

Local and National News

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The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 14, No.14

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 23, 2008

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***Bonita Adams, Exposing
Truth Ministries***
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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

There is no reason not to take Senator Barack Obama's message of personal responsibility to heart.

As we have noted before, some years ago when Bill Cosby went off the rails and started slamming black folks for not accepting responsibility for their own predicament, we took issue with the comedian.

Back then we wrote that we didn't like the message and we thought the messenger was an inappropriate one.

We later recanted. At some point we reasoned that we simply cannot wait around for a guardian angel to tell us what we need to hear. In spite of Cosby's rather slim credentials to take on the role of social critic and in spite of the fact that society throws some rather formidable obstacles into the path of minority citizens, the message of personal responsibility still must be delivered.

Now it appears to be Obama's turn to deliver that message. At least that's what he and his campaign believe.

So Obama, who has attempted for the most part to run a race-neutral campaign, has on several occasions spoken to black audiences about the need to accept responsibility. Just a couple of such occasions, mind you.

He has also addressed issues of the lack of health care, of an unjust criminal justice system, of home foreclosures and so forth. In fact, the bulk of his speeches on domestic policy focus on such matters.

But even so, Obama's few speeches on accepting personal responsibility show a lack of "balance" says the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. who went on a bit of a rant a few weeks ago and issued his version of "loving criticism."

His version of "loving criticism" included a remark that he would like to lop off the Obama family jewels while referring to black people as n*****s. Ouch ... love really does hurt, doesn't it?

In his apology, Jackson suggested that Obama was out of balance. "[African-Americans] are number one in infant mortality, number one in life expectancy, number one in unemployment, number one in the home foreclosure crisis," said Jackson asking that Obama be sure to include remarks to that effect when he addressed black audiences.

Once again, Obama gets pummeled by his friends in this campaign.

Getting pummeled in politics, however, is to be expected whether it's by friends or enemies. Obama's got a pretty thick skin by now or he would have crawled into some little hole back in Chicago and gotten a full-time job teaching law. As Mike Huckabee, former candidate for the Republican Party presidential nomination famously said, "if you can't stand the sight of your own blood, you shouldn't be in politics."

So enough of the crocodile tears for Obama.

It's easy to take Jackson to task for his intemperate, inaccurate remarks. Jackson is famous, at least in part, for shooting his mouth off before he has given any thought to the consequences. Enough of that also.

It's our opinion that Obama cannot speak loudly or often enough, especially after he is president, of the need for African-Americans to accept personal responsibility for their own actions – actions in particular that lead to lack of educational attainment. That lack of educational attainment, as we should all know by now, leads to high rates of unemployment, to high out-of-wedlock high pregnancy rates, to high rates of incarceration, to high rates of health problems compared to the general population.

Obama probably will, according to all indications, become our 44th president and when he does, we hope that the black community can hear more of his message about taking control of our own lives.

It will be extremely difficult for minorities in general to not accept Obama's message of self reliance. The product of a single parent home whose mother relied on food stamps for a period and who was raised, in part, by his grandparents, Obama's story is not all that different from some many people in the black community.

There's more to consider should Obama succeed in his quest to gain the Oval Office. As president, he will have no easier task than did President Bill Clinton had in alleviating the difficulties that minority citizens of this nation face from systemic racism. Being black will gain him no advantage with Congress, with big business and with an assortment of other institutions that are mired in their traditions.

But the fact that Obama will have earned the nation's top job will undoubtedly cause numerous more folks to accept the idea that such racism no longer exists. On so many levels, things will not automatically get any easier for African-Americans. Unless, of course, we ourselves are so inspired by the Obama story, and his message, that we accept as an article of faith ... and hope – yes, we can.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

July 20-24

Vacation Bible School: Christian Community Church; 5 pm nightly: 419-536-8357

July 21-25

Vacation Bible School: Braden United Methodist Church; "Walk in Out In the Way of Jesus;" 9 am to 1 pm: 419-241-7257

July 21-27

86th Annual Convocation of the United Holy Church of America, Inc., Northwestern District: Clarion Westgate; Services 10 am, 7 pm and throughout the day; Guests are Bishop Isaiah Elam, Eld. James Smith, Clifton Buckrham, Sr. and others: 419-531-1859

July 22

There IS Happiness After Incest and Child Sexual Abuse Workshop: Workshop designed to assist survivors, loved ones from empowering and practical perspective; 5:30 to 8:30 pm; Elizabeth House (3837 Secor): 419-729-0245

Sports Physicals: Bay Park Community Hospital; For students participating in high school or middle school sports; Quality, low-cost physicals; 5 to 8 pm: 419-690-8400

Healthy Toledo: Free summer seminar on spinal health; Church on Strayer in Maumee; 6 to 7:30 pm; Speaker Thomas Baur, D.C.: 419-866-2094 ext. 20

July 22-23

5/3 Bank's Homeownership Mobile: Jerusalem MBC; 11 am to 4 pm each day; Educating the community on foreclosure prevention, homeownership responsibilities and financial literacy: 419-259-6988

July 23

SkyHy Ministries Healing Service: West Toledo YMCA; 7 pm; Speedway gas cards and Krogers food cards given away

July 23-25

Greater St. Mary's MBC Church Revival: 7 pm nightly; Revivalist Robert Lyons of Word of Faith Ministries: 419-254-3467 or 419-973-4157

July 24-27

Sonrise Community Church's Fifth Annual Dominion Word Festival: "Rise Up and Walk!" 419-480-0777

July 26

Free Community Festival: United MBC; 10 am to 5 pm; Free health screenings, hair cuts, legal advice, financial planning, job readiness information, food, etc: 419-242-1455

July 27

Church of the New Beginnings' Annual Park Ministry: City Park Service at noon; Refreshments to follow: 419-250-1895

July 29

Throw Down Tuesday: City of Zion Ministries; 7 pm; Keynote Speaker Sean Elder of New Orleans; music by Nicki D and the Browns: 419-246-1850 or www.cozmtzionchurch.org

July 28-August 1

Vacation Bible School: Walls Memorial Church; 6 to 8 pm; "Living God's Unshakeable Truths;" 4190535-6469

July 30

Healthy Toledo: Free summer seminar on health; Featuring holistic physician Dr. Jay Nielsen; 7 to 8:30 pm; Church on Strayer in Maumee: 419-866-2094, ext 20

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

School for the Arts.

