



Local and National News

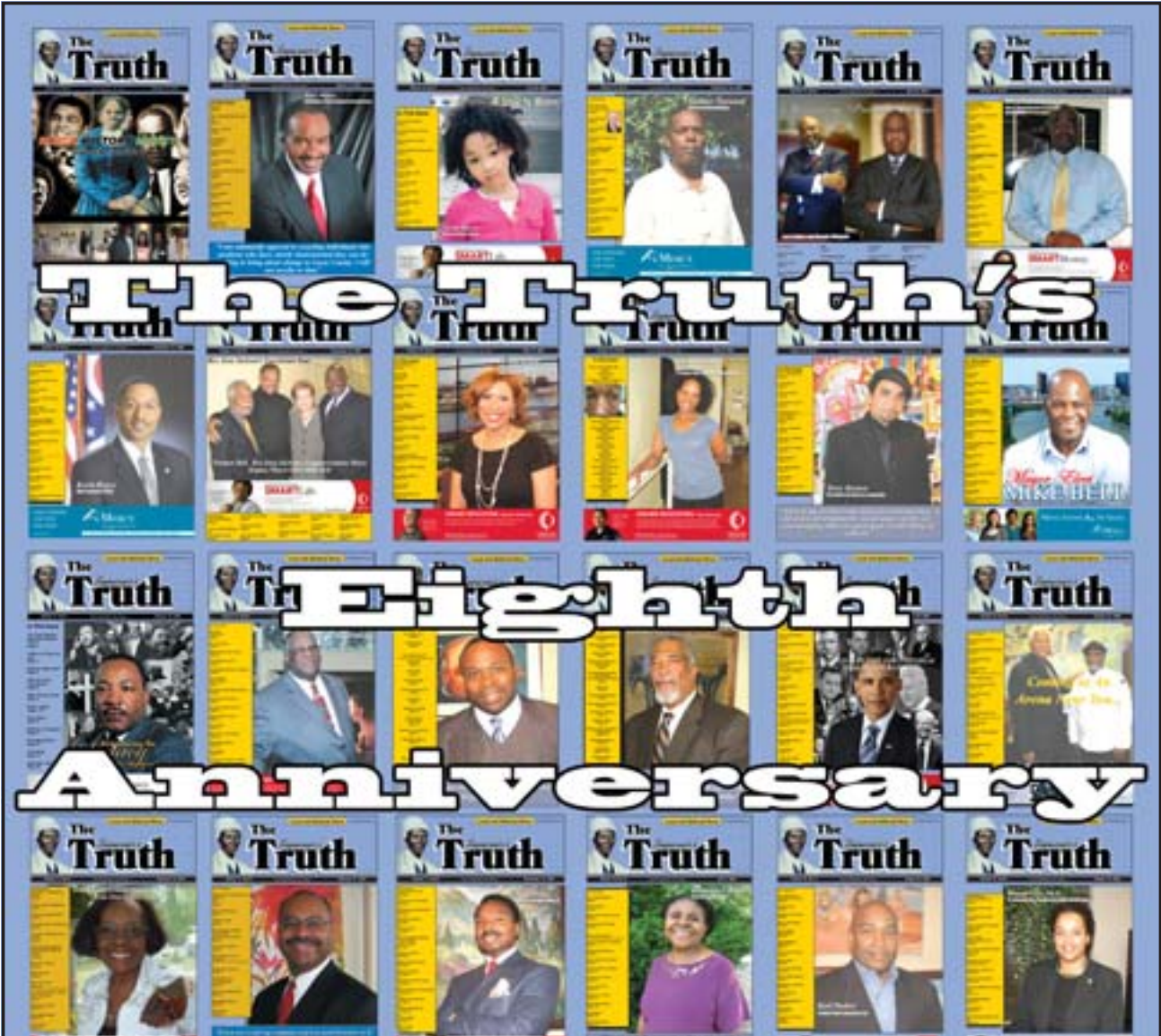
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The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 17, No.26

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 28, 2010



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Educational Malpractice and Issue Three



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

Can't nothin' make your life work if you ain't the architect - Terry McMillan

From the days of slavery when it was illegal to teach a slave to read or write, and during the period of segregation where educational opportunities were overtly denied to blacks, up to our contemporary persistent problem of poor school performance in predominantly minority schools no other issue has carried with it more troubling implications for the black community than education.

The desire to be educated and the initiative to exercise control over the learning of young African-Americans was so strong that schools offering basic classes on reading and writing and libraries were established in the basements of churches almost immediately following emancipation from slavery and unlearned sharecroppers selling eggs and poultry put their nickels and dimes together to erect structures and founded what became historical black colleges and universities.

This historical primacy of black investment in schools was rooted in the belief that education was the doorway to enhanced opportunity for the less-privileged to obtain what Desiree Pedescleaux, PhD, describes as "the knowledge, skills, and discipline needed for full participation in the economic, social, and political arenas of modern life."

In other words, education was a responsibility to "deliver," the information, skills, and opportunities to "find a place in the mainstream labor market and secure gainful employment."

Toledo Public Schools, in the midst of a mass exodus of students to charters, parochial institutions or "Drop-out U" finds itself with a \$30 million budget deficit and has placed Issue Three, a 0.75 percent "earned income tax" levy, on the May 4 ballot. The tax will affect the wages (not pensions, unemployment compensation or earnings on investments) of residents of the Toledo City School district.

Should the tax be supported?

There is no question that unresolved issues exist. At the forefront is the skepticism and mistrust from the black community which complains that past levies, successful largely because of the black vote, have been rewarded only with broken promises. In particular, minority percentage of building construction contracts and purchasing have fallen far short of inclusion goals. TPS indicates that community participation numbers for the renovation of Scott High School however, will show much more improvement. The district has also instituted a new online system in an effort to reach out and identify more minority vendors and to facilitate additional quotes from disadvantaged businesses.

Other complaints revolve around the question of higher taxes and increased labor and administration cuts. The decision to keep Libbey open was also surprisingly, criticized by some in the African-American community.

Overlooked however, by those who oppose the levy is the larger issue of educational malpractice when it comes to students of color and the "political and ethical question of whether we are ready to slate some children - mostly poor and of color - for extinction" along with the schools and teachers (many of them also minorities) that educate them.

Can TPS serve, not only as a vehicle of entitlement for some, but also work for all people including minorities and the poor?

And what are the consequences if black support is withdrawn and the levy is defeated?

With a majority of the students nonwhite, the resultant larger staff cuts will certainly cause greater class sizes further eroding the quality of education being provided, widening the gaps or inequalities in academic performance and ensure that those with the greatest educational needs will continue to be those least likely to get them.

Also, as minority and poor students continue to perform poorly in school as a result of disappearing access to quality education, racial gaps in jobs, housing and income will persist along with poverty, hopelessness and several other related indicators of social inequality including increases in crime and neighborhood decline.

In addition, with jobs in the private sector scarce because of the recession, black teachers, administrators and other school system employees - all vital to the stability of the African American community including its churches and social organizations - are likely to be disproportionately represented in district job losses.

While the district is an important source of jobs, economic opportunity and social status for many blacks, the burden of educating the oppressed has always fallen disproportionately upon the African-American community despite society's responsibility to "provide" uniform and universal excellence of education to all of its students.

The remedy for this failure and educational malpractice?

Given the troubling implications for the African-American community, a vote against the levy in these economic times would be akin to a black suicidal blowing up of TPS which has expiring previous levies coming up in 2013 and 2019.

Yet it is appropriate to take the initiative rather than continue to sit back and allow others who are insensitive to poverty and the needs, talents and limitations of the poor and minorities, to "murder their futures" by unjust policies in the guise of fiscal austerity. Administrative control of the educational system must be obtained but only by the unseating of obstructionist board members and the building of new alliances to inaugurate positive change rather than by destroying the whole system.

