



The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 15, No.21

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 11, 2009

Principal Teresa Quinn and Students **Lincoln Academy for Boys**



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"We sent Allen because it is an all-boys academy. We wanted him to have that experience and so far it has worked. We have liked his progress. Each year he has moved forward and everything that has come out of the situation has been good." – Shirley Gregory on her grandson.

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Whatever happened to the 100 days grace period for the incoming president? These are not the times for such largess.

There is a report that when President Barack Obama awoke on the morning of November 5, 2008, he called his aides to ask if they could demand a recount. Probably thinking about now that he should have pursued that course of action.

So far the reviews of the new president's performance have been thumbs up for style while he is buffeted from every direction for the substance of his proposals.

Those on the right have flayed him for the enormous size of the stimulus package, the overreaching he has displayed in trying to deal with the economy, energy and health care all at the same time and the earmarks that are a part of the package. Those on the left, the Paul Krugmans, for example, are taking him to task because the stimulus package, they say, is far too small to have an impact.

Just this past Tuesday, the headlines from columnists across the nation read: "Obama's Fear Mongering," "Lyndon Baines Obama," "Subsidizing Bad Decisions," "Madison Would Want Obama's Plan to Fail."

Of course, the political problem Obama has is that he feels compelled to use government spending to stimulate the economy ... much as Bush did during his last few months in office. Conservatives want to stimulate through tax cuts, however, and so elected officials are at loggerheads over the most effective method of getting the job done.

We certainly hope Obama is right, for the sake of our national well-being. We really can't afford a mistake of the magnitude his critics take such glee in predicting.

For our part, we believe that spending makes a good deal more sense than tax cuts. We also believe that the criticism of earmarks in the stimulus package is overblown. It's a spending package, after all. The whole thing can easily be characterized as earmarks – or pork barrel projects.

* * * *

Nothing will come easy for this president. This week, he rescinded the ban on federal funding for human embryonic stem-cell research arguing that the potential benefits to such research outweighed the concerns that some ethicists have about the moral implications of using such material.

That decision has already prompted those critics to attack him as the "abortion president." We can hardly wait to see the reaction when he addresses the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy with respect to gay personnel.

Aside from the policy decisions that the president has to make about the economy, health care, energy and foreign policy, he also has to balance the social conscience of the nation as he addresses such issues.

What we applaud – so far – is the fact that Obama has been fairly consistent with what he said he would do during the campaign season – consistent in just about every issue.

* * * *

In this time of economic distress, the first to be affected by the turndown are the non-profit social service agencies. But the troubles for these agencies – our local agencies for the most part but the problem is certainly nationwide – did not start when the recession was officially declared several months ago. Troubles had been brewing for more than a year as giving fell off and revenues declined precipitously.

We have had reports for sometime, for example, that the area's food banks supplies were far below what they had been just a few short years ago.

It has been suggested, even in these very pages, that members of the boards of directors of these organizations be held more directly accountable and that they be sued for their failure to live up to their fiscal responsibilities.

We have to disagree strongly with that sentiment.

The very last thing our society needs to do is ratchet up our litigiousness. And the very idea that we want to deliberately discourage volunteerism is antithetical to the spirit of such organizations.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

March 11

Area Office on Aging North Kinship Club: "Coping with Pull-Your-Hair-Out Behavior; Zablocki Senior Center; 5:30 pm; 419-725-7042

March 12-13

Rogers High School Gospel Fest: Gospel Choir Concert on the 12th; Gospel Explosion on the 13th; 7 pm both nights

March 13

Calvary MBC: Pastor Smith's 20th Anniversary Celebration; 7 pm; Elder Albert Lee and New Home MBC

March 14

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. 12th Annual Nationwide Youth Symposium: "H3: It's All About Me (Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, Healthy Generations);" Workshops, Guest speakers, hip-hop/rap contest co-sponsored by UGE; Mott Branch Library; 10 am to 2 pm; 419-509-3625

Edward M. Parker Electric Academy: Change of location to Frederick Douglass Community Association

March 15

Calvary MBC: Pastor Smith's 20th Anniversary Celebration; 11 am; Bishop Duane Tisdale and Friendship

St. Paul MBC Annual Men's Day: "Christian Men Seeking the Abundance of God's Grace;" All day celebration; Guest Pastor Brian Watkins of Greater Emmanuel Baptist of Detroit

Indiana Avenue MBC: 44th Anniversary celebration for Pastor Jonh roberts and Mother Bernice Roberts; 4 pm; guests are Rev. Wormely and Southern MBC

March 20

Calvary MBC: Pastor Smith's 20 Anniversary Celebration; 7 pm; Pastor Ronald Taylor and Beulah Baptist

Area Office on Aging West Kinship Club: "Let's Talk;" Sylvania Senior Center; Noon: 419-725-7042

March 21

Artists Workshop: 11 am; Truth Art Gallery; 419-243-0007

Warren AME Church: Workshops on Mary Kay, healthy eating and exercise, yoga, abstinence and STD's; Guest speaker UT's Preston Kelson; Special workshops for children ages 2-11: 419-517-4225 or 567-249-8215

March 21-April 18

Marvin Vines Art Exhibit: Opening reception on March 21 from 6 to 9 pm

March 22

Calvary MBC: Pastor Smith's 20th Anniversary Celebration; 4 pm; Pastor Gregory Bennett and Canaan MBC

Dominion Christian Center: "CAVEMEN" Men's Day Service; 11 am with Apostle Leroy Coleman; 6 pm service with Pastor Michael Henderson of Harvest Christian Center: 419-870-6423

March 24

Toledo Kwanzaa: Celebrating Women's Month; Mott Branch; 6 pm; special day with Toledo Kwanzaa and artists Alice Grace

Area Office on Aging: Caregiver Educational Series; Mott Branch; 6:30 to 8 pm: 419-725-6963

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



for state representative in a suburban Columbus district. She lost that race but was impressive with her energy and focus.

T.J. is looking for Toledo-area friends to help out in her effort for the U.S. Senate by asking volunteers to call 614-927-8722. She is a member of Lo Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus where Rev. Keith Troy is pastor.

A second woman has entered the political list for the U.S. Senate seat soon to be vacated by Ohio's George Voinovich.

Toledo native, now Columbus resident, Tracee Johnson, has decided she would be a good U.S. Senator.

Johnson is the daughter of Ellen Johnson—longtime member of Toledo's St. James the Armory. Tracee, or T.J. as she is commonly called, is now 44 years old and works as a supervisor in an information technology firm.

T.J. is very outgoing and a natural in crowds of people. I watched her first hand several years ago when she ran

just wanted to help kids, even blindly throwing money down the drain, makes no sense.

The law is that board members are fiduciaries—they have a duty of fixed accountability. Period. You do not get a free pass to screw up because you have a good heart.

