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"Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions — who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage."

- President Barack Hussein Obama, January 20, 2009

The Presidential Inaugural from the Eyes of the Great Granddaughter of a Slave

Reflections of WilliAnn Moore
President, Toledo NAACP

Upon arriving at Ronald Reagan Airport, Friday, January 16, 2009, I stepped off the plane feeling a sense of pride that I will never be able to quite express nor put into words. I, along with everyone I came in contact with, was expressing how the swearing in of our new president, Barack Obama, was a historic event they never thought they would live to witness. Everyone was pleasant and you would have thought you were coming to a family reunion. It did not matter the race, color or creed, we all were there to be a part of history in the making.

I, along with many Toledoans, stayed in Alexandria, Virginia, 30 minutes outside the District. The metro trains were our only mode of transportation but we all managed just fine. It was worth waiting in long lines to receive the commemorative rail pass which had our new president's picture on the front.

On Saturday, January 17, I took the train into Washington alone and braved the bitter cold to walk and take pictures as the event area was being erected. As I walked down Independence Avenue, past the Department of Commerce and the Supreme Court buildings, on my way to the Hart Senate Building, I looked across the street and could see the Lincoln Memorial and then the Capitol Building where the historic event would take place.

To think, slaves had constructed these magnificent, beautiful structures. I wondered how many of my relatives had looked at their work but were never able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. I made it a point to go in, sit and smile to myself. Here I entered these hallowed halls a free and educated woman with educated children and four grandchildren in college. If only my great grandfather, Ezekiel Arthur, could have been a part of my personal triumph, dignity and pride.

On Sunday, January 18, I attended the Ohio Gala at the beautiful Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. The food was exquisite and plentiful. The libations flowed and everyone was elated to be there in their furs, gowns and tuxedos. I felt like Cinderella at the ball only I didn't have to worry about the clock striking midnight.

Monday, January 19, was the build up to the inauguration with a star-studded free concert on the grounds of the Washington Memorial. I sat and witnessed people from all over the world who came to be a part of the historic event. I talked to people from South Africa, Sudan, Tokyo, Paris, and London and from almost every state in the U.S. This was personal to me because I never thought I would live to see people from all parts of the world truly enjoying the moment.

The highlight of the event was when President-elect Barack Obama addressed the crowd. Tears filled my eyes and I bowed my head in prayer to ask God to put His protective arms around him and his young family.

Tuesday, January 20, was the day of total jubilation and excitement. We were up and on the train by 5:00 a.m. There were so many people, trains had to be added which caused a backup, but no one complained. Upon arriving at our destination, there were so many people in the rail station all escalators were shut down and everyone had to walk up steep steps. My inspiration was an older woman on a walker. I knew I could make it if she was so determined to climb those steep steps with thousands of people behind her.

While finding my entrance gate and finally getting inside, I saw the beautiful flags draping the Capitol Building and the sea of people behind me.

When the 44th president's name was announced the audience went into cheers. We were asked to stand as our new president received the oath of office. I stood with heart swelling pride and tears streaming down my face. I was witnessing a child who looked like my black child, little girls who were the color of my little granddaughters, and a young woman the color of my daughter. I had lived to see the first black president and his family move into the house that was always forbidden for children of slaves to occupy.

I said to my great grandfather, Ezekiel, we've made it from slavery to become the leader of the Free World ... the Free World ... this United States of America.

President Barack Obama has taken me to the mountain top and allowed me to see the Promised Land. My Soul is at Peace!

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Community Calendar

January 20-February 10

"Breathe Free: The Plan to Stop Smoking;" Collingwood Center; Smoking cessation program with sessions on January 20, 22, 26, 29, 30, February 3, 10; 5:30 pm each day; Facilitated by healthcare practitioners and a support team: 419-474-6639 or 419-345-6452

January 28

Sistas Movin' On Discussion Circle: For women incest and child sexual abuse survivors; Elizabeth House; 6 to 8 pm: 419-729-0245 or www.mynirvananow.org

January 29

Black History Month at UT: Discussion on historic Obama election; 1:45 pm; Student Union Rms 2582-2584

January 30

Black History Month - Owens CC: Opening reception; 20 North Gallery; 6 to 9 pm: 419-241-2400

January 31

Black Bridal Expo: "Creating Your Special Day;" Bethlehem Life Center; Noon to 5 pm; Wedding vendors, event planners: 419-346-5275 or www.gcreationsproductions.com

"Keeping It Together:" One-day event for couples; Reignite the sexual passion, overcoming difficult financial times, more money, getting your point across; 9 am to 4 pm; Lunch included: 419-255-0097, ext 103 or email brenndaahaley90@sbcglobal.net

February 1

Jerusalem MBC Edifice Dedicatory Celebration: "Maximize our Victory;" 11 am service; 4 pm Fellowship and dedication service with guests Rev. John Roberts and congregation of Indiana Avenue MBC: 419-248-2139

February 2

Black History Month: Art exhibit at Kent Branch Library; 6 pm

February 5

Sistas Movin' On Discussion Circle: For women incest and child sexual abuse survivors; Elizabeth House; 6 to 8 pm: 419-729-0245 or www.mynirvananow.org

February 6

St. Luke's Hospital: Wear Red for Women; 7 to 8:30 pm; Hospital auditorium; Guest speaker Patti Hathaway, CSP: 419-897-8484

Black History Month at UT: Movie, Food and Conversation; "What's Race Got to Do With It;" 7 to 10 pm; Student Union Rm 2582; Featuring John Singleton's Higher Learning

February 18

Black History Month at UT: "Whites in Black History: A Choice of Legacy;" Discussion led by Marshall Rose of BGSU's Office of Equity and Diversity; Noon; Health Education Bldg Rm 103; Health Science Campus; \$19-383-3438

February 23

UT Annual MLK Scholarship Benefit Dinner: "A Progression of Change;" Speaker Ohio State Senator Ray Miller; 7 pm; Student Union Auditorium: 419-530-8520 or 419-530-2508

February 26

Black History Month at UT: Dr. Lancelot C.A. Thompson Achievement Program; 7 pm; Student Union Auditorium; Recognizing African-American students with 3.0 GPA or better

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PSSST....Daddy, I Want To Be Black Like Obama!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Column



According to newsmaker Larry King and as stated on his TV program "Larry King Live," his eight-year-old son gushed to his dad that he wishes that he (the son) were black.

Taking into consideration the high emotional drama of swearing in the nation's first black president and allowing for the youngster's zeal and enthusiasm for Obama's charismatic appeal, does this boy really, really, really want to be black and not just the blackness that comes from the benefit of melanin?

But, if the child still insists and is still enraptured about being black, it is only fair and appropriate that he be given the following pop test to see if he is really committed to this racial changeover.

Unless this child of privilege can correctly score at least 10 out of the attached 12 questions, his application for an honorary black boy will have to be summarily denied and he must remain as is ... white, young and privileged. This test has been rigorously vetted by the best black minds in America and is age appropriate:

(1) Are you willing to identify with the sufferings of Bessie Smith and Billy Holiday's song: "Strange Fruit?" Yes/No.

(2) Name three black sororities and fraternities:

(3) What does the X stand for in the name of Malcolm X?

(4) Sing one verse of the Negro National Anthem and name the person who penned the words.

(5) Name three black authors you have read in the past 12 months.

(6) Who was Muhamed Fard.

(7) Who were the Buffalo Soldiers

(8) What was the Great Migration in America about.

(9) Who was Phyllis Wheatley.

(10) What are chitlins.

(11) Name the black man who discovered what is known as Chicago.

(12) What is the mourner's bench and where is it located.

Now the above questions are positioned for an eight year old and if this child can correctly answer 10 of the above,

he is awarded a certificate as an honorary black boy and is entitled to the following privileges and rites of passage:

(a) Going to a black barbershop and slap high fives with his barber

(b) Doing the Michael Jackson moonwalk.

(c) Saying, "what's up bro," to other black kids

(d) Eating ribs and mac and cheese without limitation.

(e) Being subject to arbitrary arrest for shop-

lifting when he goes into a store.

(f) Being sent to jail on flimsy or no evidence.