I hope that Jim Hartung, president of the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, hangs tough and survives this latest bombardment by Mayor Carty Finkbeiner. The calls for his resignation are premature and are not based on any findings of fact by any dis-

was found, no correction was ever run.

Some of the best bureaucrats in Lucas County government are those staffers who audit programs funded by Jobs and Family Services. I have said before that the county commissioners would do well to follow the direction of these

tinue to see community agencies falter in earning their grant money. All agencies should use the auditors as guides in conducting their business. The boards of directors of these agencies should pay closer attention to the conduct of their executive directors/presidents and the monthly

fiduciary responsibility of the trustees and directors to really know what is going on.

We see the need for oversight in the recent bad news from the Greater Toledo Urban League. The lay offs announced last week were not due to just lack of funding. The funding cut off occurred because of mishaps in program administration. And, finally, Deb Ortiz said "no more ... clean it up!"

The tough steps taken by the new president is just that – a clean up. Let's hope that John Jones gets a good handle on the Urban League and that the board starts doing its job. Kudos to Ortiz for holding firm.

The City of Toledo's recent improvement in its bond rating from the Wall

Street guys might seem surprising. It is not, however, since the city identified a new million dollar revenue source – the garbage tax.

For the Wall Street guys, any source of new funds is good news. You and I might disagree over this but the bean counters like new income.

Now, it cuts both ways. If someone tries to change the revenue stream from its garbage tax, our bond rating will get worse because it will be seen as a net loss of guaranteed income. And, of course, you will be taxed up the ying-yang every time Toledo has a shortfall in revenue. We may just keep hiking up the garbage tax as Akron has until it generates over \$21 million.

Some of the waste in taxpayer funds of the past would not have happened if only these auditors had been turned loose years ago.

interested observer. They are just rumors but the Blade has wanted Hartung's hide for a long time.

I remember in 1997 when The Blade went after me because I was working at ProMedica while serving in the legislature. The paper felt I was making too much money for my own good.

I also remember our own mayor butting in and calling me a possible "fixer." Later when the dust settled and no conflict of interest

auditors.

Some of the waste in taxpayer funds of the past would not have happened if only these auditors had been turned loose years ago.

The director of Jobs and Family Services is Deborah Ortiz and she is top notch. She is a former student of mine when I taught at The University of Toledo and she was blue chip back then.

Why do I raise these points? Because we con-

financial reports of each agency.

In truth, most directors have their heads in the sky and do not truly monitor the grants. And, you cannot leave it to the executive director. By law, it is the

Dear Fellow-Toledoans:

Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Mario Harris-Rosser. I am a youth representative member of the City of Toledo's Board of Community Relations. The Board of Community Relations (BCR) is an independent organization chartered by the City of Toledo. We exist to promote, empower, and support citizens and neighborhoods to create social justice, equal opportunity and a harmonious environment.

The BCR is organizing its annual Youth Empowerment Award ceremony. This award was established in 2002 to recognize individuals or groups who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication in working with and on behalf of youth.

We are seeking nominations, from the youth in our city, for adults who have spent significant time inspiring and serving the youth of our community. Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution towards the advancement of youth. Emphasis will be placed on selecting an individual (or group) who has actively dedicated time, talent and energy in a voluntary capacity to improve the physical, mental, social, economic, legal and/or cultural status of youth. Consideration will also be given to individuals who have excelled in a particular area of interest, thus serving as a model of excellence for youth.

Nomination forms and further information can be obtained by calling the BCR office at (419) 245-1565 or by email at tyson.turner@toledo.oh.gov

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Mario Harris-Rosser, Youth Representative
Board of Community Relations



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Save Our Scott Publicity Campaign

Special to The Truth

Save Our Scott (a coalition of Scott alumni, Old West End residents and other citizens concerned about saving Jesup W. Scott High School and preserving Toledo's heritage) is mounting a week-long publicity campaign to raise community awareness and mobilize support for saving Scott High School.

According to the group's recent press release, they desire a world-class quality education for students attending Scott and believe that this can best be delivered in a unique learning environment – a newly renovated Scott High School facility. They will be making the case that by renovating Scott with 21st Century mechanical systems and making it a showcase of green technologies, new life can be breathed into the landmark structure and educate today's and generations of students to come. They will also endeavor to explain the complex situation involving Toledo Public Schools (TPS) and the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) where the renovation dollars would come from.

Renovation is possible, says the group, providing TPS follows the will of the people. TPS must urge the OSFC for special consideration regarding Scott and also must apply for grants and other funding mechanisms that are available.

They feel that along with Scott alumni fundraising and a concerted effort to recruit and retain Scott students, Scott High School can once again become a

fully-equipped state of the art school, one that people will be proud to send their children to. Saving and renovating this historic structure and neighborhood icon is something the group says they can do and something they must do.

Thursday, July 24, 2008 – 9:00 AM – in front of Scott High School



Save Our Scott will hold a press conference to publicize their efforts to save Scott and to make the community aware of what will happen if Scott is not renovated. They will ask the public to sign petitions and list the ways in which they can get involved.

The coalition will also send off a contingent group of Toledoans who will travel to Columbus for the OSFC meeting at 1:30 p.m. They will be bringing large signs with them to Colum-

bus, calling for Scott to be saved and renovated and they will submit copies of the petitions. Signature collection will continue for six more says, however.

Monday, July 28, 2008 – 5:30 PM

The Scott Alumni Association will host a public walk-through of Scott High

Tuesday, July 29, 2008 – 5:30 PM

The week-long publicity campaign will culminate in the all-important TPS board meeting, at which SOS will present the school board and the superintendent with the SOS petition, which will call for a renovation of Scott.

Calling all Dogs from Scott High School Class of 1988.



Your presence is being requested at our 20-year reunion. Please contact Latonya Johnson-Crawford at 419-699-9914. ASAP!

Destination: Underground Railroad Freedom Center!



