



Volume 15, No.23

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 25, 2009

In This Issue

This Strikes Me
Page 2

Bell Announces
Page 3

CBTU Banquet
Page 4

Adam Martinez Running
Page 5

It Really Is the Economy

Cover Story:
Derick Gant
Page 6

Ravi's Take
Page 7

Stewart and Fifth Third
Page 8

The Stimulus Plan
Page 10

The Lima Truth
Page 12

Minister with Flow
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

MarVines Opening
Page 16



Derick L. Gant
Gant Investment Advisors

"I believe we are at or near the bottom of the stock market slide. I believe we have a once in a lifetime opportunity for those who have invested before to realize a profit."

This Strikes Me Hey....Yo....I Is Talkin' Like A Black Person....!

By Lafe Tolliver
Guest Column



Lately, I have been under intense pressure and strain to produce another quick quiz regarding a topic of interest but with my reserves of resistance, I have been able to put off that demand for a pop quiz ...until now.

What recently happened that made me change my mind? It happened during an epiphany moment when I heard Michelle Obama indicate that during her upbringing that she was goaded and teased about ... "talking white."

For all of you dear readers who heard the same remark, that morsel of a comment by Michelle Obama brought forth a floodgate of images and memories because as a child, my military parents were stationed in England and when our family came back to the States, we kids had English/Cockney accents.

Imagine if you will three black kids with nappy heads running around spouting The King's English and with accent to boot! Yeah, we were talking "white" all right and thought nothing of it. The Black Power movement and wearing dashikis and sporting bush Afros were many years off.

No one at that time was pledging allegiance to an unwritten code of black behavior and speech patterns. Coming back to the States in the fifties (before we later went over to Japan for several years) you did not need a primer in intricate hand shakes and power slogans and walking at night in your own neighborhood was not considered an act of courage.

But, I digress. When you realize that the Michelle Obamas and others of her background who dared to be different and/or whose parents demanded academic excellence from them including proper speech patterns, you realize that simply based upon speech, class warfare was declared. Declared by us on us.

What was the goal? To be conformed to homogenized thinking as to how black people should sound (as if there is a CD you can check out at the library entitled: "How Black Folks Should Talk").

Who were the aggressors? Were they the so-called politically correct gatekeepers and cultural nationalists who wanted to hide behind paper-thin shields as they tossed their darts at you if you did not conform to their standards.

Now, we are ready for the quiz: For each question, pick the most appropriate answer. Do not peek at the below "answers." Give yourself five minutes to answer.

If you score 100 percent...you are a free thinker. If you score from one to three...you are still looking over your shoulder at who is coming at you to correct your "white conduct."

If you missed all of them...you are intimidated by anyone who says..."you talk like a white person!"

Understand that when people say you talk like a white person they are also saying that you probably think like one too! Secret: speech patterns with correct thinking and proper conduct are not related and white people have no monopoly on either one.

(1) You are at a bus stop and a close by group of black kids start rapping and playing the dozens. You:

- Join in
- Move away from them
- Tell them that they need to respect themselves and their parents
- Call security and report suspicious activity.

(2) At a family reunion, your son who is home from college speaks to his cousins about the philosophy of Descartes. You:

- Tell him that black folks don't know no Descartes
- Say out loud for all to hear... listen, my son is a philosopher!
- Leave the room and sulk because your son is embarrassing you.
- Congratulate your son and tell him to keep it up.

(3) When in a car ride with some white co workers, one of them says in response to a radio song, "that was so dope." You:

- Ask what does that mean.
- Play it off as if you never heard the remark.
- Ask them where did they hear that from.
- Laugh and say..."for real!"

(4) You are at a museum and next to a black family who are observing some paintings by Tanner (famous black painter, by the way) and you hear the father state out loud, "this white painter did a good job of showing black folks." You:

- Drop your head and head for the door.
- You inform the family in a nice way that Tanner was a black artist.
- You state what makes you think it was a white painter who did this work?
- You join in and co sign with, "yeah, its tight and right."

(5) You are at a convenience store and the person in front of you forgets and leaves their change on the counter. You:

- Say... Miss, you forget your change.
- Glare at the counter person and take the change for yourself
- Take the change and tell the clerk that you are going to give it to the person
- Say nothing.

Answers: 1/c 2/d 3/c&d 4/b&c 5/a

Lafe Tolliver

Community Calendar

March 21-April 18

Marvin Vines Art Exhibit: The Truth Art Gallery; Opening reception on March 21 from 6 to 9 pm: 419-243-0007

March 24-26

Beulah Baptist Church Spring revival: 7 pm nightly; Evangelist George Dixon from Greenville, SC

March 26

Historic Third Baptist Church: Central State University Chorus; 7:30 pm; Coordinator Henry Caldwell

Area Office on Aging Open Door Kinship Club: "Homework: A Survival Guide for Caregivers;" Dorr Elementary; 5:30 pm: 419-725-7042

March 27

Crusaders for Christ Church Youth Dept Poetry Slam: 7:30 pm: 419-290-4503

March 29

Calvary MBC: Pastor Smith's 20th Anniversary Celebration; 4 pm; Pastor Ronald McCraney and Rhema Word Christian Fellowship

Clarence Smith Community Chorus Spring Concert: "This Little Light of Mine;" Toledo Mennonite Church; 6 pm: 419-534-3370 or www.cscchorus.com

"Sunday Dinner:" Comedy about backbiting; Greater St. Mary's MBC; 5 pm
Youth Day at Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral: 11 am; "Order My Steps:" 419-944-0984

March 31

28th Annual Music and Arts Fellowship Conference: Artists seeking to submit music must do so by this date: Music and Arts, Inc, PO Box 27107, Oakland, CA 94602: 419-241-7332

April 2

MLK Kitchen for the Poor 40th Anniversary Fundraiser: UFCW Local 911; 6 pm: 419-241-2596

April 3-4

United Methodist Church Rummage/Bake Sale: Friday 9 am to 6 pm; Saturday 9 am to 2 pm; Saturday is bag day: 419-476-8034

April 4

Grace Temple COGIC 2nd Annual Mother Daughter Fashion Show: Grace Temple Waddell Fellowship Hall; 11:30 am: 419-841-4614/419-242-9321

April 5

Indiana Avenue MBC: 44th Anniversary celebration for Pastor John Roberts and Mother Bernice Roberts; 3:30 pm; Guests Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star Baptist

April 8-9

Scott High School presents "Children of Eden:" 6 pm: 419-283-8303

April 11

HIV/AIDS Training: Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral; 10 to noon and 1 to 3 pm: 419-944-0984

April 17-18

Evangelistic Crusade: Se'Lah Ministries; Services nightly at 7 pm; Power House Tabernacle; Host Pastor Nelson Clark; Guest speakers include Sis Freda McCoy

The Sojourner's Truth

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Mike Bell Announces His Candidacy – Stresses His Ability to Communicate

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Now it's official! Mike Bell has announced that he is a candidate for mayor of Toledo.

Last week, State Fire Marshal Bell tendered his resignation, effective April 10, in order to return to his home town and make his first run for elective office. He made his formal announcement today in front of Fire Station 25—the place where he began his firefighting career 28 years ago this month.

"Communication is the key," Bell told The Truth earlier this week. "Being able to communicate is vital if we are going to be a business-friendly city and region, if we are going to grow jobs and stabilize the community."

