



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 16, 2010



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So Many Questions ... So Many Answers

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



Well, dear readers, it is now, "summa" time and da' livin' is e-z" or so it is said. But if you are a parent or a child who is enrolled in one of the public schools, this fall the living will not be easy.

I have taken it upon myself to raise the below questions and to provide some quick answers for those who seek a instant resolution and do not mind adopting the answers as their own.

As you can see, there are a host of present-day evils that have attached themselves to those living in Toledo. Until we attack each one with fervency, we will continue our slide down the slope of being a backwater city that does not want to fight for and realize its identity.

So, if you find yourself in agreement with my populist approach to governance, make your voices heard to the politicians and the "powers that be" whose only mission is seemingly

to get re-elected in spite of not producing the promised goods.

Question One: Has anyone found the paper trail that shows that there is actually escrowed or set aside over \$41 million to rehab good ol' Scott High School?

Answer: No. The state and the local school budgets are busted and in the red. Who has \$41 million to throw at a school that is in declining enrollment and, with regrets, practically lives in the basement of academic achievement?

Of course Scott can turn it around but it will require everyone being on the same page believing that getting a sound education is not "trying to act white." That is a lie from the innermost cavern of hell.

Question Two: Why is there a "mirror" public school system known as Washington Local and why is it allowed to continue to exist as a system apart from Toledo Public Schools?

Answer: The politicians that be are apathetic in requiring that two systems merge into one. The funding needs of Washington Local should be cut off unless they agree to a merger. Its creation was an "accident" and it amounts to de facto school segregation in the year 2010 and it needs to stop. Now!

Question Three: With the school board having four minority members, why can they not end the abuse of out of school suspensions and the woeful lack of minority teachers?

Answer: The minority board members are not unified in their agenda. With the public schools' population becoming more minority-based, they need to lock arms and do progressive planning and implement a curriculum that bespeaks excellence and drop their collective terror of Fran Lawrence eating their lunch. They need to take some tips from Geoffrey Canada who is out of Harlem in New York City and has achieved remarkable results in such an impoverished area. Being poor does not mean you can not excel in academics.

Question Four: Why do TPS parents have such a tough time dealing with the TPS bureaucracy?

Answer: The TPS bureaucracy is designed to or has the intended effect of dampening any progressive challenges to the powers that be. Parents are dismissed as non-valued members of the school district and their complaints about their treatment or the shabby treatment of their children is not taken seriously by the school board.

Until teachers are sued for any reported child abuse in the classrooms and the school board is sued as accomplices to that abuse, not much will change. You will be amazed what a large jury verdict or a monetary settlement does to change attitudes and policies of boards and companies.

Question Five: With all that has happened and is now happening in the community, why do we not see more of the local black ministers on the front line of leadership and protest?

Answer: Regrettably, many black ministers (not all) are not equipped to deal with multi-tasking issues and how to serve the down-and-out in their neighborhoods. They avoid confrontations but yet will gladly embrace a musical concert or an anniversary dinner in their honor or to sell you a delicious fried chicken dinner platter. That is how too many roll in Toledo.

With so many ministers having the "ear" of the community, you would think that they would encourage their members to engage the system and become agents of change. They keep their lights hidden under the proverbial bushel basket.

Question Six: What is with all of the social organizations in the black community? Besides having fashion shows and tea parties, what is their agenda for "others" in the community?

Answer: Their agenda is limited because for the most part they are very conservative in their approach to social ills. They will donate canned goods and serve up a \$50 scholarship now and then but as for systemic changes and long-term struggles, they would rather have a group root canal than "bust a gut" helping those who are known as the "Wretched of the Earth" (Franz Fanon). We know who they are: the sororities and fraternities, Boule, NAACP (does Toledo even have a chapter?), Daughters of Isis, Jack & Jill, The Links, Arabic-sounding Fraternal Orders, the Democratic clubs and a host of other groups that peep out of their "just you and me and no more" shell now and then and then rush back inside where it is warm and safe. We can do better... but only if we will it.