The financial free fall in City Hall continues. By the time we hit bottom, it will be even more than the \$20 million shortfall presently staring us down. More layoffs and closings are going to hit with a wallop of less cash for City Hall. Why do they wait to take action? Every day results in a deeper financial hole for the city.

At Toledo Public Schools, if we get hit with another huge enrollment decline, significant cuts, including school closings, must follow. That is the only solution.

I think we are moving into a financial depression that will be with us for years. The Obama stimulus package will help but it looks like the message is not being accepted by the financial markets.

Screening of Democratic candidates for the Toledo Board of Education is taking place this week at headquarters on Madison St. I anticipate Aji Green, Robert Vasquez and Virginia Hill to emerge with the endorsement from the Dems.

If the GOP slates a school board candidate from West Toledo, I'd give them a good chance to win. This ought to be a good spot for a business person to enter political life.

Speaking of business, who really believes the twist put on the demise of Connecting Point? I know several big wigs who knew the non-profit agency was in trouble last summer before the levy vote. Even the argument that the board was made up of people who

From Paralysis to Protest

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor



There ought to be a place in life where a line in the sand is drawn, where retreat refuses to continue, where inaction is no longer an option and where enough becomes enough!

According to reports Ohio accounted for five percent of the 2,330,483 properties with foreclosure filings nationwide in 2008. Lucas County posted the top rate in Ohio with one in 30 of its housing units being in foreclosure and losing an estimated three percent per year of its housing stock to the foreclosure process.

According to the Center for Responsible Lending, another 87,500 foreclosures are expected for Ohio in 2009 and 291,500 over the next four years.

The economic downturn has affected the suburbs and areas that have been previously shielded from the foreclosure crisis but has been particularly hard on the African-American community that has lost from \$73 billion to \$93 billion in wealth nationally.

What is tragically unjust is that this flood of foreclosures is occurring while the corporate world and Wall Street are experiencing the highest executive pay and the largest bailouts in history. Corporate CEOs make 344 times the average worker, and the wealthiest 10 percent of Americans own more than two-thirds of the nation's wealth.

In the last 35 years, the richest one percent of Americans experienced a 62 percent drop in their federal income tax rate while their incomes increased over 80 percent. The riches of a few continue to mask the economic dangers faced by the middle, working and marginalized classes who, as the real victims, struggle to buy food, pay fuel and heating

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Four Thoughts That Are Fighting for Air ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



(1) It appears that Mayor Carty Finkbeiner is playing coy as to whether or not he should strap on his oversized brogans and wade through the viscous political mud and announce that he again wants to be the darling of Toledo politics aka: mayor.

From my prior rantings about Carty, it is no shocker for me to state that every citizen who has two brain cells still remaining intact after his disastrous reign as a mayor, should shout from the top of the Veterans Memorial Bridge: NO...NOT NOW...NOT AGAIN!

You would think that Toledoans have finally seen that this emperor not only has no clothes but is butt nekkid. Butt Nekkid is a term reserved for those individuals who simply do not know better and think everybody enjoys viewing them in their birthday suits. No, Carty, you are not all of that and bag of candy corn so please take the hint and run back inside.

(2) Oh, I forgot. Another blatant reason that any thinking Toledoan and every black person who has a shred of dignity should give Carty the heave ho is that Carty likes to call black men King Kong. That's right! Sometime ago in public, he called the former fire chief Mike Bell...KING KONG!

Why King Kong and not Superman or Atlas or Hercules or Samson or the Hulk to ostensibly portray the brute strength of Mike Bell? Easy. That embedded racial stereotype of a large black hulking male brings to mind King Kong in the minds of many white folks fed on an anemic Hollywood diet of racial profiling. Regrettably, this type of vituperative behavior by Carty is being reprised with the recent association of chimp images with President Barack Obama. Go figure.

(3) Speaking of Mike Bell. Why in the blazes did he not check and chastise Carty Finkbeiner when this mayor called him King Kong and as such also cast aspersions on the parentage of Mike Bell since only apes can beget other apes?

It is a sad moment when someone call you and your parents apes and you do not firmly, but forcibly, tell the mayor where to get off. That speaks volumes about the courage of a person who purportedly is seeking to be mayor if he can not stand up and verbally cuff this mayor! What is wrong with this picture?

Mike Bell would have won many kudos if he would have made a stance but instead he wimped out and grinned and smiled and his integrity took a needless hit. Not my idea of a **strong** mayor.

(4) Go Ian! As you know Ian English is running for a judge slot on the local municipal court bench. Ian is an excellent choice and will make a fine jurist. It was a travesty that he did not get the nod for the then-vacant seat on the juvenile court bench where it would have been in order and appropriate to see a black face dispensing justice in an urban courtroom system that has far too many juveniles who look like Ian.

Juvenile Court has the leverage to make a big difference in the lives of impressionable and misdirected juveniles via creative programming and sentencing. We needed Ian English on that bench. So, when you vote this fall...vote early and vote often for Ian English and remember to slip his campaign a few bucks since money is the mother's milk of politics.



Who Is Watching Your Child?

BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILD WITH ANYONE

—a friend, neighbor or even a relative—ask yourself,

“What do I really know about this person?”

Most of us can't be with our children 24 hours a day. We have errands and appointments that require leaving them in the care of others. Most people turn to friends, neighbors or loved ones to watch their kids. But don't assume they have the experience—or patience—to supervise children.

Parents know it's normal for babies to cry, but boyfriends or girlfriends may not. Parents are used to their kids making messes, but friends and neighbors may not be.

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS.

“Do I know how this person handles children?”

“Have I seen how they respond to stress?”

“How would they discipline my child?”

“How would they respond in an emergency?”

Remember: Children cannot defend themselves like adults can. It only takes an instant for a child to get hurt.

KNOW WHO IS WATCHING YOUR CHILD.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call 419-213-CARE (2273).



To learn more about preventing child abuse and neglect in our community, visit www.lucaskids.net

Protest

(Continued from Page 3)

costs, maintain health care and try to remain in their homes while being portrayed as irresponsible perpetrators of self-inflicted suffering.

Banks and financial institutions, on the other hand, who can be gluttonous as well as miserly but certainly cannot be manipulated or hoodwinked by a financially unsophisticated consumer public, point blame at those who supposedly attempted to "buy more house than they can afford." Yet the bank has access to tools and information technology such as credit reports, debt ratio calculations and other methods of credit evaluation.

The truth is, that many consumers took money from a deregulated mortgage lending industry that wanted to lend money to them and assumed mortgages at high rates of interest or adjustable rates that started low but reset later at substantially higher rates and that could balloon by 29-50 percent which was buried in the fine print. The mortgage brokers and loan originators raked in enormous fees and lined their pockets from these predatory and subprime transactions.

Many of the borrowers were two-income households who played by the rules and, in a city like Toledo where the average value of a home is

\$109,000, found themselves in foreclosure only after being laid off because of the recession and weakened economy, the loss of jobs that moved overseas and high energy costs.