Bell said he intends to focus his campaign on four issues: balancing the city budget, saving and creating jobs, preserving home values and stabilizing neighborhoods and protecting people's safety.

Clearly whoever is elected mayor in November will face a number of challenges as soon as he or she takes office. Virtually all of the challenges, however, stem from the difficulties caused by the current economic downturn the nation and north-west Ohio are experiencing.

Bell expressed his disappointment with Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and the efforts of his administration in trying to halt the economic slide.

"I feel I can fill a void," said Bell. "I don't think [Finkbeiner] collaborates enough with both

internal and external stakeholders."

As an example of how he would put his own communication skills to use as mayor, Bell spoke of what it would take to balance the budget, particularly in the area of safety which comprises about three quarters of the city's budget expenses.

"When we talk about dealing with the safety force, we need to determine the expectations of the public," said Bell. "If reductions are made, there could be consequences to those reductions. Are those consequences acceptable?"

The current standard for response by the fire department to emergencies, said Bell, is that in 90 percent of cases, the department wants to be at such a site within six minutes.

"If the public is okay with 10 minutes, or 15 minutes, or 20 minutes, then we can move forward with reductions. But if they want the same standards, we have to figure out how to cope with our [financial problems]. What is your standard of services or care?"

"I believe we have to be candid with people. Unfortunately, now we have to move to extreme means to balance the budget and it never should have gotten to this point."

Bell is also critical of the City of Toledo's lack of effectiveness in the creation and retention of jobs.

"Toledo creates hurdles [for small businesses] that don't need to exist," said Bell. "Unfor-

tunately, businesses can go right around to other communities. We need to evaluate those hurdles and eliminate them. We are not on an equal footing with the suburbs because we make it so much more difficult for businesses here."

As for the politics of the Bell campaign, he is a lifelong Democrat but he will be running as an independent for two reasons, he told The Truth.

"First, if you look at the region and the city as the Titanic and we have a big hole in the ship and are taking on water, we have to stop, take the time and patch up the ship," said Bell. "In order to bail water, it doesn't matter if you are an R or a D. If we don't work together, we'll be on the bottom of the ocean. If we can work as a team, we'll have something worth fighting for."

"Second, I'm getting ready to leave a job as State Fire Marshal to do this the right way in hopes of being successful," Bell continued. "The idea of going to a screening committee makes you commit to their choice — may or may not be me. That's unacceptable considering the sacrifice I am making."

So far, Bell's campaign team is still a work in progress. He speaks in terms of a team, a group of people "who are pretty in touch with issues both city and county-wide" who are assisting him in his efforts to become Toledo's second African-American mayor.

Bell grew up in north Toledo

attending Woodward High School (he was a classmate of Keith Wilkowski who is also a candidate for mayor) and then earning a degree in education from The University of Toledo. During his senior year, he was co-captain of the UT football team. He was named UT student of the year in the field of education during his senior year.

He joined the Toledo Department of Fire and Rescue in 1980 and 10 years later was appointed chief of the department—the first African-American and the youngest to ever

reach the top position.

Bell served as fire chief for over 16 years — the longest tenure in the department's history—and retired in early 2007. He accepted the post of State Fire Marshal later that same year.

At the moment, Bell's chief rival in the list of declared candidates would seem to be Wilkowski, a local attorney who has served on the school board and as Lucas County Commissioner in the past. Wilkowski has also headed the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Bell acknowledges the irony

that these two north enders — friends since well before high school and friends still, says Bell — are facing off against one another. He also concedes that they may not be far apart on the issues.

"What it will come down to is who people believe can get it done," said Bell. "I have worked inside and I know what will and won't work. The key to solving problems is to be able to communicate with people and to let them be part of the solution to getting things done."

Defining Moments

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.



In Julius Caesar Act 4, scene 3, Shakespeare places upon the lips of Brutus the words:

There is a tide in the affairs of men. Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Shakespeare's character was talking about the importance of seizing opportunity, for when it passes, it is not likely to return.

Closely akin to opportunity and embedded in that same literary quote is the thought of "Defining Moments," those special occasions in life that bring lasting consequences and shape our legacy according to how we handled the significant situation.

Defining Moments do not often announce themselves and those who are charged with making decisions in the best interests of those whom they serve are particularly vulnerable to being caught unready when they respond with insensitivity or arrogance.

The Building Capacity Plan meeting held by Toledo Public Schools on March 19 at Jones at Gunckel Park Middle School to announce the closing of Libbey High School (the only high school in the plan slated for demoli-

tion) presented the opportunity for a defining moment to take place as Superintendent John Foley attempted to sell the closing to Libbey supporters.

Libbey, according to the administration is too much building for the 628 students currently enrolled. "It (the building) just costs too much to maintain." With newly-constructed Bowsler and Rogers high schools at or near capacity, the meeting called for breakout sessions to get recommendations on how to redraw district boundaries that would send future Libbey students to Waite and Scott.

However, the crowd of approximately 175 suspicious parents, alumni, community leaders, and Libbey teachers engaged TPS Superintendent John Foley in a spirited debate over the opportunity to reduce expenditures in a fiscally-challenged educational environment versus the feeling of "education-denied" policies forced upon the poor and minorities by an insensitive administration.

The remarks by the Libbey group seemed to suggest that the plan to demolish and not rebuild the school smacked of a racist, classist undercurrent or cultural and psychological disconnect at best as they could not understand the decision to close a school that has drastically increased test scores, attendance, graduation rates, teacher performance bonuses, has played by the rules and achieved TPS stated objectives while decreasing suspensions and expulsions in spite of the administration removing several prestigious programs such as Libbey's celebrated robotics program and relocating it elsewhere.

Many of the Libbey teachers had in excess of 15 years

service at the low-income school where teacher stability has affected learning positively, one commenting, "They take your well-performing programs and relocate them somewhere else and then penalize you because you don't have students anymore."

One after another described the "love ethic" they have for their students as well as the students' ability to see themselves and their culture or experience in the schooling process which helps them to perform at higher levels.

A feeling that there were no possible positive outcomes and that the administration was blind to the fact that most students will not fit or be absorbed into other schools poured out in the emotions of those in the trenches and in the position to know best. "A school is the pillar of a community or a neighborhood. The South End needs and deserves a good school in this neighborhood and on this site."

"The teachers from those other schools will have a bounty out on them and suspend them the first week that they are there and they will end up on the street, because they don't want this type of student and don't have a sensitivity to their unique situation."

Others felt that by transferring students across neighborhoods would be an invitation to violence by exposing the children to rival factions and would lead to increased juvenile justice encounters, students dropping out of school to avoid the drama, or even death — all of which could be prevented.

The Libbey group also asserted that the fact that the decision to close the school was made by Foley's prede-

(Continued on Page 4)

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TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY HEAD START

community Action

Union Organization Hosts Black History Program

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Toledo Chapter of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists hosted their 21st annual Black History banquet on Saturday, March 21 at the Ramada Westgate (formerly the Clarion) on Secor Road.

Dozens of supporters, political leaders, community residents and union workers attended the event which honored three individuals and an organization who have served their community.

Cenia M. Willis, president of CBTU Toledo Chapter, said the organization is focused on different areas of development. "It's an annual event that we put on at this time. We focus on young leadership and encouraging people to get involved in their union and community. We also encourage people to get into leadership training and lead in their different unions, especially women in the organization."