St. Philip Lutheran Church invites you to join us on a day trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio on Saturday, August 9th.

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South African Education Delegation Visits Toledo

Sojourner's Truth Staff

A high-level delegation of South African educators and labor leaders arrived in Toledo last week to study the nationally recognized Toledo Plan (Intern Program) and other local initiatives as part of a four-city best-practices tour.

The delegation of nine included the general secretary of the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), Dhaya Govender, four leaders of national trade unions and four superintendents of provincial departments of education (South Africa has nine provinces in all).

The purpose of the trip, and several others like it to other places of the globe, are to seek solutions to the problems plaguing South African educational efforts.

"Despite large amounts of money invested, we don't seem to be creating a dream for our children," Govender told The Truth last week in between sessions with representatives of the Toledo Federation of Teachers.

"It's about results," said Govender. "And it's also about perceptions and about value."

The group heard presentations on the Toledo Plan, the Toledo Review and Alternative Compensation System (TRACS), the professionalization of teaching and school consultation programs, among others.

The South Africans have a goal of addressing several key areas of concern as they travel the globe looking at what others are doing in their efforts to achieve educational success, according to Govender. They are looking at issues such as school safety, recruitment and retention of teachers, academic achievement, performance

management and teacher professionalization.

Toledo's programs offered the delegation an opportunity to take a close look at this district's attempt to increase teacher professionalism, said Patricia Keefer, assistant director for the International Affairs Department of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The AFT has partnered with the ELRC on this tour of selected American districts although the cost has been borne entirely by the ELRC.

The other three districts were Chicago's Quest Center for Professional Develop-

ment, the ABC United School District in southern California and New York City.

South Africa currently has any number of challenges to educational attainment, chief among them are poverty and unemployment. Unemployment hovers around the 30 percent mark for the nation.

As a result of these twin issues, in the educational arena school officials need assistance in dealing with problems of drugs, gangs and safety, in particular. In addition, said Govender, the problem of teacher recruitment bedevils South African leaders. The country's pool of talented educators is constantly being poached by other English-speaking nations.

And even as the teaching ranks are being plundered, South Africa's population, especially the lower income

finding mission.

The delegation on this trip to the United States included Govender; Matseliso E. Dipholo, vice president of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU); Nomfundo N. Mkhulisi, vice president of SADTU; Henry Hendricks, executive director of the National Professional Teachers' Organization; Eliam M. Biyela, executive director of the National Teachers' Union; John H. Jethwa, president of the Cape Teachers' Professional Association; Reginald Lubisi, superintendent general of education of KwaZulu-Natal Province; Hubert M. Mweli, superintendent general of North-West Province; Zwoitwaho C. Nevhutalu, superintendent general of Limpopo Province and Ron Swartz, superintendent of Western Cape.

That economic disparity is reflected in the educational attainment gaps among the disparate racial groups.

South African educators and labor leaders have also visited countries in South and Central America, as well as those in Europe and Asia, as part of this extensive fact-



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Estimate Your Future Social Security Benefits

By Phil Walton
Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

This month Social Security introduces a new "Retirement Estimator" at www.socialsecurity.gov. Getting a personalized online estimate of your future retirement benefits is now easier than ever before. The online Retirement Estimator is a convenient, secure and quick financial planning tool that lets workers calculate how much they might expect to receive in Social Security benefits when they retire. The attractive new feature of this calculator is that it eliminates the need to manually key in years of earnings information. It's so easy to use.

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efit estimate was calculated. And it does not reveal any personal information, such as your address, earnings or other information, that could lead to identity theft.

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Reading Program Announces Book Drive

*Artisha S. Lawson
The Sojourner's Truth reporter*

Let's read You & Me launched a book drive at Panera Bread on Saturday, July 12. Sponsors of the drive – the United Way of Greater Toledo, NBC24, Panera Bread, Lucas County Family Council and Garden Smiles – have joined together to bring "Bread & Books" which served as the official kick-off event for Toledo's Let's Read You & Me book drive.

"Today is the kick-off of the book drop. With the donated books we try to go where the parents are that have small kids," said Jan Moore, chief operating officer of United Way.

Saturday's event featured readings from The River's Mary Beth & Rick in the Morning personality Rick Woodell; NBC24's new anchor David Custer; Let's Read You & Me program coordinator Sara Mattson and Toledo's Mayor Carlton Finkbeiner.

Mattson opened the event by reading the book *Bread, Bread, Bread*. She was followed by Finkbeiner who read *Reading Makes Me Feel Good*, and spoke to the kids about reading. "I know the importance of reading, keep reading guys."

The program also allowed families to drop off new and gently used books and receive free samples of Panera's menu items.



One Toledo family of Allyson Graves and her two sons, ages three years and 11 months, practice reading as a family event. "I like for us to read together at night before they go to bed. This gives us time to talk about the books and take a break from video games. I started reading to each of them while they were still in my belly."

Toledoans are encouraged

to participate in this on-going program by dropping off books at any of the nine Panera Bread locations, and promote the importance of reading to the kids who receive the books. "Reading is important for getting kids ready to learn. Early literacy,

Panera, they will leave a gently used book for another kid," said Moore.

If you are interested in donating funds or volunteering, contact Sara Mattson at 419/254-4642.



learning words, and installing the love of learning is vital to education," said Mattson.

Books for children ages birth to five are the targets of this program. Those books are distributed through programs at local community centers, preschools and Head Start programs.

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Owens Toledo-area Campus Hosts Rapid Registration Week, Aug. 4-9



Area residents, businesses and students interested in taking college classes or starting a new career this fall are invited to attend Rapid Registration Week at Owens Community College, Aug. 4-9. Fall Semester classes begin on Aug. 18.

For added convenience, the College will be open extra hours for Rapid Registration Week from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, Aug. 4-7.

Additionally, students may register from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8, and from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9. The Owens Toledo-area Campus is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township.

Individuals attending Rapid Registration Week will have the opportunity to learn about Owens' many academic program offerings, receive academic advising, complete electronic financial aid, learn about deferred payment plans, and select their classes in a convenient and timely manner from the College's staff representatives.