Question Seven: What is one of the major hindrances that the black community faces in getting its act together for the next 10 years?

Answer: The lack of an umbrella organization that addresses social, political and economic issues in a unified, integrated manner and to fund that group so as to exercise or flex some economic muscle and intellectual firepower. This group would be headed by a paid director with a board of directors and an office location. No more meetings in the corners of restaurants and making a mess on the back of thin paper napkins.

Now. Gotta go. I just heard an angry mob at my front door! Sounds like a bunch of C... has but you can never tell. If you have any comments, good or bad, write me.

tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com

Community Calendar

June 14-18

Camel Smith Summer Youth Camp: Free clinic: 419-917-3547

June 18-20

Mt. Sinai's Men's Seminar: "The Perfect Man:" 419-410-0323

June 19

Public Meeting of the New Order Human Rights Organization: Kent Branch Library; 3 to 5 pm: 419-481-3924

June 20

"Walk for Ayan:" Fundraiser for 5-year-old Ayan who has contracted pediatric brain cancer; Walbridge Park at 10 am: 419-481-7249

Family and Friends Day and Church Anniversary: Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral; 11 am; Closing service at 6 pm with Bishop Gerald Norwood from Alpha and Omega Ministries: 419-944-0984

June 21

Sexual Abuse Prevention Awareness Treatment Healing (SA PATH) Coalition Circle: Cordelia Martin Health Clinic; 11:30 am to 1 pm

June 21-25

Vacation Bible School: Friendship Baptist Church; 6 to 8 pm each evening; Toddlers through adults: 419-531-3242 or 419-536-1251

Vacation Bible School: Historic Third Baptist Church; "Camp Solid Rock;" K-adult; 5:30 to 8:30 pm: 419-248-4623

June 25-26

Jeremy Lincoln Pro Football Camp: Central Catholic HS; Friday morning for grades 2-6, Registration at 8 am, camp from 9 am to noon; Friday afternoon for grades 7-12, 1 pm registration, camp from 2 to 4:30 pm; Saturday - All day with the pros; Grades 7-12 only; 8 am registration, camp from 9 am to 4:30 pm: 419-535-3126

June 26

Toledo Youth Camp: Hosted by Miami Dolphins' Brandon Fields; 9 am to noon; St. John's Jesuit HS; Non-contact free clinic

NAOMI Transitional House 2nd Annual Bowling-For-A-Change Fundraiser: Southwyck Lanes; Registration 5 to 5:45 pm; Start time at 6 pm; Four-person teams needed: 419-304-2733 or 419-343-1726

June 27

New Prospect MBC: 45th church anniversary; Guest speaker Rev. Floyd Smith of Calvary Baptist: 419-944-2790

June 28

Discussion Circle: Support and sisterly love for women incest, child sexual abuse and rape survivors; 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Elizabeth House; Learn about "The Acceptances, the Promises and Permissions and Trigger Busters:" 419-729-0245

July 16-17

Laborers for Christ Ministries: "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole;" 8:30 am; Free two-day conference of leadership training, workshops, 7-Wonders ministry, evening worship services: 567-868-8921

August 7

Local 12 Women's Committee Garage/Flea Market Day: Local 12 Office; 10 am to 4 pm; Activities for kids as well

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



Toledo's black community has an opportunity to see its first ever state senator if Rep. Edna Brown is elected this fall. Brown now represents District 48 and

follows in a long line of Democrats, including myself and Casey Jones.

Brown has served with some distinction these past 11 years as a state representative but a state senate race is a much different challenge.

Brown will have several daunting challenges to overcome in order to successfully win this race. First, Brown will have to raise around \$90,000 by early October in order to spend it correctly by the November 2 general election. She has never raised that kind of money.

She will need help from

everyone including all of you out there. She will get help from her senate caucus in Columbus but she needs community help as well. My guess is that Brown went into her own pocket to help win her primary over Toledo Councilman Joe McNamara so she really needs to be paid back for that loan to her campaign.

