' on my58.

Advertisement for 'Game Savvy' featuring a 'my58' logo and the text 'Stop being so surprised!'.

ART TATUM JAZZ HERITAGE FESTIVAL ... Honors and Celebrates JAZZ

Music, music and more music, will envelop Promenade Park this weekend as the area celebrates the legacy of Toledo's Art Tatum, considered the premier jazz pianist.

The Art Tatum Jazz Heritage Festival kicks off on Friday night at 5 PM and continues Saturday and Sunday at 4 PM.

Saturday night musicians are invited to bring instruments for the JAM Session (no plug-ins).

The Festival sponsored by The Chrysler Foundation brings together the area's extraordinary local talent and headliners from across the continent.

Carol Welsman...singer/pianist...Canadian Smooth Jazz Pianist/Keyboardist Award for 2006 and the Vocalist Award for 2007, she has played with Herbie Hancock and Bill Clinton... a graduate of Berklee College of Music

Joseph Vincelli...high-energy saxophonist...he's been loved by Toledo Audiences since he opened here for Al Jarreau at 1994's JazzFest a graduate of Berkeley

College of Music

Tony Monaco...Columbus, Ohio based master of the Hammond B-3 Organ (Mr Burnin'-B3) has been performing for forty years and is a musician's musician...an educator and innovator, he recently returned from his first World Tour and is currently working on his "Mother Hen Music Education" Series.

Steve Oliver...a brilliant, innovative

guitarist/singer...he combines great musical skills with extraordinary technology for an amazing performance

Peter White...long time Toledo favorite guitar player, who always delights the audience...with Peter on the stage, you can't stay in your seat...Guitars and Saxes brings him together with:

Gerald Albright...Whether straight ahead or smooth jazz, he's played his sax with many of the greats...Whitney Houston, Anita Baker, Chaka Khan and Bill Clinton at the White House.

Jeff Lorber...One of the creators of the music now known as "smooth" jazz, this multi faceted keyboardist has been recording and producing for every major star for over thirty years...funk, jazz and R & B...he's a multiple Grammy Award Nominee

Jeff Golub... Ohio born guitarist, has played with artists including Bob James, Ashford and Simpson and toured with Rod Stewart for a number of years before moving into smooth jazz with his group "Avenue Blue". He has recorded numerous albums and has an uncanny way of putting a big smile on the face of those that hear his music... a graduate of Berklee College of Music.

known Marsalis family of musicians is the headliner Sunday. Playing with Ellis is his son, drummer **Jason Marsalis**.

John Ellis & Double Wide, jazzy and funky and **The Jonathan Batiste Band**. Jonathan is a musical threat...pianist, vocalist and harmonica player.

John Ellis and Jonathan Batiste both trained with Ellis Marsalis.

Complete line up: toledo jazzsociety.org

Tickets are \$10 Friday night \$25 for Saturday or Sunday night.

\$40 for a Saturday and Sunday pass.

Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com Also at the Festival Gate.

The Festival will celebrate Father's Day with an evening in New Orleans. **Ellis Marsalis**, the father of the re-

The Toledo Jazz Society presents

2008 Art Tatum Jazz Heritage Festival

sponsored by The Chrysler Foundation

Promenade Park • Downtown Toledo Waterfront

Friday • June 13 • 5 PM to 10:30 PM

Damen Cook & Friends
Bowling Green State University Faculty/Student Combo
CAROL WELSMAN
JOSEPH VINCELLI

Saturday • June 14 • 4 PM to 11:30 PM

University of Toledo Summer Jazz Institute
TONY MONACO
STEVE OLIVER
GUITARS AND SAXES...Peter White
Gerald Albright, Jeff Golub, Jeff Lorber and Jessy J.
JAM SESSION...bring your instrument...(no electronic plug ins...)
led by Jonathan Batiste

