



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

August 19, 2009

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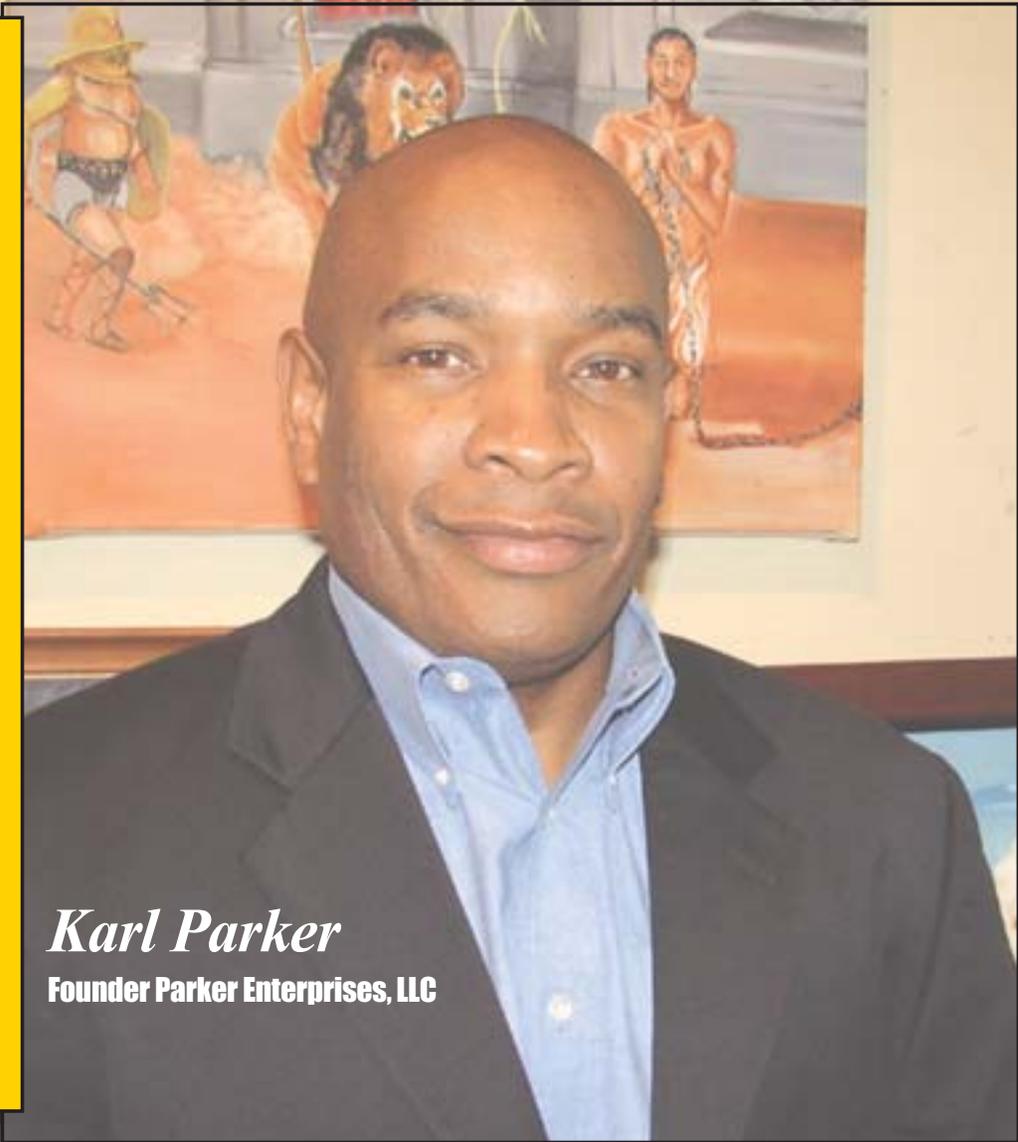
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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

On September 15, Toledo voters will have the opportunity to vote in a municipal primary election. In fact, for those who wish to vote early, that opportunity already exists.

Issue 2 on the primary ballot asks voters to summarily overturn a well-thought out system of City Council representation which currently calls for six district seats and six at-large seats. If Issue 2 is approved by voters, there will be six district seats and three super districts with no at-large representation.

We strongly urge voters to vote NO on Issue 2.

There has already been a good deal of talk in town, particularly within the Lucas County Democratic Party, about the confusion that will result if Issue 2 is approved. The proposed legislation, say critics, is unclear about when and how such a change would take place, it contradicts existing language in the City Charter, it calls for the election of nine City Council members in an election when only six such seats are in play.

We agree with all of that, but our disenchantment with Issue 2 rests less on the legal niceties than on the broad concept of eliminating at-large seats. That's a change that will not be beneficial for different communities within the city.

We firmly believe that some council members ought to be accountable to everyone in the entire municipal area and not just for those residents within the boundaries of particular districts. If each councilman has only a particular district to represent, then each councilman has no incentive to concern himself with the cares of residents in other districts.

With our current mixed system, residents of each district can directly hold seven council members accountable for what happens in their district.

Of course, we also believe that the city as a whole is best served by having on council, representatives who have addressed the broad concerns of the city in their campaigns.

It is often argued that, in fact, with the present, overwhelming influence of the Democratic Party in Toledo, elected officials from that party feel fairly free to take African-American voters for granted and court their votes only at election time. Therefore, goes the argument, of what use are at-large councilmen when they have little or no intention of maintaining such interest in the black community during those four years between elections?

We have not found this to be universally true. Even if it were, the fault for such lack of attention lies, in great part, in the inability of voters to hold such representatives' feet to the fire. The system – the mixed system of at large and district representatives – can work, but voters have to be diligent enough to make it work to our advantage.

Proponents of Issue 2 – the Nine Is Fine group – have cited a study by Susan Welch in which she concludes that at-large elections have not historically represented the best interests of African-Americans. "While blacks are equitably represented in the district portions of mixed systems, they are abysmally underrepresented in the at-large portions," Welch wrote in one of her books – *Urban Reform and Its Consequences: a Study in Representation*.

However, the problems with this study, and Welch's conclusions, are legion.

First, the book, and much of her work, was written a generation ago. Second, even Welch concluded that one could not make generalizations about what might be the best system of representation, so much depends on the number of representatives involved in a mixed system, the size of the minority population of the city and the history and location of the city studied.

While Welch did write the above statement, she also wrote, for example, that "the ability of at-large systems to represent blacks has improved dramatically since the 1970's." She also concluded that "mixed systems do promote more equitable representation of blacks than at-large systems when black populations are small (under 20%), but for larger black populations, at-large systems provide more equitable representations."

Of similar interest is the fact that she found that "small Hispanic populations are best represented in mixed elections."

One can cherry pick Welch's work and find just about anything one wants to find. More recent studies have reached conclusions at wide variance with the statement that Issue 2's proponents have used repeatedly. Just about all agree, as does Welch, that circumstances change in the way voters vote. For example, Welch arrived at these particular conclusions during a time when the infamous Bradley/Wilder effect (white voters telling pollsters that they will vote for a black candidate and then changing their minds when in the polling venue) was a widely accepted phenomenon among social scientists. The same social scientists generally concluded that the Bradley/Wilder effect virtually disappeared in the mid 1990's well after Welch's study.

We believe that the mixed system we have in Toledo offers voters an opportunity to vote for someone to represent the interests that vary from area to area but also to hold many other councilmen accountable for those same concerns.