Finally, in the words of scholar Steve Farkas, "There is a critical need for a different kind of political process, one that allows the general (and diverse) interests of communities to prevail over the narrow interests that currently dominate. And most importantly, all parties must never lose sight of the underlying purpose... What we must do to help the children learn. And how we will work together to do it."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

April 30-May 1

13th Annual Marriage Retreat: New Covenant Church; "Divine Design: A Fit Made in Heaven:" 419-262-0533 or 419-726-6836

May 1

Family & Friends - Adult and Child CPR Training; C & C Health Services; Three sessions - 9 to 11:30 am, Noon to 2:30 pm, 3 to 5:30 pm; The Body of Christ Fellowship Church: 419-464-8586 or 419-917-4881

Semi-annual Perennial Plant Exchange: Original Sub Shop; 8:30 plant dropoff; 9:15 am community gardening workshop; 10 to 11:30 am free plant exchange: 419-243-4857

Richard Health Systems Health Fair: 5237 Renwyck Dr; 10 am to 2 pm: 419-534-2371

Phillips Temple CME Church "Girlfriend Luncheon:" 11 am; "What Every Woman Needs to Know: Self Defense Techniques, Health Care Power, Health Awareness, Saving for Now;" Pre-women's Day event: 419-283-9836

First Annual Awareness March: Supporting unity in the community; MLK Bridge - east side; Noon: 419-481-3924

May 2

United MBC 7th Pastoral Anniversary: For Rev. and First Lady Bass

May 8

West Toledo Bereavement Support Ministry: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 10 am: 419-867-2122 or westtoledobereavement@email.toast.net

Spring Concert: Central Catholic's spiritual and praise dance ministry performance; 6 pm Free and open to the public: 419-787-1717 or 419-973-4437

May 9

"The Fantasticks:" Musical play by the Village Players to benefit the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center and Toledo Campus Ministry; Reception at 1, curtain at 2: 419-473-1167

May 12

Economic Empowerment Seminar: Main Library McMaster Center; Earn income in energy conservation, national television advertising, etc; 1 pm: 419-727-3956 or 567-395-1216

May 14

Majestic Praise Ministries: Fish and chicken dinners: 419-467-9962 or 419-882-7650

May 15-16

Mt. Sinai Pentecostal Church Women's Seminar: "Walk in the Spirit;" 9 am on Saturday, 11:30 am on Sunday: 419-255-8577

May 16

Warren AME Church Pew Rally: Featuring St. Paul Baptist Choir, Total Praise Dancers, St. Martin de Porres gospel choir, the Inspiring Brother of Detroit and more; 4 pm

May 21

Hannah's Socks Sock Hop: Cousino's Navy Bistro; 7 to 11 pm; Entertainment, classic cars, contests, raffles; Proceeds to benefit Hanna's Socks: 419-893-9600

The Sojourner's Truth

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Separate But Unequal Schools in Toledo...?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Column



Due to the deluge of responses to my article regarding the millions of missing school funds that could be amassed by the school board if their teachers, principals, board members, administrators and staff members were to enroll their school-age kids in the public school system, I, as a lawyer, was asked by the now chagrined school board to draft a proposed contract provision to address that decades-old glaring deficiency.

The below is what I submitted for the board's comments and review:

BE IT ENACTED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE THAT:

Due to the need to show an investment in the educational community when the educators and staff and personnel of the Toledo Public Schools earn their livelihood, and Due to the need to have the teaching corps of the Toledo Public Schools make a commitment to their educational charges, and Due to the positive statement that the teaching corps of the Toledo Public Schools will demonstrate by their commitment of their child or children to the school district in which they teach,

THAT:

(1) Commencing August 1, 2014, all contracts for newly-hired teachers and renewals for existing teachers shall, as a condition of employment, require that all teaching corps members who have a school-aged child or children between the ages of six and 17 must enroll that child or children in the Toledo Public Schools system.

(2) If the teacher lives outside of the school district of the Toledo Public Schools, said child or children shall receive a waiver of any residency requirements that will allow such enrollment(s).

(3) Said child or children shall continue their enrollment in the public school system as long as said teacher receives employment, part time or full time, or serves in

the role of an advisor, consultant, mentor, aide or receives any sustenance in the form of a paycheck or payment for services rendered.

(4) If the teacher fails to continue said enrollment of said child or children and removes said child or children from the public school system, the teacher's employment contract shall be terminated forthwith and with no rights of future employment or renewal.

The teacher waives all avenues of appeal including mediation and arbitration from an act of termination.

(5) In addition, any and all administrators (including school superintendent), staff members, principals, service personnel (including paraprofessional staff members) shall be similarly bound by the above paragraphs and conditions.

(6) All school board members shall be similarly bound by the above paragraphs and conditions regardless if they receive compensation for their services as a board member.

END.

As the reader may know by now, the school board loses out on millions of dollars each school year due to principals, administrators, teachers, staff personnel and school board members who live both within and without the Toledo school district, sending their children to private, charter or parochial schools.

This is at the same time the school board and school superintendent bemoan, with

gross hypocrisy, the loss of funds that could go to benefit the public school system. Remember...the school board loses \$5,800.00 per child who is not enrolled in their system when the rolls are counted.

This issue of where an employee of the Toledo Public Schools send their child for an education is a highly volatile subject with the employee-parent claiming rights of personal freedom.

All of that poppycock sounds good but there is a glaring embarrassment to that argument and that is: "if you do not believe in the product or service that you are pushing, why are you getting paid for what you do not believe in?"

If the head of Ford Motor Company drove a Kia, would that not tell you that he does not believe in Ford products? If you saw the chairman of

Weight Watchers always drinking Slim-Fast products, would you not think that Weight Watchers is not a good product? If you saw the head of PepsiCo always guzzling down Coke products, would you not think that Coke is a better soft drink?

Well, it is the same with the teaching profession. Those who are employed by the public school system and enjoy a very comfortable middle-class lifestyle (or better) openly disdain the very system that feeds them when they send their kids elsewhere, but they are glad to lord it over your kids who must attend public schools.

Does not that attitude say *(Continued on Page 14)*

GTUL's Position Statement on Issue 3 – Toledo Public Schools Levy

By John C. Jones, President of the Greater Toledo Urban League

We face a crucial time in the life and history of our city. Job growth in some sectors remains dismal, unemployment continues to hover around 12 percent for the City, and overall the economic rebound we desire to see is slow at best. The City of Toledo in order to close a \$48 million deficit has had to call on employees to take cuts in pay and do more with less, unions to agree to concessions and everyday citizens to bear a larger percentage of the load.

At the same time, within the City our school system is facing an enormous budget crisis as well. As it attempts to close a \$30 million deficit, there has been much discussion about where to generate revenue and make cuts. Unfortunately the board and administration of our district have engaged in little dialogue to collectively come up with a solution that creates the needed change and reform to provide ALL students with a quality, first-class education.

Over the past 10 years we have seen a sharp decline in the number of students in the district (per Ohio Department of Education enrollment declined 27 percent, from approximately 35,000 to approximately 26,000). While the enrollment has declined, revenues and expenditures per pupil not only have increased disproportionately, but have also seen an increase that has far outpaced inflationary rates.

This rough analysis supports our belief that this community has supported levies almost without question and in some instances blindly. More specifically, the precincts that comprise the central city (which is primarily minority) have staunchly supported each levy while receiving the majority of school cuts and the lowest amount of resources necessary to prepare students for college, work and life.

Additionally, through the "Building for Success" program we have seen a disproportionate share of contracts being awarded to minority contractors and new or renovated schools have seen a very apparent delay of and even exclusion from the plan altogether. The levy, if passed on the backs of the community, will have a devastating impact on poor and working families, as many of them have little disposable income to bear an additional tax at this time.

The Greater Toledo Urban League, as an affiliate of the National Urban League, has adopted as one of its long range goals, "ensuring each child receives a quality education that prepares them for college, work and life by 2025". We are 100 percent committed to this goal, however locally we find it difficult to achieve within a district that is begging for reform and lacking in transparency and accountability.