One wonders whether in a crisis of this magnitude and amidst trillion dollar bailouts for the greedy if families who truly need relief can get rescued?

Rabbi Hillel stated "Every morning we wake up the scales are equally balanced between good and evil. What we do during the day will determine where the scales fall. The perennial question for our day is: Will you be paralyzed by fear or inaction?"

Doing nothing is not an option. It is a day for challenging the power structure that holds people down instead of lifting them up and that holds them back instead of helping them out. We can no longer be silent or passive while being oriented toward our private wants instead of public needs.

With eight to nine million additional foreclosures projected over the next four years, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur suggests that we take back our homes. We can do this by using the courts. If facing foreclosure, you should get legal help to

fight for your property and demand that brokers establish the paperwork that proves clear ownership.

Many brokers are not able to do this. Legal and other help or assistance is available through Kaptur's office at 419-259-7500, The Fair Housing Center 419-243-6163, ABLE 419-241-2913, or United Way 211.

The "Helping Families Save Their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2009" is legislation that has passed the House and is now in the Senate (S. 61) which could require bankruptcy judges to lower the interest rate to as low as two percent, reduce mortgage payments to no more than 31 percent of income or lower the principal owed on the loan.

Tell your senator to help the people who are hurting rather than the bankers who are threatening them and stop foreclosures without tax dollars by lifting the ban on judicial modifications. You can send your senator a letter using the internet at: <http://ga3.org/campaign/empowerfamiliesfacingforeclosure>

Ohio State Representative Edna Brown has co-sponsored legislation that will protect renters living in foreclosed properties. Tell our legislators also to introduce legislation and oversight that

puts a moratorium on foreclosures while legislation is pending.

In addition, advise our leaders to end the abusive lending practices that produced the foreclosure crisis in the first place through reforms and start to focus again on strengthening homeownership, rather than

allowing an unsupervised financial services industry to become rich through speculation and predatory lending.

If we are going to emerge from the current economic tsunami the first task will be to repair the damage to the housing market and the lives of working, middle-class, and marginalized citizens. We

have already seen that assistance will not come if we continue to sit silently by watching the havoc wreaked on our lives by an uncaring and unchallenged power structure. It will take action and nothing less.

Contact Donald Perryman, D.Min., at dclperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Boots and Shoes Still Available at Mt. Nebo

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church – Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock – will hold a second boot and shoe giveaway during the church's 11:30 a.m. services on March 29.

The first giveaway on March 1 – which included belts and hair accessories – was widely successful but so many new shoes and boots were donated for the cause that Pastor Brock has decided to do it again.

For more information, call the church at 419-246-8561.



Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock

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Hannah's Socks Honored by City of Toledo

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Four years ago, then-four year old Hannah Turner and her family were serving Thanksgiving dinner at a homeless shelter. There Hannah saw a man whose shoes had split open, revealing that he wasn't wearing socks.

Although her mother Doris assured Hannah that the man's shoes would keep his feet warm, Hannah wasn't convinced.

"Mommy, he can have my

socks," said Hannah. The next day, Doris took Hannah to purchase and distribute socks to the local shelters. The generosity of that child was the inspiration for Hannah's Socks, a non-profit organization that provides clothing necessities to the less fortunate. Last month, the City of Toledo recognized this effort and named Hannah and her family, December Citizens of the Month.

"You have something really special, you may have been

anointed," said Mayor Carty Finkbeiner to the young girl who attended the ceremony with her parents, Doris and Vic Turner and three of her seven siblings. "What a fantastic program."

According to the family and the organization's volunteers, Hannah's Socks has distributed in excess of 50,000 pairs of socks over the years and has adopted two elementary schools, Raymer and Pickett, as part of its program.

Greater Toledo Urban League Hosts Annual Dinner to Support Ongoing Community Service Programs

Special to The Truth

Each year the Greater Toledo Urban League (GTUL) touches hundreds of lives across the community through its ten programs that reach out to youth, adults and seniors. From summer mentorship and basketball, after school and tutoring programs, to Urban League Young Professionals, Fathers of Tomorrow, Job Assistance and the J. Frank Troy Senior Center; the Urban League is reaching out to our community to improve the quality of life for over 2,300 greater Toledo residents.

The Greater Toledo Urban League will hold the 12th Annual Urban League Banquet on Thursday, March 12, 2009 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Parkway Place. Proceeds from the banquet help to support the programming and staffing for services provided

to the community. This year's theme—"Embracing Change: An Opportunity For New Beginnings" capitalizes on the changes the organization has seen over the last year. The dinner will also feature speaker Norma T. Hollis. Hollis has navigated through the meeting and public speaking industry to emerge as the CEO of one of the largest speakers' bureaus in the world owned by an African-American woman.

Despite a challenging economy and organizational changes over the last several months, the GTUL leadership has ensured that services continue to be delivered to those who most need them and that the organization continues to thrive in the community. Executive Director John Jones has looked at his first year on the job as an

opportunity to reintroduce the organization to the community. The Urban League has also moved to a new home in downtown Toledo.

Tickets are still available for this year's banquet and may be purchased at the Greater Toledo Urban League or the Sojourner's Truth newspaper office, both in downtown Toledo. More information about the banquet and Urban League is available by calling 419.243.3343 or visiting online at www.gtul.org.

The Greater Toledo Urban League (GTUL) is a non-profit community service organization, established in 1996 to provide direct services in the areas of employment, training, business and career development, education, health, housing, and youth development to the Toledo community.

everybody hates chris
fridays 8pm

the game
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Lincoln Academy for Boys: Where Boys of Destiny Become Men of Distinction

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"I love Lincoln," says Prudence Hicks, who has two grandsons at Lincoln currently and an additional one who has moved on to another school. "I like the idea that boys can go some place without being accosted by girls. They can stay focused there."

Now in its sixth year as an all-boys school, the Toledo Public Schools' operated Lincoln Academy has achieved, on the last State of Ohio report card, the status of "continuous improvement" as part of a steady climb up the academic ladder. That's an achievement that has not been lost on Prudence Hicks.

"Lincoln and Ms. [Principal Teresa] Quinn have raised the academic level," says Hicks. "The boys are learning."

The George and Prudence Hicks certainly have an idea of what it takes to learn. George Hicks is himself a retired teacher after 35 years in the business. Their grandson Unique is in the fifth grade at Lincoln and Jumarr is in the third. They also have two granddaughters who attend the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls. Clearly the couple are firm believers in single-gender academies.

"Boys are so easily distracted," says Prudence Hicks. "They need to learn, they need to learn who they are and to be okay with themselves."

And others need to learn about Lincoln say a number of parents The Truth spoke with recently. On March 19, prospective students and their parents will have the opportunity to do just that during an open house at the school.