(g) Obtaining second class health care and an education.

(h) Being twice as good as the next guy but never getting the job.

Now, when all of the above is said and done, this white child has

only 30 days to return his certificate and take back his gushing desire to be black and live out the black experience and remain with his own cultural background; and

from there learn to experience and appreciate the whole gamut of America and all Americans as a white boy.

He should not be seduced into the Hollywood/TV-created image that because Barack Obama is elected president all is well, black is the new envied currency and that anyone black will live a wonderful life from this time forth.

Barack Obama is not the fulfillment of any dream, he is merely a step of many steps in the right direction.

President Obama and the Hope for a Better Tomorrow

As the 44th president of the United States takes office, we face crises in foreign, domestic and economic matters. Our international reputation has been battered. Our faith in government has been dashed. Our treasury has been mortgaged. Our personal wallets have been emptied. Our collective soul has been ravaged. Our belief in the future has been dimmed.

Through it all, we have but one clear salvation: our hope for a better tomorrow. The election of Barack Obama is a clear sign that we as a people can see a better future. To have an African American take the reigns of power is a testament to our ability to create a more equi-

table and just society, albeit just one milestone in our long shared journey.

We have tremendous challenges ahead on so many fronts that it blurs our ability to see the solutions that will lead to better days. While a bipartisan approach to solving our problems is needed, we must still remember that an open mind is essential and civil debate is paramount. Let us recognize as we debate our future and fight for our beliefs, that we must find compromise that shares the burdens and sacrifices. If we are to have a brighter future and re-make America, no longer can we allow our differences to stop debate and create hatred and distrust.

The energy and enthusiasm that comes from the greatest transfer of power in the history of the world, the beginning of a new presidency, must be harnessed to focus us on common ground and create the framework for a renaissance of the American nation.

We all share in the responsibility and must remember that our president is but one man. Certainly he is very important as we move forward, but he will surely fail if we don't work hard to create better futures in our own homes and communities.

Steven G. Flagg

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The Happiest Inauguration Since George Washington's

When Barack Obama took the oath of office as president, it marked the happiest inauguration for our country since George Washington spoke those same words in 1789. Washington's inauguration symbolized that the United States would survive as an independent country and not as a colony of Great Britain. Obama's elevation to the highest office in our land symbolizes another step in erasing the stain of slavery from our history. It means that we may yet live up to those inspiring words in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal."

Does the fact of a President Obama mean that we have achieved Martin Luther King's dream of equality? Not quite.

President Obama has no slave ancestors. He was born to a white mother and raised in a white family. Culturally, intellectually and socially he is more white than black and this is what made him acceptable to many white voters. Someday we may elect a president born to two black parents who are descended from African-American slaves. That will be the day that Dr. King's dream is realized.

In the meantime, we should all celebrate the achievement of this remarkable man. The best thing about Barack Obama is that he transcends race and nationality. He's white and black, American and Kenyan. He gives me hope that we finally have an answer to Rodney King's plea in the midst of the 1992 Los Angeles riots: "Can't we all get along?"

Yes, we can.

Robert A. Kelso

2009 MLK Unity Day Celebration Seeks to Inspire Others into Action

By Nadean Hamilton

More than 2,500 gathered at The University of Toledo's Savage Arena on Monday, Jan 19, to celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 2009 MLK Unity Day Celebration.

For many in attendance, this year's celebration was made even more special by what they say is the fulfillment of Dr. King's dream.

"More than 40 years ago he [King] had this thing called a dream...and tomorrow on January 20, that dream comes true with the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama," said Shenikwa Stratford, mistress of ceremonies.

Upon taking the stage, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner seemed to second Stratford's sentiment.

"In November, 2008, perhaps for the first time in this nation, that test and dream became a reality where not based upon the color of a man's skin, but upon the character of his heart and soul, in a very large majority, Americans elected Barack Obama President of the United States of America,"

Finkbeiner said.

Finkbeiner told the audience that King practiced this year's theme of "Strength to Lead, Courage to Love" by speaking out against all forms of injustice despite the fact that he was placing himself in harms way.

"He was not just a civil

conditions [blacks suffered under] and together we prayed that God would one day bring us out of this dilemma."

Jacobs, also keenly aware of King's commitment to equality in education, announced the expansion of the UT Guarantee Scholar Award to include



rights leader, her was not just a minister, he was truly what the Nobel Prize saluted him for a man of intense character, intense morality," said Finkbeiner.

UT President Lloyd Jacobs recounted the recollections of Reverend I.J. Johnson of St. Marks Baptist Church, who says King "talked to me many days about the

21 of Ohio's urban school districts.

According to Jacobs, the scholarship will cover the cost of full tuition at UT after state and federal aid for every student with a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

"We here at The University of Toledo believe in diversity," Jacobs said.

"We believe, further,



that access to education for everyone is entirely consistent with what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached and believed."

The 8th annual event also included song, dance and video tributes to King,

who was assassinated in Memphis Tennessee in April of 1968.

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus began its musical tribute with "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel," a Negro spiritual detailing

Old Testament Prophet Ezekiel's vision of two large intersecting wheels spinning in the sky.

According to Smith, slaves saw the larger wheel driven by fate, and the

(Continued on Page 11)

Bumpin' da Gums ... AGAIN!

By Rev. D. L. Perryman, D.Min.
Guest Column



I spent the entire day today (normally Monday is preachers' holiday) in an audience of community leaders, child advocates, early childhood, health and mental health, child welfare and juvenile justice professionals, educators, lawyers and judges, members of law enforcement, elected officials, business leaders, foundation representatives and members of the media. We were being presented with the release of the Community Assessment Report of Disproportionate Minority Contact in our County Juvenile Justice System.

The report indicates that African-American males and females are overrepresented in contact with the juvenile justice system including juvenile arrests, confinement and cases transferred to adult court. No mystery here, it appears that this is just another statistic that continues to highlight the trend of overrepresentation of minorities in categories that are negative, harmful or dysfunctional.

However, the report also indicated that the most common offense filed with Juvenile Court has been violations of the Safe School Ordinance, a broad area which varies from talking back to a teacher to acts of violence or bringing a weapon to school. Could it be, that in our area, we have a pipeline from the schools to prison? If so, this is truly alarming! It does trouble me that the majority of offenders are being sent to juvenile detention from school. This area needs further research and exploration.

But today, I lost interest after hearing one cliché-filled sermon after another by folk who may not have showed up except to advocate for their own particular program and others who were just talkin' cause they got a mouth. Black folk can talk they behind off! White folk and other ethnic minorities can rock the house, too! A ton of statistics, sermons and singing the blues but no solutions or strategies were offered and no red flags or cautions recognized or commented upon. In fact, one former city executive commented that we have too many youth programs and are spending too much money on young people in our area as it is.

It may be that we have been paralyzed or benumbed by the avalanche of recent negative anti-social statistics and behavior or that too many of us are content to profit from the misery of others and therefore seek only to "manage" the problems rather than solve them.

(Continued on Page 10)

The University of Toledo, TOLEDO EXCEL
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at
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Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

-----Free Admission and Lunch-----

Guest Keynote Presenter

Mr. Hill Harper
Scholar, Author, Activist and Actor on CSI-NY
Keynote title:
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A panel discussion on student empowerment

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Advance reservations strongly suggested but not required:
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I Was There –

One of the Millions Standing in the Cold for Barack Obama

By Marlene Harris-Taylor
Special to The Truth

Perhaps you have heard about the now infamous stories about the purple ticket holders at the inauguration ceremony. I was one of them, standing outside the gate, early in the morning on Tuesday Jan. 20, hoping to witness the swearing-in of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America.

It was amazing, surreal, exciting and frustrating all at once. Thousands of people who held tickets to the swearing-in ceremony waited outside the gates for hours. Some were forced to wait in an underground tunnel to nowhere, never to see the festivities. We had all felt so lucky to actually have tickets to the ceremony but many of the ticket holders were left out in the cold and shut out of the celebration.