It is disingenuous at best and blatantly hypocritical at its worst for Toledo Public Schools to ask the community to support a levy and trust

their judgment when resources have been squandered and decisions made that will have a negative impact on success and progress in the future.

We support our students wholeheartedly and we support quality teachers within our district. However we recognize that to continue providing funds without a clear strategic focus and vision; without a massive reform of administration; without a review and revision of union contracts; and without a concentrated effort to work collaboratively with the entire community, will be the greatest disservice we could do to our community's most precious assets – OUR YOUTH. Therefore the Greater Toledo Urban League, at this time cannot support Issue 3.

Now is the time for this community to step up and hold our elected officials and public institutions accountable!

Now is the time for this community to step up and volunteer to assist students in their quest to not only secure a quality education, but also to become productive contributors to our community!

Now is the time for this community to step up and contribute to the success of each youth in a way that is commensurate with one's ability!

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Primary Election on May 4: Candidates and Issues

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

When Toledoans head to the polls to vote in next week's primary election they will find that most of the candidate options on the ballot offer few choices. Most Democratic, Republican and assorted other candidates - for local, state or national office - are opposed for their party's nomination.

The notable exceptions are the U.S. Senate race, a local state senate race and a Lucas County Board of Commissioners race that has a rare abundance of contestants.

In addition to the candidates on the ballot, there are a handful of critical issues for voters to consider, not the least of which is Issue 3 which would put some additional tax revenues into the coffers of the Toledo Public Schools.

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher and Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner are vying for the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination in the big statewide competition and the honor of meeting Republican Rob Portman in November.

In the race for the Ohio Senate District 11 seat, which encompasses Toledo, State Rep. Edna Brown and Toledo

City Councilman Joe McNamara are squaring off on the Democratic side to gain the seat that must be vacated by current Democratic Senator Teresa Fedor. Fedor, who will be running for the Ohio House seat in District 47, is term limited from seeking re-election to the Senate.

Brown, having served in the Ohio House since 2002 when she replaced Jack Ford who had won the Toledo mayor's race, is term-limited from seeking re-election to her District 48 House seat.

Brown served on Toledo City Council for six years before being appointed to the Ohio House.

McNamara won election to a City Council at-large seat in a special election in 2006. He was elected unanimously to the position of council president in July 2009 and re-elected to council in November receiving the highest vote total among the 11 candidates. He decided not to seek the presidency in order to run for the Ohio Senate.

The Board of Commissioners race features three Republicans and six Democrats jockeying for advan-

tage. Republicans Andy Glenn and Dan Steingraber face an uphill battle against City Councilman George Sarantou who has not only run for the board previously - losing in the 2006 campaign to Democrat Ben Konop - but has also fared well in at-large council races in the recent past.

A victorious Sarantou would face off against the Democrat who emerges from that six-pack. None of the six has ever won a county or city-wide race previously and only two have run for office before in this area. Carol Contrada, a two-term member of the Sylvania Township Board of Trustees and a local attorney, would figure to have a slight advantage in name recognition - her law firm, Contrada & Associates, are frequent media advertisers.

Art Jones served for a brief time on Toledo City Council after an appointment in 2000 but lost his bid for election in November 2001. A longtime union official, Jones has recently been active as an advocate for equitable hiring and contract let-

ting by public entities. Ben Krompak, a political consultant; Earl Murry, a former professor and administrator with The University of Toledo; Tim Porter, a former administrator with Rescue and Michael Zychowicz, a lawyer round out the Democratic field.

With such a tightly contested contest in which no one holds an appreciable edge in name recognition, a last minute flurry of advertising for the candidate possessing the largest purse could be significant.

There are two statewide issues on the ballot this year. The first is a constitutional amendment that extends the Ohio Third Frontier program by authorizing the issuance of additional bonds to promote economic growth.

Proponents argue that passage will create jobs without increasing taxes. Opponents contend that passage means more spending and more debt for the state government and will permit the State to pick winners and losers from the private sector to receive state dollars.

Issue 2 is a follow-up to

the gaming amendment that won approval from voters last November. That amendment will lead to the building of four casinos in Ohio including one in Toledo. The new constitutional amendment will simply allow Penn National to build the Columbus casino on a vacant redevelopment site in the city rather than in the original site in the Arena district.

And there are two important issues for Toledo voters.

Issue 5 will, if approved, allow the city to reallocate proceeds of the current city three-quarters percent temporary income tax from the Capital Improvements Fund to the General Fund to address immediate financial needs. That authorization will last from June 2010 to December 2012 and free up about \$7 million for the General Fund.

Issue 3 is the most controversial one on the ballot this year. There is no getting around that this is an additional tax on income. The proposal asks voters to approve an annual income tax of .75 percent (3/4ths of one percent) for an indefinite period

of time. Expected to raise \$18.1 million annually, the revenues would help to offset a projected budget deficit of \$30 and avoid a number of deep spending cuts.

Proponents argue that such additional cuts would severely impact the quality of education for the district's students. Opponents counter that the TPS administration and school board have thus far failed to draw up a strategic plan that would avoid such crises in the future.

Voters must declare a party preference for the May 4 primary in order to vote for candidates or, if they choose not to declare such a preference, vote only for the issues. Voters may declare themselves for any of the following parties: Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green, Socialist and Constitutional.

Those wanting to vote early may still take advantage of absentee voting at 1302 Washington Street. Thursday, Friday and Monday early voting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Advertisement for CW TV shows including Gossip Girl (MON 9p), 90210 (TUE 8p), and Vampire Diaries (THU 8p) on WT05-TOLEDO. Includes CW logo and website wt05toledo.com.

Tim Porter: An Administrator Who Sees Opportunities to Enhance Government Efficiency

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor



"I am an administrator not a politician," says Tim Porter, one of six Democratic candidates for the vacancy on the Lucas County Board of Commissioners. And as life-long administrator, Porter relies on that experience to address the issues that he feels are confronting the county.

The solution, he says, is to bring the skills he has honed in his career to enhance the efficiency of county government.

"Doesn't everyone have a problem with the efficiency of how we run our government?" asks Porter. "I've worked with limited budgets. I can take things that are unrelated and see how we can work within the system. As an experienced administrator and a leader, I know how to use policies and verifiable data to overcome barriers to make positive changes."

For Porter, who had been a quality management consultant with Rescue Mental Health for 13 years prior to his retirement in 2009, this is his first run for elected office in this area. As he explains, several factors inspired him to file for the office when Ben Konop surprised many and decided not to seek re-election – one being the fact that

the office would be vacant.

Additionally, Porter says, he did not believe that anyone else as qualified as he is would seek the opening and there is also his concern with how the current commissioners and county leaders spend the funds at their disposal.

"We need an administrator as commissioner because of a lack of clarity present on the board of commissioner," Porter says. "As an administrator I look at what is happening and why it is happening."

As part of his campaign, Porter has been making the rounds of county agencies to collect the data that he would be relying on to make decisions and he has already put forth a proposal to centralize 911 dispatchers as a result of his research.

"I went to law enforcement
(Continued on Page 12)

Mike Zychowicz: Attorney, Small Business Owner Challenges the Way We Govern

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

There are three reasons why he decided to toss his hat into the ring and make a first-time run for elected office, says Mike Zychowicz, one of six candidates on the ballot for the Democratic nomination for the Lucas County Board of Commissioners.

His children, he says, are old enough "to allow dad out of the house;" his law practice is in a good place and, most importantly, the county needs someone with my experience to guide us through this uniquely difficult time."

And this uniquely difficult time, as Zychowicz sees it, is the "worst recession in 80 years" which calls for a "fundamental change in the way we view society" and presents "a challenge in the way we govern."

Zychowicz recognizes that governments on all lev-

els need to spend more wisely even as he also acknowledges that "I don't think that 'no government' is the answer to short-term deficits."