We urge voters not to take anything for granted in this municipal primary election. Go to the polls and vote NO on Issue 2.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

August 19

Key Note Speaker Luncheon: American Care Givers; 11:45 am to 1:30 pm; Speaker Janis Liparato of Wells Fargo; "Reverse Mortgages;" 419-724-0888

August 19-23

Mt. Sinai Pentecostal Church "Pentecostal Feast;" Services at 7 pm nightly Wed. through Sat; Sunday service at 11:30 am

August 20

Mayoral Debate: Sponsored by the Alpha Phi Boule; Five major mayoral candidates; Main Branch Library's McMaster Center; 6:30 p.m. (refreshments served at 6 pm): 419-255-4480

August 21

Back to School – School Supply Drive: American Care Givers Family Activities Club; 10 am to 5 pm; Fundraiser for school supplies: 419-724-0888

ProMedica Cancer Institute Free Cancer Awareness Day: Westfield Franklin Park Mall; 10:30 am to 6 pm; Screenings, information about various types of cancers, demonstrations and giveaways

August 22

Trulight Cathedral Well-Watered Women of Faith program: "Oasis of Hope;" 11 am – 1 pm: 419-537-8629 or 419-450-2950

Competition Corvette Club Fundraiser for N.A.O.M.I. Transitional House: 9 am to 4 pm; Car Show; Friendship Baptist Church: 419-699-2207

Moving from Low Self Esteem to Healthy Self Esteem: Kent Branch Library; Noon to 3 pm: 419-376-2231

August 23

Greater St. Mary's MBC Adult Choir Celebration: 11 am; Concert at 4; Guests Pastor Lewis and Parkwood Institutional CME Church

Shiloh MBC Men's/Women's Day: Speakers Sis. Francis Crenshaw at 11 am service, Rev. Willie Perryman at 4 pm service: 419-693-6698/419-535-0615

Central MBC 4th Pastoral Anniversary: 4 pm service with guests Mt. Ararat MBC Rossford First Baptist Church Annual women's Day: 4 pm service; Guest Preacher Jeanette Williams; "United We Stand Ready to Serve;" 419-666-9447

United MBC Praise Team "Triumphant Praise Back-to-School;" 5 pm

August 25

Area Office on Aging Caregiver Educational Series: Mott Branch Library; 6:30 to 8 pm

Ella p. Stewart Academy for Girls: Open House Picnic; 5 to 6 pm open house, 5 to 7 pm picnic

August 26

Key Note Speaker Luncheon: American Care Givers; 11:45 am to 1:30 pm; Speaker Susie Lucas, designer of Unique Hair Designs: 419-724-0888

August 26-28

Shiloh MBC Three Day Revival: Guest evangelist Pastor Kenneth Turner of St. James MBC St. Louis, MO: 419-693-6998/419-535-0615

August 27-28

Positive Force Christian School of Dance Open Fall Registration: 4 to 8 pm; Monroe Street United Methodist Church: 419-932-0593

August 29

Book Signing and Reception: Friendship Baptist; Author Crystal Dixon's Destiny's Time; 5 to 7:30 pm; Gospel jazz, desserts and more

New Prospect Baptist Church Country Style Prayer Breakfast: 9:30 am: 419-536-8142

"The Seven Churches of Asia Minor;" Presented by Se' Lah Ministries; Dynamic speakers; 7 pm; Collingwood Presbyterian Church: 419-870-0611

Back2School Outdoor Outreach Program: Waite High School; School supply drawing; 1 to 5 pm: 419-376-2231

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



1990's. English who looks and acts like the front runner in this race is the husband of Vallie Bowman English, clerk of Municipal Court. English copied his wife's signs for good transfer effect. English, a Lucas County prosecutor, has the most experience inside of courtrooms and should get the nod from the Toledo Bar Association.

Who are we going to elect as judge on Toledo Municipal Court bench?

Who will the governor appoint to the Court of Appeals? And who can win a Court of Appeals race when it is contested?

Mike Davis ran for Common Pleas in 2006 against Judge Charles Doneghy and garnered less than 27 percent of the vote. This year, Davis is in a three-way race between young William Connelly, Jr., and Ian English for Municipal Court. Connelly is the son of Bill Connelly, noted plaintiffs attorney who did very heavy political lifting for most of his career, particularly in the

Davis has yard signs galore at many business sites and has run for judge for several years.

English is a Democrat although he worked for a Republican judge before he became a prosecutor. He now says that he was a Democrat all along time. Does it really matter? Maybe it does when you get to the sentencing phase of trials.

If fascinates while it also provokes me to see the slanted reporting by The Blade in favor of Keith Wilkowski. Do you notice that the placement of the photos and articles Mike Bell gets compared to the lighting and placement which Wilkowski gets?

Much fuss was made over how much cash the candidates

have received. Well, in 2001 Ray Kest had a war chest of \$300,000 plus promises of more money. I started off with about \$20,000 dollars.

I ended up beating Kest on Election Day and in the fundraising arena. The point is that his \$300,000 lead did not stand up. And in 2005 I had a huge financial lead on Carty Finkbeiner and it did not hold up.

Unless you think that Councilwoman Lindsay Webb and others are right in decreasing the number of council members from six at large seats to three "super-district" seats, you need to be prepared to vote "no" on Issue 2.

Why is that Sgt at Arms for Toledo City Council, Harold Mosely, has to fight for everything? Now council is squeezing down his time while he serves there. Why does he have to do battle? Leave Harold alone.

I wonder if you can become too big a black man in Toledo?

Will there be a backlash against Mike Bell?

Four Items That Bear Watching and Wailing About!



By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

his prior term on the board in which he stated that he was going to hold the fat cat white contractors feet to the fire to make sure minority contractors also had a chance to dine and graze with them at the public tax payer school rebuild money trough.

We are talking about over 600 MILLION DOLLARS being passed out! Imagine the tomatoes you could buy if your company got just a sliver of those public bucks!

Well, guess what? Lo and behold...not only did the available and qualified (why do they not use that term for white contractors?) minority contractors get the short end of the money stick but Larry

Sykes did not give any of these fat cat contractors any right uppercuts or stinging left jabs for their empty rhetoric.

No...the contractors, with suitcases laden down with taxpayer monies, went merrily on their way to their banks while smugly laughing at the verbal antics of Larry and others who jabbered on about making sure there were going to be paydays for the minority contractors now left standing in the mud.

And you want him back on the board! What are you smokin'!

(2) What's up with Jack Ford touting Larry Sykes resume as if Larry was the (Continued on Page 5)

The Charade of Political Blackness

By David "P.R.E.Z." Washington
Guest Column

It's no secret that a vast majority of African-Americans vote Democrat. Depending on what source you use, that number can be anywhere from nearly 80 percent up to 90 percent. I'm always baffled by this slavish devotion to a political party that promises much while slowly strangling the African-American community of its potential to succeed by keeping it in bondage to government. Too many have traded the freedom of former individual slave masters for an institutional one.

This unfounded loyalty has been so inculcated in the black culture that, by and large, it has been considered the de facto standard on which a person's "blackness" is measured. This can be clearly evidenced by the last presidential election. African-Americans came out in droves to vote for Obama. The reasons: he's black and he's a Democrat.

If we're going to be talking truth here then let's face it: the presidential election was clearly one that was racially motivated. It didn't matter what he stood for and how that would affect Americans as a whole. It only mattered that he was black and a Democrat. It was spun as an us versus them mentality based on race.

This kind of thinking has been an obstacle that keeps African-Americans from being truly American. The cultural pressure to tow the "black" agenda has shackled many into voting against their con-

sciences, always a bad idea. It fosters disunity and promotes racial schisms that our African-American ancestors have suffered and in far too many cases died for. So called black leaders keep the divide alive by fear mongering and vilifying others on the basis of race with no foundation in truth.

A prime example of this was Al Sharpton's charade in the Tawana Brawley case in 1987, where he defamed Steven Pagones by accusing him of a bogus crime. Never mind that Pagones didn't do it and when he sued for defamation damages won without a problem. The black community rallied behind this shyster and still treat him as some kind of hero when he really is nothing but an embarrassment, not only to the African-American community as a whole, but also as a so-called pastor.

Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to the political arena. There really is no excuse for it in the age of information. However, it seems that many African-Americans suffer from this malady when it comes to voting because of the perception that it's part of being black. They have been duped into believing that the government (which is really the taxpayers of the country) has to give them something in order to succeed not realizing that this only further cripples them.

We truly have given up our freedom by adhering to a political ideal that destroys us at the core all in an effort to keep

some sort of plastic racial identity. We vote for party instead of people. Programs instead of principle. Handouts instead of hard work.

I agree with the sentiment of Frederick Douglas:

"Everybody has asked the question... 'What shall we do with the Negro?' I have had but one answer from the beginning. Do nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played the mischief with us. Do nothing with us! If the apples will not remain on the tree of their own strength, if they are worm eaten at the core, if they are early ripe and disposed to fall, let them fall! I am not for tying or fastening them on the tree in any way, except by nature's plan, and if they will not stay there, let them fall. And if the Negro cannot stand on his own legs, let him fall also. All I ask is give him a chance to stand on his own legs! Let him alone!"

This coming local election is groundbreaking. There are more independents running because many are fed up with the broken promises, lies and deception associated with both parties. You will have the opportunity to vote for a person, their principles, and ideas which is the way it should be.

Rest assured, you won't be less black for doing it. You'll just be American.