I remember jumping for joy when I received and email from Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown's office saying I had been chosen in a lottery to receive two tickets. The feeling of joy changed on that



The Taylor Family

morning to one of apprehension. After we emerged from the subway in D.C., we were greeted by throngs of people everywhere trying to get to the mall to claim a spot to watch the ceremony. The police were uncooperative and rude. We waited in line for hours, packed like sardines with thousands of other people, hoping to make it into the ceremony.

Once we made our way to

the purple ticket gate, we discovered more confusion and lack of organization. There were no signs, no staff people to direct and control the ticket holders and hundreds of people standing around with bewildered looks on their faces. We waited in line for hours, packed like sardines with thousands of other people, hoping to make it into the ceremony.

In the end, I was one of the lucky ones. My 11-year-old daughter and I endured hours of waiting and frustration but, ultimately, we made it in the coveted purple area – just in time.

After squeezing through the gate as the crowd surged forward, we quickly went through the security line and rushed to find our spot in standing area. As we moved through the restricted area, a policeman suddenly stopped us to let some cars go by and in a flash... they were right in front of us. First we spotted Michelle Obama and Jill Biden in one of the black SUV's, then came Vice President-elect Joe Biden smiling and waving as he went by the crowd of onlookers and then a fleeting glance at the next president of the United States as his car whizzed by.

There was hardly time to catch a breath because there was no time to waste. We had to get in place, the program was already starting. But we had one more test to endure. A policeman stopped us again as we tried to move toward the purple standing area. Our tickets were for the

center area, directly in front of the elevated stage, and just behind the seated area. But as we tried to walk toward our designated spot, the policeman told us to stop.

"That area is full; you have to go to the overflow area."

The overflow area?

"You have got to be kidding," was my first thought. But he wasn't and we were corralled along with the hundreds of others now flooding through the gates, to the area on the side of the stage. There was no way to see anything from there, not even a large television monitor. I wanted to cry, but instead I fought back.

After being turned back by police at least three times, a kind woman offered to help us climb over a small ledge to enter the purple west standing area, from a back, unauthorized entrance. I didn't think twice, there was no time to weigh the options, we could either climb over the small

ledge or miss the whole thing. So there I was in my nice fur coat, helping my daughter in first, and then making my way, finally into the ceremony.

It is difficult to describe the mix of emotions that flooded my mind as now President Obama was introduced at the ceremony. The thing I remember most is how regal he looked as he walked toward the red curtain waiting to be introduced and then the massive crowd erupting with joy as he walked from behind the red curtain. For me this was the moment that it finally became real. All the fear and doubt and what ifs that racked my mind since the beginning of his journey to become the first African-American President, suddenly disappeared and I finally let them all go and revealed in his and our moment of glory.



With Sherrod Brown

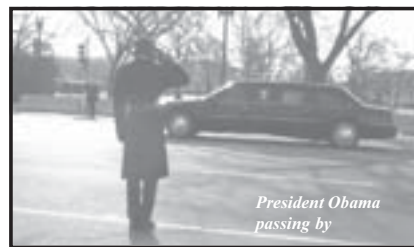
I wanted him to see that even though the election is over; his supporters are not sinking back into their easy chairs and couches, waiting to see who wins the next season of *American Idol*.

President Obama has ignited the political consciousness of African America in a new and unprecedented way. According to a new TV One/ National Association of Black Journalists Inaugural Poll, three of four (77 percent) of African-Americans who attended the ceremony were attending an inauguration for the first-time. We traveled to Washington in record numbers, from every state, to be a part of this moment. We are engaged and tuned in to the political process as never before.

I waited in the cold on January 20 and endured all the chaos with the my daughter but it was worth it. I hope that as President Obama stepped from behind that red curtain, and looked over the sea of two million supporters on the mall that he got the message.

You are not alone President Obama. You have awakened a sleeping giant and we are ready to work with you to bring change to America.

You have awakened a sleeping giant and we are ready to work with you to bring change to America.



President Obama passing by

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I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey

By Ardenia Jones Terry, Ph.D.
Special to The Truth

"I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey" is the title of a Negro spiritual as well as the title of one of Maya Angelou's books. The song thanks the Lord for life's journey.

The words "I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey" took on an additional meaning for me on my train trip to Washington DC for the inauguration of Barack Obama. The journey was from slavery to the presidency of the United States of America, from 1619 in Jamestown to 2009 in Washington, D.C. and from being three-fifths human to commander in chief, and I was going to bear witness to history in the making. My own journey was unbelievable.

Friday, January 16, 2009

The Capital Limited bound for D.C. pulled into the Toledo Station three hours late at 3 a.m. instead of 11:55 p.m. but nothing could dampen the excitement of those boarding the



train bound for one of the most significant and historical events to take place in American history. The swearing in of a black man as president of the United States was to be celebrated by one and all.

On the train, were Chicagoans headed for the festivities as well as a marching band from Skokie, IL under the direction of Bill Koch. They were going to D.C. to participate in a band competition and an Inaugural Ball for band members. Also, on the train with me and headed to the festivities was Toledoan and local attorney Linda Mansour.

Saturday, January 17, 2009

The Capital Limited arrived in DC at 4:30 p.m. In the terminal there was pandemonium because the president-elect's train was due to arrive in D.C. at 7 p.m. Hundreds of people had come to the station throughout the day, hoping to get a glimpse of Obama's arrival or perhaps if they were lucky, a photo of him. It was the first time that I fully understood Obama's rock star appeal.

Upon my arrival in D.C., I was to go directly from the

Union Station to attend Tom Joyner's Obama Celebration with my cousin, Phyllis Brown, from Los Angeles, CA. However, the lateness of the train caused me to miss the celebration, which started at 5 p.m. I was told the celebration was great and it turned out to be an honor for Tom Joyner, as well.

I checked into the Mayflower Hotel on Constitution Ave SW where the Ohio Delegation was staying and received a special commemorative January 20 issue of the USA Today which was published specifically for the hotel chain. I was awe-struck by the presidential seal and the Ohio Democratic Party welcome sign prominently displayed in the hotel lobby. There was excitement in the air throughout the hotel and everyone I met was cheerful and helpful.

After unpacking I went to have dinner in the hotel res-

taurant, where I met Martrene Wicks, the wife of the executive director of the National Education Association in Columbus, Ohio. She and her husband had attended many of the previous inaugurations, but were particularly excited about the inauguration of President-elect Obama. As we talked, Vice-President-elect Joe Biden and his family entered the restaurant to have dinner. Twenty Secret Service men and women preceded him. You could feel the electricity in the air and hear the conversations being held at the other tables about Biden being in the restaurant.

Biden was very friendly; he took time to shake

everyone's hand and to greet those in the restaurant. He had his entire family and personal staff with him. (I left my camera in the room so I videoed his greetings using my phone.) Bob Woodruff, the reporter injured in Iraq was also with the Biden party.

January 18, 2009

In the morning, I again joined Martrene Wicks for breakfast and we both needed to check-in with the Ohio Democratic Party on the Mayflower Mezzanine to receive our packets. While we were breakfasting in the restaurant, 30 members of the Obamas' extended family were being checked-in and given their badges for the inauguration activities.

Around noon, I went to the Manifest Hope: DC Gallery in Georgetown to view the exhibition. The exhibition included the works of 100 artists selected from thousands of entries for the three-day (January 17-19, 2009) inaugural exhibition. The artwork addressed three main themes: health crisis, workers rights and the environment. A band played as individuals from Indiana, New York, Kansas, and other parts of the world gather to enjoy the heartfelt works.

I spoke with Shepard Fairey, the Hope Artist who organized the exhibition, congratulating him on coordinating an outstanding art exhibition. I particularly enjoyed the paintings of President-elect Obama and Michelle Obama, plus one of Lincoln. Before leaving, I purchased several art pieces from the gallery store.

I realized from the exhibit that there is a young generation in this country who understand the magnitude of this election. They understand January 20 was a new day, a new beginning. They understand that Obama's election had transcended race and successfully moved this country in a direction that many had not foreseen.