Zychowicz describes himself as a progressive liberal who believes that "we should not lose sight of the fact that government provides essential services." He decries the rampant privatization of the Reagan era and the fact that the good ideas of the 1970's "have been pushed under the carpet and society has suffered from it."

Nevertheless, Zychowicz is a firm believer in the spirit of capitalism, in the spirit of small businesses and in the value of true competition – free markets above all. "When markets are allowed to be monopolized by the few," he says, "[the economy] becomes unfree. So business needs to be regulated for a

strong fiscal approach.

Zychowicz himself is a small business owner. "I've run a successful small business and I know what it's like to meet a payroll and I know what it's like to manage people," he says of the experiences that will help to make him a successful commissioner. The other part of the experience that he points to is his career as an attorney devoted to helping people. "I've been dealing with ordinary people for 25 years – helping people and running a small business."

The candidate for commissioner believes that his background will help round out a board that is currently lacking any business experience. President Pete Gerken is a former union official and Tina Skeldon Wozniak has a background as a social worker.
(Continued on Page 12)

Counties Across Ohio Could All Use a Little Help Move Ohio Forward, Faster



Vote **YES** on Issue 2



In these tough times, Ohio counties could all use a little help. Voting Yes on Issue 2 changes the location of the Columbus casino to a better site so that the casino will be up and running sooner. Yes on Issue 2 allows every county, major city and public school district in Ohio to receive their share of \$579 million in new annual tax revenue sooner. Issue 2 is supported by business and labor leaders, Democrats and Republicans. **On Tuesday, May 4th Vote Yes on Issue 2. Move Ohio Forward, Faster.**



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Voting Yes on Issue 2 jumpstarts construction of the Columbus area casino and helps create 3,500 new Ohio construction jobs and 2,000 new permanent jobs. Issue 2 revitalizes a vacant unused GM/Delphi site and brings hope and economic development to one of the most economically distressed regions in Ohio.



(1) Official Argument for Issue 2 (2) Ohio Department of Taxation OBM Report, 10/2/2009

Derrick Roberts Installed as Chairman of National Gospel Organization

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The scripture selection of Ecclesiastes 3:1 – "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..." – had set the scene for the evening of April 21.

Pew after pew was filled at Indiana Missionary Baptist Church, but not for a mid-week service. They gathered for the consecration and installation of Minister Derrick E. Roberts as chairman of the National Convention of Gospel Choir and Choruses (NCGCC).

This was the 77th annual national board meeting of the convention.

The church, at 640 Indiana Avenue, with its white walls and several chandeliers, held family and friends, church members, NCGCC board of directors and political leaders. With the help of the Indiana Baptist Gospel Choir, there was never a quiet moment in the place. Silence, after all, was not the reason for the occasion.

After the praise by the choir, the chairman of the

convention gave a prayer of thanks. Minister Roberts' daughter, Jaleesa Roberts, thanked all who came to support her father and welcomed the delegates of the NCGCC to "the humble city of Toledo."

When the formal introduction ended, Jaleesa Roberts became personal. Fighting back tears, she talked of being "proud of the man of God that [her father] is" and of being honored to be his daughter.

"I celebrate the God in you and I thank God for you," she said. "I welcome you to your season."

Corene Robinson, president's council representative of NCGCC, followed with thanks and appreciation to the church for receiving the council and making them feel at home.

The thanks kept coming with Mac Neman, the director of music at the church. He spoke highly of the convention for having their national board meeting and the consecration at that location.

Neman also praised Roberts for being his mentor and his first teacher of gospel music. Two members of the choir presented a card and, as a dedication, a song arranged by Roberts was performed.

An executive board member of the Toledo InterFaith Mass Choir read proclamations and acknowledgement. Letters of congratulations from the Office of the Ohio Attorney General, Toledo City Council, Proclamation from the Mayor and Marcy Kaptur were among the various recognitions heard.

For a special treat, the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir performed various musical selections directed by Roberts. The energy and animation of Roberts and the choir caused the crowd to be moved. There was a slight moment afterwards for a presentation of flowers to Robinson for being a mentor to Roberts.

The time finally came for the consecration and at 9:10 p.m., Roberts was installed

and confirmed as chairman by the National President, Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr.

Soon after, the bishops and ministers came down to lay hands on Roberts for prayer followed by the signing of the official document confirming the initiation.

The event ended with words of appreciation by Roberts for all who have helped him throughout his

life and career.

"I have no idea what we are going to do or where we're going to go, but I do know that eyes have not seen and ears have not heard the things that God has prepared for us," Roberts stated. "And to me the future looks great."

A retired Toledo Public Schools administrator, Roberts is the director and founder of the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir, which is a 125-voice

choir that started in 2002 for Toledo's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

"They say that the greatest leaders are those that don't see themselves as a leader but they see themselves as a servant," Roberts said. "I am your servant."

The 58-year-old became the first person from Toledo to serve as chairman of the NCGCC, which was founded

(Continued on Page 12)

Issue 3 Supporters Gather to Ask for Yes Vote

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Edna Robertson speaks as Issue 3 supporters gather round

A dozen supporters, led by a former Toledo Public Schools administrator and the head of a ministers group, gathered on Monday at Start High School to implore voters to vote for Issue 3 and approve an additional tax on earned income of .75 percent (4/3ths of one percent) in order to help close the budget deficit and forestall a host of cuts to student services.

"It's time for us to stand up and do what is right for the children," said Edna Robertson, a retired TPS administrator. "We're here for the children, we must pro-

vide the very best for them that we can but we can't do it alone. These youngsters have a right to deserve the very best that we can give them, they're our gifts from God."

Rev. Cedric Brock, president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the TPS ombudsman for the past five years, also encouraged an affirmative vote on Issue 3.

"We want to continue to do what we can to make a difference in this district," said Brock. "We want to show our students that we care. Use your power to vote

for Issue 3."

Standing with Robertson and Brock at the podium in support of the issue were TPS administrators John Foley, superintendent; Diane Irving and Romules Durant, assistant superintendents, along with several parents. Brenda Hill was the only school board member present.

"The voters need to step up and protest our progress," said Foley ticking off the successes TPS has experienced in recent years such as improved Ohio report card scores, decreased expulsion and suspension rates, the establishment of academies and single gender schools. Foley noted that the decision to impose a tax on earned income rather than on property – as in the past – would have "less of an impact on those on fixed incomes."

"Those things have worked," said Robertson echoing those who touted TPS successes such as the extended days at the public academies. "We have to build around those things."

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Update of Classic British Comedy Features Local African-American Actors

(Perfecting the Craft of Acting Through Community Theatre)

By Geneva J. Chapman
Special to The Truth



Geneva J. Chapman

A reporter from a well-known local weekly interviewed me recently and was surprised to find out how much theater and theatre there is in the African-American community. I distinguished theater (religious dramas with predictable endings and Tyler Perry type "plays") from theatre (theatrical works written by some of the best African-American playwrights, usually introduced to Toledo audiences by Imelda Hunt's New Works Writers' Series; complex religious dramas written by Bonita Adams, Patrice Tolbert, JuJuan Turner, Denise Williams, and others; and original works by Pajil Wiggins-Hancock of Da Coloured Gurlz Collective and this writer).

I also told the interviewer that most of the African-American actors in Toledo are amateurs with the exception of folks like Grant Walker, Terence Ellis and Wiggins-Hancock, all of whom have done semi-professional and/or professional theatre; and Toledo's only African-American equity actor (to my knowledge), Sylvia Carter. However, I said, there is a wealth of raw, undeveloped talent here and much of it will remain undeveloped because too many African-American "wannabe" actors are not willing to spend the time and ef-

fort it takes to hone the craft of acting doing small productions and community theatre.

The exception to the rule are those actors previously mentioned who've already been paid as actors but who are still willing to perform in local community theatre productions to continue learning and refining their acting skills.