The program opened with a warm welcome by Mistress of Ceremonies Deb Hill of AFSCME Local 3794 and Gloria Jackson, an AFSCME retiree. Then the entire crowd joined in singing "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

Just before the three-course dinner was served, Rev. Kevin Bedford, pastor of Third Baptist Church, offered the invocation.

"Lord we thank you for the hand you have over this organization since September 1972. We thank you for their leadership and ask you to bless them and give them hope and courage to do what is fair and just for all your people," said Bedford.

A unique dance routine was presented by Mariah Mangum and Nicole Herndon before guest speaker Pierrette Talley, the current secretary-



Seated: George Hillard, Yvonne Harper, Ray Wood, Pierrette Talley, Cenia Willis
Standing: Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, Bill Sanford, Cerssandra McPherson

treasurer of Ohio AFL-CIO, spoke about the importance of unions and Black History Month.

The scholarship raffle was announced by Cerssandra McPherson, the current chairman of the Jim Watkins Scholarship Committee.

"The money raised by the raffle goes to the Jim Watkins Scholarship Fund and we do this scholarship every year," said McPherson. "The recipient of the scholarship is either a family member of a union member or union member themselves who want to learn an additional trade. Jim Watkins was an avid union member who was a member of the UAW, and the scholarship is in his name. Tonight

we have two recipients, Philip Allen and Tacarra Blanchard, for \$250. We now have applications for next year's scholarships. Those who are interested can call 419-343-1861. The deadline for applications is postmarked by June 26."

Honoree Yvonne Harper, executive director of the Lucas County Democratic Party, was given the Community Activist Award. Harper is an active member of Indiana Avenue Baptist Church's usher board and kitchen duties, chairman of the screening committee of the Lucas County Democratic Party, chairman for Ward 8L, president of Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club, past board member of the Wayman Palmer YMCA, past

member of the Junior League and works during elections for the Board of Elections. Honoree Raymond Wood, president of UAW Local 14, was given the Trade Unionism Award. Wood was first introduced to UAW in 1985 when he was hired at General Motors, served as vice president in 2007 and elected president in 2008. He is vice president of NAACP Toledo Chapter, financial secretary of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Working Council for Employee Involvement member, Coalition

of Black Trade Unionist member, American Red Cross - Western Lake Erie Region board member and also church deacon and Sunday school teacher at Southern Missionary Baptist Church.

Honoree George T. Hillard was given the political achievement award. Hillard was born and raised in Louisiana then moved to Toledo in 1962. He worked for the 7UP company and then Sun Refinery as chief operator before retiring in 1998.

He has volunteered on

numerous Democratic campaigns including those of: Mike Ashford, Wilma Brown, Teresa Fedor, Edna Brown, John Kerry, Vallie Bowman-English, Jack Ford, Frank Szollosi, Bernie Quilter, Wade Kapszkiewicz, Tina Skeldon-Wozniak, Pete Gerken, Jeanine Perry, Phil Copeland, Charles Doneghy, Anita Lopez, Deborah Barnett and President Barack Obama.

"I think I'll always be involved in politics, there is always work to be done," said Hillard.

COMPASS Corporation for Recovery Services was given the community action award for providing addiction and mental health services to the greater Toledo/Northwest Ohio community.

In September of 1972 over 1,200 black union officials and ranking members organized a conference called the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) with leaders William Lucy, Nelson "Jack" Edwards, William Simons, Charles A Hayes and Cleveland Robinson.

The mission of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists is to fulfill the dreams of black trade unionists, both living and deceased, who throughout this century have courageously and unrelentingly struggled to build a national movement that would bring all our strengths and varied talents to bear in the unending effort to achieve economic, political and social justice for every American.

Defining Moments
(Continued from Page 3)
cessor in 2002 did not take away the current superintendent's ability to modify the plan and called on him to evaluate the decision according to what is just and fair. Fiscal savings could be realized from demolishing several other vacant schools that are still standing long after their new replacement buildings have been built as well as from other sources.
In spite of the positive arguments put forward by the Libbey supporters and the lack of foreseen possible positive outcomes for its students, Superintendent Foley, perhaps unaware that the lack of parent attendance by poor families is not an indicator of their interest in their children's schooling, remained steadfast in his decision to close the school and demolish the building without renovating or providing a new high school.
Libbey is not the only poor and racially diverse school in the district, but it may currently have the least politically organized supporters compared to the others. One of the final speakers was a pastor of a prominent African-American congregation who pointedly reminded Foley of the support of levies, the school board and even the administration itself. The superintendent's position suddenly became a little more flexible.
Thus it was revealed that public school problems are not about logical arguments, pleading, begging or even interest in performance or improving the schools. The typical problem of the city's schools is fundamentally a political problem. However, those who refuse to listen to those without power and shutter institutions in an already underserved community in order to save money while failing to recognize the symbolic value of what is destroyed will be judged by their own conscience and the legacy created by the actions of their defining moment.
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Adam Martinez Is Seeking An Opportunity to Serve Home Town on City Council

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Years ago, Adam Martinez's great grandfather helped build Toledo's railroads. It was fitting, therefore, that last week, when Martinez formally announced his candidacy for Toledo City Council, the fifth-generation Toledoan did so in the MLK Amtrak Station.

"I chose this location because my great grandfather helped build the railroad, helped build Toledo," said Martinez. "I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the community - I will be pro business, pro neighborhoods, pro Toledo."

Martinez, a graduate of St. John's Jesuit High School with a bachelor's degree from Lourdes in international business and a master's in organizational leadership from the same institution, started campaigning earlier last week on St. Patrick's Day - attending fundraisers and parties, shaking hands from dawn to dusk.

While this is the first time Martinez, a Democrat, has run for elective office, he is

no stranger to the rigors of the campaign trail. He has participated in a number of campaigns in the past including that of former Governor Richard Celeste and locally for Auditor Anita Lopez and former City Councilwoman Taylor Balderas.

"At a very young age, I was instilled with a sense of civic responsibility," said Martinez last week when The Truth asked him why he was seeking a seat on Council. "I had great mentors who helped me including a father and brothers who served in the military. For me, serving on City Council is an opportunity to make the greatest impact."

Martinez said that his focus, if elected, would be on assisting "micro to small businesses." As a small business owner - Martinez has owned and operated a landscape and snow removal business for the past four years - he has gained an understanding, he said, of the obstacles that actually hinder the development



of such enterprises.

"We need a one-stop shop operation within neighborhoods," he said. He advocates creating a process that will pull together the disparate elements of business development - the RGP, LCIC, ASSETS Toledo, for example - in order to facilitate small business development.

Martinez also said he will work to create a mentorship program, a "long-term plan to help manage our government." Such a plan, he said, will help "to develop opportunities for individuals to advance and will lead to the promotion of women

and minorities ... providing they are qualified."

He also stressed that he believes in the need to draw some attention to the fire department's application for a FEMA safety grant. "I haven't heard much talk about that," he noted.

But Martinez makes it clear that his focus as a councilman will be on job development with micro to small businesses. He chides the city's current elected officials for their lack of foresight with respect to job development and their inclination in the past to depend on big businesses to provide job growth in the area.

"Everyone saw this coming a while back and no one did anything about it," he said. "Was it complacency ... arrogance? We need to focus on small businesses and make sure they have the resources they need. If we spend more time doing that, we will save money and help the economy grow."

In addition to his credentials as a small business

owner, Martinez also has a development background. For two and a half years, Martinez worked for Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) as a program developer. LISC raises funds to assist community development corporations with residential and commercial development projects.

