



Local and National News

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Volume 15, No.04 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." November 12, 2008

Historic Third Baptist Church 140th Anniversary



Pastor Kevin Bedford

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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

"We must work passionately and unrelentingly to make the American dream a reality," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said.

Last week, the American dream, if not quite yet a reality, certainly came into view.

Back in February of this year, our future First Lady, Michelle Obama, was roundly criticized for saying, during a political rally, that "for the first time in my adult lifetime, I am really proud of my country."

In truth, she was not criticized by many African-American commentators or, most likely, in many black communities. If anything, many blacks may have felt that her sense of pride was a bit premature. It's one thing to win a primary or caucus, quite another to change the nation's, maybe the world's, political landscape a mere century and a half after slavery ended.

A lot of observers obviously could not have understood the sentiments underlying Michelle Obama's comments. It's one thing to love your country, in spite of its many flaws, quite another to take pride in it.

Cindy McCain certainly did not understand the comments, as she pointed out during the dustup over Michelle Obama's apparently offensive remarks. "I have always been proud of my country," said Cindy McCain in one of the few times she would step forward and utter remarks of any sort during her husband's campaign.

And well she should be proud. All that beer, all that money. A hugely successful Budweiser distributorship built on land wrested first from Mexicans and then from Native Americans, both of whom have since been relegated to second-class citizenship. Ask the dispossessed how proud they are of their country. Not the country that used to be theirs but the one that would shuttle them onto reservations and into barrios.

A lot of pundits noted that Michelle Obama's success in life should be more than enough to make her proud of her country. After all, through the benefits of affirmative action, they say, she had been "allowed" to attend Princeton College and then obtain a law degree from Harvard Law School. Where else in the world could she, a black woman, be given an opportunity to achieve so much?

She probably replied – in private – that she was smart, talented and more than capable of taking her place alongside the good ole boys but, in public, she wisely bit her tongue.

One right-wing television talk show host castigated Michelle Obama and spoke of the pride that all Americans should have in America's accomplishments such as the tearing down of the Berlin Wall or the Marshall Plan that reconstructed Europe.

That statement epitomizes the racial divide in this country. Cindy McCain and Bill O'Reilly are thinking of beer and Berlin, while people of color are thinking about Wounded Knee and Rosewood.

Bill O'Reilly responded – graciously he undoubtedly thought – to Michelle Obama's comments by saying that he is "not ready to hold a lynching party" over them while people of color were thinking about a history of lynching parties, Jim Crow, run down school houses, and the fact that as this country was rebuilding post-war Europe, the black men and women who had helped liberate Europe from the clutches of Nazism and Fascism returned home to discover they could purchase houses only in red-lined urban sections.

But last week, much of the nation – black, brown, red, yellow and white – shared Michelle Obama's pride in our country.

"From the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire ... to the curvaceous peaks of California," people rejoiced as America announced to all of its citizens "yes we can and yes we did."

There were celebratory outpourings around the globe and we got a first-hand look at the joy and the tears on the faces of thousands who gathered in front of the White House, in Times Square and in Chicago's Grant Park as we heard our president-elect give one of the most inspiring victory speeches ever.

One of the most memorable celebrations, however, took place in Atlanta, GA, in Ebenezer Baptist Church where MLK preached more than 40 years ago. The church was overflowing with hundreds of African-Americans watching the returns on Election Night.

In attendance were celebrities such as Al Sharpton and one of the icons of the civil rights movement, Georgia Congressman John Lewis, who was beaten to a bloody pulp back in the 1960's when he tried to convince Americans that all Americans had a right to vote.

When the networks formally announced that this nation had elected a black man to be its 44th president, the cheering and the applause, the crying and the dancing shook the church to its very foundation as the hundreds inside and many millions of other folks around the country got a glimpse of the American dream and, finally, for the first time in their adult lives, felt really, really proud of their country.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

November 14

COZ Ministries Ole School Jam: National recording artists Michael Mindingall with Sole after Soul; 7 pm; Free to the public: 419-246-1850

November 14-15

Mortgage Burning Service for Christian Temple Baptist Church Huff/Jones Center: Celebration Service on Friday at 7 pm – guest preacher Pastor T.A. Smith of Fostoria; Celebration Banquet on Saturday at 5 pm – guest preacher Pastor Michael Harrison of Youngstown: 419-244-2200 or cmjones847@aol.com or jonesjo2@sbcglobal.net

November 14-16

Indiana Avenue MBC Men's Day Celebration: Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm – Free men and children clothing give away; Saturday – 9 am to noon pre-Men's Day breakfast; Sunday @ 10:45 am Men's Day Service with guest speaker Rev. Terry Colbert and at 5:30 pm Men's Old Ship of Zion Musical: 419-320-0919

November 15

The Day of Healing: SeaGate Centre; 9 am to 6 pm; Featuring speakers, authors, healing music performers, children's area, exhibitors and hands on demonstration: 419-466-5912

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry: Annual Cancer Awareness Workshop; 11 am to 2 pm; J.A. Fellowship Hall; Exploring various cancers, treatment processes, caregiver's role, spiritual healing: 419-535-0933

The Next Step: ProMedica Cancer Institute one-day program for children who are coping with cancer in a parent, sibling or other loved one; 9 am to 1 pm; Flower Hospital campus: 419-469-3716

Santa's Helpers Child Care: Warren AME; Child care for ages five to 11; 10 am to 3 pm; Activities provided: 419-472-8668 or 419-259-8601

November 15-16

American Girl Fashion Show: Hosted by Toledo Children's Hospital; Hilton Garden Inn: 419-469-3716

November 16

Men's and Women's Day Service at True Vine MBC: "Men and Women Coming Together as One;" Women's morning service at 10:45 am with Sis. Rose Mary Wyatt of Mt. Zion; Men's afternoon service at 4 pm with Pastor Derek Arnold of Bethlehem: 419-539-9104 or 419-343-4104

Family and Friends Day: Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral; 11 am: 419-944-0984

November 17

Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit: Owens Community College; 10 am to 3 pm; Register online at www.Northcoastfathers.org

Toledo Children's Hospital and National Center for Adoption Law and Policy: Adoption Academy at Children's Hospital: 419-469-3716

Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit: Owens Community College; 10 am to 3:30 pm; Topic titles include – "I just want to see my kids," "Can we get this right for the children," "While daddy is away;" 419-917-8648 or www.NorhtcoastFathers.org

November 19

Holidays and Every Days: ProMedica Cancer Institute and Catholic Charities to help with loss of a loved one; 7 to 8:30 pm; Flower Hospital campus: 419-469-3716

November 20

"Getting Over It:" ProMedica Cancer Institute support group for current and previous ovarian cancer patients; 7 to 8:30 pm; Hickman Cancer Center at Flower Hospital: 419-824-8822

The Sojourner's Truth

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Why Obama Won: Notes on What Now

By Ravi Perry
Guest Column



in Congress, Obama can theoretically make some headway on many of his strong proposals. But, do not expect his presidency to function in a fundamentally different way from previous presidents. From a management perspective, much will be the same (i.e. slow Washington progress at addressing real problems).