A good example is the production of *Between Two Worlds*, a classic British comedy from the 1920s that was a hit on Broadway and London's West End, as well as the plot for two successful screenplays that were made into films featuring well-known actors of the era, including John Garfield and Sydney Greenstreet.

Terence Ellis, one of Toledo's finest actors, is one of two African-Americans cast in a play written for white Britains. He plays a minister, "Rev. W. Duke," traveling on a boat with several other passengers who do not realize when they set sail that they are on their way to their final judgment because they are all dead. When the passengers realize they are about to be judged by "The Examiner," they look to Rev. Duke for spiritual guidance.

Ellis, who's involved in drama ministry at his church, Cornerstone, just completed a successful dramatic produc-

tion in observation of Easter and has served as stage manager for biblically-inspired musical *Lazarus* and Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning drama *Rabbit Hole*, both produced by Life Stage Theatre's veteran Bob Versteeg.

Ellis received rave reviews from this writer in a theatre critique published by The Truth for his performance in *The Funny House of a Negro*, performed at The University of Toledo. Appearing as Ellis' counterpart in *Between Two Worlds*, this writer plays the part of "Rev. Thompson." Both actors have to speak with a British accent, a challenge for any American actor and, along with the rest of the cast, have risen to the challenge.

Local African-American actors and theatrical hopefuls should see the production that shows how versatility provides actors of all races with more opportunities to perform. Also, small productions like this give actors experience on stage that looks good in a resume.

All too often amateurs look for paying work when they haven't yet acquired the skills to be paid as professionals. Community theatre productions give actors the chance to learn needed acting skills which include, showing up for rehearsals, being on time, following direction, learning lines, being available for costume fittings, taking care of costumes in some cases, learning to use props, being available for performances, and working with other actors to form a cohesive unit in a given production.

Just as there is no "I" in team, there is also not an "I" in actor. Professional actors are the ones who love drama and try to see as many theatrical productions as they can, read scripts as often as possible, take advantage of every opportunity to perform and don't expect to get paid every time they're on stage.

Granted, African-Americans don't always have the opportunity to perform in plays presented by community theatres that often choose

plays with mostly white characters, but there have been exceptions: The Waterville Players production of *Ragtime* reviewed by this writer in The Truth, several Village Players Productions, and Toledo Rep's productions of *The Piano Lesson* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, to name a few.

Versteeg cast African-Americans in roles written for whites, as well as women in roles written for men in *Between Two Worlds*. The inclusion of African-Americans gives this nearly 100-old play a fresh look and 21st Century appeal to a wider range of audiences. However, this is classic legitimate theatre that may not be fully appreciated by audiences whose only experience with stage productions are those plays regularly featured at the Stranahan and that travel on what's known as the "chitlin circuit."

Yet, anyone wanting to learn more about theatre or who already has an appreciation and familiarity with legitimate theatre will appreciate the play, the performances and the subtle humor of Sutton Vance's comic script. Although casting African-Americans in roles written for white actors is fairly common nowadays, it may not be that common in this area; therefore, Life Stage and Versteeg deserve kudos for providing a couple of

African-American actors in Toledo such a wonderful and rare opportunity.

However, there are a number of African-American companies and individuals, previously named, that regularly produce and stage plays in the Toledo area written by and for African-Americans. These companies provide ample opportunities for aspiring actors to learn the craft of acting and to perform in a variety of productions locally and regionally.

African-American companies in Toledo that have received negative reviews from this writer for complicated and time-consuming set changes must see the set designed and created by director Versteeg that is totally portable, collapsible and at the same time elegant in its appearance and simplicity. Knowing how to construct sets like the one Versteeg has for *Between Two Worlds* is necessary for small theatrical companies that lack the funds, technology and personnel to manage elaborate set designs. Costuming, however, required a bit more work since it is period and also includes liturgical wear; but most of the costuming was purchased from thrift shops, found in actors' closets or, in the case of the clerical garb, bought at local stores.

Representing the best of community theatre and a wide

range of Toledo talent, which includes former broadcaster, Gordon Ward; veteran actresses, Sally Malhoit and Liz Shehee; and Life Stage veterans, Bill Dillion, Sandy Waters, and Bobby and David Partridge, *Between Two Worlds* offered its audiences the opportunity to experience real theatre and its actors the chance to develop and display acting skills learned through their involvement in community theatre productions.

Between Two Worlds was featured at: The University of Toledo's Student Union in Rocky's Attic (third floor); St. Andrews Church in Findlay, Lakota High School in Kansas, Ohio; St. Caspar Church in Wauseon; St. Aloysius in Bowling Green and Sylvania First United Methodist in Sylvania. There was no admission for any of the performances.

Geneva Chapman has been writing, directing, producing and acting in plays for over 35 years. Geneva, who has retired from full-time employment and now works as a consultant, has plans to produce a touring production of her latest work, Ain't No Chitluns on Broadway, featuring several of her one act plays to familiarize African-American audiences with legitimate theatre.

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20 North Gallery Celebrates Milestone 10th Annual Derby Days Exhibit

Eleven Local, Regional and International Artists Display the Best in Equine Art at Downtown Gallery

Special to The Truth



Shaner, Margie Shoop and Robert Shorter. Horse-themed artwork in a variety of media – painting, photography, drawing, pastel, sculpture and jewelry will be displayed.

This year the exhibit will include a display celebrating the life and times of the late Chick Lang who was the racing director of the Preakness Race, run each year at Pimlico Race Track on the third weekend of May as the second race of the Triple Crown. The display will also feature the history of *Bally Ache*, the Toledo-bred winner of the 1960 Preakness, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard D. Fruchtmann. The “Preakness Wall” was originated by 20 North Gallery Art Director Peggy Brennan Grant the granddaughter of the late John T. Brennan, first super-

20 North Gallery presents the 10th Annual Derby Days Exhibit, featuring the best in equine art by 11 local, regional and international artists:

Walter Chapman, Marcin Chumiecki, Emily Fray, Scott Heacock, Jeri Hollister, Joyce Lister, Matthew S. Mickel, Merv Russell, Kevin M.

intendent of Pimlico Race Track.

Local artists and 20 North Gallery will be welcoming friends and collectors at the

free Opening Reception on Derby Day at 20 North Gallery on Saturday, May 1, from 4–7 p.m. The televised “run for the roses” will be broad-

cast during the event. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in their Derby hats and finest.

The Josh Project Saves Lives

Sojourner's Truth Staff



On any given Saturday, approximately 60 youngsters and their parents head over to St. Francis de Sales

High School for swimming lessons arranged by The Josh Project.

The project, under the

guidance of founder Wanda Jean Butts, collaborates with a host of groups and individuals, to provide free lessons to hundreds of inner-city youth.

The Ohio State University Extension's 4-H Program, for example, will bring students from the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls; athletes from the St. Francis, St. Ursula and The University of Toledo competitive swim teams coach the youngsters; Butts and her volunteers coordinate the activities.

And St. Francis, of course, provides the facility.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Black Friday Returns for Encore at Bethel Apostolic

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Back by popular demand, *Black Friday*, a play by Belinda Pope and her sister, the late Avis Smaw, was reprised on Sunday, April 11 before at Bethel Apostolic Temple at 1664 W. Bancroft.

The play, presented by Our House Productions, had its debut the previous weekend on Friday and Sunday evening but not everyone who wanted to see the modern day tale of Good Friday had the opportunity. The church's Temple of the Arts was filled on April 11

for the encore.

Pope and Smaw have co-authored plays for more than a decade, often re-telling holiday tales. The family formed Our House Productions in order to facilitate performances. The company includes Smaw's son, Julius Darrington, who starred as Elder Jackson in *Black Friday*; Calvin "Tubby" Frazier, Pope's son, who starred as Capone, and Jerry Clarke, nephew to both women, who is the company's sound technician and en-



Black Friday cast



Belinda Pope

gineer.

"The play is a modern-day crucifixion," said Pope. "The story line of the crucifixion and we bring it into our time and then branches

of into other story lines." Those who missed the first three will have an opportunity in June to get brought up to speed when the play is presented by Big

Brothers and Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio.