His family includes parents Fran and John Martinez and two brothers, Patrick, a deputy sheriff, and Danny, who is in the Navy.

Martinez is currently completing work on a sec-

ond master's degree in urban planning, one of the steps he has taken to prepare himself for the role he is seeking on Toledo City Council.

"It has helped me understand the disparities on socio-economic issues," he said, adding that he has been involved with some sort of community organization for most of his life.

That would be the Toledo community, a community his family has been part of for decades.



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the game
fridays 8:30pm

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The Truth ECONOMY

Tackling Tough Times

Page 6

Derick L. Gant: Even In Downturns There Are Some Real Opportunities to Make Money

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

In these difficult economic times of double digit unemployment, tanking real estate prices, the loss in global stock markets of trillions of dollars of value by the week, one doesn't often find a silver lining behind all of this gloom and doom.

Derick L. Gant, financial planner, has another take on the situation ... at least for

wealth if, and of course this is a big if, they have something set aside to start them on the path to those riches.

"I believe we are at or near the bottom of the stock market [downward slide]," says Gant. "I believe we have a once in a lifetime opportunity for those who have invested before to realize a profit."



"I believe we have a once in a lifetime opportunity for those who have invested before to realize a profit."

some of the luckier ones in these often desperate times.

Some folks, says Gant, are poised to create for themselves unprecedented

As an example, Gant uses a local stock - Fifth Third Bank.

"In the recent past, 100 shares of Fifth Third was

worth about \$4,000," he recalls. "Today the cost for 100 shares would be about \$200 - it's trading at about

\$2. But Fifth Third is still operating and it's still strong. This is the greatest opportunity since the 1930's for someone with some funds sitting around to put into the market."

That opportunity, Gant notes, also exists in the real estate market ... for those with funds, of course.

That said, the reality is that these are not the rosier times for financial planners. So many potential investors just do not have the funds sitting around, banks aren't lending, people aren't purchasing and companies producing consumer products can't get their wares

sold.

"Investment has been put on the sidelines because of a lack of purchasing," says Gant. "People can't buy cars and flat screen TV's and those who make them can't turn a profit."

Gant, a financial planner for 20 years, has two companies that help folks manage their resources: Gant Investment Advisors assists clients with wealth management and Comexx Consulting, Inc with wealth accumulation.

"Gant Investment Advisors is a boutique investment planning firm where we manage individuals' nest eggs," says Gant. "Retirement assets, for example, are a large part of our portfolio. At Comexx we help people move away from paycheck to paycheck living and debt and into positive cash flow on a month-to-month basis."

Gant, however, is doing more than just teaching adults how to move into positive cash flow. He is also bringing a number of those same concepts to the students of Lincoln Academy for Boys.

A member of Alpha Phi Boule, Gant has been the fraternity's point man at Lincoln for several years now. This year, he stepped up his already extensive involvement at the elementary

school and has introduced to the fifth and sixth graders a nine-week course entitled Venture Involvement Group.

The boys, with the help of Gant and Raymond Navarre, also of Comexx, start with basic personal financial matters, the basics of the monetary system, matters of currency rations and then move into establishing an actual business model. This year, the students started a mythical bicycle refurbishing business and explored every aspect of running the company - shipping, restoring, labor costs, profit and loss analysis, and so forth.

Parents interested in learning more about Gant's business course or more about Lincoln in general should attend the school's Open House on Thursday, March 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. or call 419-244-5823.

A Toledo native and graduate of St. Francis High School, Gant earned his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in interpersonal communications and management. He and his wife Jaime have two sons, Jordan and Devon.

To reach Gant at the office, call 419-791-0749 or email info@comexx.net

**SUPPORT LOCAL
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GANT RULES

Know Where You Stand

Take honest inventory of all your assets and debts. Look in the mirror and determine your current position. The only one you can fool is yourself. Write down everything and begin to chart your spending habits ... god and bad!

Slay Your Dragon

In Asian culture, the dragon is the protector of wealth. He guards the fortune of the individual and the community. In America, dragons are represented by impulse buying, greed and wants. We protect our ability to spend more and more while we acquire less and less true wealth.

Have a Heart Attack

Every person has an inner voice that swells up from our heart and speaks to the subconscious mind. Aggressively attack the desire to hear the heart help you in the directions you take ... each and every step.

Magnetize Your Dreams

Know where you're going and what it takes to get there. Make every decision a step to your dreams. Should I buy a new car? Well, what will that do to my master dream? Should I sleep in or get up and get moving? If I eat this cheese cake, when will I fit into those jeans ...

Be Resolute Today

When people talk about what they are going to do, they usually refer to some point in the future. I'm going to stop swearing starting Monday! As soon as I get this next promotion, I'm going to start saving and investing. There is no better time to make a great decision than right now! Change your next meal, the next purchase or your next dragon.

Commit to Excellence

What do you deserve? If you analyze your life, are you giving an average effort or are you committed to having and giving the best? Al Davis said it best ... Commit to Excellence. I know you deserve it. If you think you do, you're right! If you think you don't, you're right!

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In the Job Market When All the Dollars (and Jobs) Are Gone

By Ravi Perry
Guest Column



egory. Layoffs and decreases in public safety are equally disastrous ideas. I'm out of solutions, too. But, then again, I don't have all the details, either. Thankfully, a few years of experience nowadays. And I'm one of the lucky ones. Instead of being laid off from a job, I'm looking for one after finishing years of schooling. I have no dependents

"I'm still unemployed, and I'm one of the declining few who actually desire to return to Toledo."

Toledo is in bad economic shape as we all know. Proposals to balance a budget in 2009 include taxing residents who don't work in Toledo for living in Toledo, laying off more city workers, decreasing the number of city safety forces, re-negotiating with city unions concerning salaries and benefits, etc. All the options are bad.

It's especially ridiculous to tax people who live in Toledo for not working here, as if they are to blame for their job's location. I guess we're supposed to forget about real estate taxes and a host of other benefits the city gets from the purported 15 percent of Toledoans who fall under this cat-

the city has a few more days to go back to the drawing board.

Given the circumstances of late, I imagine psychological counselors are booked.

Meanwhile, as crime is increasing in some of the city's desirable neighborhoods such as Westmoreland, key figureheads of county agencies are receiving bonuses and people like me are on the job market.

What a wonderful combination. If valued at all, it appears a Ph.D. is worth about as much as a bachelor's degree with

and I'm told work experience and higher education should create opportunities. But, of course, that message is shared by those happily employed with comfortable salaries or pensions and who are optimistic about youth in general. Much appreciated as it is, I'm still unemployed, and I'm one of the declining few who actually desire to return to Toledo.

I wrote this column simply to remind readers that the economic market is disturbing for more than just the poor. Obviously, low-income resi-

dents are struggling. But, so are those from middle-income homes with a substantial work and education history. If a time to sing the song "we're all in this together" is ever perfect, it must be now.

But all isn't negative; most of us have shelter to cover our heads, friends who can feed us if we can't ourselves and a spirit of optimism.

Let's use the extra time as a result of not working to volunteer. Because somebody - somewhere, has it harder.

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

thetruthtoledo.com

Seven Best Part-Time Jobs

Special to The Truth

The common perception is that part-time jobs have less to offer than full-time positions.