Owens offers personal attention and small classes throughout the day, evening and weekends, and online. For more registration information or to obtain a schedule of courses for the fall term, contact Enrollment Services at (567) 661-7777 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7777, or access the College's website at www.owens.edu.

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Arts Section • Arts Section

Bonita Adams: Inspired to Expose The Truth Through Her Gospel Play ministry

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor



Bonita Adams, founder of Exposing Truth Ministries, has been writing gospel plays for about 16 years. Her most recent effort, *23rd Street*, was commissioned by the Clarence Smith Community Chorus and

produced this past June at the Maumee Indoor Theatre.

Her very first play, *EXPOSED*, has been produced every year for the last 14 years in local churches, The University of Toledo, the Valentine

Theatre, the Owens Community College Center for the Performing Arts and the Maumee Indoor Theatre.

In fact, admirers of Adams' work had the opportunity to see *EXPOSED* again this past

weekend at the Maumee Indoor (See play review on the following page.)

In between those works, Adams has written numerous other plays, such as *My Mother Prayer For Me, More than Conquerors and Putting Christ Back In Christmas*. She has written a book, puppet shows and Black History Month plays.

But as Adams tells it, she has not always considered herself to be an artist.

"When I was growing up, I belonged to St. Paul A.M.E. Zion and we would do different things, put on little skits," Adams recalls. "I had ideas but I did not consider myself to be a writer at that point in high school."

Sixteen years ago, however, Adams heard about a book entitled *A Divine Revelation of Hell* by Mary K. Baxter.

"It got me thinking about the fact that people don't believe that hell is real," she says. Adams had been told about the book by her mother, and pastor, Rev. Shirley Sparks, of Walls Memorial Church. This would turn out to be Adams' own revelation. She did not read the book, but the title itself got her brain churning.

"I woke up one morning and started writing. The first half of the play took about six months to write," says Adams. The second half of the play was an entirely different experience. "Then I woke up one day and was inspired to write the second half in one day," she adds.

That play, *EXPOSED*, was

performed at UT two years later and Adams part-time career as a playwright, director and producer was launched. An audience member for that first production belonged to Mt. Pilgrim Church and asked Adams if it could be performed there.

That got the ball rolling for Adams. "Lots of people did that and eventually we kept doing the play over and over again."

In 2003, Adams and her ETM group decided to take the play to a new level with a performance at the Valentine Theatre. Music was added and the direction was turned over to a more experienced director, Sylvia Carter, who also directed Adams' latest play, *23rd Street*, for the Clarence Smith Community Choir.

Adams, a business/computer teacher with Springfield Local Schools, has had a great deal of assistance in her artistic endeavors, and not the least of that assistance has been provided by her husband James. James Adams has appeared in most of her plays receiving acclaim especially for his portrayal as Satan in *EXPOSED*.

Her mother, Sparks, has also been there along the way

as have a number of veteran castmembers such as Edward Lindsey and Steve Frazier. James and Bonita have two daughters — LaTosha and Tamika. Tamika, who recently earned her degree in theatre from UT, has been a help over the years as her mother learned to hone her directing skills.

What's next for Toledo's foremost gospel playwright?

A local writer/musician/songwriter saw the production of *23rd Street* and got Adams interested in a book titled *Passing By Samaria* by Sharon E. Foster. Adams has already completed the play based on the book and is waiting to hear from the author if ETM has permission to produce the work.

The book, written by an African-American deals with racial issues and "could help with conciliation," says Adams.

Adams would also like to take *EXPOSED*, and perhaps some of her other plays, on the road. She would love to make some contacts in other parts of the country and obtain financial backing for such plans.

She would also like to take her artistry into new directions by heightening the technology or becoming more innovative in other directions. She was particularly inspired by the recent Toledo appearance of *The Lion King* with its use of costumes and puppetry. And somewhere down the line, given Adams interest in technology, Christian video games might be in her future.

Adams worked for Toledo Public Schools for a number of years as a secretary. She eventually returned to college and earned a bachelor's of education from UT in 1998 and became a teacher in the Springfield Local District shortly thereafter. She is currently working on her master's degree in educational technology.

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The Enemy Gets "EXPOSED" in Bonita Adams' Religious Drama

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Enemy Gets "EXPOSED" in Bonita Adams' Religious Drama

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

I've seen Bonita Adams' scripturally-based religious drama with music, EXPOSED, three times now and I never grow tired of seeing the Devil going "to and fro", seeking whom he can destroy." The latest production, Saturday, July 19, 2008, was staged at the Maumee Indoor Theater and featured as the special guest artist, none other than Toledo's very own powerhouse gospel singer, Debra Brock, first lady of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

Brock was definitely the star of the show, but even her incredible vocals that scaled the ceiling of the theater and brought the audience to their collective feet could not upstage James Adams' "Satan."

Anyone who does not know this kind and gentle man would wonder why he plays the devil so well. He is so deliciously evil onstage, those who don't know much about theatre might wonder, "Is he really like that? How can Bonita be married to someone so cruel?"

Don't worry. It's just good acting. Mr. Adams plays a role that was written for him by Mrs. Adams and the two founders of ETM Productions (their theatre company) have pulled off a theatrical feat with EXPOSED.

Since I've reviewed the play previously, I won't repeat myself describing the devious plot, the multitude of characters (there must be at least 20, but most of them are demons!) and the fantastic dialog, which at times is hilariously funny and at other times poignant and sad, leaving you in tears.

I also won't repeat descriptions of the fine performances given by actors who've played these roles before nor will I comment on the performances of those who made their debut in this

performances by new characters, the most memorable of which was Laura Lawrence singing "I've Just Seen Jesus."

Lawrence brought the house down with her operatic trills that soared into the heavens. Speaking of Jesus, a crucifixion scene in the play, almost as brutal (if not as long) as the one in "The Passion of the Christ" had a chilling effect on everyone who saw the play in the afternoon.

People openly wept and praised their Savior for shed-



latest version, which often lacked the familiarity with their characters and relaxed and natural delivery of lines possessed by the veterans.

The major differences in this production (aside from

ding his blood on their behalf. Brock's "Worthy" had a similar effect, pulling the adults at the 4:30 p.m. performance right up out of their chairs, clapping and raising their hands in praise.