As far as Our House's future plans, Pope is currently working on a children's show that will in-

clude both actors and puppets. And the sister's earlier play, *Fools' Paradise*, a Halloween tale, will be shown again next fall.



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Bead Stampede on Mother's Day Weekend to Boost Community Art Program at Toledo Museum of Art

The Toledo Museum of Art's community art project, The Bead Goes On, is in full swing with hundreds of hand-made beads collected to date.

Thanks to the creative expression of artists, enthusiasts and community members of all ages, the beads are being assembled into a bead curtain.

Join in the fun by taking part in the Museum's Bead Stampede to create your own works of bead art on Mother's Day weekend. Participants will learn to make or decorate beads in a variety of materials.

Free activities are offered from 7-9 p.m. Friday, May 7 in Libbey Court, from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, May 8 in the Glass Pavilion, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, May 9 in the Glass Pavilion and Family Center. The creations will go toward meeting the goal of collecting 10,000 beads to produce one stunning work of community art.

Those who catch the "bead fever" also can make some beads for themselves by signing up for an Art Hour to make frameworked glass beads to take home. Bright, colorful glass beads make wonderful additions to necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

In addition to making beads, free music performances, tours and special presentations, art demonstrations, Family Center activities and more will be offered at various times throughout the weekend.

Check the Museum's online events calendar at www.toledomuseum.org for the complete schedule.

Completed strands of the bead curtain are being hung in the Glass Pavilion. Visitors are encouraged to come see the curtain's progress and get inspired to participate in The Bead Goes On. For additional information on the project, visit www.toledomuseum.org/events/community.

This programming is made possible with the support of TMA members and the Ohio Arts Council's sustainable grant program that encourages economic growth, educational

excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Bead Goes On community art project is sponsored in part by Mercy. Admission to the Museum is free.

The Toledo Museum of Art is a nonprofit arts institution funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and investments. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund programs at the Toledo Museum of Art through a sustainable grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Admission to the Museum

is free. The Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, Noon-6 p.m.; closed Mondays and major holidays. Friday evening hours are made possible by Fifth Third Bank.

The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe Street at Scottwood Avenue, just west of the downtown business district and one block off I-75 with exit designations posted. For general information, visitors can call 419-255-8000 or 800-644-6862, or visit www.toledomuseum.org.



Catherine Productions Company Casting Call Auditions: May 6, 7, 2010

Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd. Toledo, Ohio

CPC is looking for talented actors, singers, and dancers to perform in the stage play "Tomorrow May Very Well Be Too Late," August 28, 2010, Maumee Theater.

You must be six years and up, must bring one 8 by 10 black and white head shot photo (no return). We also need a bio or resume. Rehearsals begin May 11, 2010.

You may call ahead to reserve an appointment time or E-mail us.

Diane Gordon, administrator, 419-243-3329; James Anderson, casting director, 567-239-5045; Tiffonee Coverdell, secretary 419-810-6127 catherine_productions@yahoo.com

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Mike Zychowicz: Attorney, Small Business Owner Challenges the Way We Govern

(Continued from Page 5)



The three most important issues for Zychowicz should he win the May 4 primary and then the November general election? "Economic development is going to be my focus," he says. "My experience in business makes me qualified to develop an attentive approach to economic

development – both for small and large businesses. We need to re-brand Toledo and give it a new image. I'm talking about regionalism. People talk about green jobs, but we should not stop there, we should encourage entrepreneurial businesses in order to regain our economic footing."

Secondly, says Zychowicz, we need to turn our attention to job retraining. "Especially with the loss of manufacturing jobs and other traditional jobs," he explains. "Retraining is in and of itself an industry."

Zychowicz also points to the importance of reviving the area's summer jobs programs that have disappeared when Congress declined to engage the Disaster Relief Bill.

And Zychowicz's third big-ticket item as commissioner will be a focus on "quality of life" issues, he says.

"The arena and the ball park are all great assets that the county has," he says. "Businesses are attracted to a place where there is something to do. In that vein, he touts the importance of downtown development and such innovations as the recent urban farming trend.

Zychowicz, a Toledo native, graduated from St.

Francis de Sales High School, earned his undergraduate degree in political philosophy from Miami University and his law de-

gree from The University of Toledo. The son of a butcher and community activist, Zychowicz credits his family's work ethic and

sense of fairness for his own philosophy about public service.

He and wife Janice are parents to three children

Porter

(Continued from Page 5)

officials in different jurisdictions and asked them how can we increase patrols," says Porter describing how he formulated his 911 plan. "It's time to move this stuff from a possibility to a proposal. That's part of my leadership style – to step up and get it done."

That's also how Porter envisions the county moving towards regionalism – along with jobs creation one of the two hot button issues of this election. He favors an incremental approach to regionalism by seeking to centralize on a piecemeal basis.

What are the three most important issues he will be facing if elected commissioner?

"Jobs," replies Porter. "I'm not going to be mincing words about that and there are many things we can do." And the key to creating jobs, says Porter, is for the various entities

within the county to start working together and stop the competition.

"If we stay where we are, we will stagnate," he continues. "We have the opportunity here to make a difference for the future of this area."

Second on Porter's mind is enhanced efficiency. "We can do better," he says. "We need to continue to push to save money and become more efficient. That's why I'm pushing these projects."

And third is a focus on tourism.

"We have a fantastic place to bring tourists," Porter says, "but we don't do a good job of communicating. There's no reason why we can't be a place where people come to shop, to go to a ball game or a museum."

And with that focus on tourism, he says, is the opportunity to create hun-

dreds of jobs that can help replace the erosion of the area's manufacturing base.

A Michigan native, Porter earned a bachelor of science degree in zoology from Michigan State University, a masters of arts in biology from Western Michigan University and a masters of public administration from Western.

Porter has been active as a soccer coach and referee and involved with Metroparks as an interpretive naturalist. He has served as president of the Trailwood Homeowners Association and as chairman of the NWOSO High School Sportsmanship Award Committee

Last year, Porter, his wife and her son created an account within the Sunshine Foundation to augment dental care for the approximately 150 clients of Sunshine, Inc of Northwest Ohio.



Derrick Roberts Installed as Chairman of National Gospel Organization

(Continued from Page 6)



An interesting fact about this organization is that it holds a model of stability during its 77-year history. Throughout the whole period, there were only two presidents serving during that time: the founder, Dorsey, who died at age 96 in 1993, and the current president, Moales of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The mission of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses is to better the Christian singer, instrumentalist, educator or leader; to enable the prepared gospel ambassador and to spiritually motivate everyone to live the message of the gospel song. The goal is to foster an appreciation of gospel music and to develop the spiritual growth of its membership.

in 1933 by legendary songwriter and choir director Thomas A. Dorsey. He is widely known as "the Father of Gospel Music."

The NCGCC represents 43 chapters of gospel choirs and choruses with thousands of members in 20 states. It promotes

musical training and family participation as well as the nurturing of gospellers, musicians, and directors.

Roberts has been involved with the national organization since 1989 when it held its annual convention in Toledo.

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Fixing Toledo's Entertainment and Music Scene

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



Do you know any talented people in Toledo?

You sure as hell do. Do you know any talented people who work hard at pursuing their goals in Toledo?

You sure as hell do.

Do you ever say to yourself: "our entertainment scene could be like Atlanta or Houston if only we could get our act together?"

Of course you have said those words to yourself. Maybe you have said those words to friends and fam.

For those of you heavily involved in the local entertainment scene, have you ever just wanted to quit?

Not because you don't love what you do, but because trying to handle serious business with people in this city feels like suicide.

When I talk to people I respect, when I see great people considering retirement and when I look at the artistic and cultural landscape in urban Toledo's music scene... it pains me. With all the promoters, profes-

sional DJ's, video/TV professionals, radio personalities and business-minded people in Toledo's music scene ...