Contrary to the media pundits' views, Obama did not win the election of president of the United States because he's Black. He didn't win because this is a 'Democratic Year.' Obama did not win because McCain made a poor choice in his vice-presidential candidate. Obama also did not win because of his rhetoric of hope and change.

Obama won because, as President Clinton has said, he had the better ideas.

Now it's time to put those ideas to work.

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In other words, I wouldn't expect much substantive in his first year, though a focus on the economy and healthcare are likely to be key issues he champions.

Now that we've voted, it's time to listen and offer suggestions. We must listen to Obama's ideas and how he plans to make them reality. We must offer suggestions candidly – don't be afraid to write an Obama White House staff member, or Congress member to offer input.

We can begin by going to www.letterstopresidentobama.com

and writing a letter for potential inclusion in a serious book project edited by notable political scientists coming out in April 2009.

With Afro Sheen in the West Wing, African-Americans, particularly, have good reason to be proud. I can only hope we channel that pride into constructive energy to bring about *substantive* change we need.

Many have worked hard for this victory – now the real work begins.

Editor's Note: Ravi Kumar Perry is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Brown University and currently is the Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of African American Politics at the University of Rochester. He may be reached at ravi_perry@brown.edu

COSI Success Reflects True Partnership

Citizens of Lucas County, I'm honored to have worked side by side with so many of you who share a genuine passion for COSI.

Heartfelt thanks to each of you for your time, your talents, your commitment and to all the voters for your trust. The success belongs to all of you. Congratulations.

Together, our citizens, businesses, elected officials, labor leaders, educators and community leaders have formed a true partnership. Together, we've taken strides to provide for kids by teaching them the wonders of science, mathematics and technology in a hands-on environment. We've helped our region's job outlook by creating a knowledgeable workforce with the skills a technology-based manufacturing economy needs. As forward thinkers, we are looking to our future by stimulating a climate favorable to economic development.

More details about the future of our science center will be announced soon. We will not take the positive results of this election lightly. We understand the citizens of Lucas County have placed their faith in us, and it is now up to us to improve upon COSI as repayment for this trust.

Thanks to everyone for helping to revive COSI into a sustainable, beneficial partnership among all stakeholders in our community.

Sincerely,
Lori Hauser
Director of Operations

Dear Toledo Voters

I would like to extend my appreciation to the voters who supported Toledo Public Schools on Election Day. Your "yes" vote for Issues 34 and 35 expresses a continued commitment to our students and to the future of the district.

Issues 34 and 35 both positively impact TPS in separate but significant ways. Passage of Issue 34, a renewal of an operating levy, allows us to continue focusing on student achievement by maintaining programs that support student learning. This funding ensures the continuation of essential classroom programs that directly support our students.

Issue 35 allows TPS to renovate Crossgates Elementary, Edgewater Elementary, Glendale-Feilbach Elementary, Harvard Elementary, Scott High School and Waite High School. Access to the reauthorized bonds now provides us with the funding to transform all of our schools into state-of-the-art learning centers for students in the 21st Century.

It has been a great beginning to the school year. The district celebrated reaching Continuous Improvement on the State Report Card. I am proud to report that we saw significant increases in reading and math scores at the fourth and sixth grades, along with increases in all tested areas for eighth grade students. The district also achieved a 95 percent attendance rating. TPS also opened seven new schools on the first day of school, bringing the total to 23 new schools that are now open across the district. These state-of-the-art facilities offer our students a welcoming learning environment and a new approach to learning.

Toledo Public Schools is making progress – progress we can build on for our future. The overwhelming support of area voters on November 4 allows the district to continue building on that progress while working toward our goals and introducing new initiatives that support the academic success of our students.

Thank you, Toledo, for your vote of confidence.

John Foley
Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools

Dear Lucas County Voters:

On behalf of the employees and board of Lucas County Children Services (LCCS), thank you for showing your continuing support for the safety and well-being of the children of our county.

Your approval of Issue 38 will allow LCCS employees to investigate reports of abused and neglected children, and to take steps to protect them. Last year, we touched the lives of 11,000 local children, more than 2,300 of whom were confirmed victims of abuse. With this show of support, we will continue to act on their behalf, protect them and provide them with hope for the future.

Your "yes" vote is all the more meaningful given our community's difficult economic conditions. Please be assured that LCCS will continue to use your tax dollars responsibly. Our mandate requires the dedicated work of highly qualified caseworkers, supervisors, administrators and support staff, and the funds generated by this levy will allow us to maintain our staff levels and pay for critical services to children and families.

Again, thank you to Lucas County residents for supporting Issue 38.

Sincerely,

Dean M. Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

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Political Commentary: How to Win the Presidency in Just a Few Easy Steps

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Starting, oh ... just about now, historians and political operatives, not to mention a few talk show pundits, will start examining the Barack Obama campaign in minute detail.

For the historians, who will be writing essays and books on the topic for at least as long as this nation continues to exist, the question will be "how did they do it?"

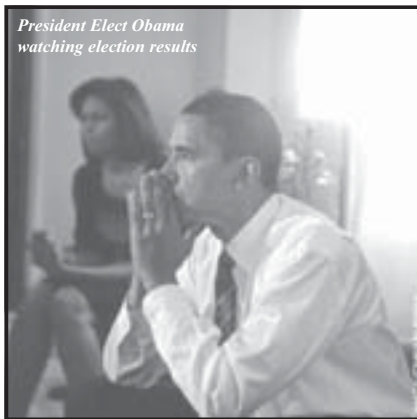
For political strategists, who are already plotting the local and national campaigns of the near and distant future, the question is "how can we do it?"

To be honest, and admittedly in hindsight, it really doesn't seem that difficult.

First, you need to put together an organization. It has to be an organization of folks, at the top, who are united in a single-minded purpose. Those who are selfless enough to avoid the grandstanding and pettiness that tends to destroy many an organization from within—see the John McCain campaign, or campaigns shall we say, of 2008. And it would help if all these people are the best and the brightest.

Second, you need a ground operation, directed from the top of course, that can be mobilized to both deliver the old-style personal touch of reaching out to as many potential voters as possible and utilize modern technology—internet, primarily—to reinforce the personal side of the operation.

Third, you need a cohesive message that will not change throughout the course of the campaign. Obama wisely settled on the incompetence of the George Bush administration. In this way he was able to move



seamlessly from the Iraq War to the economic disaster and stay on point – that McCain would be more of the same.

Exit polls showed that two groups of voters – those who thought the economy was the biggest issue and those who thought the Iraq War was number one – went overwhelmingly for Obama.

Fourth, you need an easy target. In this case the Bush/McCain opposition proved ripe. Bush had badly mismanaged the Iraq War, the economy and the Katrina/Gulf Coast disaster, to name a few. He had been unable to effect change in signature matters such as Social Security, as he had promised, and looked terribly incompetent in that failure.

McCain, for his part, decided that he would hitch his wagon to the Bush star for eight years and try to break away when it was time to make his run. Very bad strategy.