Both Lawrence and Brock were overcome by the spirit and left the stage shouting, adding to the authenticity of their performances. However, it was the performance of a trio of singers who were not on stage that had me ready to dance in the spirit.

Several recordings of gospel female group, "The Difference" were played throughout, giving the play a professional quality on par with shows like Tyler Perry's.

The group's inimitable harmony on "The Blood" sent shivers down my spine and brought me to tears, along with many others in the audience during the crucifixion scene.

I kept wishing during long pauses while actors playing multiple roles changed costumes that someone would put on some more of "The Difference" recordings to fill the silences that seemed to stretch out longer and longer each time.

Or praise dancer extraordinaire Shanae Smith could have performed another of her beautifully choreographed routines. Dancers, Joshua Bey and Asia Wall who performed what I call the "Eden ballet" choreographed by Brandon

Sharon L. Henley, Asia Wall, JaJuan Turner, Mardest Crosby, Smith, Jordan Purley, Anthony, Caleb and Brandon Rice) doing a hip-hop routine like the one they did in "hell" when they celebrated all of the destruction and mayhem they had caused on earth.

Showing that religious folks aren't always somber and pious, Adams has written one of the funniest scenes I've seen in a play of this kind. There's none of the vulgarity and slapstick

(Continued on Next Page)



Wall (who also acted and sang in the play) were also excellent and I could have seen more of them.

Those long gaps could have also been filled by Brock leading the audience in more songs like the one we all thoroughly enjoyed singing in the second act,

"In The Name of Jesus" (that might have been hard on her voice as the lead singer of the show, however). I'd have settled for the "demons" (Smith, Ty Brock Jr., Christian Lamar Dale, Bey, Nicole Marie Rice,

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Who Does the Best Lil Wayne?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



"Nothin' ... nothin'... you ain't scarrin' nothin'"

Okay, just had to get that off my chest.

Lil Wayne has been credited with saving hip-hop.

He's been praised for moving a million plus in one week at a time when 90 percent of rap/hip-hop releases don't even see half that over the first two quarters of a release.

"Lollipop" was a global smash.

It was actually genius.

If you are the world's most improved rhyme spitter and also the world's most prolific guest rapper, when you finally do come out with a single of your own after spending three to

four years building a rep as a must have on a track – you betta come with a single that is full of shock and awe.

For Weezy F. Baby, melody on them vocals and no more rapping ... this rapper sing his way into a hit. So following up the brilliance of "Lollipop" in a way that just solidifies his genius is to once again flip the entire script.

If ya steez on one song is pretty, hyper-edited drum fill ins, layered synths and techno vocals, then why not take all that away and go for the most repetitive, damn-near redundant beat in the world that just slaps listeners with an ungodly amount of bass and force the world to follow your flow on a song that is nearly the polar opposite of "Lollipop"?

"A Milli" has taken on a cultural significance all its own.

Bangladesh is a monster, we all know this and I'm happy to see a still underrated producer get that smash he needed.

But "A Milli" has sparked more than just a few careers.

I have never seen so many un-official remixes in my life.

If you type "A Milli" into a youtube or imem search engine you would think that half of the rappers with no buzz are single-handedly trying to create a lane for themselves by flipping this joint.

Lil Wayne must be the gift that keeps on giving because if the sincerest form of flattery is imitation, this "A Milli" joint must be something similar to the rap world's proverbial lips being planted squarely on Lil Wayne's proverbial ass.

And we all know dude is used to being kissed ... okay, cheap shot.

Hey, he'll never read this...come on!

But, I have a task for you all.

You all know how much I love democracy in these here pages, so let's have a little vote.

WHICH "A MILLI"

SPIN-OFF IS THE BEST?

1. "A Milli" remix by Jadakiss

2. "A Milli" remix by Fabolous

3. "A Billi" remix by Jay Z

4. "A Milli" remix by Chris Brown

5. "A Milli" remix by Corey Gunz

6. "A Milli" remix by Neyo

7. "A Milli" remix by Lil Mama

8. "A Milli" remixed by Mims & Tyga

9. "A Milli" remixed by Gillie da kid

10. "A Milli" remixed by Zodiac Drilla by none other than L.L. COOL J

yeah.

If you wanna know my favorite, just stop by my myspace page - it's on my comment wall.

www.myspace.com/undergodzent — I'm the first friend on that page.

Yeah, is hip-hop back people?

Are you happy to be a hip-hop head this year?

It's been rough lately.

Only Lupe, Common and the Louis Vutton Don have been getting honorable mention in the last year or so.

But that new NAS.

I gotsta get my hands on it.

You'd think us music critics would get our music early...or for free or something right?

Naw, gotsta hit up Target like ery body else.

Don't have them connects to get mine straight out the gate.

But, I will be reviewing it.

And my offer still stands ... YOU – if you want to send in your review of

Tha Carter III please be my guest.

Glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Hotter Than July

7/25 - 7/27 A Weekend

To Remember

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Toledo, you've got it a lot better than you give yourself credit for.

Three black-owned/operated FM radio stations (none of them owned by the big three).

That's a blessing right there.

Being so close to Detroit and Cleveland – another blessing.

Having people come to this city and actually want to become part of the entertainment scene here ... a triple blessing because most people hate this place so much it's refreshing to see anyone come here ready to make a difference.

And if you are one of those people going around like

"Toledo is boring, Toledo is too country, Toledo is wack, ain't nothing to do here."

Not only are you inaccurate but you are also probably one of those people who doesn't get out and do anything and all the stuff there is to do, you probably just refuse to attend so you can sit comfortably in your own self-righteous hatオade.

The job market, the climate for single people, lack of blah blah blah -

Trust me, I could play the "I hate Toledo" card just as well as anyone.

I will just focus on getting you out of the house to do something that will hopefully provide you with a few less reasons to hate.

But only seeing the bad is not reasonable or accurate.

So this is what I need you to do.

Realize that even though things could be much better, it's still a matter of perception and action.

I've spent years reminding you all of the qualities of life as a Toledoan.

Award winning local institutions, diverse this... top rated that.

I've done it until I'm blue in the face.