With all the qualified artists with real talent and/or real credentials, all the producers, labels, graphic designers, photographers, stage musicians and models and such...

DOYOUUNDERSTAND WE COULD HAVE OUR OWN INDUSTRY RIGHT HERE!?!?

Houston, Boston and Atlanta are huge metro areas with millions of people within arms reach.

They don't just have independent record labels, they have multiple labels. They have an independent music scene where people can live off of what they do.

Toledo being smaller, perhaps such a scene would be scaled down but with all the talent and know how in this city it makes no sense that we cannot have a self-sustaining entertainment scene and we can't even establish the professionalism needed to make the business of entertainment sustainable.

I don't mean professional as in dotting I's and crossing T's. I mean, in my own label... we used to present people with performance agreements when they wanted a U.G.E. act to perform, just to have in writing what both parties expect to be in place even if it wasn't money. Do you know how many people around

here thought we were from outer space for suggesting such a thing? But this isn't my griperight now. From talking to people for whom I truly have great esteem and respect and finding so many of them unhappy with how business is conducted here it just led me to a revelation: I want to put my focus on everyone who is doing more good than harm on our local scene.

Complaining is not the way, I want to big up all the people I see who not only grind but do so in ways that makes running a label/being an artist in Toledo a lot smoother. I'm talking about people who I have personally received encouragement from when they had nothing to gain by doing so, people who treat others with respect and dignity not ego and manipulation. I'm grateful for all I've learned from Keith Success, Big Black/Marquis Johnson, Reed Russel, D.J. Lyte N Rod and a few other true veterans who have taken time to personally educate me on entertainment. You've got people whose vision, purpose and commitment to uniting Toledo's entertainment scene speaks volumes such as Andre Savage of Game Savvy. That's a dude whose focus is greater than just his own agenda and it shows. I can say the same about Hutch Daddy, D.J. Big Lou The Mayor, and Tommy Kaye. These people have used their talents and position high atop the local play-

ing field to create opportunity for others.

Trust me, this is personal right now. I'm talking about when I have been down and out and ready to just walk away from everything. Hutch, Keith, my fam Waymon Farmer (Italaz), my fam S.S.T.R.E.S., Tracy and other people who do music here have taken time to offer me encouragement (along with my own team of course).

I am thankful for that. It feels like I know a million rappers, singers, managers and producers here but when I have had personal interaction with you that's been positive and it makes me grateful to work with you. It makes me believe in building something great with you.

People like Charles Lane Johnson and Gutta Dave, I got love for them as people and as musicians.

People like Brandi Brown of Mix95.7, Zahra Aprili and Shawanda Johnson of House Of Adonis, Audrey & Brian at the C.A.C. make it a pleasure to do business with because of their attitude and approach. Sam Estes, Lil D and my dude Donnie of Illlest Iconz DVD... all great addi-

tions to Toledo's entertainment world because of their perspective and professionalism. Conversations with J. Roc and Kaj Boogie of WJUC, choppin it up with Andre L. of 88.3, personally knowing people like D.J. Mpress, and Sasha Claybourne has shown me that even though our city seems full of negativity there are still quality people here trying to make a difference musically. I'm not just throwing out a bunch of names.

I'm speaking about personal examples... these are people whom I can vouch for as doing their part to make Toledo more than what it has currently become in terms of music and entertainment. Many more individuals could be named but the overall point is it's not about any one individual. Much more than that, our entertainment scene won't get better by harping on why it's wack. Let's focus on the positive.

Offer your focus to the solution, stop taking inventory of the problem. We won't all do business the same way, we won't always agree and we won't be singing songs around a campfire ...but we

CAN make a more professional and sustainable music/entertainment world in our city if we have a set way of doing things and a reliable base of who to do business with.

I am thinking of starting a guild... something like a commission. A collection of labels, producers, promoters, managers, studios, videographers, graphic designers, club owners, D.J.'s and artists who:

1. Have established credentials
 2. Are known for conducting entertainment business in a professional manner most of the time
 3. Have a polished approach to their craft and we will only do business with those inside of the association.
- Just a thought.. for now. Let's make this a safe and progressive year for Toledo's music industry.

And remember... be careful who you betray, cuss out or manipulate because you may be burning more bridges than you've built.

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Separate But Unequal

(Continued from Page 3)

volumes about how committed they are to your kids being educated when their own kids will not darken the doors of a public school building?

I know...I know. Personal choices and freedoms, the affected teachers howl. Yeah. Sure. What a yawn!

You are free to send your precious Johnny or Suzie to your school of choice but the Shauntae's and the

Demarcus's are left to fend for themselves due your being double-minded.

Double-minded in that you teach here but your heart is elsewhere...and which is at the location where your kids are being educated!

For urban schools, getting fewer and fewer dollars to pass around and becoming more segregated due to economics and class reasons, they are becoming

schools of a distant second choice for those who have the financial wherewithal to bolt and go elsewhere.

And where does that leave the ones, "left behind?" Those parents and guardians are going to have to re-commit themselves to education being a 24/7 duty and sacrifice; and becoming more engaged at both home and school with their child's education that it

should not matter whether Shauntae or Demarcus have their legs under a desk at Fulton or Pickett or in Maumee or Ottawa Hills.

The defining difference will be hiking up the expectation levels of a Shauntae or a Demarcus and expecting that parent or guardian to demand excellence and to convey to the child that failure is not an option.

To do otherwise is to continue to grease the em-

ployment skids of sending your child to a dead-end job, chronic under or unemployment and becoming part of a growing economic sub-class of marginalized workers who view the "system" as a foe that can be viewed as fair game for retribution.

That is how great and how grim the stakes can be in educating any minority child that is not being reached or motivated. We

have to flip-flop any negative script that has been written out for them.

Urban education must take a national front seat because if not, separate and unequal school systems could once again be the norm in America and Toledo would be no exception.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com

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 If you have foot problems such as bunions, hammer toes, heel spurs, fungus, thick toenails, diabetes, neuromas, callouses, or are in need of orthotics or diabetic shoes.
Please do not wait!
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 at
 1857 N. Reynolds Rd - Tel: 419.537.9877
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 Great investment property! Excellent condition! Move in ready for owner or tenants. Both units contain newer furnace, hot water tanks, new windows, updated electrical system. Both consist of large living areas and lots of storage space. WOW! Motivated seller. Easy access for showings.
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\$16,000 Down Payment Assistance
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Wilma Smith * DiSalle Real Estate Company
 Cell 419.350.7514

Woodley Court - \$259,000
 6 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, 3488 sq. ft.-Custom-built home. Must see to believe. Located in the quiet Trail Acres subdivision. Built for entertaining or large family. Easy to show and ready for buyer.
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Hillandale - \$87,000/REDUCED
 Ottawa Hills condo. 1440 sq. ft., 2 full baths. Location, location, location. Bright home, new carpet, newly painted. Spacious one floor. Lots of storage, private garage. One great unit.
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 2 bds, living rm, dining rm w/hardwood floors. All new windows. Newer roof, furnace, and hot water tank. C/A, Security System & Patio in rear yard. Appliances stay
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\$650.00 plus court costs
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GREAT BUY!
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CLASSIFIEDS

April 28, 2010

Page 15

Doves Manor Apartments Now Accepting Applications

1 Bedroom Apartments for Seniors 62+

All utilities included, Income-based rent, Library, Fitness Center, Wellness Clinic, Extra Storage, Central air and heat, On-site laundry facilities

Applications are accepted Monday - Friday from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Call (419) 389-9999 for details.



THE WILLARD APARTMENTS 2257 Upton Avenue

Preferred Properties, Inc. is accepting applications for a 1 bedroom (\$365) and 2 bedroom (\$415) apartments with a gas allowance. Section 8 vouchers accepted.

Application fee is \$25. For an appointment to apply or more information call (419) 389-0361.