Fifth – these suggestions, by the way, are in no particular order of importance – you need to find yourself a candidate. Ah yes, the candidate.

Here's what you need to look for in order to emulate the success of the Obama campaign. Find yourself the candidate of a lifetime. It's that simple.

Get yourself a John Kennedy, a Bobby Kennedy, a Barack Obama – the kind that comes along at least several times a century.

He or she needs to be as charismatic as a political figure can be. He or she needs to be exceptionally smart – brilliant would be a plus – and capable of managing that campaign organization we spoke of earlier.

He or she needs to be capable of staying on message, thinking quickly on his or her feet, maintaining composure, working nonstop for two years or so – 24/7 and not be subject to air or bus sickness.

As a bonus, it would help if the candidate could deliver a speech in the manner of a Martin Luther King, Jr; a Franklin Delano Roosevelt or a Winston Churchill. It would be really useful if the candidate could deliver a speech

(Continued on Page 11)

My View



By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

The front page story on EOPA in a recent issue of The Blade may pose a problem for the Hamilton Avenue service organization. The essence of the story is that EOPA is in debt over \$600,000 and is beset with infighting on the board of directors. The Blade article tended to portray Jim Powell, interim director, as part of the problem rather than the solution.

Here is the problem. News clips from major daily newspapers are sent to every legislator and major department head in state government. So, now, all the major players in Columbus know the story.

Legislators on the finance committees, House and Senate, are now aware and will have this information in front of them when they debate the state budget. As I have

said in the past, the Toledo situation is similar to CAMACO, which was the EOPA of Columbus for many years. Finally, it became untenable for the state not to intervene and take control of CAMACO a few years ago.

The really amazing thing to me is the level of vituperation between the various factions on the board, present and past. Some of these folks were best friends at one time.

The EOPA board needs to meet with the Toledo area legislature group of

Michelle Obama is going to quickly become the most popular woman in the country. Whatever she decides to spotlight will be highlighted by her beauty, talent and smarts. She is one of the most highly educated First Ladies (Princeton College, Harvard Law School) in the history of the nation – only Hillary Clinton was her equal in that respect. I believe she will be a huge force in the years to come.

Keith Wilkowski's nascent campaign for mayor will gear up rapidly. His

It seems to me that the victory of President-elect Barack Obama opens a new chapter in American life.

Project Unity. The board of directors should then meet with Vernon Sykes, incoming chairman of the State House Finance Committee, to assure him that business is being taken care of at EOPA.

It seems to me that the victory of President-elect Barack Obama opens a new chapter in American life. This election could change so many things. Maybe we will get a true urban industrial policy. Perhaps, one will see a new emphasis on housing, criminal justice and access to health care.

work for Obama should pay off.

Now because of the elevation of Richard Cordray to Attorney General, we can look for an African-American to take over the Treasurer's office. I hear three names being bounced around – State Senator Eric Kearney, Columbus City Councilman Kevin Boyce and Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. All are good men who serve the public well.

Whatever Happened to the Bradley Effect?

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

A better question might be: "Was there ever such a thing as the Bradley effect?"

Prior to President-elect Barack Obama's decisive popular vote victory and electoral landslide last week, the unknown quantity was how race would impact the election results.

The Bradley effect was discussed and dissected often and openly.

In 1982, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, an Afri-



Tom Bradley

can-American, ran for governor of California and right up until Election Day, the polls apparently showed him with a substantial lead against his opponent, Republican George Deukmejian.

Bradley narrowly lost that

race and observers opined that the distortion in the polling numbers and the results was caused by the fact that large numbers of white voters who had told pollsters they would vote for the black candidate changed their minds once they got into the polling booths.

The Bradley effect would take on greater meaning later in the decade as other black candidates in other parts of the country fell short of polling predictions. Harold Washington, running for mayor of Chicago in 1983, David Dinkins for New York mayor in 1989 and Douglas Wilder for governor of Virginia in 1989, all won their races but by much narrower margins than the polls had foretold... perhaps.

As this year's presidential election approached there was much speculation about the Bradley effect and how much Obama could possibly fall short if the effect was still in play. One poll predicted that Obama could expect to lose six percentage points because of his color but the poll did not quite figure out whether such a loss was

already incorporated into the various polls' numbers.

Obviously numerous people were planning to vote for a candidate based upon skin color, whether they had been honest about that was at issue. Some observers predicted a reverse Bradley effect... and are saying now, in the aftermath of Obama's victory, that it actually happened. The theory of the reverse Bradley effect holds that there were numbers of white conservatives who told pollsters that they would vote for McCain, much as their colleagues, family and friends would expect them to do, but then voted for Obama once they were in the privacy of the polling place.



Harold Washington

What we do know about both the Bradley effect and the reverse Bradley effect is that there is absolutely no way to quantify the impact or even know with any degree of certainty if these effects actually exist.

Some months ago, a col-



David Dinkins

umnist writing in this paper offered the opinion that Democratic voters were the main culprits behind the Bradley effect and he presented what happened in the New Hampshire primary as evidence.

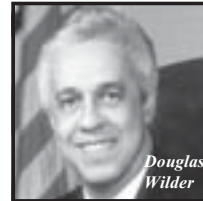
There were an abundance of problems with that theory. In New Hampshire, where Obama was the polls' favorite but was upset by Senator Hillary Clinton, Obama did indeed hold onto his polling percentages, as Clinton held up hers and picked up the numbers that would have fallen into the undecided category.

Moreover, as the primary season proceeded, Obama virtually always maintained his polling percentages and

on notable occasions, such as in Virginia, Wisconsin and Hawaii, greatly exceeded his polling numbers.

In the general election, Obama's winning margin of 6.5 percentage points was very close to the average of the national polls as tallied by RealClearPolitics.com (RCP). The national polls' margin of victory on the last day for Obama averaged 7.6 percent, however, those margins ranged from two to 11 percentage points.

Was there ever a Bradley effect? A study conducted in the last several years of more than a hundred senate and gubernatorial races from 1989 to 1996 showed that there was a 3.1 median gap for black candidates - the difference between the polls and the vote. The same study notes



Douglas Wilder

that after 1996, however, black candidates did better, by a tiny margin (0.3 percent), than the polls predicted. There are probably not enough black candidates in either of those two figures on which to base a conclusion.

Some think there is no such

effect.

According to the Deukmejian campaign, and the internal polling charts they have preserved, their numbers showed that the race had been tightening in the last weeks of the 1982 campaign and that, entering the last day, only a percentage point separated the candidates. Additionally, the polls took no account of absentee voters who traditionally favor Republicans. The California GOP did an outstanding job in turning out those voters that year as most observers acknowledge.

One other interested observer is very skeptical about the Bradley effect, sometimes called the Bradley/Wilder effect. That would be former Governor Wilder himself.

As Wilder has noted, even though some polls showed a margin as wide as 11 points in predicting his victory, the Wilder campaign's internals showed him with a one point lead entering Election Day - the very margin by which he won.

So how did Obama do in the states memorialized by the Bradley/Wilder effect?