Sunday • June 15 • 4 PM to 10:30 PM

Ohio Music Education Association Student Ensemble
Toledo Jazz Orchestra
Tribute to Jimmy Cook

An Evening in NEW ORLEANS...with:

JOHN ELLIS & DOUBLE WIDE
featuring Jason Marsalis Drums
JONATHAN BATISTE Quintet
ELLIS MARSALIS Quartet
featuring Jason Marsalis Drums

TICKETS

\$10 FRIDAY • \$25 Saturday or Sunday • \$40 for both SATURDAY and SUNDAY

JAZZY VIP PASS • \$150 SATURDAY or SUNDAY

Special seating and access to VIP TENT Saturday or Sunday

JAZZY VIP PASS • \$250 All Three Days

Special seating and access to VIP TENT Saturday and Sunday • No Vip Tent Friday

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Tickets also available at Festival Gate • Additional information at toledo jazzsociety.org • 419 241 5299

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Top Ladies Induct New Members

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) inducted two new members on Saturday, June 7



during a ceremony at the Toledo Hilton. Inductees Theresa Crump and Crystal McQueen received flowers, certificates, a champagne toast and enjoyed a beautiful luncheon along with the local members of the humanitarian, educational and interracial organization.

TLOD is comprised of outstanding women who are interested in the well being of all individual and the preservation of values significant to wholesome living.

Chapter President Mary Dawson welcomed the new members and encouraged them to become actively involved in the service-oriented organization which is celebrating in 2008 the local chapter's 25th anniversary.

TLOD has a "five star thrust:"

- *To improve the status of women,
- *To sponsor a youth organization known as Top Teens of America and provide opportunities for the wholesome development of their potential,
- *To provide service to senior citizens,
- *To aid in community beautification projects and
- *To share community partnerships by networking with other community organizations.

During this year the chapter has hosted an annual prayer breakfast, provided clothing to women and children in its "Wake Up Youth" initiative, sponsored reading projects for youth with its "Boys Booked on Barber Shops" and "Girls Booked on Beauty Shops" efforts and initiated a community beautification project by planting flowers at the home of the late jazz great Art Tatum, among other projects.

The TLOD literacy project, under the title "Status of Women Thrust" has developed a mentoring project with the Horizons' Math, Science and Technology Academy and has presented workshops on vocabulary enrichment and extension and seminars on self esteem.

The membership committee which organized Saturday's induction ceremony is led by Co-Chairmen Edith Gholston and Patricia Nobles.

The national organization is under the direction of President Lady Jackie Pope.

Lady Wanda Terrell was recently named the Top Lady of the year and was recognized at the Area V Regional Convention.

JazzLoop 2008: Toledo Ablaze with Activity

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

For the past few years, June has been an exciting month in Toledo.

The Old West End festival has become a tradition known around the country (seriously, people from all over have heard about it).

But when trying to gain momentum for a new event that will hopefully become a tradition, the biggest uphill battle is changing Toledo's mindset.

Every year in June, when I'm on my way to the JazzLoop... I have this conversation with at least one person who may be close to me or random:

some person: "so, whatcha got goin on this weekend?"

me: "oh, I'm definitely going to the JazzLoop and who knows what else."

some person: "JazzLoop? What is that?"

me: "The JazzLoop, you don't know about it? They've been doing it a few years now in Toledo."

some person: "No, I've never heard of a JazzLoop - tell me what it is?"

me: "Downtown, they will have live jazz or blues bands at about 110 different clubs and you pay one price and this shuttle comes and takes you from club to club all night - it's really fun if you're into that sort of thing"

some person: "STOP LYING! - There is NOTHING like that in Toledo!"

me: "I've done this the



last few years, The Truth always sends me.

It really is fun and it does really exist, RIGHT HERE IN TOLEDO!"

some person: "I never knew anything about it, they should advertise more."