A second challenge Brown faces is that she is running in new territory such as some of the rural townships. Will they vote for a black woman who is on the ballot for the first time in their precincts? Can Brown

sustain a rigorous campaign for a state senate seat?

I do not see her going door-to-door as her competitor likely will do in certain precincts. No, Brown will have to reach voters via television and direct mail and that costs tons of money.

Brown's opponent is Toledo Council Tom Waniewski, a savvy, well-funded Republican candidate. Waniewski comes from television production so he knows the media very well. Waniewski is also relatively wealthy, probably the richest guy on Toledo City Council. My guess is that

Waniewski can write a \$50,000 check to his own campaign and not sweat it.

He is also a fundraiser for the Toledo area Boys and Girls Club so he is already something of an expert on that side of the political business. So Brown faces an articulate, well-heeled opponent.

Early in the primary season, Waniewski gave a press conference in which he embraced right-to-work legislation for Ohio. His anti-union rhetoric was pretty strong. If I were Brown, I would wrap that language around Waniewski's neck

and squeeze. Hard!

I would send a copy of that statement to every union in Ohio and to national union office headquarters in Washington D.C. looking for money.

Back in 1999, I raised \$45,000 for John Bocchieri of Massillon in his state representative race against Ron Hood, a noted right-to-work advocate from Canfield.

If you think Brown is a strong candidate for the Senate, call her. If you like Waniewski, call him. Get involved!

Vasquez's Committee Suggestion Is Just More Business as Usual

By Steven Flagg
Guest Column



On the surface, the concept presented by Toledo Board of Education President Bob Vasquez for an independent review of Toledo Public Schools seems appropriate and needed. However, past attempts at conducting such operational reviews have not resulted in meaningful reforms of TPS usually due to "school board politics."

TPS officials have consistently used these opportunities to create favorable "public relations" usually timed to influence the next levy on the ballot.

In 1999 the Corporation for Effective Government (CEG) did a benchmarking study of TPS and its operational practices which was conducted by a blue ribbon committee of Toledoans and others. Not included in the study were areas involving union contracts or labor management practices. TPS administrators and union leaders who sat on the steering committee would not participate if these areas were included. Results: Not one single recommendation has been implemented.

In 2002-03, at the urging of education reform advocates, the TPS Board of Education agreed to develop a strategic plan and hired educational consultant and reform guru Phillip Schlechty. In May 2003, the

public was presented a "roadmap to success." Results: Not one single recommendation has been implemented.

In 2002, the public approved a major building program. The Board promised an independent oversight committee to monitor the program. The committee included many individuals who did business with TPS. Conflicts of interest abounded and some individuals serving on the committee were involved in some sweetheart deals. The committee met about three years - sporadically at the end before committee members lost interest and the committee stopped meeting.

When the community passed a levy to renovate Scott High School two years ago, the Scott community wanted an independent oversight committee to monitor the project. Hav-

ing seen what happened with the building projects and the state of the TPS building plan, they were rightly concerned.

What they got was a handpicked committee of folks that had ties with TPS or the Board leadership. The committee has not been heard from since.

There are many more instances of community committees over the last 15 years including recently. Whenever community members get upset, TPS puts a committee together or implements a study to

address the issue. The results are always the same: A waste of time and effort. Can we expect Vasquez and the Board to deliver on his latest promise?

Let's examine Vasquez's January 2010 promise of a cost cutting committee when TPS said a new levy was needed. Most expected the committee to be similar to Mayor Mike Bell's "CSI" committee.

No committee was ever established. The community and employees had no input on potential budget cuts or ideas to save school funds. Vasquez failed to meet his promise. And there are more examples of Vasquez's failure to act while on the TPS Board.

Finally, getting Board consensus on the effort along with the support of top TPS officials would seem the first order of business in getting an effort like

but most in this community already know that TPS has major intractable problems.

The current effort can only work if the TPS Board charters the committee by vote. It must be autonomous and look at both operational and financial practices including current union con-

tracts. No TPS officials or employees should be members of the committee. All employees and records must be available for interviews and inspection. All committee members must be free of financial or other relationships that pose a conflict of interest.