So now I won't beat you over the head with reasons to be proud.

I will just focus on getting you out of the house to do something that will hopefully provide with a few less reasons to hate.

Yeah, this is aimed at people in my generation but we are the ones who can really make this city go hard.

Get out this weekend for these events and see a

(Continued on Page 12)

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July

(Continued from Page 11)

side of Toledo you always wished for:

July 25th Bash at the Bay COMEDY SHOW @ Dirty Martini

Doors open at 6 p.m. and show starts at 8.

Def Comedy Jam and Comic View all-stars Pierre and Lil Duval will have Toledo busting a gut

and all that. The Dirty Martini is located where Gumbo's/Club Sin used to be.

The very first slot in The Docks right alongside the Maumee River in International Park.

Most people I talk to act like they don't even know about Toledo's comedy club on the southside, but then when they go some

can't take the lack of, umm ... "diversity."

So here's ya chance, ya boy Hutch Daddy has brought some heavyweight funny bone ticklers to the Glass City so stop complaining and come out!

JULY 26 Northwest Ohio Music Conference @ The Park Inn -

Taking place in the afternoon, this is an event sure to bring a lot of people downtown.

It's being billed as an industry meet and greet where you sign up and pay a fee and then you get to have executives at various major record labels hear your work.

As for me and my crew, we will be nearby to promote our event...but if you want to actually go and get down with this hit me on myspace and I can forward you to the people who can sign you up.

JULY 26 Teens Promoting Peace – Hip Hop for Humanity @ Promenade Park

From 9 a.m. until about 4 p.m. there will be a celebration of music, spoken word, dance and all ranges of talent by some of the city's finest artists between the ages of 12 and 19.

T.R.T is a young male

singer/songwriter signed to my company U.G.E. and this will be his first chance to perform without his labelmates nearby so you can expect to see a few of us out there to support him. But there other young artists that need this exposure and it will surely be a memorable display of what your city has to offer.

(One thing tho...finding a couple of teen dancers is hard to do in the summer time - LOL)

JULY 26 Hip Hop vs. Rap Featuring Onasis & S.S.T.R.E.S

Lagrange & Huron - starting at 11 p.m.

You've seen me promoting this, it's all over myspace and our "Is Lil Wayne Hip Hop or Rap" portion of our Hip Hop vs. Rap YouTube Debate Series is up and running.

You've already heard about the prizes we are offering the winner of our 16

Bar Beast
Freestyle Battle.

Now all that's left to do is come out and see an event like no other.

Yeah, we devised this whole idea and put it together.

But I personally would attend this even if I wasn't behind it.

It's a night where you can see the fundamentals of hip-hop alongside the current sounds or rap music and you can represent whatever sound you identify with.

D.J. Bodooly got the beats, and we've got every type of artist you can imagine on the bill.

Onasis, S.S.T.R.E.S., G.Yung Flo, Ladi, B.M.G. Blackswamp Coalition—if you've never heard of em. You should come. If you've heard of em, you should come.

It will be the perfect set up for the grand daddy of all summer events.

JULY 27
(Continued on Page 14)



Applications available for The University of Toledo Toledo Starz Program

Applications are currently being accepted for the after school enrichment program for high school students (particularly those who are historically underrepresented in the sciences) interested in pursuing careers in the health professions.

The Starz program runs from September 23, 2008 – May 19, 2009, 4-6pm, where students will be involved in monthly interactive medical-related presentations.

Students grades 9-12 who have a 2.0 GPA or better are eligible. The deadline for applications is September 5, 2008.

For an application packet or for more information, please contact the UT Office of Institutional Diversity at 419-383-3438.

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Do You Remember Those Embarrassing Cousins at the Family Reunion?

By Alvin Thomas
Real Estate Columnist



In view of the recent news headlines, I feel I would be remiss if I don't shed some light on that little-known couple that has managed to capture the undivided attention of the financial world during the past few days.

Don't be embarrassed if, when you first heard the names FannieMae and FreddieMac, you pictured someone speaking with a pronounced Southern twang

and maybe a wisp of a straw dangling from the side of their mouths. I know I did, but, in my case, it was 20-plus years ago.

To me, honestly, even today their names sound like some kinfolk from somewhere down South. Um, maybe those cousins that showed up at my last family reunion with mason jars of homemade moonshine and brown-stained teeth from a

lifelong love affair with Redman or some other cheaper brand of chewing tobacco? You know... the kind of distant relatives that make you want to demand a DNA test.

But don't be fooled by their hick nicknames, FannieMae and FreddieMac—the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Mortgage Corporation, respectively—represent the very backbone of the housing industry in this country. For most people, this is where things get confusing. Are they government agencies or public held corporations? Just think of them as business mutations—they are part federal government and part public business entities.

FannieMae was created first in 1938 by the government in order to expand the flow of mortgage funds in all communities, at all times, under all economic condi-

tions and to help lower the costs to buy a home. In 1970, its clone, FreddieMac, was created. They are both federally chartered corporations, owned by shareholders that serve as quasi-governmental agencies.

Basically, these two mammoth companies offer banks and mortgage brokers the ultimate OPM opportu-

are eventually sold to Fannie or Freddie, the mortgage lending guidelines they establish are followed industry wide. When your loan officer tells you what documentation he or she needs to approve your loan—such as pay stubs, tax forms, etc.—they are probably following the mandate of Freddie or Fannie.

Briefly, this is their

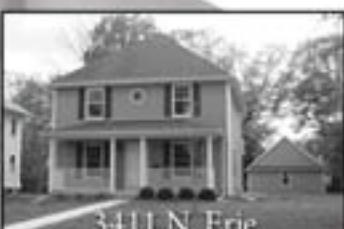
However, keep in mind, being a sort of custodian for other people's money is like babysitting someone's kid. It's not a responsibility to be taken lightly. If a bank shows a lack of diligence in following the guidelines set by Fannie and Freddie, it will lose the rights to sell loans to them, and it could face other severe conse-

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nity. That is, they allow continuous access to "other people's money." In a Robin Hood-like fashion, they take money from the rich (investors) and redistribute it to the needed (homebuyers). The amount that banks have available to loan to homebuyers from their own assets is finite, but Fannie and Freddie have an infinite source of funds thanks to the government backing of the securities they sell, which are actually bundles of the mortgages they buy.