So, this little interaction has become pre-requisite for every year I head into a fun-filled weekend involving the JazzLoop but this year I actually did think that since there were still so many people mystified by how this event escaped their knowledge, I was thinking that it was possible that maybe the

organizers had done a less than spectacular job promoting the event.

I mean, The Truth didn't even get our complimentary tickets in time so... maybe this emerging Toledo phenomenon was showing signs of becoming just another Toledo event.

Wrong!

So, I started my night by parking my car at The Oliver House, making my first stop



on the JazzLoop 2008 at the fine dining establishment known as Rockwell's.

The Mike Whitty Quartet was in a corner facing the bar in what could best be described as the parlor room to an immense venue.

The cozy feel at Rockwell's deceptively convinces you that the walls and rooms you see in your immediate vicinity are all that exist, but since the room where the music was being played was so small, I wandered off to explore.

I've eaten at the Maume

ledo.

The Maume Bay Brewing Company was once a favorite of Toledo's lunch and dinner crowd, but it has since closed and Mutz... (a favorite of college students) has taken its place.

So there's a loud bar with food games and possibly a live DJ.

There's also the Ottawa Fish House which is ONLY open on Friday and Saturday

to ensure the freshest catch possible.

There's also a Moroccan-themed restaurant called Harrissa (food prepared by a Moroccan chef, and the menu is nothing like anything you'll see in the city).

There's even an art gallery opening on the top floor (bringing downtown Toledo closer to having 10... that's right, nearly 10 art galleries).

There's Rockwell's Steakhouse also, with an ambiance that could probably price me out of a dining experience at the current moment, but it's a place I'd love to eat as soon as I am able to.

ALL OF THIS, at The Oliver House.

No disrespect to Mike Whitty, but hey - the venue alone had the biggest impression on my first stop on the JazzLoop.

So, I leave by the Ottawa Street exit and immediately I have a panoramic view of the downtown skyline. The Hi-Level bridge is looming overhead just a stone's throw away, the Park Inn and Fifth Third Bank headquarters lights are shining and The Docks as well as the new Glass City Skyway are all lit up to.

Bay Brewing Company and I've been to many hip-hop nights at Mutz, so I'm no stranger to The Oliver House. But I still find it an amazing piece of downtown To-

leto. Everyone leaving with me is enraptured with the sight and I hear them talking to each other "wow, Toledo looks better than I thought."

So, a UT shuttle bus picks up and whisks us through the streets of downtown. I decided to stay on the bus as it picked up and dropped off jazz lovers at Murphys and Wesleys because I wanted to see if in fact this event was under-promoted.

Sure enough, the crowds got larger and larger and I realized that everyone who would want to attend an event like this, was already in attendance.

I encountered regular loopers who experience the JazzLoop every year.

But the liveliest crowd of the entire evening came from Manhattan's.

I mean, these people got on the shuttle and you would've thought it was New Year's Eve. Can you imagine a gaggle of lightly tipsy 40-somethings screaming "Yeeehhhhhhh" and "woooo" all in unison for no apparent reason?

People are screaming "Go Celtics" out of nowhere and, as always, guys are introducing me to their wives.

I don't know what Manhattan's puts in their drinks but, whatever it is, it must work wonders for people who need to be loosened up.

Now, Damon Cook was at Manhattan's... so I can't give all the credit to the liquor.

I'm sure the loud, fun and somewhat rambunctious mood of this racially-mixed crowd could be party attributed to just having been treated to some great music!

So, as we make our way around the loop...one guy introduces himself, his name is Mike, too. Then, in that near drunken haze that makes bar hoppers so talkative he

asks: "So Michael... you're a young man... tell me this: Are ya gittin any?"

The shuttle swings around a corner, the crowd says "wooooo" and then I reply, "any what?"

My new friend Mike says through a sly grin "Any sleep, what did you think I was talking about?"

We all chuckle, then the bus pulls up in front of Blarney's.