The activities during open house night will be based upon the readings of Dr. Seuss. "We are gearing the achievements' towards reading," says Principal Quinn. Those reading activities will be in preparation for the Ohio Achievement Tests with tips for studying for the prospective students.

Unlike the Hicks family,



"Lincoln and Ms. [Principal Teresa] Quinn have raised the academic level," says Hicks. "The boys are learning."

From left: Jeramey Frelin, Calvin Greer, Royce Burruss, Shron Easton, Principal Teresa Quinn, Jalen Willis, Robert Colt

not all parents with students at the school immediately sensed the need to send their boys to single gender academies. Jennifer Hill, whose first grader Russell Chapman III attends Lincoln, was slow to warm up to the idea, she says. It wasn't until she read about the school in an Ebony Magazine article that she was finally convinced to give it a try. She has had no reason since to regret her decision.

She is impressed by the academic progress Russell is making; she is happy that he likes the school so much that "he enjoys getting up in the morning and going to school."

Hill, however, is also pleased with the rapport she has established with Quinn and the school's fac-

ulty. "I can call and get answers to issues," says Hill. "I have good access to teachers and the principal."

In addition to the information provided on open house night about reading and the Ohio Achievement Tests, prospective students will also be able to hear about the school's business program conducted by financial advisor Derrick Gant, who has been a mentor at Lincoln for a number of years. Gant's 12-week course for fifth and sixth grade students teaches the boys about the stock market, creating businesses and business development.

One or more St. John's Jesuit High School students will also be on hand to speak about the mentorship program that St.

John's 2020 students have developed for Lincoln's first grade students.

And parents will have the opportunity to learn more about Kids Unlimited, the after school program that has been so well-received.

"We sent Allen because it is an all-boys academy," says Shirley Gregory of her grandson, Allen Gregory IV, a fifth grade student at Lincoln. "We wanted him to have that experience and so far it has worked. We have liked his progress. Each year he has moved forward and everything that has come out of the situation has been good. He likes it and participates in Kids Unlimited."

Open House/Achievement Night on Thursday, March 19 will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. The evening at Lincoln will include refreshments and a raffle and parents will be able to enroll their sons for the 2009-2010 school year. For more information, contact the school at 419-244-5823.

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Money Isn't Everything ... Preparation and Desire Are All-Important

By Will Lucas
Guest Column



I applaud Owens Community College and The University of Toledo in their efforts to stimulate learning among area students and by putting a post-secondary education within reach for all of our students with their respective Success Program and Blue and Gold Scholarship, which allows for a free college education at either school.

While each has its own specific qualifying factors, I find it difficult to determine an honest situation where college is still out of financial reach for any local student.

A few weeks ago, I met with Lonny Rivera, James Gault and Patty Mazur from TPS. They implored me to use

my influence to encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity. I see no reason not to.

However, what did give me concern was to realize that it was not only the students who needed encouraging, but also parents who probably needed it just as much. What we need to know about these opportunities for a free college education is that while they are open to any local student, parents need to do some homework as well.

To qualify for either scholarship a student must be Pell Grant eligible and turn in a completed FAFSA. The problem with this is that far too many parents in the inner city

and lower income communities don't file their taxes and, in order to complete the FAFSA, you need to file.

This brings me to what I believe is, and has always been, the core issue. Here's a hint - it ain't money.

There are but two factors that gauge our students' success in college. These are preparation and the desire to be there.

Arguably our biggest challenges stare at us from behind a dark curtain long before a student is faced with the serious question of whether or not he or she even plans to attend. These challenges consist of several variables in the social climate that ultimately dictates their choice.

Does education hold value in my home and do my parents challenge me to excel? Do those in my neighborhood, church or extended family encourage me and apply healthy pressure to reach my potential? Are my friends and associates motivating me or holding me back? What limits have I placed on myself because of my upbringing or environment? Do I know who I am and where I'm going? Do I know what I wish to accomplish? And if I don't, do I maintain the imagination and courage to explore?

These are just a few of the determining questions that begin to take shape even before high school. What Owens Community College and The University of To-

ledo did must not be looked at as the fix, but they have taken away the excuse that college is financially unfeasible.

I don't mean to single out Woodward in what I am about to say, but I will speak of them only because they were the only school offering this program last school year.

Of the 118 Woodward High School graduates for the 2007-08 school year, 57 of them took advantage of the free education available to them at Owens. This is a good thing, but not a great thing.

Here's why: If I were to offer a free, open food buffet to say, 10 starving men who had no idea how they were going to eat anytime soon and, of that 10, I had only five takers, I'd be happy that the five got their fill of string beans. However, I'd probably also have the other five psychologically evaluated. I say this because this number of participating students leaves me to wonder, what happened to the other 60-plus?

I do know for sure what happened to one.

I interviewed a student who was set to graduate from Woodward High School last school year in a previous episode of my television show CHAMPIONS with King Keyser that airs Saturdays at noon on the CW (shameless

plug, I know). This student had tremendous potential in the arts as he continually displayed. He had plans to attend Owens Community College upon graduation by taking advantage of the free education via the Success Program (note: the Blue and Gold Scholarship at UT was not available at the time).

As I still do work with the kids at Woodward, I spoke with a former teacher for this particular student to check in on how this student was doing after graduating. I asked if he did go ahead and pursue the free education that he was so excited about and the teacher told me that he didn't for reasons seemingly beyond his control. The issue was that the student's mother was, like many of our inner city kids, a single mother providing for a family on a fixed income. She needed him to go to work and pitch in financially.

Although I completely understand her need for immediate financial support, I was left feeling a sense of loss - a loss to this community, a loss to the arts, a loss to our future.

What are we to say to a young person who wishes to go to school but also needs to be of immediate financial support his or her family? What do we do to break the

cycle of poverty when a student is given the opportunity to progress, but can't take advantage of it because of the immediate.

Here's my take. I have a favorite quote that I once had above my email signature. It reads, "The person who can not see the ultimate, becomes a slave to the immediate." (Author unknown).

This sums up my view of his and many other students dilemmas in many ways. If we are not willing to sacrifice now, we will continue to live just as we always have. I was taught early on the famous Benjamin Franklin quote "Insanity is defined by doing the same thing over and over, and expecting a different result."

In no way do I condemn that mother for needing the help, but I will challenge us all to give that kid a chance. He is not the only one.

There are many in TPS and our charter schools who desire and deserve a chance at higher learning but will not seek it because of the social conditions in which they live, learn, or both.

If we do not begin now to prepare our students to dream, to work, and to be progressive and courageous, then the opportunity to attend college for free will come and go. And we will seek excuses, only to find none.

College Resource Night @ Your Library

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is offering a **free** program titled **College Resource Night** to assist you in your pursuit of higher education. From choosing a college to finding scholarships, grants and loans to fund your education, find out about a wealth of resources available to help you make the best decisions.

College Resource Night is scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, **March 24** in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. Participants will learn about colleges, available resources, scholarships and other financial aid, and more. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms will be available to take home.