Fannie and Freddie only operate in the backroom of the mortgage industry, commonly referred to as the secondary market by real estate professionals. That means you can't call either of them directly and apply for a loan yourself. Nevertheless, if you receive a mortgage loan today, Freddie or Fannie will more than likely have an influence on your transaction from the beginning.

Since most loans today

method of operation. Let's say that you get a mortgage on your new home from the Northern Ohio Investment Company (NOIC). NOIC, like any bank, has limitations on how much money it can lend as a function of its asset base. If your loan sits in NOIC's portfolio, it constrains how much the mortgage bank can loan to others.

On the other hand, if NOIC sells the rights of their loans to Fannie Mae or FreddieMac, it turns those loans back into cash, which

it can then go out and loan again. You keep making your loan payments to NOIC, and it passes these funds on to Fannie or Freddie. Fannie or Fannie is supposed to make money by borrowing funds at a lower interest rate than you can.

If you think it's hard to get a mortgage loan now, imagine how difficult it would be to get a mortgage loan in today's crumbling housing market if banks were only able to loan their own money and could not recapture their funds by selling the loan. Things would get awfully tight.

Yes sir, we should all be as thankful as a hog in slop that good old Uncle Sam brought cousins Fannie and Freddie to the mortgage industry's family reunion and stands behind them to help keep the mortgage party going.

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.

July

(Continued from Page 12)

Celebrity Bash At The Bay @ Maumee Bay State Park

It's no secret ya boy Hutch Daddy Deezzaayy is the man on the airwaves, and it's no secret

that my roster of artists... no matter what we

do, we always will support this dude.

U.G.E. will be there whether this dude throws a Car Show, a Beach Party or a Bingo Tournament!

When he was first devising this during his first year here, he said "Mercy, people around here

just don't get the potential ... y'all are right on Lake Erie... we can make this a destination for the whole region!"

He was serious.

Now this year you will have Yung Joc, Teairra Mari (oh boy!), Crucial Conflict , Hot Stylez, Onasis of U.G.E.

Big Kuntry, Alfamega and Tone Tone.

Plus local guests, the Glass City's pre-eminent Master of Ceremonies.. KUNTRY.

R&B crooner Tracy (shouts), and, of course... Aye Dee, Darren Scott and D.J. Lil D.

Do NOT sit around this weekend complaining.

I've given you options, so I hope to see you out and about.

Also shouts to Hot 97's Hutch Daddy, Ricky Love, Brandy Brown and new D.J. Lil D.

Shouts to David Bush,

D.J. Kausion and all the people doing the

Hip Hop vs. Rap Showdown with us Saturday Night at Mickey Finns.

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Call Donnette Tiggs, Welles Bowen, Realtors
419.290.4567 or 419.891.0888

1013 Prospect - \$66,900
Tear off rmo/100T, 4 B.R. Freshly painted throughout. Large LR, DR, and parlor. Basement, it won't last long.
Call Laneta Goings, Welles Bowen, Realtors
419.467.9302 or 419.891.0888

Looking for partners to make \$1,000 to \$5,000 during the next 6-12 months working from home. Record setting company:
1. Go to ... www.mangoisteenfruitinfo.com - For info
2. Go to ... novarro.1@netzero.com - ask for appointment. Mature, self starter, people person - with vision

HUGH 4 BEDROOM
833 Nebraska Ave. \$26,000
2 car, bsmt, gigantic eat in kitchen, 1st floor laundry and bath, living rm, dining rm, and family rm. Lots of storage!!
Call for private showing 419.392.5428

Hicks Day Care Where Kids Come First!
George Hicks Administrator
2469 Maplewood Ave, Toledo, OH 43620
Cell: 419.870.2335, Phone: 419.243.9175
Fax: 419.243.9174
E-mail: ghick3@msn.com * hicksdaycare.com

CLASSIFIEDS

July 23, 2008

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Art Handler

Responsible for the packing, unpacking and handling of works of art and assisting with exhibit preparation, including rough carpentry and finished cabinetry work, lighting installation, and display detail. Requires post-secondary art courses, with a minimum of three years' closely related experience, prefer B.A. in art with three year's experience as art handler. Must have ability to follow mechanical drawings, mount-making skills and understanding of current archival materials. Full job description is available on our website: www.toledomuseum.org This is a full time position with excellent compensation package. Successful candidate will undergo drug screen and criminal records check. To apply, e-mail resume to: jobs@toledomuseum.org or mail to: Human Resources, Toledo Museum of Art, PO Box 1013, Toledo, OH 43697. EOE

DRIVER (Part-time)

Transports children in substitute care to visitations, appointments, & special events. **REQUIREMENTS:** HS diploma/equivalent; valid Ohio driver's license, auto insurance, good driving record. Will be required to drive own reliable car. Knowledge of city and surrounding area preferred. Physical required ensuring ability to lift 45 lbs. Must be drug free. Ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural work environment required. Additional position requirements and information can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. Position starts at \$12.14/hr. w/benefits. 21 hours per week (**days & hours will vary with evening & weekend work required**). Send resume to Human Resources, LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 or fax to 327-3291 by 8/1/08. EOE valuing diversity

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR/ TEACHER

Elementary K-8 Send resume, copy of teaching certificate and references to: cgregory@toledodiocese.org

For Sale

Three bedroom house
1546 Pinewood
\$20,000 – 419-241-2749

Boy Scouts of America - Paraprofessional



Erie Shores Council is seeking Paraprofessionals for leadership positions in Cub and Boy Scouts. No Scouting experience necessary. Training provided.

Resumes to:
Fax 419/241-6769 / erieshores@bsamail.org
ESC, Scoutreach Division
PO Box 337
Toledo OH, 43604

DATABASE SPECIALIST

Full-time position available for experienced individual to collect, prepare, analyze and report on accounting, billing and healthcare information utilizing internal software systems. Selected individual collects and enters data, monitors integrity of databases, develops and runs routine and specialized reports, analyzes report information and identifies areas of concern, insures required data integration occurs between systems and completes secured transmissions of data to external entities as required. Position works closely with management team in retrieving information and analyzing data for specific reports and projects.