Now this place is an Irish Pub that sits right on the corner of Huron and Monroe Streets directly across from Fifth Third Field and the crowd here is the youngest I'd see all night. Felt good to be around the 25 to 35 crowd, but one drawback to that is that hardly no one was paying any attention to the band.

Chris Collins & Jazz from the Shamrock Shore was amazingly true to its name.

Who would ever expect a successful fusion of Irish folk and American jazz?

I don't know who thought of it, but it works and I was actually enjoying the music so much I wanted the bar to quiet down, but the place was packed to the gills and I basi-



cally had my spot carved out.

At one point I went on the outside patio area and I just thought about it.

Yes, I've fought a good fight trying to promote what I think is good about Toledo in my writing and in my own ventures.

Yes, I'm still ready and willing to move to N.Y.C. (dreamed of it since the age of 12).

But, it's hard to join the knuckleheads who insist The Glass City has nothing to do.

As I sit on the patio in the midst of an exciting time on the JazzLoop, it dawns on me that I've got Irish folk jazz happening inside and then just a block away two of the area's top DJ's are having a battle at Club Liquid.

There's seven spots listed on this year's JazzLoop venue line-up, but there's still plenty of activity at downtown Toledo's other nighttime hangouts so that means there have to be 30 different places just in downtown Toledo

where YOU could've been last Friday.

But you were probably at home, saying how boring Toledo is.

Back to the Loop.

Next, I roll up in Tony Packo's where blues band Voodoo Libido

has the audience hanging off its every groove.

Out of every place I went on the Jazz Loop, Voodoo

Libido was the best at grabbing an audience's undivided attention... but the mood wasn't as energetic as other places.

I'm not much on the blues, so I kept it moving.

20 North Gallery featured

(Continued on Page 13)

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What About a Newly Constructed Home...in the City?

By Alvin Thomas
Real Estate Columnist



It isn't Sunday, but for me, it's confession day just the same. I'm going to come clean today and publicly clear my conscience. At one time, I - like many others during my time - subscribed to a stifling, perhaps damaging school of thought. Having grown up in a neighborhood in the heart of the city a couple of decades ago, I was born in the "escape the slums" generation.

Since the days of my youth the term slum has received several up grades; first it changed to "inner city," then "central city" and today my old neighborhood has been upgraded to "targeted area." However, the mindset has never changed.

That mentality was even the plot of many black exploita-

tion movies at the time of my youth. The new promise land was just on the outskirts of the city. The American dream taught to minority children living in certain city neighborhoods was: get an education - if you couldn't sing or weren't proficient at a sport - make money and quickly run to the suburbs or as close as you can get.

See Alvin run. Alvin runs fast.

The necessity of flight from the city to assure happiness was taught to me right around the time I was introduced to the "Tom and Jerry" learn-to-read book series, and I took my lesson to heart. Thanks to misinformation and integration, Iran

as soon as I could. As a community active, politically conscious, real estate professional, this is not an easy confession to make.

What is worse is that my mindset was shared by many other professionals in the real estate industry. "Build it and they will come" the majority of real estate investors, developers and even realtors hold that credo right up there next to their other sacred real estate doctrine - the very foundation for most of their real estate investment research and analysis - "location, location... (I'm sure you know the rest). The real term that sums up those principles is: flight.

For many years, the majority of these real estate professionals staked their livelihoods on the aforementioned mantras and those beliefs kept new development from penetrating the core of most cities including Toledo. The heart of most cities is usually excluded from the plans for new subdivisions. Any new home construction done within city limits was normally limited to a few affluent pockets and the extreme perimeters. And although "flight" to the suburbs usually has racial connotations, this migration that has been ongoing over

the better part of four decades transcends race. I also believed the hype.

To atone for my misguided past indiscretions regarding real estate, I recently called Julia Bryant, the queen of newly constructed home listings in the heart of Toledo. I wanted to get her view of the housing market in hub of the city and share it with the readers of this column. Bryant is the preferred listing realtor of several of Toledo's community development corporations, as well as other local housing agencies

ment may be a little strong for your article and I don't expect you to use it. Let buyers know that they may qualify to purchase these with very little down if they utilize the City of Toledo's grant program."