Join **Mary Plews**, Library Teen Specialist, as she provides Toledo area students and their parents or guardians with the information they need to prepare for their futures in higher education.

College Resource Night is free, but participants must register in advance.

For more details or to register for the event, please call 419.259.5297

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Stewart Academy for Girls Dedicates Museum

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls, in cooperation with the Toledo Chapter of Links, Inc., dedicated the Mrs. Ella P. Stewart Museum on Friday February 27, 2009 in a ceremony in the school's auditorium attended by students, parents, city officials, Toledo Public School administrators and school staff. The keynote speaker for the event was U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

The dedication ceremony was highlighted by musical performances by the school's kinder-

(Continued on Page 9)



Laneta Goings and Edna Robertson of The Links, Inc. with Congresswoman Kaptur



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It is the mission of the Educational Talent Search Program and Upward Bound Program at Bowling Green State University to assist targeted low income and potential first generation college students by providing educational services and activities designed to increase secondary achievement and motivate postsecondary matriculation and graduation.

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Dorothy E. Day

Museum

(Continued from Page 8)

garten, third and fourth grade classes under the direction of Ted Meyers. The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Choir also provided musical selections.

In addition to the Links, Inc, other local service groups were on hand to lend support – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Lisa Dubose, president), Delta Sigma theta (Bettina Shuford, president) and The University of Toledo College of Pharmacy.

Stewart, a West Virginia native, was the first black student to attend



the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her doctorate degree from the university in 1916 and became the first African-

American woman licensed to practice pharmacy in the United States.

She and her husband William Stewart moved to Toledo in the early 1920's and she opened Stewart Pharmacy in 1922.

During her life Stewart was the recipient of many honors, such as being elected to the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1978 but, according to Kaptur, Stewart felt that the

greatest of those honors was having the school named for her.

For six years, the Stewart Academy has been an all-girls' school. The academy's principal is William Keaton; Suzanne Muggy is assistant principal.

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White House Internship Program

Special to The Truth

President Barack Obama this week launched the White House Internship Program for his administration and announced that applications are currently being accepted for the summer of 2009. Those selected to participate in the program will gain valuable job experience and an inside look at the life of White House staff while building leadership skills.

"This program will mentor and cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow and I'm proud that they will have this opportunity to serve," said Obama. "I look forward to working with those that are

selected to participate and I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a brighter future for our country."

In addition to normal office duties, interns will supplement their learning experience by attending a weekly lecture series hosted by senior White House staff, help at White House social events, and volunteer in community service projects.

The 2009 Summer Internship program runs from May 22 to August 14, and the **submission deadline is March**

22, 2009.

Those interested in applying to the White House Internship Program must be:

- U.S. Citizens
- Eighteen years of age on or before the first day of the internship

Enrolled in a college or university (2-4 year institution) or must have graduated from college in the past two years

Interns will be placed in a departmental office for their internship. Below is a list of departments in the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President where interns could be placed.

- White House Department of Scheduling and Advance
- The Office of Cabinet Affairs
- The White House Communications Department
- The White House Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs
- The Office of the First Lady
- The White House Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA)
- The Office of Political Affairs
- The Office of Management and Administration
- The Office of White House Counsel
- The Domestic Policy Council
- The White House Office of Presidential Personnel
- Office of the Vice President

More information on the White House Internship Program, including application instructions, can be found at: www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships

A Report on the Status of Blacks in Education

A clarion call to motivate the nation to address the educational disparities facing poor and minority students has been sounded. That call may soon be answered.

The Problem

According to a report released by the National Education Association, nearly half of the nation's Black students, but only 11 percent of White students, attend high schools in which graduation is not the norm. Now a plan has been formulated to take action.

"Everyone agrees that a quality education is absolutely vital for a child today to have a fair chance to succeed in life—and yet nearly 50 percent of Black students drop out of school before finishing high school," said NEA President Reg Weaver.

The Solution

There are many ways to address the dropout problem, and one, according to a report from NEA, is to mandate high school graduation or equivalency as compulsory for everyone below the age of 21. Just as we established compulsory attendance to the age of 16 or 17 in the beginning of the 20th century, it is appropriate and critical to eradicate the idea of "dropping out" before earning a diploma.

Another idea is to establish high school graduation centers for students 19-21 years old to provide specialized instruction and counseling in classes apart from younger students.

"More than 50 years after Brown v. Board of Education, millions of Black students still attend inferior schools—public schools with too many students per class, schools with inexperienced and overwhelmed teachers, schools with outdated texts and technologies," said Weaver. "It is time for all people who care about our children and young people to stop saying, 'Somebody ought to do something,' and do something."

"The president and the Congress have failed to fully fund the so-called No Child Left Behind Act to the tune of \$70.9 billion. Since the passage of this law in 2002, the Washington politicians have been long on rhetoric and short on resources, miserably short. As educators, community and church leaders, parents—we all have to step up and speak out. We have to demand of the politicians of both parties that they invest fully in our children. We have to coalesce into an irresistible force for our children and young people, for our future," said Weaver.

Pickett Fourth Graders Learn About Healthy Choices

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Clara Petty, case management coordinator for the James C. Caldwell Community Center, stopped by Pickett Elementary School on Thursday, March 6, to speak to the school's fourth grade students on the benefits of and ways to live a healthy lifestyle.

A portion of Petty's address was devoted to the services that the Caldwell Community Center provides with its Healthy Kids Classes, a 10-week program designed for children ages eight to 12 and their parents.

The program takes participants into a nutrition class, a

tour of a grocery store (where they learn to read labels, for example) and explains the difference choices in fast foods and healthy beverages and snacks.

"It's all about knowing about food that comes from the earth," said Petty. "We encourage a lot of fruits – oranges and apples are better for you."

In addition to the nutrition segment of the program, explained Petty, the Healthy Kids Classes has a fitness component which includes activities in the on-site gym at the Center and on Wii for

boxing and bowling games.

Petty's appearance at Pickett was part of a series on career opportunities that the school's fourth grade teachers are bringing to their students. The series will include entrepreneurs, safety professionals, librarians, among others.

As a social worker, Petty was able to explain to the students her larger role in that capacity. "We help families reach the goals they set for themselves," said Petty of those in her profession.



Clara Petty addresses fourth graders





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Pharmacy Summer Camp

The University of Toledo College of Pharmacy

2009 Camp Dates
 Sunday, June 14 - Wednesday, June 17 at Ursuline College in northeast Ohio
 Sunday, June 21 - Wednesday, June 24 at the University of Toledo's main campus

NEW DATE Sunday, July 12 - Wednesday, July 15 at the University of Toledo's main campus

About Pharmacy Camp

Pharmacy camp is a three-night, four-day camp that takes place on the campus of the University of Toledo each summer. The camp is open to high school students in the Class of 2010 who demonstrate strong academic skills and an interest in pharmacy or the pharmaceutical sciences.