Ed Note: Washington is an independent candidate for Toledo City Council

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Minister Coalition Opposes Issue 2 – Nine Is Fine Ballot Initiative

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Coalition of Urban Pastors Against Issue 2 gathered at One Government Center on Monday to hold a press conference and voice their opposition to the ballot initiative that would reduce the number of City Council members from nine to five if approved by the voters in the fall.

The current structure of our municipal government, consisting of six district and six at-large representatives and the fair and balanced and diverse representation it currently provides, is the culmination of the hard work, advocacy and struggle of many persons in our city and by minority civic pioneers in our community in particular," said Rev. D.L. Perryman, D.Min., spokesman for the group and pastor of Center of Hope Baptist Church.

The Coalition – about a



dozen and a half central city ministers – outlined three primary areas of concern with respect to Issue 2.

The first problem, said Perryman, was the rush to reorganize. "The swift ur-

gency to put this initiative on the ballot and to slip it in during a primary election without allowing the citizenry to weigh in, call for public hearings or obtain input from minority or other affected

groups reeks of ugly backroom politics, questionable motives and political manipulation," said Perryman.

Secondly, Perryman noted that "fewer is not fair." Fewer at large seats "means fewer opportunities for equitable

and diverse representation," he said.

The third problem, and the most significant one, according to the ministers, was the use by advocates of Issue 2 ("Nine Is Fine") of an outdated study that purports to show that African-Ameri-

cans and other minorities fare better when the number of at large seats are decreased.

"The best and most current 21st Century research and expert opinion on minority vote dilution indicates that minorities are getting elected in substantial numbers in at large systems," said Perryman. He went on to say that mixed systems – a combination of at large and district seats such as in Toledo – works best for those areas in which the black population is 20 to 25 percent of the total according to recent studies.

"As long as policies like Issue 2 go unchallenged, other forces will cut deals, get their piece of the action, marginalize representation for a certain segment of the population and once again abandon the fundamental needs of the community as a whole," said Perryman.

Five Detroit Avenue Churches Hold Vacation Bible School

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, Mt. Sinai Pentecostal Church, Paradise Missionary Baptist Church, Blessed Hope and House of Deliverance held vacation bible school last week, just as so many other churches do during the summertime. The big difference, however, was that the churches did it together.

The Boomerang Express: "It All Comes Back to Jesus" brought together the five churches and approximately 125 participants in eight classes to study the Bible and try to learn how to cope in an often difficult environment.

"The 17 to 24 year olds learn about peer pressure, abstinence and how we can better ourselves," said Rev. Cedric Brock of Mt. Nebo, the site of about half of the classes.

"The high school kids learn about dropping out, abstinence, saying 'no' to drugs and alcohol; the youth about peer pressure and the Lord."

Brock emphasized that there was no difficulty in getting the churches of different denominations to collaborate on the project. "It's



not about being Baptist, it's about Jesus," he said. "We've had one goal – working together. Jesus looked at a man's heart not his denomination."

The classes were conducted from 6 to 8 p.m. nightly and dinner was also provided by the churches.

The five participating

churches are just a few of the many along Detroit Avenue.

"People say that there are too many churches on Detroit – thank God there are so many," said Brock. "They never say that there are too many bars."

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

has just launched their "Brick Campaign". The TUFUCU has begun this campaign to raise funds for the new building at Detroit Avenue at Dorr Street. If you are interested in purchasing a "Brick" as a part of the campaign the prices are as follows:

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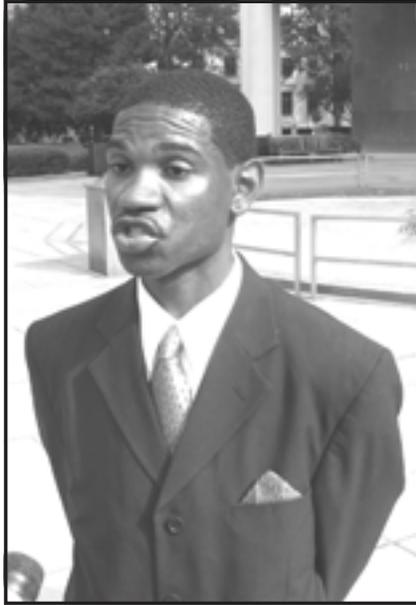
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Stephen Ward Calls for Transparency, Halt to Spending in City Government

Sojourner's Truth Staff



said Ward, an independent candidate for mayor who has mounted a campaign for council forswearing outside contributions.

"The current administration would like to balance the budget by raising taxes," he said. "Clearly this approach is insensitive to the citizens of Toledo... to raise taxes now is reprehensible. Enough is enough. The citizens say 'no' to the increase of the monthly trash fee; 'no' to cutting the 100 percent tax given to Toledo residents who work and pay taxes in another locale. In order to balance the budget, just stop spending."

Ward suggested that a "full-scale audit needs to be done by an independent auditing firm outside of the city of Toledo" that would search "books, records, accounts" line-by-line in an effort to find wasteful

starts with being transparent," said Ward. "Government exists to serve the

people. The city administration needs to recognize this truth as the interest of

the citizens should be their highest priority."

Four Items

(Continued from Page 3)

Don Corleone a/k/a "godfather" of Toledo black politics!? When I heard what was said from the mouth of Jack about Larry, I wondered... am I in the Land of Oz?

Would someone please hit me with a crême pie in the face and show me in graphic details the wonders and the behind the scenes manipulations that Larry S., has done for the black community in his various roles on a sundry of boards?

Will someone please embarrass me with a detailed history of Larry's rampart offensives that benefited black folks while he was with the Fifth Third bank and other boards.

Will Jack Ford, since he is seemingly dazzled by Larry's accomplishments, shame me in public by providing an extensive listing of the political and economical feats that Larry has accomplished?

Nothing personal against Larry who seems to be a nice guy but we need to stop circulating the same tired politics while hoping and expecting to get different results.

(3) Anything shaking with Superintendent John Foley and the tepid pressure of the black community to be engaged in an oversight committee regarding the rebuild of Scott High School?

I hope that Foley & Company are not going to use the tried and true stall tactic. You know... the one in which people put off black demands for change because they know our history is to "shout loud but shout short" and we then go quietly away and watch reruns of Everyone Hates Chris and their original plans go on without us.

If the thousands of Scott alumni (and if the fabled Bulldog Pride is real at all) cannot get their act together, raise some serious money and start winning some minor political battles such as controlling the schools in their very community, they should be ashamed, go home, kick the dog and let whomever wants to run roughshod over Scott High School do their thing. Power does not accede without a struggle.

(4) Anyone thinking about forming an independent black political party wherein we can run our own slate of candidates for school board, county positions, city council and even the mayor's office?

Oh sure. It would be transformative and radical but what is there to lose except our fear of being shunned by the major parties? Duh...No loss there!

Just think of organizing the black communities into precincts and having our

own campaigns and setting up a community fund to push specific issues and to also

initiate lawsuits (not by me!) when our interests are not properly protected.

The slogan would be: "Get hip and join TIP!" TIP stands for Toledo Independent Party. It would be based on the age-old concept of: "If they aren't going to do it for you...do it yourself!"

Now, that could mean that some black voters would go through psychological withdrawal symptoms if they could not be seen grinning with the fat cat white politicians; and of course you would have some black voters who would join TIP for the express purpose of running back to the fat cat politicians everything that was planned.

These "runners" would receive from the downtown politicians a pat on the head and four free matinee tickets to Showcase Cinemas for their fifth column efforts.

This TIP party can be done if the will of the community says so. If not, we will simply continue to be nice-mannered, able colored people who will take our marching orders from the downtown political machine and when they say... jump! we would say in unison - how high?

"In order to balance the budget, just stop spending."

In a news conference on Wednesday, August 12, Toledo City Council at-large candidate Stephen Ward called for the city to stop spending money, move to a zero-based budgeting system and bring in an independent audit firm to exam-

ine the books. "The citizens of Toledo are frustrated as we continue to watch the mayor and City Council argue back and forth undermining each other instead of making the tough decisions necessary to solve the budget deficit,"

spending. As examples of wasteful spending, Ward pointed to the \$6.3 million in overtime during the last fiscal year, the city's print shop and the Erie Street Market. "The city must get their finances in order and that

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Karl Parker: Carrying On the Family Business

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"Everyone in our family knows or does something in electrical engineering," says Karl Parker, a Toledo native who returned home in January 2008 to found Parker Enterprises, LLC., a provider of electrical engineering, construction and consulting services.