The final RCP average in California showed Obama with a 24.4 advantage in that state and in Virginia with a 4.4 lead. In the event, Obama won California by a 24.0 percentage points and Virginia by 4.5 points.



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Frederick Douglass Community Association Faces Financial Crisis

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Frederick Douglass Community Association (FDCA) has maintained a presence in Toledo since 1919 making it the area's oldest minority service agency. Recent events, however, have cast some doubt on whether the agency will survive to celebrate its 90th anniversary.

FDCA is awash in red ink these days, a familiar situation to those running non-profit service agencies in this area.

"This was a long time coming," said Cowgee "Bill" Mangrum, former executive director—until September 15, 2008—of FDCA. "We had no financial backing or funds coming in to alleviate problems."

Making matters worse for this agency, however, are some management issues that recently brought an end to a usually reliable funding stream.

"For years our volunteers have identified significant issues at Frederick Douglass," said United Way of Greater Toledo President and CEO Bill Kitson in a recent interview

Impact. "Starting in 2005, audits weren't coming on time," said Daniels.

Matters came to a head between FDCA and United Way this past summer when, on August 5, the leadership of United Way met with the board of directors for FDCA and "brought a number of financial issues to their attention," said Daniels.

the organization. He had been at the helm since 1991 and, prior to that, had been a program director from 1977 until 1986 before a stint at the YMCA.

"My problem is the fact that there is a concern that the funder is being more than the funder," said Mangrum last week. "They [United Way] are running the whole show."

realignment.

The final decision, said Kitson last week, was forced on United Way when its volunteers discovered that FDCA had not been carrying insurance on the bus in which it transports school children for at least a year.

"The safety of kids is an issue," said Kitson.

United Way, stressed Kitson and Daniels, is more than interested in working with FDCA and restoring the funding as soon as possible. In their ongoing talks with the FDCA board, they have offered to bring in a consultant, Tim Yenrick, executive director of the local American Red Cross, to help the agency reorganize and straighten out its financial mess.

For his part, Board President Gordon is receptive to the offer of help.

"We are looking at determining what our debt is and how effective our programming is," said Gordon. "We are looking at

revising, retooling and reconstituting and how we can develop our effectiveness in the near and distant future. If [Yenrick] can offer expertise with his management, we would be highly receptive. The great challenge in front of us has consumed a great deal of our time, we have poured our hearts and souls into

this agency."

That commitment, said Kitson, is shared by his agency and staff.

"We are absolutely committed to having programming at that site and in that community," said the United Way CEO. "We are doing things to make that possible by offering consulting help."



Bill Kitson



Jason Daniels

"We are very careful not to say to an agency 'get rid of your director.' We don't ever tell agencies [that]."

with The Truth. "We've been reluctant to say anything out loud. We wanted the board [of directors] to do what they needed. The United Way stopped funding Frederick Douglass in September due to the financial issues at the agency."

That funding amounted to approximately \$110,000 per annum for a number of years or approximately one third of the agency's annual needs, according to Mangrum.

"We have had repeated meetings with their board and we have put conditions on what would be necessary to bring [the funding] back," said Kitson.

The issues that proved to be problematic for Kitson and the United Way are financial matters regarding budgeting and audits.

According to Kitson, the United Way red flags were raised as early as spring of 2006 when FDCA sought to obtain advance funding. "That's always a red flag," said Kitson.

There had been more red flags, however, said Jason Daniels, United Way vice president of Community

Impact. That meeting prompted a written response from Rev. Otis J. Gordon, president of the FDCA board, in which he committed to developing a strategic plan within 60 days; recruiting individuals "having the needed knowledge, skills and resources;" conducting a "full appraisal of the executive administration" and seeking consultation with other agencies.

United Way brings into its fold a number of volunteers with a variety of skill sets in order to assist the agency in evaluating its services and those of the recipients of its grants. That panel of volunteers—Empowering Vulnerable Families and Adults to Thrive (EVFAT) Vision Council—convened its regular session on August 29 and, at that time, recommended suspending allocations to FDCA due to the agency's financial situation. That decision was delayed for the moment.

In the meantime, the FDCA board of directors shook the agency up. They dismissed Mangrum who had had a long history with

According to Mangrum, his dismissal was part of an arrangement with United Way in order to bring in assistance, especially financial assistance, from the funding agency.

That's a supposition Kitson categorically refutes.

"There is no correspondence regarding getting rid of the director," said Kitson. "We are very careful not to say to an agency 'get rid of your director.' We don't ever tell agencies [that]."

As Kitson related, the concerns were both deep and wide. "There was no budget plan in place, no budget approved for the past two years, no board minutes," he said ticking off the agency's shortcomings.

On September 16, Linda Stacey, chairman of EVFAT-Vision Council, wrote a letter to the FDCA board informing them of the decision to suspend funding until "a satisfactory plan has been developed with proven capacity by the Board to implement" internal controls, policies and procedures and personnel

heart home

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Laras County Children's Services

Third Baptist Church: One Hundred Forty Years of Grace

By Robert Smith
Special to The Truth

The Third Baptist Church celebration of 140 years as a cherished community institution is an extraordinary accomplishment that every African-American – indeed every citizen – in this community should recognize.

Since 1868, Third Baptist Church has provided continued service and leadership to the Toledo community. Third's accomplishment is of course historic but the church's achievement should be viewed as nothing less than a phenomenon – some would even say ... an act of God!

In 1868, (exactly 140 years ago) the renowned ragtime pianist Scott Joplin was born. In February of that same year noted African-American scholar, historian, and civil rights leader, William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) DuBois was born in a small village in Massachusetts, and – just as importantly – the United States Congress ratified the 14th Amendment. The major provision of the 14th Amendment was to grant citizenship to all persons



Pastor Kevin Bedford (seated) with daughter Brittany, son Kevin, Jr. And First Lady Lettie

born or naturalized in the United States – this would include former slaves.

It must have been a sunny afternoon in October, 1868 because a group of workers at a saw-mill chose to have their lunch outside in the yard. The record is not clear on how the conversation turned to church membership and affiliations. What

we do know is that two of the men having lunch, John Simpson Brown and a Mr. Boyd – both African-Americans – recognized that each was Baptist and Brown was then a member of the predominantly white First Baptist Church.

There must have been an invitation extended to Mr. Boyd to join First Baptist,

but the record demonstrates that Mr. Boyd rejected the premise as he thought it was far more important that he worship with and among people of his own race. According to some documents, Mr. Boyd believed he would not have the freedom to worship in a church not representative of his race or experiences.

Mr. Boyd's perceptions – right or wrong – led to the formation of a group of individuals surveying the city (today it would be called a feasibility study) to determine the "Negro Baptist population" in the city.

When First Baptist initially learned African-Americans had a desire to form their own house of worship, the initial reaction was to discourage the action. Upon understanding the seriousness of the desire, the intensity and true yearning of a people to have their own church, First Baptist not only embraced the effort, but also worked hand in hand to help this fledgling group fulfill their aspirations through the Toledo Baptist Union.

While recognizing the achievements of Third Baptist, we must also acknowledge the hospitality, graciousness, and goodwill of First Baptist Church for opening its doors to African-Americans prior to 1868.