My next stop was the Links, Inc. Inaugural Gala Reception in the Madison Loews Hotel. Link Norma King of the

Toledo Chapter and Ottawa Hills councilwoman joined me there. We met other Links from the Long Island, NY and Santa Barbara, CA chapters. There was a great jazz band and delicious appetizers. In the crowd were Senator Joe Lieberman (IND-CT) and actor Richard Roundtree.

I ended the evening by attending the 2009 Ohio Celebration Gala in the Mayflower Hotel. The main entertainment for the Gala was the 200 member-Ohio State Marching Band that played for an hour as well as a R&B Band from Maryland.

Sen at the event were Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern, political consultant Bill DeMora, Ohio State Rep. Edna Brown, Joan Coleman and her husband, Dr. John Coleman and Alison Harmon, Ph.D., from Youngstown State University.

Monday, January 19, 2009

I spent the morning picking up my tickets to the Swearing In Ceremony-silver ticket area and the Midwest Presidential Inaugural Ball to be held in the Convention Center.

In the afternoon, I traveled with Phyllis Brown and Cheryl Wait, both from Los Angeles, to West Point, Annapolis, MD, where we dined on crab cakes at Buddy's Seafood House and toured the quaint town and harbor.

Upon my return to D.C. in the evening, I attended, along with other Deltas, an Inaugural Open House at the Na-

tional Headquarters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The National President and members of her cabinet were all dressed in Obama T-shirts adorned with pearls.

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

This day was spiritual in nature... surreal.



I left the Mayflower Hotel at 6:45 a.m. entering a standing room only Metro car on my way to the Mall for the swearing-in ceremony. Two trains and four hours later, I was standing in the silver section watching the first African-American take the oath of the President of United States.

It was almost indescribable as I and 350,000 others in the section from around the world watched the emotional event. In front of me was a man from London, on my right was a family from British Columbia, behind me was a couple from South Carolina and to my left side was a group of teenagers representing a student organization from Illinois. Awe-

some!!

As I stood on the Mall, images of Harriet Tubman came to me several times. Harriet Tubman made a way north when there was no way. She followed the stars to reach her goal. She took slaves north with very little, relying on members of the Underground Railroad. President Obama,

started a journey with very little and was victorious. We are a people accustomed to making a way when there is no apparent way. Obama stands on Tubman's shoulders and the shoulders of many others. Most importantly, he knows it.

I ended the evening attending the Midwest Presidential Inaugural Ball and listening to Cheryl Crow with thousands of others... enjoying every minute of it and knowing we were a part of history. It was pure joy!

"I wouldn't take nothing for my journey!"



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“Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) of Toledo brought together a number of community partners on Sunday, January 25, at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church to address the issue of how to “mobilize our congregations, their families and our city with renewed energy and commitment for the coming year,” according to the statement issued days earlier in anticipation of the event.

“It’s a partnership to help those less fortunate through organizations such as the Urban League or Family House,” said Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo and president of the IMA. “They are struggling. This gives them a push of support to let them know they are not alone.”

The 5 p.m. service brought several hundred visitors to Mt. Nebo to hear guest preacher, Rev. Edward L. Branch, senior pastor of the 3rd New Hope Baptist Church of Detroit, MI.

Also in attendance were Toledo Schools Superintendent John Foley and mayoral candidate Keith Wilkowski.

“We believe this successful effort to lift all citizens out of the quagmire of the current economic calamity, loss of job opportunity, the foreclosure of the American dream and the improvement of Toledo’s standing nationwide and abroad,” said Brock and IMA Executive Secretary Rev. LeRoy Williams. “In these hectic days, we must take the time to reflect and remember who and whose we are.”

The IMA is an affiliation of about 60 churches. The next event sponsored by the group will be a morning service at Mt. Nebo on March 1 during which women’s accessories such as shoes, clothing and hair pieces – all new items – will be dispensed.

(See Photo on Page 16)

2,935 African-American Students Choose Owens to Pursue Educational Opportunities and Career Aspirations

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College continues to provide northwest Ohio residents with greater access to higher education at an affordable cost with a record-breaking 21,707 students choosing to attend the academic institution for Spring Semester classes on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses.

The College’s ethnicity/race student enrollment also continues to increase. For Spring Semester, 2,935 African-American students are pursuing an Owens education compared to 2,321 last year (26 percent increase). Additionally, Hispanic enrollment has a recorded an 18 percent increase with 969 students attending classes compared to 819 during spring term 2008.

Since becoming a comprehensive community college in 1994, Owens has more than doubled its Spring Semester student enrollment by 173 percent. The College enrolled 7,957 students for Spring Semester classes in 1994.

The combined Spring Semester enrollment of 21,707 students on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses surpasses the previous record of 19,732 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2008. Owens’ Toledo-area campus has 18,293 students attending classes during the Spring Semester, while on the Findlay-area campus 3,414 students are enrolled for the spring term. On both campuses, Spring Semester enrollment has increased 10 percent from last spring.

“Owens Community College is proud to play an important role in helping students reach their career and academic goals,” said Bill Ivoska, Ph.D., Owens vice president of Student Services. “Our mission is to ensure that access to higher education is a reality for all area residents. A college education can open many doors to a future full of endless possibilities. Owens Community College is committed to eliminating any potential barriers that may exist and providing the necessary tools and resources for individuals to achieve educational attainment and become tomorrow’s societal leaders.”

For Susan Wells of Mt. Blanchard, the decision to “take the leap of faith” sev-

eral years ago and pursue a college education after more than 30 years as a cosmetologist was an easy one.

“I really want to help others and a college education would make that possible,” said the 52-year-old radiography major and owner of A-Style A-Head Beauty Salon in Findlay. “My family and friends and even my beauty salon customers have been very supportive from day one.”

Wells, who carries a 3.7 grade point average at Owens, added, “My educational experience at Owens has been everything I expected and more.

Owens provides a student with all the resources they need to succeed. My professors are extremely helpful and are willing to go out of their way to work with students. I couldn’t have chosen a better school for me.”

Wells’ educational success has now become a family affair as her 35-year-old daughter, Jennifer Chortie of Findlay, has within the past year joined her in pursuit of a college education from Owens. Not far behind is the youngest daughter, Jackie Bahn of Findlay, age 31, who envisions enrolling at Owens in the coming year.

“Owens Community College has made a major difference in my family’s life,” concluded Wells, who has aspirations of becoming a radiologic technician for an area hospital after graduation. “I am forever grateful for the opportunity.”

According to Ivoska, Owens continues to make a concerted effort to expand upon the many educational opportunities of its students through the continued advancement of innovative programs, courses, teaching methods and academic resources.

During the current academic year, Owens introduced new Honors Program partnerships with The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University, enabling students to pursue academic success at the highest level from both institutions. Additionally, Owens students are now afforded the opportunity to obtain a bachelor’s degree by completing three years of higher education on the College’s

Owens Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses followed by one year of academic courses through distance learning as part of a new partnership with Ohio University.

The College also is continuing to expand its extremely popular eOwens distance learning education by continuously introducing new academic courses online. For Spring Semester 6,426 students are pursuing e-Learning courses - up from 5,127 last spring (25 percent increase).

In addition to the many e-Learning opportunities, Owens continues to increase its academic and support services by making available an array of higher education choices for high school students through innovative partnerships with post secondary schools, through the Weekend College and at The Source, Lucas County’s One-Stop Employment Center, in downtown Toledo. The College’s enrollment at The Source has increased by 239 students with 671 area residents pursuing higher education in downtown Toledo during the current Spring Semester compared to 432 last spring term (55 percent increase).

Over 70 graduates from Woodward High School and Findlay High School are

receiving a free college education to Owens during the current academic year as part of the College Foundation’s new Success Program, which is designed to make college affordable for high school graduates with financial need. Recently, Owens’ Foundation expanded the Success Program to include all high schools in Toledo Public Schools’ district. To date, over 300 prospective high school students have already applied for next year’s program.

In the coming year, Owens will broaden access to higher education opportunities for police, fire and emergency services personnel, as well as the military, by opening a new \$3.2 million Emergency Preparedness Operations Building at the Center for Emergency Preparedness. The College is also beginning the renovation process at the former Penta Career Center, which is adjacent to the current Owens Toledo-area Campus.