Desired candidate must be proficient in data entry and computer operations and must have a thorough knowledge of SQL and Crystal Report Writing, Excel and Access software. Previous experience with clinical billing software such as XAKT is required. Prior experience working with a computerized clinical record and accounting software is preferred.

Send cover letter and resume to:



Human Resources - D/S
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBHG.ORG
EOE

Sales Person

The Truth needs a good to excellent sales person. Flexible hours. Work either out of our offices or from home. Excellent compensation. Call 419-243-0007 or email thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com.

Business Opportunity

Do you have an hour to spare? Would you like to hear about a fantastic business opportunity?
If so, email thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com or call 419-243-0007

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

Needed for a 3 star rated program. ECE degree required. Full-time position. Applications accepted at East Toledo Family Center 1020 Varland Ave. Toledo OH 43605

MODEL HOME ATTENDANT

Local Builder looking for part time Attendant to hold existing furnished models open on weekend/ weekdays. Hourly pay. Fax or email resume and contact info to 419-535-5735. cumbercc@aol.com

RENT SPECIALS!

NO CREDIT / BAD CREDIT OK / SECTION 8 WELCOME
4 BEDRM HOMES & 2 BEDRM APARTMENTS
1425 Buckingham, 2254 Whitney AND 2018 Glenwood, Near Art Museum

CALL 419-865-7787

Educational Monitor

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates to assist caseworkers, caregivers, & parents in implementing and monitoring educational assessment recommendations & related supportive services. Requirements: BA in human services related field + 4 yrs child welfare exp. OR MA in human services related field + 2 yrs child welfare exp. An understanding of the special needs of children in placement is needed. Training/exp. in education, special education laws, and in QA highly desirable. Additional position requirements and information can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in our community, please send your resume and salary requirements by 08/01/08 to: LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 Fax: 419-327-3291 EOE valuing diversity

GRAPHIC WEB DESIGNER/MAC COMPUTER SUPPORT

Marathon Oil Company Findlay, OH RESPONSIBILITIES: Meets with client personnel at all organizational levels to discuss and define communication objectives and ideas for the creation and development of a wide variety of projects, primarily focusing on web site design and development, some of which will be confidential. Creates, develops and recommends original ideas and artistic techniques to ensure optimum presentation impact for art work, web site design and other creative corporate projects. Considers budget constraints/implications when creating and developing ideas. Designs web interfaces; develops layout design and concept, creates design prototypes, including graphic design, site navigation, and production of content, selects and secures appropriate illustrative materials to be used; develops, maintains and updates custom web sites Provides technical support and maintenance of departmental Mac computers and design software. Also, provides technical and maintenance oversight and support of output software and output devices utilized by the design group. Maintains a thorough knowledge of the computer equipment and associated software in the assigned areas of responsibilities and keeps current with new technology and software. Contacts vendors to research products and resolve technical problems; makes recommendations to department for software and equipment purchases. QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge of: ?Color theory, layout and design principles ?CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) ?Web servers, Web browsers and computer operating systems ?Web standards and usability standards ?HTML, JavaScript, ActionScripting, ASP Scripting, ASP.net coding and content management web tools ?Macromedia Studio MX Suite ?Adobe Creative Suite ?GoLive ?FTP ?Microsoft Office and Microsoft Expression Studio or SharePoint Designer Marathon offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package. To apply, mail, fax or e-mail credentials to: Marathon Oil Company ATTN: AVG 539 S. Main Street Findlay, OH 45840 419-421-4149 (Fax) webdesigner@itsyourmarathon.com Marathon Oil Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

To Place Your Classified Ad

Call Pam at
419.243.0007

House for Sale

Single family home
3 bed, 1 bath
\$18,000
1535 Buckingham
Call 248-250-0179

Toledo Youngsters Invade Hollywood

(Continued from Page 9)

still is Tyree's goal, he told us just recently.

In fact, he would like to attend college in New York City so he can be close to the dance and entertainment scene.

First, however, a quick side trip to the other coast.

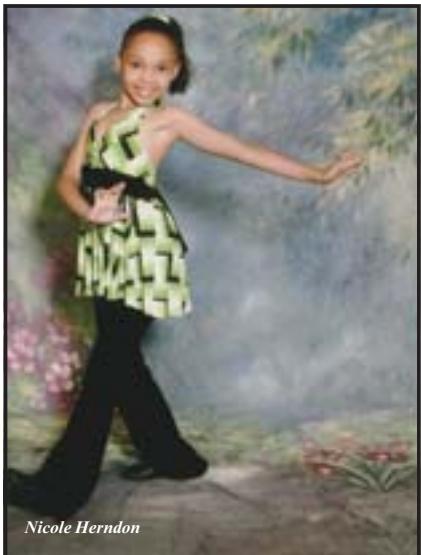
Tyree will be leaving in Janu-

ary on an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles to audition for situation comedies, modeling ads and dance shows. In the meantime, talent coaches with Starbound will be working with the youth on developing his all-around talents—acting and singing, for example.

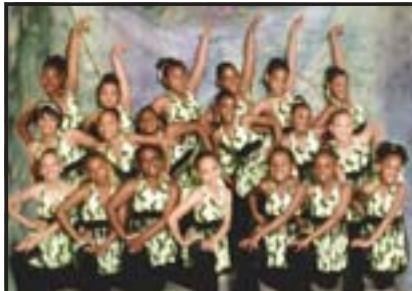
For Tyree, who was introduced to dancing by an older sister, this discovery is the culmination of many years of work and the expectation that his talent would eventually be unveiled.

For Nicole Herndon, however, such a discovery was as unexpected as it was unlikely, says her mother Jan Herndon.

Nicole, say her mother, was born prematurely and had a learning disability. She did not



Nicole Herndon



The Truth Art Gallery's Poetry Night



Last Friday, July 18, the popular CC hosted poetry night at the Truth Art Gallery. Music was provided by DJ Kevin and artist Klaire supplied the canvas and body painting exhibits.



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and

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