During a 22 year period covering 1868 to 1891, church and other records indicate that Third Baptist had 19 pastors. Obviously frequent leadership changes must have had an impact on the growth and stability of Third Baptist. In 1888, a confirming note found in the Toledo Baptist Union verifies how fragile Third Baptist's existence was becoming. It read: "In

1888. The Third Baptist Church, then under the pastorate of Reverend J.H. Meadows, was in urgent need of assistance. Their church building (located on Canton Street) was in bad condition and the property encumbered to the extent of sixteen hundred dollars. Their Church [Third Baptist] voted unanimously to place, their property in the hands of the Union."

Over the years, African-Americans in the Toledo community have lost dozens of important institutions that have served as beacons of hope, light and inspiration while simultaneously helping to meet community needs. The growth and development of many of these institutions can be attributed to – in part – the role of Third Baptist and its membership, many of whom also doubled as community leaders. As many readers are already aware, the first home of the J. Frank Troy Senior Center was ... Third Baptist Church!

Third Baptist has remained a vigilant community advocate standing stalwartly; unwavering in its mission to serve the community's spiritual, emotional, and sometimes physical needs from its currently location 9Pinewood and Division 0 for 92 years.

The Church moved to its Pinewood location in 1913, the same year Olympic sprinter Jesse Owens was born, Delta Sigma Theta was incorporated, Harriet Tubman died of pneumonia and Ford Motor Company introduced the first moving assembly line.

Just two years earlier 1911, The Reverend Benjamin F. McWilliams grasped the helm of leadership and – through his vision, guidance, and individual will, Third Baptist began its first significant growth, in membership, community presence and involvement. Third Baptist, during McWilliams tenure, began building and completed its current home. The church was built in three stages and a dedication service for the completed structure was held February, 1927.

As McWilliams led the church, his wife was the lead administrator for the Brand Whitlock Homes. Public housing was a much sought-after living opportunity and some of the best and brightest of Toledo's African-American community still boast of being a Brand

Whitlock alum. They speak warmly of the lifelong relationships built among residents. They speak with pride of the well-manicured mini-grass frontage kissing each resident's doorstep. They speak with reverence of this small community within a community and ... the sometimes tough rules instilled by Mrs. McWilliams that served to maintain a high community standard.

Following Rev. McWilliams tenure came Reverend Calvin Stalneck. According to long term member Doris Bryant, Reverend Stalneck had a pretty special relationship with the young men of the community. "The young men nicknamed him "Stal," says Bryant.

Prior to his taking on the leadership role at Third Baptist Reverend Stalneck was the active director of the Frederick Douglas Community Association.

Third's leaders – along with others in the community – organized, politicked, cajoled, and fundraised and eventually facilitated the now legendary Indiana YMCA. Such community notables as Dr. Mayo Harris, Edward Hart and J. Nathan Hobbs along with dozens of others committed community members decided to build a then state-of-the-art facility for young African-American men.

The Third Baptist congregation was involved in influencing and nurturing the Frederick Douglas Community Center and the Colored Working Girls Home.

Through the years, Third Baptist has led and bred great community leadership. On Thursday night, November 12, 2008 Third Baptist Church begins a five-day celebration and warmly invites the community to share in 140 years of spiritually uplifting our community.

The celebration concludes on Sunday with a special anniversary worship service and the Reverend. Harold Kidd, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Inglewood, CA, will be the guest speaker.

For more information on the week's events contact Third Baptist Church by calling 419-248-4623.

The history of Toledo's African American church community is incredibly important in defining the African American community. Share your church's history The African American Legacy Project and the community by calling 419-720-4369.

Have you or someone you know experienced threatening, harassing, or intimidating actions by a collection agency?

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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

Wilma Brown Gets Her Way

Special to The Truth



City Councilman Michael Ashford w/ Wilma Brown

A section of Dorr Street – from Smead Avenue to Parkside Blvd. – was named “Wilma D. Brown Way” last Friday in honor of the council-

woman who has represented District 1 for the past 10 years. Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown has been single-mindedly focused on

her commitment to finding ways to breathe life back into the Dorr Street corridor. That was the commitment she made when she was first elected to

City Council in 1998.

At the far western reaches of her district, businesses such as the Walgreen’s on Dorr and Reynolds and the Library Plaza just east of

Reynolds are a tribute to her persistence.

Now come the Dorr Street Brownstones at Dorr and Smead – six residential, market-rate units that are under construction.

The Dorr Street Coalition encouraged City Council to designate that portion of the corridor as “Wilma D. Brown Way” making Brown the first woman to be honored in this way by the City of Toledo.

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LOCAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN GIRLS SELECTED AS MODELS FOR AMERICAN GIRL FASHION SHOW

Special to The Truth



Taylor Fitchpatric

Taylor Fitchpatric, a six grader at Sylvania's Timberstone Junior High School, and Tess Whitehurst, a third grader at Whitehouse Primary School in Whitehouse, Ohio, are among those girls selected by audition to model in the upcoming American Girl Fashion Show to benefit Toledo Children's Hospital Foundation.

Both girls will portray "Addy Walker" a historical character in the American Girl series of dolls and books who is from the Civil War time period. The models will dress to resemble the popular doll through a presentation of historical and contemporary styles.

The fashion show will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg on November 15 and 16 at noon and 3:30 p.m. Taylor, 11, will be featured in both shows on Saturday, November 15 and Tess, 8, will be featured in both shows on Sunday, November 16.



Tess Whitehurst

Faith Way Church's 2008 Women's Day: "Women of Praise"

Special to The Truth



Faith Way Church, established in 1976, held its 2008 Women's Day on Sunday, November 9, 2008 with an event presented by co-chairmen Brenda Mann and Linette Guilford.

The Women's Day service featured testimony by "Women of Praise" - Debbie Richardson, Emma Williams, Annie Horace, Jackie Rome and Mann, along with offerings by Sarah Washington and Cynthia Williamson.



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First Lady Verna Harris gave the closing remarks. Elder Wilbur C. Harris is the pastor of Faith Way.

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Sgt. Chavalia Returns to Serve and Protect

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



According to testimony given by experts at the trial, physical evidence indicated Tarika Wilson was on her knees when she was shot and killed by Sergeant Joseph Chavalia on January 4, 2008. The 31-year veteran police officer testified that he feared for his life causing him to fire his automatic weapon at a shadowy figure peaking out of a bedroom window at the same time he heard gun fire downstairs.

Chavalia and another officer were climbing the stairs after the arrest of their target Anthony Terry. Chavalia was the only officer who discharged his weapon, and the only one

demeanor charges as a result of the shootings and was found 'not guilty' by the jury. A few weeks later, an 'internal investigation' conducted by an outside agency cleared him of any negligence – both citing the law and policy that an officer has the right to use deadly force if he feels his life is in danger.

Sergeant Chavalia was placed on paid administrative leave following Wilson's death, never spent a moment in a jail cell, and was welcomed back to work with the Lima Police Department on Monday, November 10.