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Witnessing the Growth of a Society and a Culture

By Michael Futrell
Special to The Truth



Toledo Councilman
Michael Ashford and Ruth
Ashford



Angelita Cruz,
Bridges, Rep. Edna
Brown, Cindy
Geronimo, Auditor
Anita Lopez

It's 6 a.m. and I find myself on public transportation.

I sit here feeling a sense of pride, optimism and humbleness. As I sit here I have to resist the urge to smile in triumph, not for myself of course, but also not for Barack.

I smile for this older black woman and man who sit in front of me rocking back and forth eager and nervous all wrapped in one. For the grandmother with her grandchildren who, when she flagged the bus driver down, asked "are you going anywhere near D.C., I will walk if you can get me any closer." She asked this not just so she could say she witnessed history, but rather because she has been a part of history.

I see children with parents; they have sleep in their eyes frustrated to even be up this morning, not fully comprehending what this day truly means in history.

I remember when I was young and my father took me to the "Million Man March," and I was excited to be there, but I didn't really understand what that feeling of unity meant to that 1.1 million black men that day, until now.

What does it mean to be black? More importantly, what does it mean to be American today?

As people flock in droves at the excitement to see a dream fulfilled, bundled in layers of clothing like the little boy wearing the snow suit in "A Christmas Story," I can't help but to feel proud of America, not black America, but America as a whole.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "I want to be the white man's brother, not his stepbrother" and today we grow leaps and bounds towards his dream.

Just a minute ago an elderly black man entered the bus which was packed. As I offered him my seat, he refused, until he realized that I would not sit down. He smiled at me with tears in his eyes and said "yes we can!"



Jonathan and Angelita Cruz
Bridges with Congressman
John Lewis

It amazes me what this day means to so many people, not just African-Americans, but to those others who for so long were never spoken for. I was talking to my mentor one day and he asked would I take a bullet for

Barack, to which I replied "absolutely." Not because he is my president, but because of what he represents.

It is bigger than me, it is bigger than you, and it is bigger than Barack. It is about the growth and advancement

of a society and culture. This is all my perspective as I ride this great public transportation! Everything I have spoken of is true.

I say this to remind everyone as we are on the road today that, though there will be a lot of frustration in front of you, enjoy this day none the less. Today you will watch from D.C., watch from TV, or listen to the radio hearing MLK "I have a dream" echoing in the back of your mind, smiling and crying, at times not even knowing why, but know that this is a day that we made!

Even if you didn't vote for him, this is your day as well.

Today Americans mature as a people. Smile with joy, smile with pride, smile with love, smile with unity. Smile



Jonathan and Angelita Cruz, Bridges with Columbus
Mayor Michael Coleman

for those who did not live to see this day. Regardless of where you are, or what you are doing today, or who you supported, smile for what WE have become.

May the lord bless you and yours. God bless.

Michael Futrell is currently a pharmaceutical rep

living in Woodbridge, VA. He is originally from Toledo, Ohio, and is a college graduate of Lindsey Wilson College. Michael graduated from Lindsey Wilson College with an education degree and was a member of the varsity basketball team. He can be reached at michael.futrell@hotmail.com.

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Top Ladies of Distinction 24th Annual Prayer Breakfast

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. celebrated its 24th Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 24, at Gladioux Meadows on Heatherdowns Boulevard.

Top Ladies, Top Teens and Lords filled the room along with their friends, family and guests in order to celebrate this year's theme "God's Abundant Grace."

Mary Dawson, president of the Toledo Chapter welcomed guests with a voice mail from God. Top Teen Gillian Nobles, president of the Toledo Chapter of Top Teens, also extended a welcome to the more than 400



Top Ladies and Top Teens

guests in attendance.

The crowd was dazzled with musical selections by C.J. Manning and the scholarship recipients were

Charlisa Hutchen and John Hicklin – both members of the Top Teens chapter.

Top Ladies is a national organization comprised of six regional areas. Top Teens is a co-educational program that provides opportunities for the wholesome development of youth's potential. Patsy Bolden is the Top Teens' advisor. Clara Petty and Janice Stith are the assistants.

Top Ladies promote activities that will enhance the teens' social, moral, educational, spiritual, cultural and economic development. This year the Teens will participate in the March of Dimes

Walk for Babies. Nobles presented information on the Teens at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc at the Ladies Chapter Meeting. Mary L. Oakes and Delores Bates are the Senior Citizens chairmen. Top Ladies have presented a "Senior Prom" and Christmas celebrations for the residents of the McKissick Senior Center.

The Status of Women Committee is led by Co-chairmen Joan Harris and Marelén Cook. They provide information that affects the health status of women, Kwanzaa events and assisting students at the Horizon Academy.

Community Beautification thrust is led by Co-chairmen Armanda Taylor and Charlesena Smith. They are working on a special project of collecting pop tabs that will be presented to the Children's Hospital at the Ronald McDonald House at Toledo Hospital. The committee is active in beautifying senior centers and cemeteries and in working with Habitat for Humanity.

Barbara Tucker and Denise Black-Poon are co-chairmen of Community Partnership. Top Ladies have participated in the Reading Is

Fundamental project where they presented books, refreshments and book marks to Girl Scouts at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church. "Tea Time with American Dolls" came about as the result of a partnership with Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The Boys Booked on Barbershop program will be held on February 23 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Blendz Barber-shop.

The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies was chartered in November 1983. Ann C. Battles was a founder and first chapter president. Other charter members included Phyllis Stephens, Elinor Allen,

Margaret Fields, Bertha Peyton, Zephyr Taylor, Mary Hodge, Gwendolyn Hopkins, Ruth Ross and Constance Robinson.

The Top Teens chapter was organized in April 1984 at Robinson Jr. High School. Peyton and Hopkins were the advisors.

Wanda Terrell will represent Area V at Syn Lod in Cleveland as "Top Lady of the Year." She will compete with representatives from the other five areas.

At the recent Area V Conference in Bay City, MI, the Toledo Chapter won several awards – Outstanding Chapter Newsletter; Outstanding Chapter of the Year – highest attendance; Outstanding Chapter of the Year – National Project.

Clara Petty is the chapter's vice president and Prayer Breakfast Chairman, Anna Marie Bolden is the chapter chaplain and Prayer Breakfast Co-chairman. Prayer Breakfast Committee members consisted of Debra Jelks, Equilla Roach, Druscilla Griffin, Allie Mae Smith, Barbara Tucker, Denise Black-Poon, Muriel Webb-Williams, Patsy Bolden, Marelén Cook



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Top Ladies Prayer Breakfast Committee

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RIF American Girls Dolls Tea Program

Special to The Truth

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

The Reading Is Fundamental American Girls Tea Program, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2009 at Mt. Pilgrim Family Life Center.

After introductions, a brief historical review of 'taking tea' as outlined in the book *Meet Felicity*,

Girl Scout Troop 911 members were encouraged to read more by reading brief excerpts to the audience from: "Kirsten, Kaya, Addy, Samantha, Molly and Kit."

Each Girl Scout selected a new book and book mark to take home. The original American Girls collection consists of eight books in the series, and they are available at the Toledo Lucas County Library.

Refreshments were served and each Scout en-

joyed photo opportunities, taking turns 'dressing up' in hats, gloves, scarves and fur collars brought to the tea by committee members. The doll collection was on display and the young girls also brought their own personal collection to the "Tea Party." There is an historical message behind each doll. The dolls also have a clothing line to match each young lady who owns dolls from an prestigious collection.