Shortly thereafter, Parker started a non-profit group – the Edward M. Parker Electrical Academy – an electrical apprenticeship school. The Academy is named for his brother who passed away just before Karl Parker returned to Toledo.

Edward Parker, Jr. had attended Macomber to study construction and electrical contracting at the urging of his father. In 1984, Edward Parker founded Parker Construction and Consolidated, an electrical contracting business, which focused on large residential and commercial clients.

In the meantime, Karl Parker, also a Macomber graduate, was earning a bachelor's of science in electrical engineering from The University of Toledo and then an MBA in Global



Business Development and Entrepreneurship. Karl joined the family business as vice president and director of water systems – designing electrical systems

and instrumentation, developing a training program for apprenticeships, among other duties.

In 1990, Karl Parker left the family firm to enter the larger corporate world.

He moved to Jackson, Michigan to join Orion Engineering as a project electrical engineer, then back to Toledo for a three-year stint at Owens Corning as a plant manager. He moved to Cincinnati to join General Electric; to Wisconsin to join Pentair and finally back to Michigan to become operations director at L & L Products, Inc.

Edward died in January 2008 and Karl felt obligated to return to Toledo and family to continue the tradition

established by his older brother.

Thus began the new family firm – Parker Enterprises – which specializes in industrial wastewater treatment. Working with a staff of 15 – full and part time – employees including his sister Sandra Bibbs, who serves as the vice president of administration, Parker has developed a clientele in just a year and a half that includes such entities as UT and LMHA locally. He has reached into Texas to work

tain a Photovoltaic Entry-Level Certificate of Knowledge.

The Academy has been formally approved by both the U.S. Department of Labor and the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council.

Applicants have to be able to: produce a high school diploma or a GED certificate within the first year of acceptance; pass a drug test within 90 days of acceptance (at a cost of \$35); do homework and participate in class and not miss more

minority contractors to work together – the Greater Toledo Minority Engineers and Contract Associates – whose membership is open "to anyone around who is interested."

The mission of the GT-MECA "is to increase the number of dollars minority contractors obtain," says Edwards.

Parker, obviously not one to sit idly by, is also a partner in The InnoTrans Group, which specializes in improving the profitabil-

For Karl Parker, the Academy is a labor of love.

with the Muharib Group, among others.

The Edward M. Parker Electrical Academy's first class started in March with about 40 students. The classes meet every Saturday for four hours and is free to students. About 40 percent of the students are ex-felons.

The Academy offers a variety of programs from a pre-apprentice certificate to a four-year General Journeyman Electrical Construction License. And those interested in the alternative energy field can ob-

tain three days of class.

For Karl Parker, the Academy is a labor of love. He had initially developed such a training program during his days with his brother's company in the late 1980's.

Parker has one other labor of love in the works. He is trying to accomplish something that has eluded minority contractors in the Toledo area for just about as long as there have been minority contractors in the area. He has formed an association that, if successful, may pave the way for

ity of micro to medium sized businesses. He serves on the advisory board of the UT clean and Alternative Energy Incubator, is on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and is a member of the National Black MBA Association and the National Society of Black Engineers.

For more information about Parker Enterprises or the Edward M. Parker electrical Academy, email Karl Parker at kp_tol@yahoo.com.



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The Truth ECONOMY

Tackling Tough Times

Page 6

ASK YVON

By Yvon Harper, CEO
Focus on Finance, LLC



“Now is a great time to G.R.I.E.V.E.”

When was the last time you stopped to examine the milestones in your life? If you are having trouble coming up with a specific date you are not alone. It is amazing that most people do not effectively stop to examine milestones. Nonetheless, it is essential that we do, because many of life's lessons come at us very quickly and you do not want to miss them and in some cases repeat them. However, knowing how to recognize keep-sake lessons takes a certain skill. Today I'm challenging you to learn this skill by taking the time to G.R.I.E.V.E.

I can already hear some of you saying “Why would anyone need to learn to grieve?” Trust me, I'm not referring to normal grief. To appreciate the process you must first understand what it is, so here is Yvon's definition: G.R.I.E.V.E. means to *Gain Relevant Insight Evaluating Valuable Ex-*

periences. You will discover there are many financial benefits as you learn to G.R.I.E.V.E., but to appreciate them fully you must first establish a sound plan.

Recently, I had a discussion with a part-time client regarding their recovery from debt. I refer to them as part-time, because sometimes they will accept my guidance and other times not. Nevertheless, they always come back around for additional bits of wisdom. This time they were discussing the need to purchase a new vehicle. While they had made enormous progress in paying down past due balances they had not formulated a plan moving them financially forward with new credit. That was until they were faced with the opportunity to G.R.I.E.V.E.

After going through the process of selecting a vehicle of choice my clients went to obtain financing. They expected the interest rate to be a little higher than average, but were confident that their lower debt ratio would assist them. What they discovered was that while they had a financial plan it was not sound. They had overlooked the importance of establishing new credit streams to balance out a creditor's view of their creditworthiness. They were offered the opportunity to own their choice vehicle at the cost of a 23.9 percent interest rate. Fortunately, they declined the offer.

Afterwards, we again discussed their current financial plan. It was a productive conversation. As they began to G.R.I.E.V.E. they revisited their choice not to include the establishment of new credit streams in their plan for financial recovery. They now realized that obtaining new credit would be relevant to position them for better interest rates with future expenditures that required credit. They walked away from our discussion with new understanding and a balanced financial plan that they should reap benefits from in as early as six months time.

Embracing the skill to G.R.I.E.V.E. will greatly assist you in all areas of your life, but especially in these troubling economic times. It will show you areas where your financial plan can be improved and reaffirm you in areas that are on track. Taking time to G.R.I.E.V.E. will position you to evaluate each financial decision independently against the choices presented in this economy.

In closing, we must all face the process to G.R.I.E.V.E. whether financially or in other areas of life. While I cannot promise you that it will be a painless process, I can tell you that it will put you ahead in the long run by assisting you to steer clear of roadblocks and exposure to some unnecessary distresses. The challenge will be not to miss the

opportunity to advance your progress by missing out on the chance to G.R.I.E.V.E.

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consult with a qualified legal or tax advisor to analyze your specific financial situation before application of any advice from this column.

MonaVie's Robert Dean Makes Toledo Appearance

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Garrett Barnett, Robert Dean, and Tina Mesley

Robert Dean, the dean of African-American network marketers, spoke to an audience of more than 200 at the Family Activities Center on Friday evening, August 7.

Dean, who is CEO of T.O.P.G.U.N., spent seven legendary years with Tahitian Noni before taking his

T.O.P.G.U.N. team over to MonaVie about a year ago.

A multi-millionaire through his network marketing experience, Dean's T.O.P.G.U.N. company has a stated goal of making 500 millionaires by building a brand as the most successful, unified training system in the world; opening new mar-

kets in new towns, cities, states and countries; focusing resources on the potential 500 millionaires; building a culture of activity with unity, family, pride, integrity and documented success stories and finding new solid leaders for the company.

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Come on, President Obama, Help Create Fourth Wave Jobs – Faster!

By Ruben Patterson, Ph.D.
Guest Column



Although being dislocated out of an entire category of jobs in big waves is hard, at least it isn't as bad if there is an equally big wave of new job categories opening up. The well-known futurist Alvin Toffler has written about our society's previous Three Waves of jobs. What I wonder about is how quickly can we get to the Fourth Wave of jobs since the previous three are now woefully insufficient?

Let's take a stroll down memory lane regarding the previous Three Waves of jobs. First we had the agricultural wave that began to wash over society some thousands of years ago. During that time humans began abandoning their nomadic lifestyles of moving here and there in search of new food sources and accepting instead lifestyles structured around settled agriculture.

The Second Wave was the industrial revolution. It is worth noting that the precondition for any civilization is energy. First Wave societies relied principally on human and animal muscle power to extract food from the earth, build shelter and produce clothing. Energy

sources for Second Wave societies were primarily fossil fuels. Unaware of the significance of the changes, the industrial revolutionaries at the time were setting humanity on an ecologically unsustainable trek that we only began to appreciate late last century.

Numerous techniques were utilized to drive workers off the land and into factories to carry out Second Wave production. One field-to-factory dislocating force was technological revolutions, such as the mechanical cotton picker or harvester.

In 1949, 94 percent of the cotton in the South was picked by the hands of African-Americans, but by 1964 that share was down to only 22 percent.