That may be true in terms of hours in the work week, but many part-time jobs pay just as well as a traditional 40-hour week ones and a number of positions come with **health insurance coverage**, paid vacation days and employee discounts.

Here is our list of some of the best part-time jobs:

1. Tax Preparer

Thousands of people need help every year to file their returns. Part-time tax preparers are often accountants who know their way around deductions and forms, and who want extra income. Though the job typically peaks in the spring, many clients choose to retain their tax professional as a year-round personal accountant and adviser.

Salary: Set your own fee. H&R Block typically charges anywhere from \$100 to \$200 for their services, so you can probably charge up to \$80 and still offer a bargain.

2. Substitute Teacher

Many states offer substitute teaching positions without requiring a teaching degree. Often, anyone with a bachelor's degree is eligible, provided they pass a background check and interview. The length of **employment varies** and you should be flexible for days when you get a frantic last-minute call at 6 a.m., but it's a good way to put your education to use while aiding in the education of others.

Salary: Varies depending on the state. In Oregon, for example, substitutes get about \$150 a day.

3. Private Tutor

Jeremiah LeBrash started tutoring in college as a way to make some extra income. He's now making enough money for it to be his full-time job. "I started out teaching SAT prep for Kaplan, but I was only making \$20 an hour," he says. "I realized I could do it on my own, give my students one-on-one attention, and charge twice as much." LeBrash now charges \$80 an hour for test preparation and \$60 for general math and science help.

Salary: Companies like Kaplan and The Princeton

(Continued on Page 10)

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Stewart Academy for Girls Partners with Fifth Third Bank

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Fifth Third Bank has opened a new branch.

Starting this week, students at Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls will have the opportunity to participate in Fifth Third Bank's In-School Banking Program.

"It's an excellent program for kids and their parents," said Stewart Principal William Keaton. "It's an opportunity for them to learn a great deal about banking and Fifth Third."

The program, organized by Fifth Third Assistant Vice President Terri Ellis, who manages the daily operations of Fifth Third's One SeaGate and Madison/Huron Banking Centers,



ings account record book. And, best of all, they can make deposits every other Tuesday right on school grounds.

Ellis trained fifth-grade students to handle the chores of being a center manager, customer service representatives and personal bankers. She will be at the site overseeing activities on every Tuesday banking day but the student bankers will open accounts, take deposits and balance the bank.

Students cannot, however, withdraw funds from the Stewart Center. Withdrawals can only be made at Fifth Third Banking Centers.

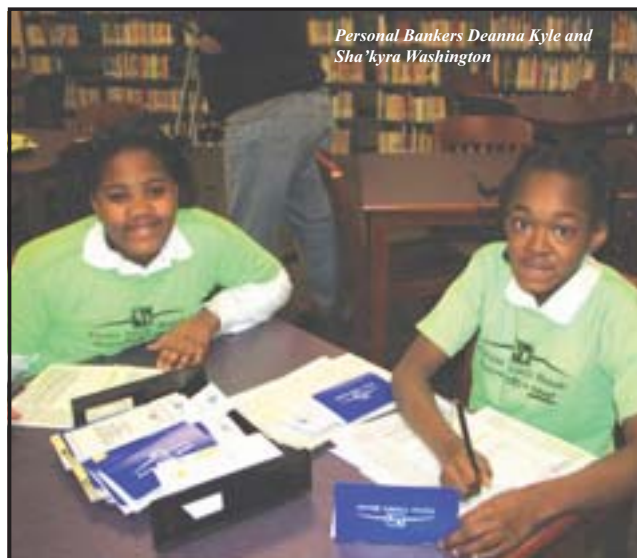


Terri Ellis and Linda Ewing

and Vice President Community Affairs Linda Ewing, will enable students to deposit any

amount of money after the initial minimum of \$1. They will receive a membership card and a sav-

March 27
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Church Youth Dept Poetry Slam: 7:30 pm:
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Mayor Finkbeiner To Hold Weekly Monday Meetings With Citizens Affected By Economy

Special to The Truth

Earlier this week, Mayor Finkbeiner met with nearly a dozen unemployed citizens in his office. The mayor listened to their concerns, and also collected resumes from those interested in possible part-time summer employment with the City of Toledo.

Finkbeiner announced he will continue to hold these meetings every Monday evening at 5 p.m. The meetings will last for approximately one hour, and are open to all citizens who have lost their jobs or have had their homes foreclosed.

The mayor released the following statement: "I had a wonderful time meeting with my fellow citizens this past Monday, and am inviting all of those who have been affected by this economic downturn to come up to the 22nd floor every Monday to express their concerns."

In Tough Economy, Career Camp Aims To Prepare Job Seekers for Opportunities of the Future Commissioners, Urban League, United Way Sponsor Full-Day of Workshops at Seagate Convention Centre

Special to The Truth

As the national recession drives more and more northwest Ohio residents into unemployment, Lucas County and many local partners have announced the first-ever Career Camp to help prepare job seekers for the opportunities of the future in our community.

Career Camp will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Seagate Convention Centre in downtown Toledo. Limited free parking will be available at the Convention Centre. In addition,

Owens Community College will be running a free shuttle from The Source, 1301 Monroe Street, with free parking available at The Source.

"Our local economy is in bad shape, but things will improve and new jobs will require new and different skills. Now is the time for residents to take advantage of Career Camp's training and information resources and prepare themselves for jobs of the future," said Commissioner Ben Konop, who helped organize the event.

One month before the annual Lucas County Job Fair, Career Camp will offer unemployed residents and those concerned about their future job security the opportunity to meet different skills providers, like Penta Career Center, the University of Toledo, Stautzenberger College and dozens more.

In addition, job seekers will be able to attend five seminars throughout the day on topics like resume writing, interviewing techniques, and the jobs of the future.

Career Camp is the



"It is vital for Toledo-area job seekers to be equipped for the even more competitive job market..."

product of a partnership between Lucas County, The Blade, WTOL Channel 11, the Greater Toledo Urban League and United Way of Greater Toledo.

According to John Jones, Greater Toledo Urban League president and CEO, "It is vital for Toledo-area job seekers to be equipped for the even more competitive job market, and the Greater Toledo Urban League is proud to partner with other to create Career Camp."

Finally, United Way of

Greater Toledo and Lucas County social services agencies will also be on-site at Career Camp to make those who are unemployed aware of the services available to them.

"As job seekers come to the Career Camp, we will be there to make sure they are taking advantage of all the resources the community provides to them and their families," said Jane Moore, chief operating officer of United Way of Greater Toledo.

office of pre-college SERVICES
Bowling Green State University.

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The CoverMe Foundation Recognizes Cover The Uninsured Week by Reminding Uninsured Individuals and Families about Free Resources

Special to The Truth

The CoverMe Foundation encourages the uninsured to take advantage of the free assistance to locate and apply for low to no-cost quality healthcare coverage. In recognition of *Cover The Uninsured Week* kicking off March 22, The CoverMe Foundation continues its efforts to get people off the rolls of the uninsured.

Today, more than 47 million individuals live without healthcare coverage and it is the foundation's mission to help everyone who is eligible obtain coverage. Finding affordable healthcare coverage along with the time-consuming and confusing process can be a barrier for many to get the coverage they desperately need. The CoverMe Foundation simplifies the application process and works as an advocate for the uninsured.

Additionally, many people do not even know they are eligible for low to no-cost healthcare coverage. The foundation's friendly representatives will help to determine eligibility in a confidential and professional way.