The true intentions of the Board will be evident in how they structure the committee. Without independence and inclusion of the education reform advocates, it's just more grandstanding in preparation for a November levy.

"Grandstanding never solved any problems"

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this underway.

Vasquez admits in press interviews that he did not discuss it with all Board members before his announcement at a meeting of an economic development group called The Partners. A Blade reporter just happened to be in the audience. Why? A skeptic would see this as a great way to get personal attention for being a problem solver in preparation for his next run at city council.

Grandstanding never solved any problems. It can draw attention to problems,

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Ashford Shifts Gears, Holds Fundraiser at Blueprint

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford, Democratic candidate for Ohio state representative, shifted gears two weeks ago and held a campaign fundraiser at the Blueprint, hosted by owner Paul King.

Ashford is competing for the District 48 seat currently held by Rep. Edna Brown, who is term-limited from running again for the House. Brown is running for the State Senate, having earned the Democratic nod in her primary contest against Councilman Joe McNamara.

Ashford's opponents in the November District 48 race are independent Schylar Meadows and Republican Carolyn Eyre.

Ashford, who usually holds his fundraiser at another location in his district, told his supporters that it is important for those within the African-American community to support black-owned businesses such as the Blueprint – hence his decision to change sites.

What Is Juneteenth?

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new executive order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April 1865 and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half-year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down over the years.

Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom.

Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All or none of these stories could be true. For whatever reason, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3, which began significantly

many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true free-

members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual



with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former "masters" – attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom.

Even with nowhere to go,

dom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory.

The celebration of June 19 was dubbed "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family

pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Juneteenth Celebrations Decline

Economic and cultural forces provided for a decline in Juneteenth activities and participants beginning in the early 1900's. Classroom and textbook education in lieu of traditional home and family-taught practices stifled the interest of youth due to less emphasis and detail on the activities of former slaves.

Classroom textbooks proclaimed Lincoln's emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 as the date signaling the ending of slavery – and little or nothing on the impact of General Granger's arrival in Texas on June 19.

The Great Depression forced many people off the farms and into cities to find work. In these urban environments, employers were less eager to grant leaves to celebrate this date. Thus, unless June 19 fell on a weekend or holiday, there were very few participants available.

July 4 was the already established Independence holiday and a rise in patriotism steered more toward this celebration

Resurgence

The Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebration.

While it pulled many of the African-American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the At

(Continued on Page 14)

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc Hosts 23rd Annual Amateur Scholarship Golf Tournament

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Xi Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted its 23rd annual golf tournament on Saturday, June 12 at the Bedford Hills Golf Club and over 60 golfers participated in order to provide scholarship funds

to an area student.

This year's recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship is Shawn Jenkins, Jr., a graduate of Toledo Early College High School. Jenkins has already earned 51 credit hours during his high school

career at Early College and will be entering The University of Toledo as a full-time student this fall.

Following the tournament, the golfers dined on steak and chicken during the awards portion of the event.



The Toledo Chapter of Jack & Jill of America Is Stepping up to Help Children Being Served by Lucas County Children Services.



Lucas County Children Services Executive Director Dean Sparks accepts a donation of personal care items from Jack & Jill's Kelli Winston, Asha Barnes and Katrina Barry

The chapter, which includes nearly 30 Toledo-area families, recently donated more than 100 personal care items for children who are moving from their homes to foster care. Foster care awareness is one of Jack & Jill's national platforms, and the Toledo chapter decided that helping our children with

their personal needs was a great way to put that platform to work.

The donation included an assortment of dental items, soaps, shampoos and other personal necessities. These items are now available for children and teens through the agency clinic.

Lucas County Children

Services Executive Director Dean Sparks extended thanks to Jack & Jill Toledo chapter president Katrina Barry, who is also the LCCS Ombudsman; Kelli Winston, the chapter's legislative liaison; and Asha Barnes, treasurer, for their support.