A few years later, essentially 100 percent of the cotton was harvested with machines. The great South to North black migration between 1940 and 1970 of more than five million was a part of the First Wave employment giving way to the Second Wave.

Unbeknownst to blacks at the time of the migration, the wheels were already in motion to automate and off-shore those industrial jobs, which would decades later be manifested in massive unemployment in the inner-cities of formerly industrial strongholds, including Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo and others.

By 1956, America had become the world's first nation to have more white-collar workers than blue-collar workers. From that point onward, America's manufacturing workforce would continuously decline as a percentage of the total.

Whereas in 1955 some 33 percent of Americans worked in manufacturing, the share had dropped to 26 percent in 1974, had fallen further to 15 percent by 1999, and is now barely in double-digits at 10 percent.

Although many workers in the manufacturing sector didn't like being dislocated out of manufacturing, at least there was another sector in which they could go. However, the Third Wave arena of the service sector is also associated with more uneven compensation, lower wage floors and more contingent work opportunities.

As unattractive as Third Wave jobs already are for millions of workers, they are steadily getting worse due to their proven inability to sustain families. Just as we had to come to terms with the elimination of agricultural jobs due to automation in the forms of earth-altering mechanical devices (e.g., tractors, harvesting machines) and chemical defoliants and fertilizers – which are incredibly energy-intensive and destructive biologically and environmentally – and the elimination of manufacturing jobs that have been accelerating since the 1970s due to automation and offshoring, we are now coming to terms with the fact that service jobs can also be eliminated due to automation and offshoring.

We used to wonder if the Third Wave would end with humanity crashing into a brick wall due to the crisis stemming from too few jobs for citizens. Could the Fourth Wave just be getting underway, which won't crest for several more years,

and would subsequently provide decent jobs to millions, if not billions, of fellow global citizens around the world? It is becoming pretty clear that there is a considerable amount of labor-intensive work to be done in this possible Fourth Wave of eco-industrial production.

Let's look at just one potential source, namely, brownfield remediation. The Environmental Protection Agency says that there are over 500,000 brownfield sites around the country. There are rich economic and employment opportunities to be harvested in remediating and redeveloping the five million acres of brownfield sites across the country.

Studies suggest that the average brownfield remediation and redevelopment project creates about 10 jobs per acre. With five million acres of brownfield sites that's a whopping 50 million jobs that could be

created. And given that the average public expenditure per job for brownfield remediation is \$14,000 that comes to some \$700 billion.

Don't kid yourself – the government has to play a prominent role in kick-starting the Fourth Wave just as it did with the previous three. American agricultural success (First Wave) started with government-supported slavery, but that support extended to the Homestead Act and continues today in the form of subsidies to giant agri-businesses.

The success of US manufacturing (Second Wave) was supported in part by massive military and quasi-military spending, which resulted, in part, in civilian manufacturing success. Also, solid-state (i.e., miniaturized) electronics came about in part due to NASA expenditures.

And then there is the 21st Century service (Third Wave) economy, aided in

large part by the Internet. The Internet, of course, is a product of the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). None of the previous job waves would have experienced the startling high rates of productivity and innovation that we have witnessed without the initial and massive support of the government.

We need the Obama administration and the rest of Washington to make a gigantic investment splash in order to help create new Fourth Wave green technologies and production techniques to flow throughout the US and the global economy. In other words, we need green jobs now – the Fourth Wave jobs!

Ruben Patterson, Ph.D., is professor of Sociology and the interim director of Africana Studies at The University of Toledo. He may be contacted at rpatter@UTNet.UToledo.edu

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In Real Estate, As in Most Careers, Education is the Key to Success

By Rodney Neely
Guest Column

Its time to go back to school, folks! Not just for the kids and college students in the area, but for you too.

In today's world an education is imperative to advance to the highest levels of success. For most of us there are a million reasons why we can't go back to school right now. I don't have the time, I'm too old, I can't afford it right now, or the other one- "you don't need a degree to be successful in real estate."

More times than I care to admit I have leaned on some of these same excuses not to pursue more advanced, specialized

education in specific fields of real estate and business. Fortunately I reconsidered, yet the most valuable part of my education has come in much less formal ways.

Through the development of partner relationships and business mentors I have been afforded the chance to learn as I earned while working in the business. In addition to just the standard studies, in the business world today you must have applicable knowledge in specific disciplines to get on the fast track to the top.

I often have the opportunity to lecture and present motivational speeches to groups of young people who are at a



crossroads educationally. The advice I give them in this regard is very simple. Today you have to "be" what you went to school for when you graduate. For example, if you went to engineer-

ing school, upon completion you will be an engineer. If you attend nursing school, upon completion you will be a nurse.

The applied knowledge you gain to be successful in your fields is what you want to achieve. This principle applies to real estate as well. Although there are many avenues within real estate, the general field of study offers dozens of paths to reach that ultimate goal of social and financial freedom. The residential, commercial, sales, investment banking, architecture, appraising and many other specific fields are all available through the general study of real estate.

Across the country the interest in real estate as a profession is at an all-time low. Everyone knows how difficult the retail sales end of the business is right now. That fact makes it the perfect time to get involved.

Because this business is cyclical and we have been in a downturn, the natural trajectory from this point is up. As the local economy continues to rebound there will again be opportunities as agents, brokers, lenders, appraiser, titlist, builders or developers in north-west Ohio. To find out more about these opportunities in

our area contact the Toledo Board of Realtors or other related organizations.

Moreover, it's a great time to be a student no matter what stage of life you're in. President Obama and Congress have extended the term for unemployment benefits up to (75) weeks. This will allow many taxpayers who are facing lay-off to finish short-term training programs to help prepare for a shift in your chosen profession.

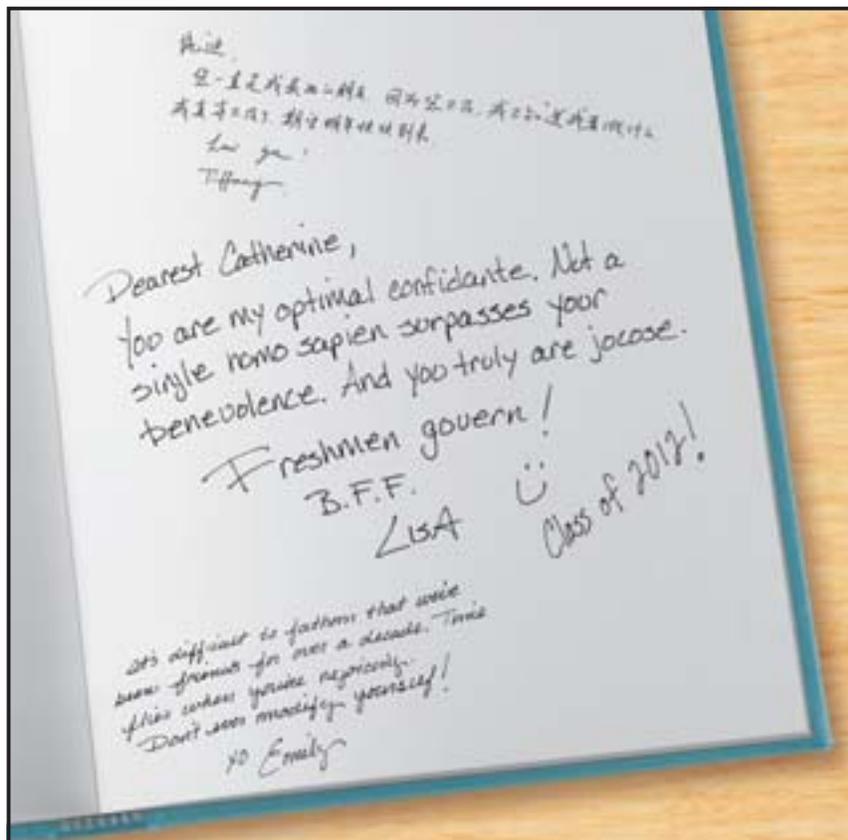
Furthermore, through the stimulus bill, millions of dollars have been allocated to our area to assist in paying for your education and advancing your employment options.

In a nut shell... No more excuses! There are assistance programs, funding, and over 30 institutions of education and training in the metropolitan area that you could attend to get certified in most real estate related disciplines or many other non-related fields of study.

So, get up, get out, and get something. You won't make it if you never even try!

Always remember that in life success is the greatest revenge....