Bryant added the qualifications need to purchase her special listings. She said "purchaser must meet income guidelines - 80 percent of area median income. This is based on family size. A dollar amount is attributed based on that size and the total household income can not ex-

ceed that amount. For example, a family of four can not exceed \$48,100 in total household income which would include and SSI [social security income], state income or child support."

- More energy-efficient design and materials, better lumber, improved insulation
-New building materials are often safer, as they don't include things such as lead or asbestos
-Modern amenities
-In some cases, customized options and upgrades are available

Lastly, because of the efforts to encourage the purchase of new homes in the city, the cost to purchase a newly constructed home is often less than that of a comparable existing home.

Ok, my conscience is now clear. There's nothing like a good confession to cleanse the soul. If you're currently on the market for a new home in Toledo, you may want to try some soul searching yourself and take a close look at a newly constructed home in the city.

Alvin Thomas is a mortgage loan officer with over 20 years of banking and mortgage lending experience. He can be reached at: alvin.thomas@noic.com or (419) 885-8300 ext. 150.



involved in the construction of affordable homes in Toledo.

Bryant gave me some interesting facts about new construction in the city, while espousing her strong convictions on this issue. She said "new construction is attainable [within the city limits]. Buyers need to understand that new construction in the City is affordable.

"My personal statement is this, 'If we don't place value on our community, nobody else will.' Homes such as these cost in excess of \$180,000 to build, plus the lot! I know my state-

ment may be a little strong for your article and I don't expect you to use it. Let buyers know that they may qualify to purchase these with very little down if they utilize the City of Toledo's grant program."

Bryant added the qualifications need to purchase her special listings. She said "purchaser must meet income guidelines - 80 percent of area median income. This is based on family size. A dollar amount is attributed based on that size and the total household income can not ex-

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Loop

(Continued from Page 12)

Karl Hillenbrand on vocals as part of a two-man combo and I was blown away.

Harry Connick Jr. styling, and a charismatic persona - the crowd should've been eating out of his hand but, out of all the places that night, this was the worst when it came to crowd behavior.

They treated the musicians almost as if they were an intrusion.

And it wasn't the bar huggers, it was just four or five little huddled groups conversing so loudly I struggled to hear the entertainment even though I sat so close

I could've been an invited guest.

Nonetheless, it was a great stop on the Loop because Hillenbrand's renditions of jazz standards were absolutely mesmerizing and I told him so after he finished a set.

Between the last two venues I skipped the bus and just put my limbs to good use. Walking around Downtown

at night, especially on JazzLoop night is kind of fun.

But after walking out of 20 North Gallery (the beautiful art gallery across the street from Frickers for those of you who don't know) I waited for what would be the last round of shuttles.

While waiting I met a woman who was from Akron but recently moved to Toledo from Columbus. Black woman, won't dare guess her age...but obviously professional. She told me that everyone she meets her tells her there's nothing to do and she said she was beginning to agree until that night.

She said she's still missing the nightlife in Columbus, but she's happy T Town offers so much more than other places in Ohio such as Akron.

Shuttle gets me back near my car, so I drive to Murphy's.

Get out and I hear Zapp & Roger being played so loudly

I felt like I was at a barbecue at the park or something. But that's not coming from Murphy's, that's the loud party going on across the water at The Docks.

Out of everywhere, Murphy's is always the hardest to tear myself away from.

This year, my one complaint was the staff...I've never encountered such a snooty attitude ordering a ginger ale that costs nearly \$3.

But that wasn't enough to ruin my night.

First of all, the smells and the atmosphere at Murphy's bring back memories.

Four years worth of Tuesdays I spent there earlier this millennium, running The Renaissance Open Mic/Poetry Night.