He retains his rank and pay but, according to a department spokesperson, Chavalia will be given a job that keeps him away from the public, at least for a while. The department's priorities of his safety, public opinion and the safety of his fellow officers will keep Chavalia behind a desk.

Although he was once in command of the SWAT unit, he will not be returning to that position at this time. In his 31-year career as a peace officer, he has been directly involved with the shooting of three civilians, two of whom did not survive.

The department says Chavalia wanted to return to work, and they did not discourage him from doing so.

Motivated by the cries for justice for the death of Tarika Wilson, the City of Lima conducted Community Stakeholders Meetings that were facilitated by a consulting firm out of Michigan. Using the rosters of 30 civic organizations, invitations were sent to over 300 citizens chosen with a goal of creating a diverse grouping. Age, gender, economic rank, social rank, ethnic background and education were used as criteria to gather together persons whose only connection was that they were already engaged in an organization that supported the city.

Meetings were conducted with sections of the core group; they were asked to discuss one topic: *What/How to Further Improve the Delivery of the Lima/Allen County Law Enforcement Customer Service?* The First Step Toward Managing Social Diversity.

The firm first summa-

rized that the City of Lima and in particular the police department was well on its way to "critical self analysis and customer service improvement." The progress was stopped, the firm believes, when the "incident on 3rd Street occurred."

The firm cited an officer's attendance at one of their workshops as an indication of a plan of action. The report also declared the City of Lima and its police department is on the "cutting edge of diversifying its workforce; especially their Police Department."

It further states that following the death of Tarika Wilson, circumstances created by those inside and outside of the community caused a fracturing that did not exist before January 4.

The narrative relays discussions during core group meetings that often spoke

of the incident on 3rd Street in emotional terms. Participants were concerned with the SWAT team's actions and the protocols set for the issuance and delivery of high risk search warrants. The firm suggests a review of these policies.

The consultant firm put together a list of the five most important themes that seemed to be the focus of the core groups, they are in order of importance:

1. Reinstate community-oriented policing
2. Education and training issues
3. Inter-agency cooperation and communication; without send and third agendas, especially between the mayor of the City of Lima and the Allen County Sheriff.
4. Communication issues
5. Diversify the Lima and Allen County law en-

forcement agencies in order to reflect their customer base

The firm next suggested a timeline for implementation of plans that address the concerns of the core group:

1. Within 60 days, the mayor and commission president should identify the specific individuals, groups and organizations to be assigned to each theme.
2. Within six months, each person serving as a liaison should submit a plan of action and commitment
3. Within one year, each responsible group should have a written report on their accomplishments in addressing recommendations they have been assigned
4. Within 18 months, the recommendations of the theme should be implemented.

The report further addressed *Building Positive Trust* as one of five top priorities of stakeholders' responsibilities. The firm and the city believe they are well on their way to meeting their goal. But as news spread through the city of the return of Sergeant Chavalia to his duties as a police officer, at least one Lima resident voiced an opinion as others nodded in agreement: "They're putting that man back on the force? Trusting this is the last thing on my mind"



Tarika Wilson w/ son



Sgt. Joe Chavalia

who had a weapon set on 'automatic.'

The prosecutor argued that Tarika Wilson was complying with the officer's demands. If she had been standing, the bullets would have hit her in the knee. Instead, their point of impact was her torso. She was killed by bullets that first passed through the body of the child she held in her arms; her 13 month-old son, Sincere.

Wilson was a 26 year-old mother of six who was to attend her first class in college on January 7.

Terry is a street-level drug dealer who faced multiple charges as law enforcement officials were able to document at least seven incidents of selling drugs to officers, including a buy made during the day on January 4. He is now serving seven years in prison.

Chavalia faced two mis-

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Laera, Willie's Wife

"Whenever we had questions, Hospice explained every answer. They knew what to provide even before we knew what to ask for. And the staff connected on a personal level, too. My dad's nurse was like part of our family.

"Hospice made all the arrangements to get dad to my graduation, including the wheelchair and portable oxygen. Having dad see me cross that stage meant the world to me. Now that I'm an RN, I know great care when I see it. My dad had the best."

Joya, Willie's Daughter

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How To Win

(Continued from Page 4)



reminiscent of all three from time to time. Nice attractive family would help, especially if members of that family, such as the prospective first mate, could wander off by themselves and deliver a speech or two with as much panache as the candidate, rather than simply standing in the background with silly little grins on their faces.

Then, and finally, timing is everything. It all has to come together at that moment in history when the nation is ready to be shaken to its roots. Even the best candidate cannot reach the brass ring if the country is not ready for excellence. Sometimes we just want the ordinary, the tried and true.

So that's it. That's all you need. Try it and see.

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Fatherhood Policy to Take Center Stage As Toledo Is Selected To Host Advance Fatherhood Ohio Summit

Special to The Truth

According to the U.S. Census, one out of every two children in our community lives absent their mother, father or both parents. Statistically, 40 percent of these children did not see their father at all in the last 12 months.

"Research shows that children with absent fathers are more likely to participate in risky behaviors, achieve lower levels of learning in school, and are less prepared to contribute to the good health of their families," explained David Justus, director of the Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative. "Likewise, poverty is increased because child support payments arrive on an inconsistent basis, mothers are unable to work, and resources for families are not coordinated."

For many fathers, spending time with their children is easier said than done. The complexity of navigating the system and the affects of public policy intended to assist fathers and their families is actually creating additional barriers to some men who desire to be responsible fathers.

To help address this growing problem, the Ohio Practitioners Network For Fathers and Families (OPNFF) has selected Toledo to host the Advance Fatherhood Ohio Summit on Monday, November 17,

2008. This event will convene hundreds of public and private stakeholders, fathers, advocates and practitioners to learn about, discuss, and set action steps for public policy affecting fathers and families. Public policies to be addressed include: visitation and custody, child support guidelines, and reentry.

"In working with fathers, it has become clear that there are some serious dis-

crepancies in public policy when it comes to married and unmarried fathers in regards to visitation and custody, as well as child support," said Mark Robinson, OPNFF board member. "And it only becomes more complicated when a father is incarcerated or is reentering the community."

The Advance Fatherhood Ohio Summit is FREE to participants and is spon-

sored locally by St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital, Owens Community College, Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio, WSOS CAC, and the Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative (NCFI). Seating is limited. Therefore, if you are interested in attending, register online at www.Northcoastfathers.org or for more information call 419-377-1488.

Owens Workforce and Community Services Offers eBay 101 Workshop, Nov. 15

Special to The Truth

Area residents interested in mastering the art of selling their keepsakes and personal mementos to other collectors are invited to attend a one-day eBay 101 Workshop at Owens Community College's Workforce and Community Services on Saturday, Nov. 15.

The eBay 101 Workshop will occur from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the College's Workforce and Community Services building on Tracy Road in Northwood. Participants of all selling experience levels are encouraged to enroll in the one-day course.

"Owens Community College's eBay 101 Workshop is designed to provide beginners and experienced veterans of the eBay cyber world with the necessary knowledge and tools to become successful eBay sellers," said Rhonda Hogrefe, Owens Continuing Education and Community Service Account Representative. "Workshop attendees are in for an afternoon of fun and enlightening discussion as they navigate the eBay website and pick up useful tips to prepare eye-catching listings."