Rodney Neely
Rodney@q3development.com



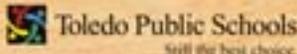
It's no wonder students at Toledo Public Schools have higher overall Ohio Achievement Test scores than most charter school students.

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Join us for an Open House. Enjoy refreshments and tour the new King Elementary (1300 Forest Ave.) on Tuesday, August 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Don't miss the Scott Learning Community "Back to School Bash." Stop by Robinson Middle School (1075 Horace St.) on Wednesday, August 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Enroll now for Fall '09. 1-TPS-GO-TPS50 TPS.org



Gerald Alvin Joyner Sr.



We thought of you with love today,

But this is nothing new - Today is such a special day For it celebrates just you. We think of you in silence And often speak your name. All we have now are our memories And your picture in a frame. It broke our hearts to lose you, But you didn't go alone. A part of us went with you The day God took you home.

Happy Birthday, Dad

August 22, 1944

We miss you, Rachel, CaSondra, RaShaunte Rayah CaSadore Shanelle, ShaRiyah and The entire Blackshear Family

The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling

Saving Money on Student Loans

By Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Guest Column

Education is the key to getting a good job. The Census Bureau estimates that a college graduate will earn 75 percent on average more than someone who has only a high school diploma. Unfortunately, many college students graduate with a heavy burden of student loan debt.

To help the millions of Americans who are paying off federal student loans, Congress passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act in 2007. Its provisions link repayment of student loans to income and family size. As a result, many borrowers are now able to cap their monthly loan payments at a reasonable percentage of personal income.

The new Income Based Repayment option is available to borrowers who are repaying new and existing federal student loans (either Direct Loans or Federal Family Education Loans). Those with high student loan debt relative to their income are likely to be eligible, resulting in reduced monthly payments and, in some cases, no monthly payments at all.

For example, someone with student loan debt of \$25,000 at 6.8 percent interest would have a monthly payment of

\$288 under the standard 10-year repayment plan. Under the income-based program, if the borrower were single with no dependents and had an Adjusted Gross Income of \$30,000, the monthly payment would drop to \$172 per month, a reduction of \$116 per month.

Payments are recalculated each year. (Note: lower payments, while more manageable, might result in longer repayment periods and increased total interest charges.)

Borrowers who work in public service jobs may be eligible for forgiveness of remaining loan balances after 10 years. Eligible public servants include firefighters, first responders, law enforcement officers, early childhood educators, public defenders and prosecutors, and men and women serving in the military.

The forgiveness program can be used in conjunction with Income-Based Repayment, but is available only in the Direct Loan Program. (Borrowers with Federal Family Education Loans can consolidate their loans into the Direct Loan Program in order to qualify.)

Other benefits that went

into effect on July 1, 2009 include:

• **Lower interest rates on need-based (subsidized) federal student loans.** Interest rates on these loans dropped to 5.6 percent.

• **Higher Pell Grant scholarships for low- and moderate-income students.** Due to funding boosts provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the maximum Pell Grant scholarship has increased to \$5,550—an \$819 increase over two years ago. In future years, the size of the grant will increase at the same rate as inflation plus one percent.

In today's economy, the need for financial aid is greater than ever. A recent study found that 40 percent of students who earned bachelor's degrees in 2000 received at least one Pell Grant. The latest federal budget provides \$129 billion in new grants, loans, and work-study assistance to help students get the education they need.

For more information on student financial aid, call my office at 800-964-4699. Detailed information about repayment plans is available by calling the U.S. Department of Education at 800-4FED-AID (800-433-3243).

Port Authority's Community Economic Development Initiative

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Every year the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority earmarks a portion of its funds for commercial development by area non-profit agencies. The funds, which are part of the monies raised by local tax levies, are distributed in two forms—pre-development grants and loans for construction.

"It's all about trying to create jobs and helping neighborhoods," says Laurie Cantrell, Loan Program manager for the Port Authority. "It's a way of stepping in when banks can't."

The Community Economic Development Initiative, a neighborhood business development program has \$350,000 at its disposal annually—most of which goes to community development corporations. All of the grants and loans are intended for commercial development projects.

Since 2005, the Port Authority has extended such grants and loans to area CDC's such as ONYx, North River, River East, VIVA South and Lagrange, among others, for a variety of projects.

The pre-development grants are designed to be used for aspects of the projects such as feasibility studies, environmental preparation or architectural designs. The maximum per project for such a grant is \$35,000.

Then loans are available for the brick and mortar part of the projects. The total amount available—combined grant and loan—for any one project is \$150,000. So if the maximum amount in grant funding has been received for a particular project, another \$115,000 is available in loans.

According to Cantrell, the purpose of the Initiative is

specifically to improve the condition of blighted neighborhoods and to create jobs in those areas.

The grants do not have to be repaid to the Port Authority by the recipient. The loans are disbursed at zero percent interest and can be repaid in quarterly installments after a deferral period during the construction phase and will be amortized over a 15 year period.

The decisions on fund distribution is made by the Port Authority's Property and Development Committee and only \$255,000 of this year's \$350,000 has been allocated thus far.

Applications for the Community Economic Development Initiative are available online at www.toledoportauthority.org. For more information, interested parties can also call Laurie Cantrell at 419-243-8251.

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North Toledo Boys Mural RISEs on Summit

Sojourner's Truth Staff

RISE, a mural reflecting the powerful potential of teenage boys to serve as agents of change in their neighborhoods, rose last week to the top story of the Vistula Building on Summit Street in an installation ceremony last Wednesday afternoon.

Funded by The Toledo Community Foundation through a grant to United North, the theme of the mural was conceived by teenage boys involved in the Human Values for Transformative Action (HVTa) under the guidance of Lorna Gonsalves, Ph.D., and her Community HeARTbeats approach.

The youth from that group have evolved into The Force Within. Those members are attempting to use their creative talents and neighborhood



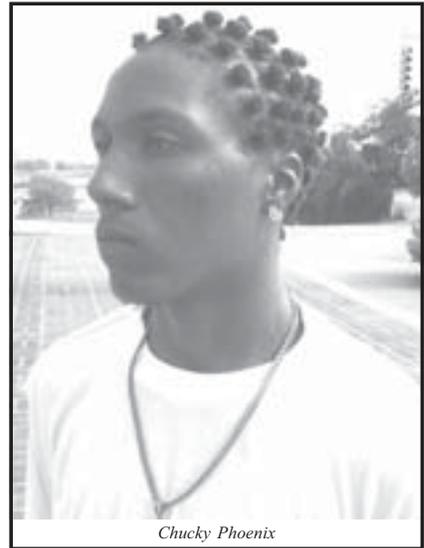
resources to promote positive changes in their communities. "This is the boys' mural," said Gonsalves as she introduced the project and acknowledged the help extended by Terry

Glazer of United North and Mary Lou Baumgartner of the Weed & Seed program. "Without the support of our families, very little is possible." The RISE mural was

Painted by local artists Imani Lateef and Adam Russell. "There are four adolescents of different backgrounds in between life and death," said Russell. "The pyramids represent all the natural laws not their disposal. The four prime elements - earth, wind, water, fire - that is what our life situation is. The boys thought of all of this, embracing brotherhood but a sanctification as well, a progression from self destructive choices."



Lorna Gonsalves with The Force Within youth



Chucky Phoenix

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Phoenix Academy logo and address: 2238 Jefferson Avenue Toledo, OH 43604 Phone 419.720.4500

www.phoenixtoledo.org

Advertisement for 'Experience THE UPSIDE' featuring DJ Reese, with details about video releases and local production.

Russell credited the teenaged boys associated with the project and "their ancient wisdom" that he feels will enable them "to master the self and become part of the community which is the social action plan."

Russell's words were echoed by one such boy, Chucky Phoenix, who spoke of the four elements and noted that the

boys represented in the mural "rise above negative thoughts to become role models" in their community.

The Force Within, under the direction of Gonsalves and Beth Lewandowski of the Lagrange Village Council, has been involved in a series of projects aimed at self empowerment

and community transformation. This is the third mural to be completed by the group. The first two were projects inspired by teenaged girls.

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T#58736 DOFU: 05/13/2009

Interview With Toledo Mayoral Candidate Ben Konop

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Michael Hayes: Ben, my readers are mostly comprised of the 17-34 age range, widely known as Generation Y.

Being that you and I are both at the top of Gen Y... in this city what kind of leadership and guidance can you bring to our generation here in Toledo? After all, the current leadership has said a lot but done very little to address the segment they claim they want to keep here... what are your plans?