Camp activities include (but are not limited to) field trips, pharmaceutical laboratory experiences, campus scavenger hunt, job shadowing, free time at the recreation center, introduction to pharmacy curriculum and workshops about current topics

in pharmacy. Admission to Pharmacy Summer Camp is competitive, and forty students are selected for each camp session. Students must complete the online application; the application deadline is Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

Pharmacy Camp offers students the opportunity to learn more about careers in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences, explore the beautiful University of Toledo campus, meet other campers their age who share the same interests, interact with UT pharmacy faculty and staff and much more!

There is a \$275 fee for the camp need-based financial assistance is available, which includes all room and meal expenses, a workbook, all scheduled camp activities and a camp t-shirt. Students will stay in a campus residence hall with camp counselors. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from The University of Toledo.

The Ursuline College/Uni-

versity of Toledo Pharmacy Partnership

The Ursuline College/University of Toledo Pharmacy Partnership is hosting its second annual Pharmacy Summer Camp June 14-17 on the campus of Ursuline College in Northeast Ohio. Students will experience a camp that parallels the camp program at UT, plus they will learn how undergraduates at Ursuline take advantage of dual admission to UT to prepare seamlessly for application to UT's professional pharmacy programs. High school students in the class of 2010 who are considering pharmacy are invited to apply for the camp. Students can apply using the Pharmacy Summer Camp online application.

Cost for the camp held on the Ursuline College campus is \$225 and includes all meals, housing, events, transportation, and a camp t-shirt. Need based financial assistance may be available upon request.

From the Dean

Pharmacy Summer Camp is proud to partner with Walgreens to offer high school students this unique opportunity to explore careers in pharmacy. Our outstanding current students, faculty, staff and alumni all participate in camp activities

to promote the benefits of an education in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences.

Professionals in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences are in high demand, and UT offers programs that will prepare students for the future of pharmacy. We wel-

come you to explore the possibilities available through pharmacy education at The University of Toledo College of Pharmacy. Go Rockets!

Johnnie L. Early, II, PhD, RPh

Dean and Professor, UT College of Pharmacy

UT to Host Statewide Diversity, Equity Conference

Special to The Truth

Peers from a variety of professions from around Ohio will gather Thursday, March 19 from 8:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, March 20 from 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. for the 13th annual "State of the State Conference" at the Dana Conference Center on The University of Toledo Health Science Campus.

Attendees will focus on the past, present and future of equity, diversity, and opportunity in the state of Ohio. Thursday conference topics include a welcome from Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president of The University of Toledo (8:15 - 8:30 a.m.), a legal update (8:30 - 10 a.m.), and the lunch keynote by Linda Dobb,

Ph.D., executive vice president and secretary to the Board of Trustees for Bowling Green State University, challenging participants' knowledge of U.S. diversity in a game show format (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.).

Friday's conference highlight will be the closing lunch keynote by Jim Wise, an anti-racism educator, discussing common arguments supporting racist attitudes and challenge participants to influence their environments with anti-racist actions (12:30 - 1:45 p.m.).

Breakout sessions will be held throughout both afternoons.

The State of the State

Conference was started to provide an opportunity for Ohioans to come together to discuss how individuals and institutions across Ohio are reacting to and preparing for changes and challenges in such areas as affirmative action, vendor and contractor set-aside programs, college and university admissions and scholarships, employment practices, and regulatory and legislative initiatives.

For more information, contact Samuel Hancock, Ed.D., assistant to the president for diversity at The University of Toledo at 419.530.2508 or visit <http://iis.stat.wright.edu/sos>.

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Owens Community College Toledo Campus Hosts Northwest Ohio's Largest College Preview Night

Special to The Truth

More than 100 public and private colleges and universities from Ohio and the surrounding states will visit the Toledo area as Owens Community College hosts northwest Ohio's largest College Preview Night on Wednesday, March 11.

Established in 1987, the event will occur from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the counseling staffs of 20 local high schools and Owens.

College tables will be set up in Owens' Student Health and Activities Center and presentations will be held in the Center for Fine and Performing Arts. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township.

Admission to College Preview Night is free and the public is encouraged to attend. "College Preview Night is a great chance for high school students and their parents, as well as adult students, to visit with admissions representatives and learn about the various educational opportunities available at colleges and universities throughout the surrounding region," said Jennifer Irelan, Owens director of Recruitment. "Owens Community College is proud to once again work with area high schools in sponsoring an event that will aid students in choosing their career path."

The event will provide prospective students the opportunity to visit with various college and university representatives and pick up important information about admission requirements. Individuals will also learn about financial aid, student activities, academic program offerings, athletic eligibility and accommodations for students with special needs.

Informational sessions will also occur throughout the evening. Attendees can hear presentations on financial aid, online financial aid resources, planning for college, preparing for the ACT test, preparing to transfer from one academic institution to another and admission to military academies and the ROTC.

In addition, representatives from local financial institutions will be present to provide information on student loans and high school counselors will be available during the event to answer general college questions. Representatives of the various military branches will also be on hand to discuss admission to military academies, the ROTC and other scholarship-related programs.

For more information on College Preview Night, contact the Owens Enrollment Services Office at (567) 661-7777 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7777.

My Brother's Keeper: HAAP in Lima

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



"Raise your hand if you've recently lost your job," said the pastor. "You've been laid off, cut back, or been bought out. Now raise your hand if you can't find a job, you've been honestly seeking gainful employment, but no one will hire you."

All over the congregation hands went up in the air. A glance around the pews revealed the arms extended belonged to young people, middle aged, those close to retirement – a true cross section of the community.

The pastor continued his inquiry. "Now, how many of you NEED to work. Whatever you're getting in unemployment, welfare or whatever income you're receiving doesn't come close to covering the cost of living?"

Again, the hands ascended. Nearly as many arms were raised as evoked by the first line of questioning. "The ushers are coming around right now, and all of you with your hands in the air, I want you to write down your name, phone numbers, email addresses – whatever means you can be contacted and your skills. Carpentry, roofing, if you're an electrician or a child care provider. While you're doing that, let me as this: how many of you in here own your own business or work in an executive position at your company?" Hands again filled the space above the pews.

"Well, brothers and sisters, we need your help putting your neighbors, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ back to work! Will you help us?" A few heads nodded, some voiced support. The minister took a deep breath and went on.

"President Obama has a plan, some call it a stimulus plan, others call it something else, but no matter what we think, we all know he can't do it alone. He's a leader, but we are the ones who have to save ourselves from this mess, with the help of God. In this case, we are our

brother's keeper."

The service continued, but the looks on the faces of the church members were a clear indication of the thoughts churning in their minds and their hearts. The economic state of the nation is one thing, to watch the numbers in the charts of the national and local news is one thing; to sit next to a person you see every week and now know they are barely surviving financially

"Mr. Glenn, I need a job. No one will hire me and I need to work. What am I supposed to do? How do I take care of my family. They don't want me to sell drugs, and I don't want to sell drugs, but how do I pay my light bill? I need help."