The tournament committee consisted of Chairman Jeffrey Rollins, Hole Sponsor Chairman Darrel Francis and members Joseph Sommerville, Ph.D.; Sam Baldwin; David Menefee; Harold Brown; Harry Brown, Sr.; Harry Brown, Jr. and Angelo Brown.



Who Is Watching Your Child?

BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILD WITH ANYONE

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

"What do I really know about this person?"

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

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

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS.

- "Do I know how this person handles children?"
- "Have I seen how they respond to stress?"
- "How would they discipline my child?"
- "How would they respond in an emergency?"

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

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Food Bank to Host First Annual Blues & Jazz Festival

National recording artists to perform at food bank fund raiser.

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank (TNWOFB) will present a stellar national lineup of blues performers at the 1st annual Blues & Jazz Festival on Saturday, June 19, at Centennial Terrace, 5773 Centennial Road in Sylvania. Tickets, which are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate, can be purchased online at www.toledofoodbank.org or by calling (419) 242-5000, ext. 216. Renowned blues masters Bernard Allison, Tinsley Ellis and Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones are slated to perform. Gates open at 3 p.m. and area musicians Josh Boyd and the VIP Band will open the show at 4 p.m.

"Our lineup offers unparalleled talent and diversity," said James M. Caldwell, TNWOFB president and chief executive officer. "They are coming from almost every corner and tradition of the blues world to display their extraordinary talent, range and richness for our audience."

Caldwell added, "The event will take place rain or shine under the stars at the

spacious and newly renovated Centennial Terrace in Sylvania. There will be ample parking, vendors, food, fun and prizes—all elements that I believe, make this the perfect venue to unwind, dance, mingle and enjoy the blues."

About the performers:

Bernard Allison *totes the same smokin' six string shooter that his late father Luther Allison assaulted the blues with. And he is blessed with his father's soulful voice, spiritual devotion, and a musical freedom.*

While he's only 44, Allison feels like he's almost two generations further along than some of the young, upcoming blues players. Allison first recorded at the tender age of 13, but his father insisted that he finish high school before starting a musical career. Diploma in hand, he joined Koko Taylor's band at 18 straight out of high school. Allison claims that he owes much of his blues education to Taylor's label, Alligator Records.

He retains his father's fiery style of funk, but it's apparent from listening to his



Bernard Allison

new album, *The Other Side*, that the son is no copycat rep-

lica of Luther, who passed away in August 1997.

He joined the tour band of Luther Allison in 1989 after a furious collaboration of 'Father & Son' at the '89 Chicago Blues Festival. He released his first solo album 'The Next Generation,' in 1990. He started touring with his own group all over Europe and released several albums, taking the tradition of black music he grew up with into the new century melting the influences into his own brand. "It's just a big pleasure for me to continue my father's legacy, but you know I don't go out and try to be Luther Allison. I just go and do what I've learned from my Dad and the likes of Koko Taylor, or Stevie Ray Vaughan or Albert King. So, I'm trying to keep the blues alive," he said.

Tinsley Ellis is a blues-soaked guitarist/vocalist/song-writer who sings and plays with the energy and soul of all the great Southern musicians who have come before him.

Since hitting the national scene with his Alligator Records debut, *Georgia Blue*, in 1988, Ellis has toured non-stop and continued to release one critically acclaimed album after another. His stellar guitar work, always a staple of his live shows and CDs, is matched by his strong songwriting and powerful, soulful vocals. Tinsley's hometown paper, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, calls his music, "a potent, amazing trip through electric blues-rock."

Born in Atlanta in 1957, Ellis grew up in southern

Florida and first played guitar at age eight. He found the blues through the backdoor of the British Invasion bands like The Yardbirds, The Animals, Cream, and The Rolling Stones. He especially loved the Kings—Freddie, B.B. and Albert—and spent hours immersing himself in their music. His love for the blues solidified when he was 14. At a B.B. King performance, Tinsley sat mesmerized in the front row. When B.B. broke a string on Lucille, he changed it without missing a beat, and handed the broken string to Ellis. After the show, B.B. came out and talked with fans, further impressing Tinsley with his warmth and down-to-earth attitude. By now Tinsley's fate was sealed; he had to become a blues guitarist. And yes, he still has that string.

Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones, *The Motor City-based, Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones have been in demand as a backing band for today's top blues performers.*

"We have no gimmicks," says leader Doug Deming. "We play pure traditional music from the heart, with an image that conveys a deep respect for the genre."

As a result, Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones have been in demand as a backing band for a 'who's-who' of today's top blues performers, including Chicago's A.C. Reed, Louisiana Red, Chicago Pete, Cannonball vocalist Alberta Adams, Black Top's Johnnie Dyer, W.C. Handy Award winner Johnny Yard Dog Jones and the legendary Lazy Lester.

Doug Deming has been the driving force behind the Jewel Tones (formerly known as the Blue Suit Band) since its beginning in 1991. As a guitarist and vocalist, he acknowledges a musical debt to T-Bone Walker, Charlie Christian and other Texas bluesmen as well as moderns like Jimmie Vaughan and Ronnie Earl.

Greg "Fingers" Taylor, a Mississippi native now living in the Detroit area, is considered by many to be one of the premiere harmonica players in the world today, in any genre of music. Fingers' tasteful, eclectic showmanship and electrifying, energetic performances have become legendary over the last 30 years in concert halls, on the club circuit, and on the numerous recordings he has graced.

Bassist Bob Conner's diverse experience includes backing such touring artists as Hubert Sumlin, Earl King, Johnny Adams, Eddie Bo and Big Jay McNeely. Bob has

also recorded and toured with Detroiters Johnnie Bassett, Joe Weaver and Bill Heid.

Drummer Charlie Koltak honed his skills in the jazz program at Detroit's Wayne State University. The Houston native derives his style from jazz drummers Jim Keltner, Shawn Pelton, and Tony Williams.

Josh Boyd and the VIP Band, *Powerful, bluesy, funky, rock and roll and incredible are words that describe these Toledo-based blues masters.*

You can't pigeonhole this three-piece band featuring Josh Boyd on guitar and vocals; Junior Springs on bass and Charles Gaston on drums. These boys play it all and put their mesmerizing stamp on every tune they perform.

Guitar-slinger, Josh Boyd was only three years old when he picked up the guitar for the first time and his natural musical ability has been refined over the years through the influences of performers including Johnny "Guitar" Watson, James Brown, Jimi Hendrix and Albert Collins. Don't be confused though, Boyd is not interested in being a copying any style. His playing is pure Boyd and his special touch graces everything he plays.

Josh Boyd and the VIP Band have a formidable stage presence and they deliver electric excitement and leave the crowd wanting more at every stop. It's true that great things can come in small packages and the VIP trio proves it over and over again.

About Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc. (TNWOFB) is a non-profit organization established to enable other community organizations to end hunger. Over the past 26 years the Food Bank has distributed more than 70 million pounds of food and grocery products to assist those in need. Currently, TNWOFB serves a network of more than 300 member agencies in an eight county area, including Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams and Wood. Agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, non-profit daycare centers, foster care associations, non-profit rehabilitation centers, group homes and programs for the elderly and children. Since 1984, the TNWOFB has been an affiliate of Feeding America the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. For more information on the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc., visit www.toledofoodbank.org.

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The Truth ECONOMY

Tackling Tough Times

Looking for Income and a Way to Solve Problems? Start a Social Business

By Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.
Guest Column



Many desire to be self-employed but grueling unemployment is likely the better explanation for the surge in new business startups in 2009. With millions of Americans losing their jobs and millions more facing a longer duration between jobs, entrepreneurship is viewed increasingly as a viable option for gainful income.

Essentially all of the newly minted entrepreneurs of 2009 were seeking to identify customers with money or credit to buy their niche products or services. New entrepreneurs seeking income may want to consider going into "social business" rather than entering crowded conventional business fields.

A social business is created exclusively to maximize social benefits rather than maximize profits. Establishing or expanding a large urban garden primarily to serve local charter schools could be a good example of a social business.