Ben Konop: Well, Michael, I have a two-pronged approach for helping my generation succeed in Toledo.

One, plan for \$70,000,000 scholarship fund at the University of Toledo that is paid for by cost savings in local government without raising any taxes. Generation Y would be the very target of this fund to help them go back to school and gain the education and skills necessary to compete in the 21st Century knowledge based economy. The recipients of the college fund will pay them back by volunteering

one hour for every \$20 they receive in scholarship funds at community organizations like the United Way. It is a win win for the community; not only do we make college affordable for thousands of Toledoans but we increase the ability of non-profits in the community to help out those in need.

Two, I have proposed and as mayor will implement a small business loan program for young entrepreneurs trying to start or grow their small business. The program makes start up and expansion money more accessible to local businesses by tapping into the federal government's SBA loan guarantee funds. For example a qualifying business would put up \$5,000 of their own funds, the city would match the \$5,000 and the SBA backs a loan for up to \$40,000 at a local bank. This type of program has created 1,500 jobs in, of all places, Youngstown, Ohio. If we aggressively use this program to start up businesses we could create even more jobs here in Toledo.

Hayes: My mom says you have her vote, but my dad is

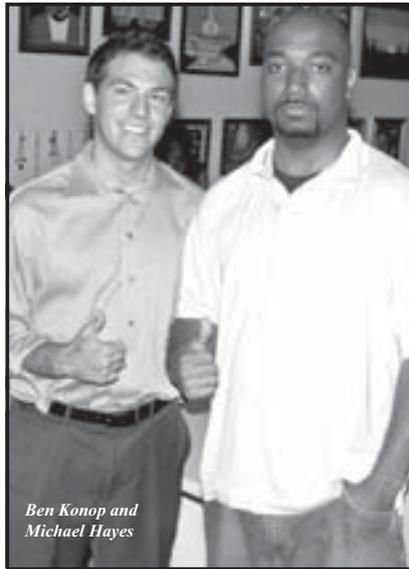
skeptical about the age thing. I said "Dad, he's older than me by a couple years" but that wasn't enough to persuade him...

How do you deal with apprehension to someone so young becoming mayor?

Konop: I think it is time for a new generation to assume leadership in Toledo. The older generation of politicians in our community has had their chance and look at the results. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, one of the highest bankruptcy rates in the country, one of the highest foreclosure rates in the country, and we are losing population—many of them young people—at an alarming rate. I don't think this older generation of politicians has purposely wanted to harm Toledo to this extent, but the numbers don't lie. While I am in my 30's, I have a good amount of experience as I was an attorney at one of the largest law firms in Washington D.C., have served as a Law Professor at Ohio Northern and The University of Toledo College of Law, and have been a Lucas County Commissioner now for three years. So I think I have the right mix of experience and fresh ideas, energy, and a new perspective to help change the direction of Toledo.

Hayes: Many Toledoans are uninterested in the politics of this city because it all seems like a bunch of rhetoric... you strike me as someone who can really bring actual CHANGE... but can a progressive person like you really effect change in a place like this?

Konop: As a commissioner I have seen the challenges first hand in trying to enact change in our community. There is a small group of people in city politics that have controlled our community for many years, and I believe prevented change. I have taken to calling them the "good ole boys" network and have made some inroads in breaking their hold on power in Toledo. It is not easy, however, as these "good ole boys" have personally profited thanks to their control of



Ben Konop and Michael Hayes

city hall at the expense of working people in Toledo. I think only through a grassroots movement, spearheaded by the younger generation can we break the mold of these "good ole boys" and get back to doing what is right for the people in the community.

Hayes: Now, I'm sure Gen X people have already gone through this but speaking for Gen Y, I'm sure you have experienced just as I have—so many friends leaving Toledo because the sheer lack of opportunity.

When some of your friends tell you they are packing up and going somewhere else, what do you say?

Konop: I try to encourage and help to try and get them to stay here. I help review resumes and forward them throughout the community in hopes of finding them employment. In many cases, however, I can't blame a young person for leaving because it is hard to find a good job here in Toledo. My goal as mayor will be to help make it possible for smart, motivated young people to have a successful career in Toledo, raise a family, and enjoy the quality of the life that Toledo has the potential to offer to Generation Y.

Hayes: Can you explain how you being a country commissioner prepares you to be a city mayor?

Konop: Both jobs entail administering multi-million dollar budgets and providing basic services like police, roads and sanitation. However, as mayor, there is more opportunity to enact the type of bold change that I think this community desperately needs because the mayor under Ohio Law can draft legislation that pro-actively deals with the problems in this community, whereas a commissioner only administers state law written in Columbus.

Hayes: In my opinion, I see a few minor similarities between your approach to politics and

President Barack Obama. Is it just my imagination or has he had an impact on you?

Konop: President Obama had a great influence on me personally as well as politically. He was elected thanks to a grassroots movement based heavily on the use of the Internet and that is something my campaign is very focused on as well. President Obama engaged young people during his campaign and they provided the en-

ergy that really got him elected. On a local level, my campaign has hundreds of young Toledoans from all different backgrounds involved at a grassroots movement trying to change Toledo.

So in a lot of ways we are really trying to emulate the young people powered, grassroots approach that elected Barack Obama.

Hayes: President Obama masterfully melded the grassroots element with the Internet movement,

but how are you planning on crossing Toledo's digital divide?

Konop: There are thousands of Toledoans that still do not use the Internet on a regular basis, but obviously they deserve a voice in our campaign and our city as well. The most effective way to reach them and something I like to do on a daily basis is go door to door in the various neighborhoods of our community. Through a face to face conversation with voters I make my case for why I am the best candidate and receive the voters input as to what needs to be done to change our community. I find it especially important to go door to door in poorer neighborhoods in our community because so often poor people in Toledo are overlooked, their views are not considered, and they are marginalized in the process. I firmly believe arising tides lifts all boats and by going door to door in the struggling neighborhoods of our city it collectively helps us as a community to raise the tide.

Hayes: Many people believe roots in our city are a key component in earning their vote for Mayor, do you have roots here in the area?

Konop: At an early age I was fortunate enough to be

instilled with the value of giving back to ones community. My father, local attorney Alan Konop, arranged on many occasions for me to volunteer at neighborhood soup kitchens, and otherwise be exposed to the economic hardships and social injustice that plague our city. I was blessed to grow up in a comfortable middle class existence, but attempted my best to be aware that many in the community faced overwhelming obstacles to achieving their dreams. This realization has fueled my drive to enter public service and help change our community.

Hayes: Toledo has an image problem, as mayor would you do anything about changing our image to bring more opportunity to our city?

Konop: I think we need a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote the resources we have here, and attract more resources. Right now our marketing strategy is not cohesive and generally ineffective and as mayor I would enlist our best and brightest minds to change the image of our community to the rest of the world.

Hayes: I was in the League of Pissed off Voters a couple years ago, many people are tired of the same lame campaign jargon... we want someone to just tell us straight what they are going to do and how.

Konop: Every proposal I have made I have explained exactly how I will pay for it and produced data to show exactly what the results would be. I think this is in stark contrast to any of my opponents in the race who speak in the same tired cliches that politicians have used for decades.

Hayes: One of the unique elements you bring to the

(Continued on Page 13)

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Book Review

Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson by Ian Halperin

c.2009, Simon Spotlight Entertainment / Transit Publishing

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Have you ever been wrong about someone?

You thought you understood her integrity and morality but you were, unfortunately, quite wrong. You heard he was a jerk, a complete idiot, that he was sleazy but he turned out to be a pleasant, fun companion. And though your first impressions made you vow to listen to your Mama when she said not to judge a book by its cover, the next person you met got the same snap judgments.

Author **Ian Halperin** says his assumption of guilt in the Michael Jackson molestation trial made him want to know the truth. In the new book *Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson*, Halperin writes about what he learned.

Ian Halperin was mad. Like most people around the world, he'd formed an

opinion of The King of Pop based on news and tabloids. Halperin was angry because, as the father of a young child, he figured Jackson would be found not guilty for a crime he believed Jackson had committed. Because he's an investigative biographer, Halperin decided to uncover the truth.

Over the course of several years, Halperin learned plenty about Michael Jackson.