About 20 Scouts and



Tina Braddy is the Girl Scout Troop Leader at Mt. Pilgrim. Mary Dawson is president of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Toledo Chapter and Lisa Dubose is president of Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

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Bumpin'

(Continued from Page 4)

I am convinced that if we are going to legitimately address the disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system in my area that the following needs to be done at a minimum:

1. Bring the young people to the table and listen to them. We often miss the obvious because we talk about youth rather than with youth.
2. Utilize qualitative analysis along with quantitative data. Discussion, dialog and allowing the subjects to speak for themselves (particularly with marginalized and oppressed groups), uncovers the depth and nuances of the problem and adds valuable insight to cold, impersonal quantitative methods and statistical data. It is almost impossible to figure out who youth are and where they are without listening to their stories, finding out what is going on in their lives and what they are dealing with.
3. What is the administrative dynamic and competence within the schools that are sending these kids to jail? There is a potential for conflict where the marginalized students are being taught by teachers whose experience is defined by the dominant culture. Children need teachers and mentors who are not only able to listen to them with empathy, but who also possess cultural awareness and knowledge of them gained from a similar socio-cultural experience. Often a cultural mismatch between the teacher's experience and the child's cultural history can be the source of a problem that leads to further marginalization, conflict, exclusion, or withdrawal.

The Cradle to Prison Pipeline is a national crisis and is very complex and includes many factors including race, low-performing schools, lack of access to health and mental health care, broken child welfare and juvenile justice systems, struggling families and depressed communities, a toxic youth culture, and lack of parenting skills. It behooves us to come up with strategies and solutions before it is too late. The first step may be simply to meet young people where they are, initiate dialog, and listen.

Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." John 4:6,7

guests, plus 15 or more parents and committee members, attended the program. Barbara Tucker and Denise Black-Poon are the chairman and co-chairman, respectively, for the Top Ladies and Elinor Allen is the AKA RIF co-coordinator.

Thousands of Used Books @ 2009 Book Sales!

Mark your calendar for the 2009 Book Sales hosted by the Friends of the Library, a 3,000-member organization that supports Toledo-Lucas County Public Library programs. Sales will kick off this month beginning Thursday, January 29 at the FOL Book Center located at the Reynolds Corners Shopping Center (southwest corner of Reynolds Road & Dorr Street). No scanners will be allowed. Thank you.

Book Sale dates:

- January 29, 30, 31
- March 12, 13, 14
- April 23, 24, 25
- June 25, 26, 27
- August 6, 7, 8
- October 22, 23, 24
- December 10, 11, 12



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Unity Day

(Continued from Page 4)



smaller wheel, driven by the word of God.

Keyser William Lucas's [King Keyser] video tribute to King, spliced with footage of Barack Obama accepting the Democratic nomination, garnered the most rousing round of applause of the morning.

Lucas reminded the audience that Barack Obama

will need everyone's help in restoring the United States of America to its former prominence in the world.

"If your response when somebody asks you what will you do to make Barack Obama successful is I'm going to pray for him, then that would be the wrong answer," said Keyser.

Following the video trib-

ute, UT's Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB) pledged to do their part in helping Obama succeed.

"We the brothers of the Student African-American Brotherhood embrace the principles of accountability, pro-active leadership, self-discipline, and intellectual development," said the group of young men in unison.

Prior to closing out the ceremony, several schools and social service agencies were recognized for participating in the day of service initiative supported by President-elect Obama.

The celebration concluded with a community luncheon in the Savage Arena.



YWCA Announces 2009 Milestones Honorees

Special to The Truth



Lisa McDuffie, Paula Fall, Isabel Escobar, Marge Brown, Judy Seibenick, Betty Amison, Ann Sanford

Last Thursday, at the YWCA of Greater Toledo, CEO Lisa McDuffie, announced the 2009 Honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women annual award. This year's honorees are: **Ann Anderson Stranahan - Arts, Paula H. Fall - Business, Isabel Escobar, Ph.D. -**

Education, Marge Brown - Government, Judy Seibenick, RN BSN CHPCA - Sciences, Betty Amison - Social Services, and Ann Sanford - Volunteerism.

This is the 14th year the YWCA of Greater Toledo has recognized women of northwest Ohio who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and who have opened doors for other women to achieve milestones of their own.

"All of us at the YWCA are thrilled to be able to honor these seven wonderful women with this award," said McDuffie. "They continue day after day to do the things that

open doors for other women and girls. We invite the community to join us for this awards luncheon and help us to pay tribute to this year's Milestones Honorees."

The YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women awards luncheon will be held at the SeaGate Convention Centre, March 26, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.

ELIMINATING RACISM EMPOWERING WOMEN

YWCA GREATER TOLEDO



Scholarship Enables Mid-Career Transition to Math, Science Teaching

Special to The Truth

Professionals looking to change career paths and become teachers can now do so with minimal financial commitment as Noyce, a new program at the Judith Herb College of Education at The University of Toledo, offers a fast-track, on-the-job teacher licensure program and scholarships up to \$17,220.

Informational sessions will be held Thursday, February 5, and Monday, February 9, at 7 p.m. in Gillham Hall 3100 at The University of Toledo, 2801 W. Bancroft, Toledo, Ohio, 43606.

"This program is designed for individuals who have strong subject knowledge, such as accountants, engineers and other science majors who might want to teach science or mathematics," said Charlene Czerniak, Ph.D., UT professor of education. "They already have the subject knowledge they need; all they need is to learn the best ways to convey it to students."

According to Czerniak the program is ideal for those who have considered teaching, but can't afford to quit their job to go back to school. Those that complete the program must teach in a high-needs school district in Ohio for 2 years, she said.

Professionals accepted into the program will receive a scholarship to take 12 credit hours focused primarily on teaching methods and classroom engagement, as their professional experience will replace the need for most content and subject course work.

There is a high need across Ohio and the nation for qualified math and science teachers, with an expected growth rate of 12 percent between 2006 and 2016 according to the Ohio Bureau of Labor.

More information can be found on the UT's web site www.teachut3.utoledo.edu.

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African Song and Dance Comes to Lourdes in Cinderella Tale *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*

Special to The Truth



In February, Lourdes' Theater Vision program will present *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, often referred to as the "African Cinderella tale." The production is based on the Caldecott Award-winning book by John Steptoe and is filled with colorful and authentic costumes, stylistic sets, lyrical dance and traditional African chanting and song.

Presented by the *Dallas Children's Theater*, the story follows the lives of two young women of very different dispositions, who encounter challenging adventures as they travel through Zimbabwe to appear be-

fore a great African king who is seeking a worthy wife. As a traditional African folktale, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* celebrates goodness, generosity and love.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters will be presented at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, and at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 5. All Theater Vision performances are held in the Franciscan Theater of Lourdes College. Tickets \$8 per student. Call 419-824-3999.

The Theater Vision: Educational Theater Series of Lourdes College provides curriculum-

based theater arts education opportunities for school groups and home school students in pre-K through college, and for the public. Each season, 35-45 school-day performances are presented by professional touring companies in the 850-seat, fully-equipped Franciscan Center Theatre. Over the lifetime of the program, more than half a million students have benefitted from Theater Vision programming. To view the complete season visit www.franciscancenter.org and click on Theater Vision/Arts Education Workshops.

Got My Own President Now

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

I have never had a president until now.

It's just that simple... born and raised as a United States citizen but not once in my life have I ever had any leader that I could identify with.

Not just identity as far as outward looks/skin color...but someone that I could identify with knowing that many of the concerns I have on a day-to-day basis are some of the concerns that he or she shares as well.

I have never had a President until now.

We can all rejoice for the moment (which I'll do more of that later). Our democracy seems in order and our people have never been more inspired. But as we prepare for the road ahead, acknowledgement cannot only be given to the ones we expect to clean up America's numerous messes but it's only fair to keep in mind how we get here.

Damn right, my memory ain't short.

Damn right, I'm still calling for Bush/Cheney/Rove to serve prison sentences.

No...I'm not stuck in the past, I am just looking

squarely at the present.

And presently our economy is near modern-day depression. The recession started two years ago and they just started admitting it recently.

Presently we have two wars that have cost trillions of dollars yet not made anyone feel safer.

Presently getting a car, a home or the job that pays for them both is hard as hell even for middle class Americans.

Presently our euphoria over the historic presidential inauguration is a fitting distraction that only allows the true villains of our day to ride off into the sunset.

People don't like George W. Bush.

He's unpopular. But his crimes go far deeper than setting record low approval ratings.

Patriot Act erodes our civil liberties.

Ex-government officials, military experts and world-renowned educators and scientists have all gone on record saying that the Bush administration is the top suspect for carrying out the September 11th attacks (go to google.com and watch Loose Change).