"I've been trying to put together a lot of programs through different companies, but it's not enough. When my pastor said that last Sunday, it just clicked

dishwashers, care givers, housekeepers, we can put them in touch with qualified people who will do the work to the best of their abilities at \$7.50 an hour," said Glenn. "Eventually, we want to get them real jobs. They'll be able to have good references and people on a budget will get needed work done in their homes at prices they can afford. It's a win-win situation. We want to find some funding to maybe get

or in need of a job, just call Nancy at 419-227-2903. A similar program has begun for residents of Auglaize

County – call 419-581-5422 and ask for the Survival Network.

"I've been trying to put together a lot of programs through different companies, but it's not enough. When my pastor said that last Sunday, it just clicked inside me that we had to do something right now." ~ Councilman Derry Glenn

is another. Now it's personal. Poverty now has a face, and it is the face of someone you know. What can you do?

Two days later, Lima 6th Ward Councilman Derry Glenn held a press conference to announce the development of a new program that will be part of the already established Neighbors Helping Neighbors Initiative. The Hire An Adult Program: HAAP. The set up is mutually beneficial for all parties. The administrator of the program maintains a file of able-bodied people who want to work. Their skills and availability are also listed.

The next step is to inform the public that these people are ready to help them with their needs. There are those homeowners who need plumbing work done, but can't afford to hire a traditional plumber; they can now call HAAP and for \$7.50 an hour, they can hire a qualified plumber, get the needed work done, and the money goes directly to the person who did the work.

No money is channeled through HAAP. The program makes the connection and the person who hires and the person who works fill in the details. Those hiring are asked to have at least four hours: \$30.00 in work for each job. Councilman Glenn says he was motivated to get this done right away through the words of his pastor.

"It's something I had been thinking about for a long time. The people in my ward and all over Lima come up to me all the time and say,

inside me that we had to do something right now. So, I called Mr. and Mrs. Bowers and they said they would help coordinate the program- it just took off from there.

"People fill out the application, and then I keep them all in a book by my phone. When someone calls me with a job, I start making calls to the people we have on file with the qualifications to handle the work. I give the worker and the caller the contact information, and then I'm out of it. It's up to them to make the arrangements and to complete the payment process."

Nancy Bowers says she enjoys making connections for people that work. "It's a perfect program," said Bowers. "Putting someone with few resources in touch with someone who can help them is a good feeling. Then knowing that \$30 or more will provide a couple of meals or help with paying a bill is a good feeling for me. In these times, every little bit helps!

"The people who sign up for this program have pride in themselves and know they are good at what they do; this is a way they get paid for their work – they don't want to have the government give them money – they want to earn their own money. Honest wage for honest work. Now, we need people to participate in the process."

Glenn has been making contacts throughout the community to involve companies in the program. "We want people to know, if they need roofers, carpenters,



Councilman Derry Glenn

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If You Do Music In Toledo, Read This!!

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



If I'm up at 3 or 4 a.m., it's not because I'm a writer... and it's not for my 9-5 either. I am an artist.

Up late at night, trying to find those perfect words to put on that paper.

Rehearsing that cadence, that flow, or those notes before you take it to the booth.

Going through sound after sound, laying string arrangements and bass lines as you construct that piece of music that evokes just what you had on your mind.

I want to speak to you, the artist.

Being an 'entertainment critic' don't mean jack if you don't understand what you critique. But the truth is, we are all entertainment critics.

We all sit up and discuss whose beats we like, whose lyrics, whose styling, whose song concepts and vocal arrangements. Well, hold up... I won't say all of us do that.

Let me back up a bit. Because the truth is not everyone approaches this music thing with the same standard of honor as the rest of us.

I love to quote Chris Rock when he said "...there's a civil war going on right now... and it's between black people and niggaz... and the niggaz have got to go!!"

So very true. Black people are civilized, humorous and good to be around.

Niggaz make you ashamed at times and they hardly get along with anyone because negativity rules most of their thoughts.

I have to apply the same reasoning to this music game.

Some of us are artists... learning to be professional, focusing on improvement and just trying to make a positive avenue for our own expression.

Some people chase this dream of success in the music business and they have no deeper expression, they give no attention to artistry and they have no respect for real people doing this for real reasons.

It's important that I let you know that I know that.

Because if you are still reading... that means you are one of those true artists.

You are someone I would probably be able to sit and chop it up with and talk about music and business because you understand the difference between an artist and someone just chasing a dream but not acting on a passion.

I'll say that again: some people are simply chasing a dream, but not acting on a passion.

Every artist reading these words right now ... I want you to think about someone you know.

Think about someone you know who does the same thing you do. And think "is that someone chasing a dream, or is that someone acting on a passion?"

I'm telling you, Toledo, if you know like I know... you will separate yourself from empty dream chasers and get with some passionate, motivated, true artists.

Do you know how much ego, B.S. and shadiness is involved in this business?

Not even on the major level, just the local level here in Toledo?

See, I have had a life-long problem when it comes to a-hole type people.

I can't deal with them. Dude, even when it's best for my career it is hard to deal with egomaniacs.

Think... do you know someone who only feels big when they make others feel small? Do you know someone who gets a little success and starts frontin'?

Do you know someone who expects you to jock them because they jock themselves?

That's why I am humble... I am proud of our accomplishments but still humble... still learning.

And honestly, I know most of my faithful readers are that way too!

I've discovered that many of my most loyal readers are just... like... me.

Most of you reading this right now are artists acting on a passion who carry themselves with dignity and humility.

Designers, playwrights, poets, decorators, authors, choreographers, painters, graphic artists, producers, singers, rappers, label owners, managers, promoters here in Toledo - If I had to divide you into two groups, it would be those doing this with humility and acting on a passion vs. those of you acting on greed, ego and B.S.

The people who you see me with in U.G.E. or the people I feature in this paper... the artists you see me working with even outside of my own crew are only gonna be that first group. People acting on a passion, people being humble and respectful and people who bring something positive and worthwhile to our artistic scene in Toledo.

That's the only people I'm gonna write about. Period.

And I know you reading this right now, you feel me.

You work hard at this because it means the world to you.

You go hard at it because you just can't imagine your life any other way.

And I respect you for that, and we are like minds for real!

There's a dude somewhere writing rhymes on a napkin, there's a girl somewhere up late at night writing lyrics after everyone else is asleep, there's somebody using old equipment to make their first 100 beats - all right now somewhere in this city, that's all going down and that passion is what I love and what I will rep.

And to all the established acts in this city, the crews and labels on the come-up and people already getting industry love who are based right here in Toledo... I will rep y'all's success as well and learn from whatever you are willing to teach.

I stopped doing local al-

bum reviews because all it did was create a lot of mad rappers.