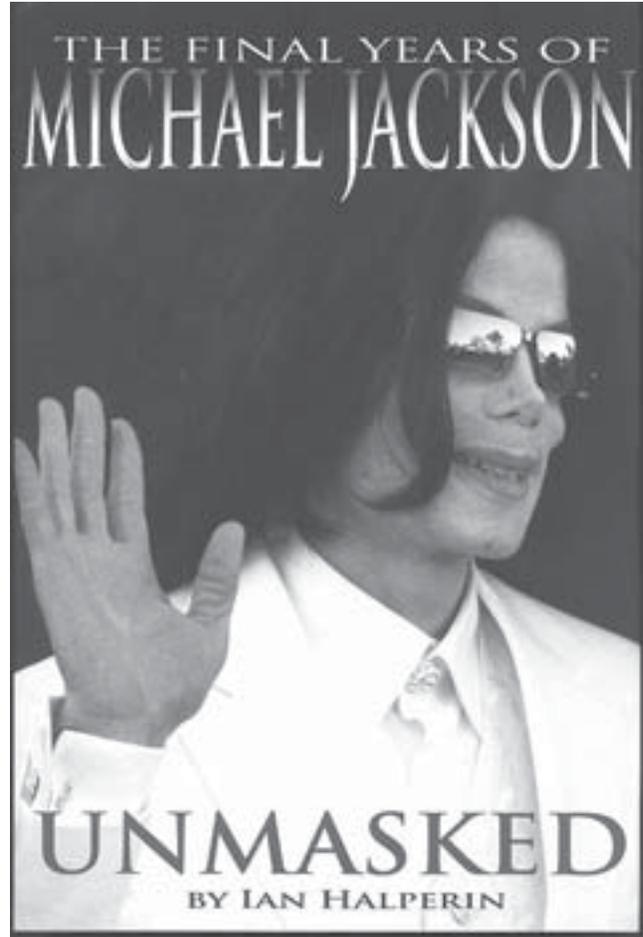
Interviewees who'd been at Neverland during sleepovers vowed that nothing "funny" had ever happened. Former child stars, adult friends of Jackson, impoverished children-now-grown-up all swore that Michael was just a big kid and acted like a goofy "10-year-old". Although Jackson did himself no favors by admitting on-camera that having chil-

dren in his bed was "sweet", Halperin came to believe that most of Michael Jackson's accusers went after him for money and that Jackson was not a pedophile.

Quite the contrary, in fact: Halperin seems certain that Michael Jackson was attracted to young adult men and was, therefore, gay.

To that end, Halperin says that Michael Jackson's marriages to Lisa Marie Presley and to Debbie Rowe were both meant to quiet rumors. Halperin believes that Scientology was behind the first "Royal Marriage." As for Debbie Rowe, Halperin says "I fully expect that it will emerge that the children had a 'test tube' conception..."

And, despite what the autopsy claims, Halperin believes that drugs and ill-



ness contributed to Michael Jackson's death, but greed, pure and simple, ultimately killed the singer.

Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson doesn't really tell us much that we don't already know, but hearing it afresh was good.

With his investigative journalist's eye zeroed in,

author Ian Halperin even went undercover in the Jackson camp to get what he believes is the truth. His reporting seems fair and balanced, but reads a bit like a juicy tabloid – not necessarily a bad thing – as he tells tales about Jackson, other stars, and Hollywood goings-on. Overall, while I thought the fo-

cus on the molestation part of Jackson's life got to be a little much, I found this book to be a quick, enjoyable read.

Still can't get enough of The King of Pop? Then pop this book in your bag. To pass up *Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson* would be so wrong.

Konop

(Continued from Page 12)

table as candidate is an ability to rely on your experience with the county to address areas where the city of Toledo and Lucas County are doing the same work and costing us needless money in duplication of services.

Konop: As a commissioner I see everyday the overlap of duplication of city and county operations in government center. Often times city govt. and county

govt. are doing the exact same jobs without any collaboration. This wastes millions of dollars for taxpayers every year. I have identified five city and county departments that could be merged at government center and the savings, which I estimate at \$12 million, could be used to fund education, put more police on the streets, and help small business throughout the city grow. In

the 21st Century we have to use all available technology and be more efficient in how we operate government in order to do more for the people with less money.

Hayes: What do you want my readers to know about mayoral candidate Ben Konop?

Konop: I am for the people..for a change.

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CLASSIFIEDS

August 19, 2009

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Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is preparing to submit its Public Housing Agency (PHA) 5-Year and Annual Plan 2010-2014 to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010-2012.

LMHA's 5-Year and Annual Plan 2010-2014, ("Plan"), is available for review at LMHA's Website (www.lucasmha.org). LMHA invites you to submit comment on the Plan during the next 45 days. Please provide your comments no later than October 5, 2009, to lgarrett@lucasmha.org.

You are invited to a public hearing on **Monday/Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.**, in the McClinton Nunn Community Building, 425 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604. This hearing will provide interested citizens with pertinent information regarding the strategic goals, and program activities of the LMHA. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and provide additional comments on LMHA's Plan.

Should any attendee require auxiliary aids due to a disability, please contact the LMHA administrative office (419) 259-9457, at least one week prior to the hearing date to ensure your needs will be accommodated.

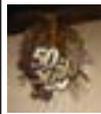
William J. Brennan, Chairman
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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-021,

(Project # 1110-08-537) for Main Campus Roof Repairs (Stranahan) 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, September 9, 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 \$40.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Brad Rossi of Rossi & Associates at 419-385-6633. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 9:00 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: \$137,500.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$137,500.00.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-022,

(Project # 6000-09-1473) for Mass Notification Over Fire Alarm System 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 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 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 \$40.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Desjardins of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 103 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: \$160,000.00; Breakdown: Electrical: \$160,000.00.

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Morehouse College Honors Toledo's Judge Franklin

Sojourner's Truth Staff

A member of the Morehouse College faculty came to Scott High School in the early 1940's to woo outstanding black male students to the prestigious Atlanta institution. One such student was Robert V. Franklin, Jr., the highest ranked black male student at Scott in the graduating class of 1943.

Franklin did indeed enter Morehouse where he graduated with honors and then returned home to enter The University of Toledo College of Law.

Franklin served in the Korean War after law school and then went into private practice, followed by a stint in the City of Toledo's prosecutor office. He was appointed to the bench in 1960 and eventually became a judge on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas where he served until retirement in 1985.



Robert Michael Franklin, Judge Franklin, Gary Franklin, Kathryn Franklin.

He continued to serve for another 18 years on assorted duties as a retired judge.

Over the decades, Franklin served Morehouse as well. For 29 years he was on the Morehouse College Board of Trustees.

Saturday, August 8, another gentleman from Morehouse came to Toledo, this time specifically to visit Judge Franklin – this time to honor rather than recruit.

Morehouse College President Robert Michael Franklin (no relation to the judge) flew to Toledo "to honor one of our greatest sons," he told the assembled family, friends and fraternity brothers of Judge Franklin during a ceremony on Sunday, August 9, in the judge's home.

"We want to thank you for your service and your decision to come to Morehouse," said President Franklin as he

presented a commemorative plaque. "Morehouse is a greater college because of it and your fingerprints are all over the college."

Morehouse College was founded in 1867 and has always embraced a mission of developing male African-American leaders. The college currently has 2650 students enrolled.

Morehouse boasts an impressive array of alumni including Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., filmmaker Spike Lee, actor Samuel L. Jackson, track athlete Edwin Moses, former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, among others.

The college is one of only two historically black colleges or universities to produce a Rhodes Scholar. Morehouse has produced three such scholars over the last 15 years.



Morehouse alumni Gary Franklin, Fred Guy, Judge Robert Franklin, President Robert Michael, Joseph Sommerville Franklin

Toledo CDC's Annual Health Fair

Sojourner's Truth Staff



TCDC Executive Director E. Mickens

The Toledo Community Development Corporation held its fourth annual health fair on Saturday August 8 at Smith Park and, in spite of the

inclement weather, the big tent in the park was filled with vendors and visitors.

TCDC's health fair was no ordinary event. U.S. Congress-

woman Marcy Kaptur stopped by to present a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to TCDC Executive Director E. Michelle Mickens and her staff of volunteers.

In addition to the congressional recognition, this health fair also presented a live exercise/dance routine by Angela Steward of Fabulously Fit.

TCDC's primary function is to build and rehabilitate houses in an area bounded by Monroe, Dorr, Upton and Washington streets. The health fair represents another aspect of the CDC's commitment to its neighborhood and the residents.



Angela Steward leads workout session

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