In addition to the hands on practice and instruction, attendees will learn the basics of writing a winning description for their items, as well as timing and planning an auction. Individuals will also acquire information related to taking effective eBay photos, pricing an item and reserve pricing, among many other areas. Each participant is encouraged to bring an item they would like to sell on eBay as part of workshop.

Owens' Workforce and Community Services are dedicated to providing customer-driven workforce development, job training and continuing education for business, industry and area residents throughout Northwest Ohio. Workforce and Community Services' learning-centered approach focuses on developing and enhancing professional skills to meet the needs of the community, customizing academic curriculum in the areas of professional development, computer and software applications, health and fitness, artful living, personal development, real estate, children's programming, and apprenticeship-related training and skilled trades.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$89. For more information, or to register for the class, call (567) 661-7357 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7357.

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The OBAMA Letters

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

(Okay, not necessarily letters from or to President-Elect Barack Obama... but just a few brief messages to a select few from yours truly in light of, well ... Obama)

Dear White People:

I promise.
We won't rub this in your face for too long ... okay, maybe for a while.

But you have to excuse us. We know an overwhelming number of your votes made this happen so we aren't trying to make you feel bad. It's just that ...

We have never had anyone that looked like us, spoke to us, and spoke for us in the White House. We have never had a president. I don't mean we have never had a black president, we have never had a president. We are citizens of this country...we built this country (for free) and yet we have never felt as though we truly had a stake or any ownership in this place we call home. We have never identified with those that govern us.

We join you now, as infants in patriotism ... soon to be proud Americans.

Don't get it twisted though, Obama's pledge to concentrate on helping the middle class doesn't mean that the entirety of his allegiance is sworn to soccer moms pushing \$30,000 minivans living in \$150,000 homes.
It's good for our country to have a strong middle class because that middle is the ladder that allows those on the bottom to rise up through hard work and self improvement.

Middle America will benefit from Obama's proposed policies.

But the trickle down effect means that those still trying to break through to middle class status will have their day as well.

So all those picket fenced

in yards where your 2.5 kids and little dogs play, know that Obamawill work to protect the jobs that made that yard possible.

But he's also representing those Americans that have never been able to afford that minivan or that yard.

White America needs to prepare itself to share.

Neither of us can survive without the other in these days and times.

We have shared in this wonderful victory because even though it may be a personal triumph for people of color, it is still a far broader achievement for us all to have a President that has brought so many of us together.

So join us in our victory dance and don't be shocked to see us stung just a little.

But join us in the road ahead to bring a better America to the common American.

P.S. - First sign of trouble or scandal or if things don't happen as quickly as you'd like, I hope you don't act brand new. The tough part begins now, so your support needs to be unwavering and even stronger than before.

Dear Republicans:

While protesting back in '04 I came across someone who had one of those shirts reading:

"If Democrats had brains, they'd be Republican."

My Reply: *"If Republicans had hearts, they'd be human."*

I honestly would like to see this party shut down.

No rhetoric. No hate. The party's just not useful and it does more harm than good.

For as long as I've been alive, it seems that the G.O.P. a/k/a Republican Right Wing political machine has had a stranglehold on this country.

The heads of the major media conglomerates.

The heads of corporations that employ tens of thousands

of Americans ... mostly elite right.

This country has been ruled by Republicans for at least 30 years.

I'd like to see that balanced by having the next 30 years being ruled by anyone but Republicans.

As they move to re-establish their party ... the party's viewpoints are still damaging to most Americans.

Putting profits over people is wrong.

These are the people who want to tap your phones and stick a camera everywhere you go.

These are the people who drafted the Project For A New American Century (think New World Order written in the form of a thesis paper).

These are the people who see terror and wars on terror as necessary yet profitable propaganda.

Any right wing and neo-conservative agenda is usually bad for 90 percent of Americans because they aim to please the few at the top and no one else.

For this first Obama term, I would like to see the Republican Party work with him and not against him. Don't worry about trying to bring in younger and more diverse members to your party. Just fall back for the next 30 years or so, it's our turn now!

Dear Black People:

I've seen it, heard it and, yes, I'm even guilty of it myself.

Black people all over the land just walking around shouting "OBAMAAA!" for no apparent reason at all.

In line at the bank, when someone asks you what time it is, picking up kids from daycare... people just break into "OBAMAAA!" like it's an involuntary twitch.

On election night a friend of mine said she was gonna go to work the next morn-

ing and when her boss asks her about paperwork that was due, she was gonna just kick her feet up on the desk, cross her arms over her chest and say "OBAMAAA! WHUT????!!!"

(We talked November 5 and she had decided that probably wasn't a good idea).

One thing for sure tho, I have never - I repeat never - seen so many of my people smiling. Black people everywhere are smiling!

I mean...honestly, all jokes aside.

It feels damn good to look at my people and see that life ... see that honor.

When I'm in the inner city around Nebraska and Detroit or if I venture out to Holland... I see my people and everyone just looks like they have just a little more pride.

Go ahead, y'all, hold that head higher than ever before.

But also, hold yourself to a higher standard than ever before.

Any young black dude talking about "I'm poor, my daddy ain't around, I'm too different to fit in, etc"... you can't even use those excuses as to why you won't get your act together because all those descriptions hold

true for the 44th president of the United States.

Black people, go ahead and be proud.

But yo, as black people are experiencing our proudest moment in the history of this country... we can NOT afford to have some "Ni**as" mess it up for us.

Yeah, you know who you are.

"Ni**as" walk around thinking they gonna get a Barack Obama check in the mail.

"Ni**as" walk around thinking that convicted felons who actually did the dirt that landed them in prison... "Ni**as" are goin around thinking a presidential pardon is on the way.

"Ni**as" think that they can slack off now more than ever since we have a black man about to move into the White House.

Be advised: All you "Ni**as" need to shut the hell up and go sit somewhere in a quiet corner and think about how you are NOT gonna mess this moment up for us proud black folks.

I mean it!! - if you are reading this and you know yourself to be an ignorant, lazy, self destructive, thieving, downwardly mobile,

backstabbing-ass negro... you need to sit down and really concentrate on this.

You need to sit and really, really focus.

Say it with me: *" I will NOT mess this moment up for my people with my 'ni**a' like ways, I will NOT mess this moment up for my people with my 'ni**a' like ways "*

If you have to repeat that 44 times a day every day for the next four years maybe that will keep you out of our hair long enough while us proud, hard working black people help real progress take place.

Okay, now back to us black people.

Don't look to Barack to necessarily be a symbol of blackness.

If you want to be militant, go right ahead.

If you want to be concisious, go right ahead.

But understand the beauty of Barack Obama is that he belongs to many people.

The beauty of what this presidency could mean is that we have someone who looks out for us... not just us as in black people...but all hard working people who have been trying like hell to better ourselves.