APARTMENTS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is a subsidized independent housing facility for those 62 or older. We are located in a beautiful, quiet residential setting in Perrysburg. Abundant Life offers one bedroom garden apartments with private patios, indoor mailboxes, reserved parking and busing to local grocery stores. Applications are now being accepted. Call 419.872.3510



House for Rent

3545 Dean Avenue. One level, two bedroom. Screened-in back porch, alarm system and garage.
\$700 month

Rent, deposit, security check required.
Call 419-514-4011 Aisha's Housing

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-118,

(Project # 5004-09-1462) for University Medical Center Third Floor ICU Renovation 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, May 12, 2010 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 City Blueprint of Toledo - Richard Nagy, 2010 Madison Ave, Toledo, Ohio 43024. Call 419-243-4881 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$150.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Ron Herzog of Harley Ellis Devereaux at 248-262-1519. **One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Dana Conference Center, (The room will be on the electrical sign as you enter) 1325 Conference Center Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614,** 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: \$2,850,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$1,300,000.00; Plumbing: \$410,000.00; Fire Protection: \$44,000.00; HVAC: \$437,000.00 & Electrical: \$659,000.00.

Ads Posted Online at:
TheTruthToledo.com

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.

Is seeking qualified applicants for the following openings:

CLINICAL COORDINATOR, AOD SERVICES

Full time opportunity for an individual to manage adult AOD programming. Responsibilities will include processing referrals, program marketing, diagnostic assessments, insuring appropriate documentation and reporting, group and individual counseling, consultation with and supervision of staff, maintaining ODADAS certification, development of relationships with external sources and other related projects as assigned.

Qualified candidates must possess a current LISW-S, LPCC-S or Ph.D. and Chemical dependency licensure. Must be competent in substance abuse assessment and counseling, have experience working with individuals and families with mental health and substance abuse problems and have previous management experience.

PROGRAM MANAGER, CPST

Full time opportunity to provide clinical and administrative supervision to a Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment team.

Qualified candidates must have leadership ability and creative problem solving skills. LPCC, LISW, or MSN is required, along with previous experience with adults with serious mental illness. Prior case management and supervisory experience is preferred.

Interested applicants should send resume or apply to:



Human Resources
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBHG.ORG
EOE

Buckeye CableSystem has partnered with Renhill Staffing Services for the following future positions:

Customer Service, working flexible 24-28 hours a week, 7 days a week between 7am - 1:30am.

Technical Support Specialist, must have 1 year help desk experience. This is a part time position working 24-28 hours a week. Applicants must be able to work any shift between the hours of 7am and 1:30am.

Service Technician. Must have 1 year of CATV Maintenance Experience and 1 year of Network experience.

For evaluation and testing, meet us at the Heatherdowns Branch library, April 30, 2010 from 1-3pm

Renhill is an EOE.

House for Sale!

Totally updated, ready for new owner. Bungalow located in the Scott Park district, new windows, carpet and updated bath, kitchen, electric and heating system. City of Toledo down payment assistance for qualified buyer. Call today!
Seaway Asset Management
Call Kimberly Brown - 419-810-7097

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST II

Buckeye CableSystem has partnered with Renhill Staffing Services for the following position:

Buckeye CableSystem is looking for a Technical Support Specialist II. The TSSII provides the frontline support for the server hardware, operating systems, security and database systems on all production operating systems and the corporate voice and data networks.

Minimum Requirements include an Associate Degree, and 6yrs prior IT Technical Support exp. An MCP, MSCE, A+, Net+ or other industry recognized certifications-preferred. Other requirements include a valid drivers license, and strong server administration and server management skills.

Qualified candidates can email resume to jill.keister@renhill.com. Qualified responses must include job code TSSII and received by April 28, 2010 will be considered.

Buckeye is an EOE Renhill is an EOE

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

Now Accepting Applications 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older or Mobility Impaired. Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes and Carpeting Included. Call (419) 729-7118 for details.



Furniture

Two-piece beige sectional;
beautiful burgundy floral sofa with 2 chairs
And more
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Attention All Vendors

Join us for this year's 6th Annual African American Festival To be held
Saturday, July 10 - Sunday, July 11, 2009
At The University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus
Contact Suzette Cowell at 419.255.8876 for more information
Call TODAY - Space is limited!!



House for Rent

North End. Fenced in
Full basement. Deck
2 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths
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Brand New Flea Market

5115 Dorr Street
Furniture, mattresses, appliances, etc.
Vendors wanted
Call 866-424-1544

For Rent

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North Toledo
\$450. Refrigerator and stove included
Call 419-559-6132

Services

Two women, brooms, paint brushes, etc.
419-726-2758

First Annual "Restoration of the Village" Conference Coming This Weekend

Sojourner's Truth Staff

K.E.V.I.N., Inc., a non-profit organization founded to honor the life of, then-18-year-old, Kevin Ellis—killed in 1995 – and Earl Enterprises, LLC, an organization focused on youth education and empowerment, will be hosting the first annual "Restoration of the Village" Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn this weekend.

The conference, said Albert Earl, director of Earl Enterprises, will provide ample opportunities for networking, meeting of the minds and learning in order to share proven evidence-based and culturally specific education in order to bring change and solutions to problems that impact disenfranchised families and communities.

A major focus of the conference will be placed on shortcomings found within educational environments, economic and



social development.

"The conference is designed to deliver the current and future training need of practitioners and educators by providing forms of dissemination using the most current research-based educational,

prevention and treatment strategies," said Earl.

The pre-conference events – meet and greet, business networking, poetry slam and social starts on Wednesday, April 28.

On Thursday sessions will be held entitled:

"Supplemental Educational Services;" "Mental Health/Unsuspecting Illness in Communities in Denial;" "Classroom Management with Students with Challenging Behavior;" "Got Youth;" "Single Mothers Raising Boys Projec" among others. The day concludes with an evening social.

Fridays sessions include: "Man Hood 'The Self-Inflicted Wounds of Grown Boys and Why They Don't Grow Up;" "Black, Latino an Poor Whites Health Care Initiative;" "Youth Homelessness in America;" "Mentoring Power within the Church"

and more. Friday's events conclude with an evening social and a comedy show featuring Tony Rock.

Saturday's luncheon keynote speaker is Steve Perry, Ph.D., founder and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School of Hartford, Connecticut.

Perry started the school six years ago and during that time the school has maintained a 100 percent college acceptance record and has been rated one of the most successful schools in the nation.

Perry has become noted for more than his educational achievements. The author of four best-selling books, a

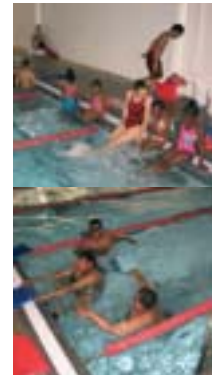
much sought after public speaker, Perry is a regular contributor on education for CNN, MSNBC and Fox.

His latest book, *Raggedy Schools, The Untold Truth*, presents a critical look at public education and offers a challenge to teachers' unions, parents, students, urban radio and the institution of marriage within the black community.

For more information on the "Restoration of the Village" conference, call 419-810-3874 or email – restorationofthevillage@gmail.com.

The Josh Project Saves Lives

(Continued from Page 8)



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ity.


Butts founded the project after her own 16-year-old son, who could not swim, died in a water accident

For more information on the Josh Project call 419-973-1383


16th ANNUAL IMPACT NEWSMAKER AWARDS

Celebrating Those Who Have Had Positive Newsworthy Impact Within the African-American Community


Thursday, May 13th, 2010
The Ramada Westgate - 6 p.m.




Mayor Michael Bell
Former Toledo Fire Chief,
Former Ohio Fire Marshal



Ed and Azie Dixon
Retired TPS Educators;
Active in the Save Our Scott Movement



Charlene Gilbert
Director of The University of Toledo's Dierly Center



Wanda Butts
Founder and Director of The Josh Project

For ticket information call 419.243.0007

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JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
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4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For more information call Angela Stewart 419-699-9399