Social businesses apply conventional business skills to solve identified social problems rather than maximize profits or dividends for investors. Though social businesses are non-profit enterprises, they are also non-loss enterprises. In other words, social businesses seek sufficient revenue from the sale of their products or services that address a social problem, which allows the business to be sustained as well as provide steady income for the owners and employees.

Characteristics of social entrepreneurs are similar to conventional business entrepreneurs: independence, risk-taking, energetic, clever and creative. Social businesses also require conven-

tional business plans that identify customers, production and marketing methods, competition, financial structure, organizational form and initial capital. But because social businesses have a broader social agenda, they also identify the social benefits and impacts to be made by the enterprise, as well as the methods of measurement and delivery.

Few business schools in the country – or the world, for that matter – have social business courses in their curriculums. As a result, we don't have much of a common vocabulary or tools of analysis and operation. Business schools only train students for profit maximizing enterprises as if "non-profit & non-loss" institutions couldn't be viable value-adding entities.

If you look at the business school curriculums, for example, at The University of Toledo or at Bowling Green State University, they are very similar to others around the country in that they train students in management, finance, marketing, accounting and entrepreneurship but not social business. Likewise, UT also has a number of conventional business incubators, such as The Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator or UT's Minority Business Incubator but no social business incubators.

Before 1990, it took less than two years for the economy to replace the jobs that were lost during recessions, but by the 2001 recession, it took over four years. And as for the jobs lost during the recent Great Recession, it could take a decade or more before they are replaced. As a result, 2009 as a peak year for entrepreneurship will likely be eclipsed in the future, as increasingly more Americans will likely become self-employed in the midst of meager hiring prospects.

This is one reason why the entrepreneurship growth rate among African-Americans has surpassed the rate among whites. Universities should not be preparing students for conventional jobs that no longer exist and are unlikely to ever exist again.

Instead, they should be preparing students for social business careers that will provide jobs in areas that address specific present-day social problems, jobs that will provide income for them and other employees as well.

Consider, for example, that some social businesses in the near future could address the combined social problems of cash-strapped states and large incarcerated populations that states can no longer afford (if they ever could). As more prisoners are released earlier, social businesses could provide more rehabilitation and job-training services – including training for green collar jobs – for the re-entry population.

Social entrepreneurs mobilize their individual passion to empower their customers. As Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus notes in *Building Social Business*, social entrepreneurs "Try to offer [customers] something they do not just consume, but that gives them the chance to earn more or save more than they spend on your product." Generally speaking, products and services of social businesses should be less expensive than those of conventional businesses, since profit maximization is out of the equation. For example, social businesses providing energy efficiency services could be cheaper since only wages and cost of business, not profit, need be covered.

Addressing environmental ills may very well be the area witnessing the greatest social business growth. Yunus notes that waste is and will become a valuable commodity since it can be converted into electricity, biofuel for cooking and heating and gas for automobiles, as well as other applications. Therefore, social businesses will likely be established to tackle the social problem of pollution.

Social businesses are not about sacrificing the needs or interests of the social entrepreneur or the staff of the enterprise. In fact, compensation should be at rates similar to conventional businesses in order to attract the requisite talent for a viable

operation. I hasten to acknowledge in the end that a "social business movement" is not nearly transformative enough to address fundamental and broad-scale social problems due in no small part to how the economy is organized. Nevertheless, social businesses can employ and feed

some people and solve other social problems, all while simultaneously pursuing more transformative projects.

Some of the fiercest critics of social business are likely to be my radical soulmates but essentially all of them have a form of income. To them I say, "chill out."

Social business is only one path to be pursued as a means to an end, not an end in itself.

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D., is professor of Sociology and the interim director of Africana Studies at The University of Toledo.

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Momentum...

By Rodney Neely
Real Estate Contributor



work in both ways. If your focus is off a bit, that momentum can lead you to ruin or, worse, bank-

Don't forget that the game of real estate is chess, not checkers.

One of the hardest things in business to achieve is momentum. The flow of energy where you're at the top of your game and the inertia of everyday seems to be non-existent.