The CoverMe Foundation offers bilingual assistance by calling toll-free to 1-877-NSURME-1 (1-877-678-7631) for English or 1-877-8CUBREME (1-877-828-2736) for Spanish. For convenient online information, you may visit www.covermefoundation.org or www.fundacioncubreme.org for Spanish-language information.

Cover The Uninsured Week is a national initiative to bring awareness to the overwhelming number of uninsured people in

America.

About The CoverMe Foundation

The CoverMe Foundation assists consumers in their efforts to locate and access health care coverage. It was conceived as an organization to improve the overall health of citizens in our local communities as well as throughout the United States. Drawing from community resources, government assistance and select corporate partnerships, the foundation strives to facilitate reductions in the number of the uninsured and to improve the overall quality of life in our nation. The CoverMe Foundation is partly funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the WellPoint Foundation, which supports innovative programs that help cover the uninsured.

Best Part Time Jobs

(Continued from Page 7)

Review pay tutors anywhere from \$20 to \$60 an hour, depending on the test they teach and the size of the class. Private tutors, like LeBrash, can set their own fee.

4. Part-Time Receptionist

Answering telephones and receiving packages may not be the most glamorous job, but according to career counselor Judith Gerberg, it's a great opportunity to network. Gerberg, president of the Career Counselors Consortium, knew a laid off radio DJ who ended up working as a receptionist for a law firm. She soon became acquainted with a filmmaker client who loved her music knowledge so much, he hired her as an associate producer. "Lawyers and small businesses always need administrative help," says Gerberg. "You might be making minimum wage, but keep your ego under wraps. You never know who will walk through the door."

Salary: Varies, but can be in the \$20,000-a-year range.

5. Computer Technician

Gerberg says there is an increased need for tech support, as more people move their businesses home. Computer technicians make basic repairs, set up wi-fi and perform other jobs. Companies are also looking for individuals who can build websites, which makes this a no-brainer for anyone with a little creativity and HTML experience.

Salary: Set your own fee. Tech support rates vary according to the job, rates can be around \$30 an hour or more.

6. Copy Editor

"Copy editing is proof-reading," says Rachel Goldman, who took her skills honed in her day job as an online news producer and used them to score part-time work as well. In addition to checking texts for spelling, punctuation, grammar and formatting errors, "I also help the person brainstorm and flesh out their work," says Goldman. Although she started out editing essays for college students,

Goldman is now working on documents such as patent applications and television scripts as well.

Salary: Goldman's fees vary based on length and subject matter, but she estimates that she makes about \$100 per document.

7. Direct Seller

Companies such as Amway and Avon allow people to make money on their own time, while offering incentive programs like discounted insurance. And while the recession may have curbed consumer spending, Avon recently reported earnings that were above expectations. "Our products are selling well because it's affordable luxury," says Lindsay Blaker, an Avon spokesperson.

Salary: Blaker says she's seen reps make anywhere from a few hundred dollars a month to six-figure annual salaries. "I met someone who went from a corporate setting to becoming a full-time seller because she was making just as much money staying at home," she says. "People love the flexibility of the job."

H&R Block Simplifies Taxes with Easy-to-Understand Programs Unravel The Tax Code With Free Information From H&R Block's Lecture Series

Special to The Truth

H&R Block – the world's largest tax services provider – is helping Americans better understand their taxes by making simple-language tax information accessible and free to the public.

Qualified H&R Block tax professionals will present an informative, entertaining program about 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Plan) at 6:30 P.M. on the following days. The presentation will be at Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 – 5560 Harvest Lane

Thursday, March 26, 2009 – 1320 Sylvania Avenue

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 – 3340 Dustin Road

H&R Block Lecture Series speakers are experienced professionals with access to the most up-to-date training and tax information available. They are qualified to discuss complex tax situations.

"Our speakers are immersed in taxes year-round and are focused on meeting our clients' tax and financial needs especially during tax season," said Daniel Jones, senior tax advisor. "Who better to get tax information from than the folks who have been doing taxes for more than 50 years?"

H&R Block tax professionals are available to share their knowledge in the following categories:

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Tax Issues for the Self-Employed: Estimated tax payments, income subject to tax, educational expenses, filing requirements, health insurance, IRAs, home office expenses, retirement plans.

Retirement Considerations: Pension plan distributions, annuities, rollovers, Roth IRAs, traditional IRAs.

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Property Owner Concerns: Business use of home, casualty losses, conversion to business or rental property, mortgage interest, prepayment of mortgage, real estate taxes, shared equity agreements, vacation homes, exclusion of gain on sale of your main home.

For more information about the H&R Block Lecture Series or the company's products and services, call Daniel Jones at (419)729-3001 or email daniel.jones@tax.hrblock.com.

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Book Review

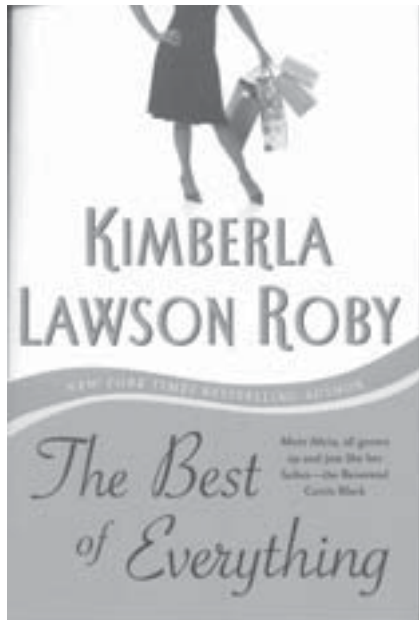
The Best of Everything by Kimberla Lawson Roby

c.2009, William Morrow

\$23.99 / \$28.99 Canada

276 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor



Everything by Kimberla Lawson Roby, a shop-til-you-drop girl drops right into trouble with her buying habit.

Alicia Black Sullivan loves her husband, Phillip, with all her heart. He's a good man, very romantic and handsome. He adores her, and she knows he'll be faithful – which is an important issue, since Alicia's father was such a philanderer. But Alicia doesn't think that Phillip has much motivation, and therein lies a problem.

Phillip is a preacher. He's the assistant pastor at Deliverance Outreach, which is Alicia's daddy's church, and she knows that The Reverend Curtis Black is grooming his son-in-law to lead another church somewhere outside Chicago.

The problem is, Alicia knows that Phillip can do better. If he was the leader at a mega-church, he could make more than the \$3,000 a week he's earning. He could make a lot more money. And Alicia looooooves money.

But Phillip just doesn't understand. He thinks he's just fine where he's at, and that they should save for the future. He says Alicia is jeopardizing their lives with her spending habits. He doesn't understand that she's absolutely not about to live without nice clothes, decent jewelry and fashionable shoes. Phillip doesn't see that her trips to the mall are not going to stop. Alicia hates it when they fight, but if marriage is a compromise, why should she be the one to give in?

Phillip hates to fight, too, but he's fed up. Alicia brings home thousands of dollars worth of

clothes every week, and he knows she's hiding even more. He also knows that if she keeps spending this way, she'll be shopping for more than just clothes.

She'll be shopping for a lawyer.

Even in this economy, do you love buyin' til you're flyin'? Then whip open your wallet for this book.

In *The Best of Everything*, author Kimberla Lawson Roby re-visits the Reverend Curtis Black, a character we've met in Roby's past books.