And on this JazzLoop night, I chose to sit in what we used to call the V.I.P. area overlooking the stage.

It's amazing how Claude Black and Clifford Murphy can play their respective in-

(Continued on Page 14)

Loop

(Continued from Page13)

struments (piano and upright bass) at such a level of mastery that you feel

yourself losing your awareness to some extent.

You start feeling like you're in a bigger city.

You start feeling like you're alive in jazz's heyday.

You start feeling like music this good should be

heard by everyone!

They had a drummer sitting in with them who, whom I suspect was Glenn Tucker but I could be wrong.

That's my last small gripe about how the JazzLoop was organized... more accurate information on shuttle flow order and exactly who was performing and when would've helped, but that

storm scare we had in Toledo affected things that night also so, it's no biggie.

But, yeah, the music at Murphy's was just masterful... I really didn't wanna leave.

But I wanted to save Wesley's for last because my dad was playing the drums there that night for Big Blues Bob.

Got there, and my dad was like "umm... we started at 8 p.m., you missed it."

So I had to fulfill one of the duties I've had my entire life, helping tear down and carry my dad's drums from the stage to the car.

Wish I could've got to every venue but 2008 JazzLoop was yet another great year.

SO JUST SO YOU KNOW FOR NEXT YEAR, THIS IS HOW IT GOES!

You buy a ticket, pre-sale is \$10 and the night of the event is \$15.

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Got it? Good.

2009, even if I'm not here... I'll come back and hope to see YOU in attendance.

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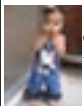
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CLASSIFIEDS

June 11, 2008

Page 15

Community Impact Specialist – Education

United Way of Greater Toledo is currently seeking a motivated individual to act as the Community Impact Specialist, Education. This position shares responsibility with the Education Vision Council for leading major early childhood and youth initiatives. Additional responsibilities include: cultivating strategically focused collaborations that advance United Way of Greater Toledo's education agenda and is responsible for monitoring and assuring completion of key goals associated with preparing children to enter and graduate from school as assigned to the Community Impact Department, serve as youth subject matter expert and liaison in key areas such as associated with the United Way *Agenda For Change*.

Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree with a minimum of 3 years experience working with community programs and a minimum of 5 years experience in the area of youth development.

We provide a competitive salary and benefit package.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with salary requirements along with a resume to:



United Way of Greater Toledo
One Stranahan Square
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As part of our expansion program, our company is looking for part time work from home account managers and sales representatives. It pays a minimum of \$3000 a month plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details. Requirements – should be computer literate. 2-3 hours access to the Internet weekly. Must be honest and loyal. Must be efficient and dedicated. If you are interested and need more information, contact Michael J. Sloan, email – mjsloan01@aol.com

Attention All Vendors



The 4th Annual African American Festival will be held on the Scott Park Campus at The University of Toledo on Sat., July 13 and Sun., July 14.

As space is limited to 50 entries, please contact Eric at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at 419.255.8876 for your application. Reservations will be given on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for reserving space is Friday, June 13, 2008.

Sweatshops

(Continued from Page 5)

ers - mostly teenage girls - dead in a factory fire in Bangladesh in 2006. The factory exit doors had been illegally locked.

The proposed policy is one of the most aggressive

anti-sweatshop resolutions in Ohio and nationwide. Lucas County will require contractors to certify that they are not using sweatshop labor in the manufacture of garments,

uniforms, or related materials purchased with Lucas County taxpayer dollars.

The policy mandates that these contractors doing business with the county pay their workers at

production facilities a living wage, adjusted by labor market; that they be afforded the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining; and be provided with safe working conditions and a non-discriminatory working envi-

ronment.

"Simply stated, it's the right thing to do morally. Our community expects workers to be treated and compensated fairly and taxpayer dollars to be spent responsibly," concluded Konop.



Commissioner Ben Konop

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