Bush took office with a surplus of wealth left by Clinton yet he leaves office and the very banks and currency on which our economy is based are suffering drastic decreases in strength and value.

This is no accident.

Not only were we lied to about Iraq's weapons, not only were record profits made on the business end of war by companies Bush and Cheney used to lead, not only was the truth repressed at every level of national media... it was all intentional.

But you don't want to talk about that.

You want to pay your bills.

And who could blame you?

Your medical bills are higher than ever, education has been harder to pay for and the jobs have been sent overseas thanks to tax breaks given to large companies.

You don't have to focus on it. In fact, let's focus on solutions instead.

But you must never overlook the tyrannical corruption of the previous

president's administration and how they worked overtime to ruin life as we know it in America.

But thankfully... a much needed regime change has taken place.

Inauguration

I never thought this day would come.

A black man as president, a black family in the White House and a nation united.

Peeps in DC were texting me all day during inauguration and giving me first-hand accounts of the tears, the celebratory jubilation and the overwhelming presence of hope.

It's just wild.

I have a six-month-old niece and the first president she's ever going to learn about is going to be President Barack Obama!

I never understood why I would look at old photographs or see an old movie and people would have pictures of presidents posted in their homes.

I would think... 'how can anyone idolize their President?'

Like Stalin in Russia...when I learned about how

his people were transfixed on him I thought they were nuts.

But now I see how the highest politician in the land can also be a source of inspiration.

Now I feel pride for the very time.

Not like I'm about to go and buy an American flag, but I have to admit I do feel pride in my country.

Because we were wise enough to look past propaganda.

Because we were motivated enough to vote in numbers so large that stealing another election would be damn near impossible for the GOP.

Because we came together through common ideals and goals for improving our collective quality of life.

I don't care to examine whether or not his inaugural speech met expectations or not.

And I try not to get caught up in the celebrity of it all.

You would've thought our country was bestowing a crown upon Barack

Obama's head this past January 20 with all the pageantry and hoopla - but in my opinion he deserves it.

First act of office: Closing Guantanamo Bay? Oh yeah, he deserves all the acclaim.

His character is more important than the pretty words of his addresses.

His deliberate appointments show that he is trying to be a president who plays fair and thinks smart.

His example has inspired me in ways that I think about everyday.

And I mean that... as a man... as a black man... as a dreamer and doer.

He has become one of my heroes and I know many of you feel the same.

My entire life I've watched politicians prey on us ... police us ... and make decisions with our dollars and our democracy that serves them instead of us.

I am honored to say that NOW, I too have a president.

Oh yeah...and he's black!

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Interview With Kaj Boogie and J. Roc 107.3 The Juice

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



Two of the biggest names in the Toledo music scene sat down to chop it up with me recently. I was honored and I was also humbled.

A lot of people walk around this city like they've done something but these brothas have played vital roles in the foundation of our local urban entertainment industry.

It's important to know whose doing it big right now, but you've also gotta remember the folks who make it possible for any of us to be seen and heard.

Before earning a daily on air slot with one of the top urban stations in the area... Kaj Boogie and J. Roc were legendary for their work as DJ's and promoters.

The United Soul Brothers... if you haven't heard of them, you haven't done your homework on how your local music scene came to be.

But just in case you hear them on the radio and everyday and still didn't know much about them... I present to my readers, my talk with 107.3 DJ's Kaj Boogie and J. Roc.

Michael: Why Bring the Battle of the Beats Back?

Kaj Boogie: The artists just need an outlet man. These dudes got nowhere to go besides just out the trunk of the car or sweatin' the D.J. at the club while he's working.

We gotta give 'em that

outlet, that's how you find them gems in the rough.

J. Roc: We are filling a void. It's a dream come true for a lot of these people to actually have their stuff on the radio! For us to be so accessible in the community and to our listeners is good.

Michael: Toledo is special because we have an independent black radio station... what is that like on your end?

J. Roc: It has its advantages and disadvantages.

Kaj Boogie: Corporate radio stations have big corporate accounts they're working with and it's a bit different when you're with an indie company. However when you're smaller you have more room to move around. Like what we do for the artists giving them an opportunity to get heard. We probably couldn't just do that at a larger station.

Michael: Do you have more flexibility in your playlists?

J. Roc: It's... well, playlists are determined by program directors and music directors.

Before we were on-air personalities we were known for our mixes and the free reign we had was on our mix show. When you first approach radio, it's like a ladder.

The first ladder is doing mixshows. The highest level is deciding playlists.

Michael: My first time meeting you, Kaj, was back in the Dirty 30 days... Delirious Dave is my cousin.

Kaj Boogie: Dave is ya cousin? (he laughs)

Michael: Yeah, man, I remember seeing you at some of the studio sessions for Mr. International back in '02.

Kaj Boogie: WOW!!! (everyone laughs)

Michael: My partner and I produced half that

last album but we were just coming up... sitting in the back of the studio soaking it all in - but you have deep roots in the musical blueprint of this city - how did you get started?

Kaj Boogie: I've done so much... when people say that they hip-hop, I mean, I've done it all dude. Breakdancing, back up dancing. Me and my dude Dax Mitchell we had this group called Joy & Pain. We could dance on sand and not leave footprints... (everybody laughs)

Even with my older age

soul brothas, one of my, and my partners, first mentors as far as production, was United Soul Brotha Reed Russell... you wanna talk about how the U.S.B.'s started to form and Dirty 30 and all that?

Kaj Boogie: The Dirty 30 was actually a branch off of the United Soul Brothas.

We were just a collective starting from being true friends and we all just respected music and heard music the same way and started doing things.

J. Roc: Yeah like I was

an offshoot of Keith's crew Hi Tec.

And when I went to college I would up DJ'ing all the parties... like I'm a freshman on campus and I'm doing 70 percent of the parties. Keith had UT and we had BG.

Came up here and got into the club scene. I tried dabbling in the music production which is just natural progression for a DJ but I mainly wanted to stick with playing the music for the people at the parties.

The B.O.P., Tia's, the

And I'm gonna end part one of my interview with D.J. Kaj Boogie and D.J. J. Roc of 107.3 The Juice.

Read me next week to get part two where we discuss in greater detail The Battle of The Beats and talk about Toledo rappers.

And I want to take this time to congratulate my artist, U.G.E.'s own T. DIAMOND

on his recent victories with the new joint "Haterz Get Mad."

In fact... since we have



"Before we were on-air personalities we were known for our mixes and the free reign we had was on our mix show."

old Ottawa Tavern and then the Juice came about and we got on with Club One.

Michael: Saturday nights?

J. Roc: Yup, we would just sit back and party. Just record us doing what we was doing anyway... with the music we was listening to and a basic kicking it session.

And The Juice accepted it and eventually that Saturday night mixshow led to us getting on-air spots.

Kaj Boogie: Yeah, and that mixshow gave The Juice the number one position for that time slot. We showed them what we could do and they gave us bigger opportunity.

Michael: Yeah, I remember that. Back when... I was starting at UT around '98/'99. All we had was WXUT. I would be up there trying to get down with One Tyme and Ill Sid and everybody because if you wanted real hip-hop... college radio was it. But the way y'all had Club One, it was like hip-hop that I would listen to but on a major station.

seen some hating on a legendary scale this past year I think we should get a few local artists together to talk about this very topic.

Hatin!

If you take your focus off of your grind, to intentionally focus on hating the grind of another... that's the DNA of a hater!!

It's '09, and we don't need that.

However... we are gonna do a city-wide all star remix of T. Diamond's

"Haterz Get Mad." If you write rhymes, if you can get with this topic... visit T. Diamond at : www.myspace.com/toledodiamond1 - listen to the song, send him a message

and we can get it poppin.

I'd like to thank my Adonis/Lavale Stewart for the pics at the interview.

U.G.E. hosts The Listening for all rappers/poets/singers every Saturday at 9 p.m.

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Unique Board of Directors Brings Spirited Edge to Local Nonprofit

Special to The Truth

The generosity of a four-year old child was the inspiration for Hannah's Socks, a Perrysburg-based nonprofit focused on providing clothing necessities to the less fortunate. Now, the organization is keeping that spirit alive with a junior board of directors.