The reverend is a man who seems to collect scandal and he's obviously passed the trouble

gene on to his spoiled daughter, who seems equally attracted to rotten behavior and self-centeredness.

Despite that Alicia is a true brat, I liked this book. It's quick and, if you've never read the other novels featuring Reverend Black, it can be enjoyed by itself. My guess is, though, that once you meet these characters, you'll want to read the whole set.

If you're looking for some inexpensive escapism, look for this book. *The Best of Everything* is one of the best things you'll put in your shopping list this week.

Sometimes, your soul just needs a little splurge.

Even in this economy, there are times when a mocha-latte with extra foam can make all the difference in your day. A new CD can be a necessity. Even a pair of ear-

rings from the Dollar Store can lift your spirits when they need lifting the most.

But some shoppers take Retail Therapy to such an extreme that they need real therapy. In the new book *The Best of*

Wozniak Applauds Passage of Resolution

Providing Stronger Fiscal Oversight for Boards & Commissions

Special to The Truth

In a time when every public dollar is vital to the needs of struggling families, Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak lauded the unani-

mous passage of a resolution designed to strengthen the fiscal management of the county's boards and commissions.

"Our Board and Com-

mission appointments oversee literally millions of public dollars – dollars which are necessary to help families get healthcare, find a job, and grow our economy. This resolution adds another layer of protection for the public and ensures stable fiscal management in the long-term," said Wozniak.

Now, before a board or commission places a levy on the ballot, seeks new members, or make large financial decisions, they will be required to

(Continued on Page 14)

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The Lima Truth

March 25, 2009

The Sojourner's Truth

Page 12

Annual Community Enrichment Dinner Will Feature Kweisi Mfume

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Kweisi Mfume is coming to Lima, Ohio on April 2, 2009 at the Veteran Memorial Civic and Convention Center in celebration of an annual event for the Diversified Management Property and Support Services.

Economic development for minorities has been on the mind of a few good men for a long time, namely, Walter Potts, Jerome O'Neal and Frank Lamar, the men behind making this happen in Lima, Ohio. So much so, that over four years ago they decided something must be done about it.

Talk is cheap but action speaks very loud when motion is put to words. Therefore, the Community Enrichment Dinner came to reality in 2006. The Community Enrichment Dinner is held each April to raise money for the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Training and Development Center and for other minority economic development in Lima/Allen County.

A group of like-minded people came together to put feet to the idea of helping minorities become more focused on economic development. Lamar states that he and O'Neal met to strategize about starting an entrepreneurial center to assist minorities who really wanted to own and/or operate their own business.

During their discussions, Lamar and O'Neal decided the name of the entrepreneurial center would be the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Center before asking Potts to join in the plans to see the center come to fruition.

Potts was asked to join the group and the three believed in the dream of an economic center for minorities so much that they invested their own money up front to see the dream come to life.

The three invited others to join in the plans, such as Antelle Haithecock, Chris Jackson, Madeline Kipperman, David Turner, Emmanuel Curtis, Nicole Gray, Rita Totty, Georianna Saffle, Anne Decker and Sheri O'Neal.

Potts was born and raised in Lima. He was the first black person in Lima to obtain an electrical license. He has long standing community involvement and is the owner of Potts Electrical Services. He is instrumental in teaching poten-

tial employees contracting skills both through workshops and personal attention.

Additional training is a must for people seeking employment or a career in today's economy, thus the purpose of Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Training and Development Center.

Most people will need more training than one day of training or counseling. They will need somewhere to go every day; and this is what the Center will provide. The Center will have a Minority Contractor Business Assistance Program, provide vocational education of the minority population teaching them the skills existing employers desire, and create and support small minority businesses.

Trained entrepreneurs will stay, invest and participate in the Lima/Allen County area providing significant jobs and economic growth in the future. The Center will also include a number of programs to help minority-owned businesses and individuals, including a Business Incubator, Tomorrow's Generational College and Mentor Advisor Counseling.

The annual Community Enrichment Dinner has had a solid track record of nationally-known speakers and attendance of well over 400 people, each year. The first speaker in 2006 was Wally "Famous" Amos, father of the gourmet Chocolate Chip Cookie Industry and founder of the Chip and Cookie Read Aloud Foundation.

In 2007, Dr. Randall Pickett brought the house down well known for being ambitious as an entrepreneur, speaker, author and community servant.

The 2008 speaker happened to be one of America's leading journalists, Juan Williams, Harvard graduate, analyst for Fox News, author and making a regular appearance on Morning Edition and Day to Day shows.

Mfume is this year's keynote speaker of the annual Community Enrichment Dinner. Mfume was born Frizzell Gray on October 24, 1948, in Baltimore, Maryland. Later in the early 1970's changed his name to Kweisi Mfume at the suggestion of his aunt.

Mfume has taken the long journey from activist to

elected official to America's power elite with bold steps and a fierce determination. Considered one of the most respected and influential leaders in the US, he has figured prominently in the American discourse, always presenting his clear vision of the future.

As a US congressman for 10 years, Mfume advocated for landmark minority business and civil rights legislation. Known as a savvy political strategist, he played leading roles on the Banking and Financial Services Committee, The Ethics Committee, the Committee on Education, and the Small Business Committee. Mfume also chaired the Committee on Ethics, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Task Force on Affirmative Action.

He left Congress to take on the helm of a faltering National Association for the Advancement of Colored People where he helped usher in a new generation for civil rights advocacy. His corporate management style helped the agency erase a \$3.2 million debt, hold a surplus for eight years running, all while increasing membership. He is credited with providing the NAACP with a clear blueprint for its future and for leaving it stronger than he found it.

With a solid background in both the public and private sector, Mfume brings a forward-thinking commitment to strong leadership. His breadth of experience encompasses a wide variety of topics, including business management, finance, healthcare, ethics, and government. Mfume has never faltered in pursuing his dream of impacting society and creating positive change.

So too is the goal of the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Training and Development Center leadership team.

Tickets are \$50 each or tables of 10 are available for \$500.00 each. For information call 419-227-6407. All proceeds go to the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneurial Center.

Although the Center is targeting minorities, the Center is for all people. If you would like to be part of what the Center will be doing, as a sponsor, trained to own/operate your own business or to lend a hand in area of need, please contact Antelle Haithecock at 419-225-9018.



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Interview With Flow: An Extraordinary Artist in a League All His Own

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

FLOW is a perfect example of how to get in my column as a featured Glass City musical artist.

He heard of U.G.E. and we had heard of him and through the wonders of myspace, we just showed each other mutual respect for each other's work.

He's confident in his talent, and he's an all around cool person. No drama. No attitude.

Flow makes exceptional music, gives a memorable performance every time and as a person...he all right with me. Support good music, here's Flow.

Michael: Flow, tell me... how did you first start rapping?

Flow: Aww, man, I was a poet before I was a rapper. To just express my feelings, I was like nine or 10 years old and whatever I felt like I was going through I would write to express my feelings. At 10 or 11 I started singing but I know 13 for sure I started rapping. Because it was big to battle back then, that was my thing or I would see somebody who say they was sweet around school and we would battle. At around 15 or 16, I

converted my raps to songs and bring it into a format.

Michael: Flow, now for real I've been around you enough to see that in your songs and even onstage... wordplay is very crucial to your style. How did that become so important to you?

Flow: Appreciate that. Just lyricism in general is important in music in general. That's been embedded in my soul, you always want to speak well but you always wanna catch people off guard.