So instead of that you can expect more interviews, in depth break downs of whose hot right now, maybe a few contests, a bunch of shout outs and a continued listing everyone I can think of at the moment whose here making good music and coming cor-

rect with the respect.

TRIPLE THREAT BDAY BASH THIS SATURDAY @ ERIE STREET MARKET w/ D.J. Lyte N Rod, D.J. J. Roc, D.J. One Tyme - and all Pisces can celebrate too!

Also Yung Prof and a few other rappers are gonna be at Mickey Finns (Sorry, I just mentioned the only one who mentioned it to me... who-

ever else gonna be there, don't take it personal)

And ...U.G.E. Presents The Listening... Saturday @ 9pm - 1811 Adams for Poets/singers/ rappers and artistic minds on some cool ish.

Peace yaw. glascitytruth@yahoo.com

Book Review

The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama by Gwen Ifill

c.2009, Doubleday \$24.95 / \$27.95 Canada 277 pages, includes index

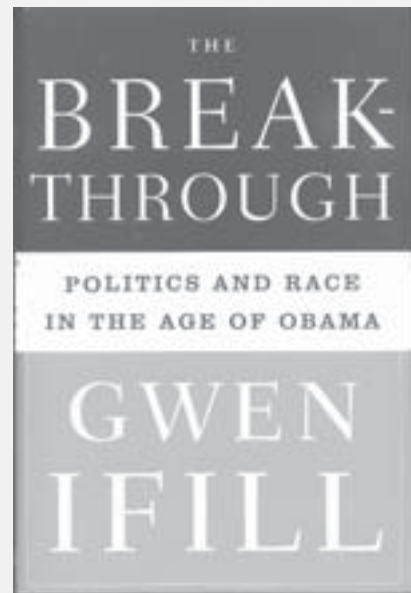
By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

A few months ago, you made an X, drew a line, flipped a switch or otherwise indicated which candidate you wanted to see in the White House. Which-ever you did, you helped make a first.

Would the next Pennsylvania Avenue resident be the first African-American president, or would he govern with the first woman VP? Were you mourning because your candidate wouldn't be the first woman president? Or did you cast your vote elsewhere, thus making history by not voting for a first-time history-maker?

In the new book The Breakthrough, author Gwen Ifill examines race and gender in the 2008 election, and how it changed the political landscape forever.

When Barack Obama won the primary in Iowa in 2006, people who marched in Selma and protested



in Birmingham were surprised. Few - politician or otherwise - ever thought they'd see a black man win an overwhelmingly white state in a race for the highest office in the land.

But this should have come as no surprise; it was almost inevitable. Younger-generation Af-

frican-American politicians had been making their marks for years. Those men and women didn't live through race riots and Jim Crow laws, but "lived in a world shaped by access instead of denial."

Through them, the (Continued on Page 14)

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Breakthrough

(Continued from Page 13)

times, they were a-changing'.

Still, the rift between old Civil-Rights-era lions and new Gen-X cubs is deep, Ifill says, and it can be wide even within families. Witness the Jackson family: Jesse Sr. was heard muttering insults toward Barack Obama (and subsequently apologized), while Jesse Jr. threw

himself wholeheartedly behind the Obama candidacy.

Add gender to the mix and things get muddier. Many African-Americans supported Hillary Clinton for myriad reasons. Though Obama won an overwhelming amount of liberal white votes, "...black voters remained skeptical for months," says Ifill.

Clinton supporters were often supporters because they were anti-Obama.

But is racism at the root of this convolution? Ifill says that it definitely was an issue in the 2008 election, on both sides. Some whites were confused because Obama "did not fit the corrosive stereotype of what a black man was supposed to be." Some African-

Americans questioned if Obama was "black enough."

Ifill quotes Congressman Kendrick Meek who says that "Black folk... want to know that the people they elect... have not forgotten their roots."

Breakthrough is, as a political examination, a bit of a conundrum. Author Gwen Ifill inter-

viewed a great number of African-American politicians to get a wide view of the Old Guard versus the Newcomers in Washington.

White politicians on the subjects of race and gender were scarce.

Yes, this is a book about "breakthroughs" in African-American politics, but a sprinkling from "the other side" might've

sparked more dialogue on this timely and important subject.

Though it meanders occasionally and though Ifill often says the same thing 10 times, I think *The Breakthrough* is a fascinating look at an era of change within an era of change. If you're a fan of politics or a student of racial relations, look toward this book first.

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CLASSIFIEDS

March 11, 2009

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY09-91,

(Project # 5003-08-1403) for Clinical Academic Renovation - Health Education Building 2nd Floor for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus.

Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$65.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Jeffrey Kring, AIA of BHPD Architecture at 614-486-1960. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Dowling Hall, Room 2315 at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$1,946,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$445,000.00; Plumbing: \$395,000.00; HVAC: \$600,000.00; Electrical: \$430,000.00; & Fire Protection: \$76,000.00.

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Group Session, Thursday, Apr 2, 2009 5:30 – 6:30 pm Fee: none

Individual Sessions, by appointment, first Friday of the month

12:00 – 4:30 pm

Returning to Work, Support for women seeking feedback on resumes and career paths.

Individual Sessions, by appointment, second Friday of the month

12:00 – 4:30 pm Fee: none

The Women's Circle, The Women's Circle is an awareness group that hon-

ors, respects, and celebrates the unique qualities of women. This is a confidential space open to all women.

Facilitator: Linda Curtis
Second and Fourth Thursday of the month

6:00 – 7:30 pm Fee: none

Support Group for UT Student Moms, This group focuses on providing a supportive space for women students who are balancing raising children and going to school. Lunch provided.

Facilitator: Megan Mahon, M.A., LPC

First Monday of the month

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Fee: none

Support Group for Moms who are Divorced, Widowed, or Single by Choice, This group focuses on providing a supportive space for single mothers from both the university and Greater Toledo community. Lunch provided.

Facilitator: Megan Mahon, M.A., LPC

Second Monday of the month

12:00 – 1:30 pm Fee: none

- The Project Succeed Groups and Classes are offered to encourage and support women toward equity in education, economic, and community life.

- Call 419.530.8570 to register.

Brown Bag Seminars

Jane Eberly Eager Conference Room Tucker Hall 0180, Thursdays, 12:30 PM

Mar 19: "Do You, Party A, Take You, Party B: How Connecticut and Massachusetts Are Changing the Language of Marriage" with Kim Welter, Program Manager for Education and Outreach, Equality Ohio

Apr 2: "It must be Spoken: Selections from the Uppity Women's Poetry Workshop" with Sharon L. Barnes, UT Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary and Special Programs

Apr 9: "Female Visionaries" with Rev. Dee Baker, Director of Toledo Campus Ministry

Apr 23: "Toni Morrison, From Beloved to A Mercy" with Jamie Barlowe, UT Professor, Women's & Gender Studies



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