"I decided to volunteer on the Hannah's Socks board

after seeing all the boxes of socks at the Turners' home. I realized that this organization was providing a much-needed service to the homeless," said 13-year old Eden Higby, a junior board member. "I knew I wanted to be a part of something that would change so many lives. It makes you feel so great when you donate a pair of socks. It

also makes you appreciate things that you take for granted every day."

The board is made up of second-grade through 11th-grade students and works just like the "adult" board of directors. Students meet once a month, follow an agenda, give reports and record minutes. They also plan and take part in activities to help with

the Hannah's Socks mission.

"Four years after the inception of Hannah's Socks, we're even more convinced that children have the ideas and determination to change the community, and the world. We're dedicated to keeping that spirit at the forefront of what we do at Hannah's Socks," said Doris Turner, mom and co-founder

of Hannah's Socks. "The junior board allows that spirit to grow with great ideas adults never would have thought of."

On Saturdays, the junior board will be passing out socks at the library downtown with Food for Thought, an organization that gives food to the homeless. They also plan to take socks and

undergarments to the Beach House and Family House. During the visit, the junior board members will spend time reading to the children.

Visit www.hannahsocks.org for more information. Search for "junior board" to see a complete list of members.

(Continued on Page 16)

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CLASSIFIEDS

January 28, 2009

Page 15



Want to make a *real* difference in someone's life? Come and join us

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) is establishing a Mobile Benefit Bank (MBB) in the greater Lucas County area. The MBB will help low-income individuals and families access and apply for public benefits and credit programs for which they may be eligible using the Ohio Benefit Bank online system.

ABLE is seeking to enroll 5 Advocates through the AmeriCorps Program to identify and screen individuals for benefit eligibility through outreach events at a variety of community access points.

Individuals will work from ABLE's Toledo Office. Candidates must be able to work well with low-income individuals and groups; have excellent communication skills; be computer proficient; and committed to the principle of equal justice.

Relevant college degree highly preferred. Experience working in the area of government benefits is preferred. Fluency in Spanish is highly preferred.

Compensation is set by federal statute. Participants are eligible for a living allowance, health insurance, and an education award for each full year of service. Eighteen month commitment required. Minimum 35 hour work week with some weekend and evening activities required.

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To apply send via email a cover letter, resume, and list of references to jobs@ablelaw.org Attention AmeriCorps Member Position.

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Sunoco, Inc., an independent refiner and marketer of petroleum in Toledo, has an immediate need for a First Class Instrument Mechanic. The selected applicant will be responsible for installing, repairing, maintaining, and troubleshooting various types of instruments such as: differential pressure transmitters, flow meters, level transmitters, level switches, pressure switches, control valves, smart positioners, thermocouples, and control systems.

To be considered, applicants must:

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- Have a minimum of 4 years experience in repairing, maintaining and installing instrumentation in the chemical, refining or other similar industries.
- Have a working knowledge of good industry practices for repairing instruments
- Be a self-starter in repairing and demonstrate the ability to make sound decisions while working with limited supervision
- Be able to work 8-hour shifts and temporary off-shifts to include weekends, holidays and overtime, and a willingness to perform physically active job tasks in all types of weather

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume through our website career center at www.sunocoinc.com. Applications will not be accepted at the refinery location. Applications will be accepted from 8:00 am Tuesday, January 20, 2009 through 8:00 am Monday, February 2, 2009.

EOE/MF/D/V



Sunoco, Inc., an independent refiner and marketer of petroleum in Toledo, has an immediate need for a First Class Electrician. The selected applicant will be responsible for installing, inspecting and maintaining all types of electrical equipment and systems in the Refinery, including high voltage electrical switchgear.

To be considered for this position, applicants must:

- Have a 2 year Electrical Technology Degree or completion of Electrician Apprenticeship Program
- Have a minimum of 4 years experience as a journeyman electrician
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- Demonstrate the ability to read and interpret drawings, instructions, procedures, rules, regulations, and standards
- Be a self-starter
- Be able to work 8-hour shifts and temporary off-shifts to include weekends, holidays and overtime, and a willingness to perform physically active job tasks in all types of weather

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume through our website career center at www.sunocoinc.com. Applications will not be accepted at the refinery location. Applications will be accepted from 8:00 am Tuesday, January 20, 2009 through 8:00 am Monday, February 2, 2009.

EOE/MF/D/V

PSSST....Daddy, I Want To Be Black Like Obama!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Column



According to newsmaker Larry King and as stated on his TV program "Larry King Live," his eight-year-old son gushed to his dad that he wishes that he (the son) were black.

Taking into consideration the high emotional drama of swearing in the nation's first black president and allowing for the youngster's zeal and enthusiasm for Obama's charismatic appeal, does this boy really, really, really want to be black and not just the blackness that comes from the ben-

efit of melanin?

But, if the child still insists and is still enraptured about being black, it is only fair and appropriate that he be given the following pop test to see if he is really committed to this racial changeover.

Unless this child of privilege can correctly score at least 10 out of the attached 12 questions, his application for an honorary black boy will have to be summarily denied and he must remain as is ... white, young and privileged. This test has been rigorously vetted by the best black minds in America and is age appropriate:

- (1) Are you willing to identify with the sufferings of Bessie Smith and Billy Holiday's song: "Strange Fruit?" Yes/No.
- (2) Name three black

sororities and fraternities:

(3) What does the X stand for in the name of Malcolm X?

(4) Sing one verse of the Negro National Anthem and name the person who penned the words.

(5) Name three black authors you have read in the past 12 months.

(6) Who was Muhamed Fard.

(7) Who were the Buffalo Soldiers

(8) What was the Great Migration in America about.

(9) Who was Phyllis Wheatley.

(10) What are chitlins.

(11) Name the black man who discovered what is known as Chicago.

(12) What is the mourner's bench and where is it located.

Now the above questions are positioned for an eight year old and if this child can correctly answer 10 of the above, he is awarded a certificate as an honorary black boy and is entitled to the following privileges and rites of passage:

- (a) Going to a black barbershop and slap high fives with his barber
- (b) Doing the Michael Jackson moonwalk.
- (c) Saying, "what's up bro," to other black kids
- (d) Eating ribs and mac and cheese without limitation.
- (e) Being subject to

arbitrary arrest for shoplifting when he goes into a store.

(f) Being sent to jail on flimsy or no evidence.

(g) Obtaining second class health care and an education.

(h) Being twice as good as the next guy but never getting the job.

Now, when all of the above is said and done, this white child has

only 30 days to return his certificate and take back his gushing desire to be black and live out the black experience and remain with his own cultural background; and from there learn to experience and appreciate the whole gamut of America and all Americans as a white boy.

He should not be seduced into the Holly-

wood/TV-created image that because Barack Obama is elected president all is well, black is the new envied currency and that anyone black will live a wonderful life from this time forth.


Barack Obama is not the fulfillment of any dream, he is merely a step of many steps in the right direction.



GUESS WHO'S TURNING 30!!!

February 3, 2009

Chris Mitchell



I love you very much!!
-Wifey-
Gilda Mitchell

HANNAH'S STORY

(Continued from Page 14)

Four years ago, then four-year-old Hannah Turner and her family were serving Thanksgiving dinner at a local homeless shelter. There Hannah saw a man whose shoes had split open, revealing he wasn't wearing socks. Although her mother, Doris, reassured her the man's shoes would keep his feet warm. Hannah wasn't convinced and told her, "Mommy, he can have my socks." The next day, Doris took Hannah to purchase and distribute socks to local shelters.

HANNAH'S SOCKS MISSION

Hannah's Socks is a non-profit organization focused on providing clothing necessities to the less fortunate in Toledo, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; and their neighboring communities. Hannah's Socks collects donated materials in the form of new men's,



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women's and children's socks and undergarments, then leverages partnerships with local shelters for distribution to both the homeless and to victims of domestic violence. In addition, it supports programs serving under-privileged children.

In 2008, Hannah's Socks collected more than 47,000 pairs of socks.