Like Rakim, Biggie, KRS One, you could even say Slick Rick. It's more about how you say things sometimes than what you say.

Michael: You're younger than most people think, everybody you just named was big in the 80's when I was like seven or eight years old. How do you know about them cats?

Flow: Just listening to hip-hop. If you a true head, you gonna study and listen to hip-hop and you can see the growth from the 80's to the 90's and even now. People in the 80's would say Rakim is the best that ever lived. People in the 90's would say



Tupac or maybe Biggie or even Jay Z.

People in the 2000's are gonna say Lil Wayne or Kanye West or Andre 3000.

Michael: You know I asked Tracy this and I wanna ask

you too... with the state of the economy and the overall direction of the music industry, where do you see yourself fitting in in the major industry?

Flow: You gotta work hard. If God keeps blessing me and I continue to work like I been working, I think I'll exceed all expectations. I can see it happening I just have to keep working at it.

As far as my career in the industry, I'm not a one-hit wonder type artist.

I'm an artist that has a forever type sound. I do a different style of music, I can't be categorized as this or that type of artist because I've always been around different types of music.

Going to the Toledo School for the Arts I was exposed to all kinds of music.

I was shown how to play the drums, play the piano. I was shown pop music, rock music.

Michael: And when you've done shows with us, people see you perform and you can see all of that in you.

Flow: Right. And I was blessed to go there. It gives you an out. Anybody that does anything... even draw, it gives you an out. People were put in front of me that wanted to see me grow musically.

Which sometimes I tend to have a hard time sometimes or wanna do things my way but that's the Aries in me.

Michael: Right.
Flow: But once you listen to music and peep everything it's a beautiful thing. Like opera music or even a country

music. Like the Dixie Chicks, I was put onto a lot of bands even underground punk rock bands. And being at that school made me the artist that I am.

Michael: As a producer I hardly ever tell what I use but you produce too, you wanna tell my readers what you use?

Flow: I use Reasons. Fruity Loops. Cool Edit as far as cutting samples and things. Triton. You know just whatever is there for me to use. I actually wanna do some stuff with just a soft guitar and a saxophone. Just something people not used to hearing.

Michael: Man...one of my female artists just played the saxophone at our open mic... between her and one of us on the guitar we can get you together on that (lol).

Flow: Maan, I was even talking to Bobby and he said he can learn anything on that sax.

Michael: Yeah, shout out Bobby Lucas. Now the mixtape you putting out.

Flow: It's *The Majesty of The Galaxy Volume One*. It's like a LP really, it's all original material.

Featuring production by myself of course. My super-producer from my label L.X.A., Lynn Jr.

Lagic. Scott Smoove. C Jones. D.J. D Wood. Mally. Midwest Tone. And I think me and Gutta Dave might do a joint.

Michael: You know just about every crew in the city, but you rock solo.

Flow: I figured why not just start my own. And I get a lot of love because I give a lot of love.

I respect everybody around here. Me and my brother Boogs started L.X.A. - League of Xtraordinary Artists. I have a female artist Nova. My little brother Jooks, he has Impulse Entertainment.

It's more comfortable for me to start my own. I know a lot of crews from Hustlehand to U.G.E. and pretty much everybody but I haven't been out to the people like y'all. A lot of artists know me but this is my presentation to the people. My name needs to ring some bells.

Michael: When I first heard about Flow... I heard about you as an artist produced by Scott Smoove but managed by Embrace Ent.

Flow: Yeah, I started with Scott Smoove when I was younger. He's my peoples.

And I was with Embrace but things just didn't pan out like they were supposed to. Which is cool. It wasn't her or me. I got a lot of love for

Embrace which she knows. She taught me some things about the business that I didn't know. I'm just betting on my own.

A lot of this is about business, maan. If you don't know the business side of things, you might not end up where you want to be. The paperwork is way more important than the music.

These artists need to know the more you have done already before you get to the big labels the more they will have to pay you. People shouldn't be chasing labels, labels should chase you.

Michael: A lot of people approach this game backwards and burn bridges. In this city there are a lot of rappers.

Flow: Too many rappers! Some of these people don't need to be rappin.

Some people probably say that about me but... hey.

Michael: Naw, but it's important to separate those who don't have the skill or the mindset and just operate off of fame and ego verses those with talent and humility and a good approach.

So look...when that debut disc from Flow comes out, what do you want people to know?

Flow: Wow!! umm

Michael: Like... let's say someone cops ya disc and they about to go out of town and they been bumpin ya new joint the whole way. When the ride is over, what do you want them to know about Flow?

Flow: That's a great question, umm... I want them to say that Flow can SPIT!

(both laugh)

Flow: Yeah, that I can spit and that my music is like nothing they've ever heard. I'm giving them me.

They are going to know me better after listening to my music. Every side of me.

My views on religion. My views on women. My views on myself.

Michael: That's what's up bro...

Any last words for Truth readers?

Flow: Support good music.

Michael: There you have it...you know U.G.E. hold you down always, fam.

Flow: No doubt, and come check me, U.G.E. artist B.M.G. and my other special invited guests at Mickey Finns April 2nd.

Michael: Fa sho.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com



Wozniak

(Continued from Page 11)

provide documentation to the Commissioners' office of appropriate fiscal training. Commissioners will review this information before taking any action of their own.

The resolution will apply to the Toledo Zoological Society, the Lucas County Improvement Corporation, the Lucas County Board of Mental

Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, the Area Office on Aging, the Toledo Science Center, the Lucas County Children Services Board, the Toledo Lucas County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, and the Toledo-Lucas

County Public Library.

"The Library is a great example of a Board that is already providing strong fiscal training and therefore, spending taxpayer dollars wisely. We want all of our Boards and Commissions to follow their lead and act prudently in these tough times," concluded Wozniak.

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March 25, 2009

Page 15

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Executive Director for Collingwood Arts Center. Working manager to oversee the artists in residence and related programs: fund-raising, program development, staff and facility management. Excellent communication, organization and people skills required: artists' support, problem-solving, public relations, events planning. Management or arts administration background, BA or equivalent experience preferred. Background or serious interest in the arts is required. Candidate must be a team leader but also able to work independently. Looking for candidate to be a passionate, loyal, articulate advocate for the Collingwood Arts Center. Forward cover letter and resume to: phomeratty@yahoo.com or Collingwood Arts Center 2413 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, OH 43620 Attn.: Exec. Dir. Search Committee. Deadline for submission is April 25.

20 Year Reunion



Scott High School Class of 1989 is seeking class members for their 20 year reunion.
Contact John Glover at 419-787-7124 or Tyrone Cleveland at 419-810-6077

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY09-96,

(Project #0108-09-596) for Savage Hall, Phase 2 - Indoor Practice Facility - Bid Package 2 for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, 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 \$110.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Chris Ewald of SSOE, Inc. at 419-255-3830. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$7,903,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$5,995,000.00; Plumbing: \$202,000.00; Fire Protection: \$36,000.00; HVAC: \$920,000.00 & Electrical: \$750,000.00.

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MarVines Exhibit Opens at Truth Gallery

Marvin Vines is back – at least briefly at the Truth Art Gallery in the Uptown area. Vines art is represented in more than 30 pieces brought together by the late artist's family. In addition there are prints available of many of his pieces.


Over 70 art lovers and MarVines' fans were on hand for last Saturday's opening reception of the exhibit that will be available for viewing through April 18.



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