(Continued on Page 13)

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The OBAMA Letters

(Continued from Page 12)

Whereas all those crusty old white guys told us "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" while they knew full well we had no boots to begin with... an Obama Administration just might mean that we can finally get our hands on some boots.

But the pulling is still up to you.

If he really can entice these American companies to bring their jobs back home, you aren't gonna get hired simply because you're black.

You've still got to be qualified.

You've still got to put in that work.

See, the Republicans think black people want hand outs.

But you and I know better don't we?

"They gave us lemons, we made lemonade" - that's how we roll.

The black person's concerns aren't so different than any other American.

Other nations with just as much money as us have a higher quality of life, and we want it.

Other nations have free healthcare, and we want it.

Other nations have industries that faithfully employ its citizens, and we want that too.

Other nations are pre-occupied with fixing education and poverty instead of invading other sovereign territories... other nations are peaceful and sleep sound at night with fewer worries... we want that too.

Other nations have lower crime, lower infant death, lower prison populations and higher standards for treating humans humanely...and we want that too.

See... black people have concerns that mirror the average American in a lot of ways.

Sure, I'm hoping that his administration institutes programs to rebuild our communities in all aspects.

From the concrete the streets are made of to the mentality of the dispossessed people walking these streets... I'm hoping he does all he can to help us help ourselves. But I need him to be a great presi-

dent first and a great black president second.

Don't sit back. Be inspired. Be Proud. Be part of the solution.

Dear Racially/Ethnic-ally Mixed People:

This is a proud moment for all the multi-racial people here in this melting pot we call America. This is a chance for our country to show a face to the world that actually represents the multi-faceted splendor other countries have already embraced.

We are a world people. Sure, personally I'm just as pro-black as anyone raised the way I was raised. But I understand that all the black awareness in the world doesn't mean a thing without being globally aware.

There is a piece in Time magazine about Barack Obama's multi-ethnicity and how the rest of the world has been waiting on America to catch up to realizing that diversity is key. Pico Iyer writes: "...Obama will bring globalism to America; in his name, his face and his is-

sues, h'ell bring America back to the globe."

So many racially/ethnically mixed people view themselves as a multitude of people instead of belonging to just one group of people.

And, in that multitude, a new people have been born.

They said it would be my generation that would be the first to experience the color barriers disappearing. And I have to agree to some extent.

For those of us in Generation Y, we have grown up in the age of stereotypes being attacked head on by direct attempts at more balanced representations of more and more people. From TV commercials and shows, to politicians, to styles of dress and of course music - we have come of age just as this country was being forced to embrace the melting pot it created. So even though so many of us black Americans feel that Obama and his family belong to us... we can't forget that he also belongs to Asians, Hawaiians, Muslims, Africans, Chicagoans, etc. I mean this is a time for us all to be

united.

But just as I take time to look at how he affects me and my people, it's only fair to look at all of the multi-racial and multi-ethnic people and realize that tomorrow looks more like them than it does any one of us. *E pluribus unum*. Stand up!

Dear Bush Administration:

I can't say it's been fun. I can say it's been criminal.

If it were up to me, you'd all be serving jail time.

Leaving office isn't enough.

The lies, the torture, the scandals, the complete and total injustices... your days are numbered in one way or another.

Dear America:

Be patient, the changes we have needed are at hand. glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

The Listening Lounge @ The Truth Art Gallery - Saturdays @ 9 pm.

What you missed last Saturday: Tracy from

Hustle Hand Ent. performed a seductive joint and C.J. Mack (who Darron Scott calls a Legend in the Toledo R&B game) had the crowd going bananas. CLASS of 2009/and 2010 ROGERS RAMS were in the house blessing the stage with songs and poetry. An impromptu emcee freestyle cipher lasting damn near 10 minutes jumped off. Aye Dee served as host but The Light will be back next week.

C.J. Da Great, Pre School, T. Diamond, Thee Untouchable Dizzy T, Darron Scott, B.M.G. - and many more were all there getting it in. It was a fun night. U.G.E. welcomes poets/singers/rappers and artists and art lovers to make Saturday nights at The Listening Lounge the place to be.

Upcoming interviews: a local Toledo rapper who has been putting in work and some members of the local Obama campaign. Thank you all for reading, I mean that.



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CLASSIFIEDS

November 12, 2008

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PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF TOLEDO

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2008-2009 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on a proposed substantial amendment to its One-Year Action Plan, which is a part of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for a Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

The Substantial Amendment includes a description of available funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the eligible uses for the NSP grant. It contains a description of the activities to be undertaken and the expected results of those activities, a geographic distribution of the estimated foreclosure risk, while also emphasizing areas of greatest need, including those with the greatest number of foreclosures, those with the highest percentage of homes financed by subprime mortgage-related loans, and those identified as likely to face a significant rise in the rate of home foreclosures. In addition, the plan will contain certifications required by HUD.

1. Establishing Financial Mechanisms for Purchase & Redevelopment of Foreclosed Homes
2. Purchasing and Rehabilitating Homes and Residential Properties Abandoned or **Foreclosed**
3. Establishing Landbanks for Foreclosed Homes and Residential Properties
4. Demolishing Blighted Structures
5. Redeveloping Demolished or Vacant **Properties**

The draft Substantial Amendment 2008-2009 Action Plan will be available for review and comments beginning Monday, November 10, 2008, on the City of Toledo website: www.toledo.oh.gov, located under the Department of Neighborhoods, and at the following locations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18 th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie | 4) All local branches of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library (Refer to local telephone directory or toledolibrary.org for locations) |
| 2) Department of Development
One Government Center, 22 nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie | 5) The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
5605 Monroe Street
Sylvania, Ohio |
| 3) Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21 st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie | 6) The Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio |
| | 7) Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority 435 Nebraska Avenue Toledo, Ohio |

The City of Toledo will receive comments from the public for 15 days either through the website at www.toledo.oh.gov, or at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT 2008-2009 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604
(419) 245-1400/FAX: (419) 245-1413

Comments received during the 15-day comment period will be included in the substantial amendment submitted to HUD.

Holiday Time at Aurora House

It is holiday time again! We are in need of volunteers to Sponsor a Family or sponsor one of our residents for the holidays. The holiday season can be a difficult time for some of our residents and their children. Our desire is to bring a little light and further the message of hope to our residents during this time of year. We welcome your support. For more information, please call Mary Ann Wasserman, Christmas Coordinator at 419-244-3200

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – 1908 to 2008 – Centennial Gala

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the Zeta Alpha Omega Graduate Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., along with The University of Toledo Alpha Lambda Chapter and the Bowling Green State University Iota Iota Chapter, held a Centennial Gala to celebrate the end of the national sorority's anniversary year.

The event, held at UT's Driscoll Center, was organized by the Centennial Celebration Committee under the guidance of Chairman Julia Holt and Co-Chairman Elinor Allen. Ann C. Battles served as honorary chairman and Cynthia Savage as chairman of the Centennial Gala.

Lisa Dubose is the Zeta Alpha Omega centennial presi-



dent. Sorors were honored for service of 50 and 25 years. The Alpha Lambda Chapter was recognized for its 80th Anniversary.



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