All of your investments are giving tremendous returns. Each of your ideas are wildly successful. Everything your touch turns to G-O-L- well ... platinum! Momentum. That head of steam that propels you in the direction of your primary focus.

The issue is that it can

rupty. A devastating situation can occur from not planning properly and, thereby, not allowing your hard work to help you to pick up speed. You can end up going the wrong way.

This can happen for two reasons: (1) you have not surrounded yourself with smart and talented people or (2) you have not executed a good investment or business plan.

Today I want to provide an outline that will help you to get moving in

the right direction. In real estate, as in all aspects of life these same principles will apply. To gain mo-

mentum you need to get started, work hard and smart, create that positive energy flow and maintain it.

Begin with a solid plan of action. First, hire the most successful and well-respected talent you can afford in order to support your efforts and advise you. Second, identify the opportunities that fit your investment model. Third, execute.

As you continue to invest, develop a strategy for growth while keeping down your debt ratio, this

will help to keep your cash flows strong. Move with stealth to secure each deal, quickly and quietly acquiring a portfolio of projects that fit your investment philosophy creating momentum in your business. Don't forget that the game of real estate is chess, not checkers.

Understand that sometimes the best move is no move at all. Make sure that the conditions are always favorable to your

idea. As long as you operate your existing investments effectively you will maintain your momentum.

Overcoming each challenge in a tough real estate economy won't be easy, but it can be done but carefully surveying the landscape and being realistic about your expectations. If you're looking at a deal and all the stars in the sky have lined up, as they say, then it's probably not a sound

project to pursue.

At the same time, "the greater the risk, the greater the reward," usually makes sense. Think critically and be strategic in your decisions. If you do, accomplishing your goals is inevitable.

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

Contact Rodney Neely at

rodney@q3development.com

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SaveNOW Proves that Saving Pays Off

By Kevin Boyce, Ohio State Treasurer
Guest Column



Here at the Treasury we believe that economic recovery starts in the homes of Ohioans with individuals making smart money choices. That is why a major

initiative of my administration is to promote financial education across the state and help you make more informed, confident financial decisions. The Treasury offers a variety of ways to learn about savings and finances so you can find the program that is right for you.

One of our most popular options is the SaveNOW linked-deposit program. Because it is important for Ohioans to have resources when the unexpected happens, I launched this unique program that integrates financial education with actual saving practices. SaveNOW promotes healthy financial

habits and offers an incentive for doing so. More importantly, the program increases financial literacy by giving Ohioans access to relevant guidance and education.

SaveNOW gives individuals the opportunity to receive a 3.25 percent interest bonus on savings accounts up to \$5,000. To receive this benefit, participants must complete one year of financial education. This includes reading a personal financial management newsletter and completing a "then-and-now" survey on their SaveNOW experience. More than 8,300 Ohioans enrolled

in the program in its first year. SaveNOW is an easy, rewarding way to start building your savings and future today.

SaveNOW participants can also join Ohio Saves and continue their financial literacy for 12 more months. Ohio Saves motivates participants to gain control of their finances and develop saving strategies. It also allows access to the America Saves newsletter. Ohio Saves is affiliated with America Saves.

As State Treasurer I am committed to making financial literacy a priority in Ohio. This educational mission, along with free programming made available by the Treasury will provide Ohioans with the knowledge required to successfully navigate ev-

eryday finances.

To further this goal my office is presenting a nine-city tour, offering free financial literacy seminars and workshops. Titled "Smart Money Choices," the seminars offer free instruction on topics such as budgeting, credit and debt, retirement planning and entrepreneurship.

Statistics show that not nearly enough Ohioans receive the financial education required to maintain healthy financial habits. According to a survey from the Ohio Credit Union League:

- Only 23 percent of Ohioans make any effort to encourage financial literacy in their families;

- 57 percent of Ohioans rated their financial family health negatively;

- 46 percent of Ohioans surveyed reported decreasing savings and growing debt levels; and

- Few parents teach their children the financial "facts of life."

To take charge of your finances enroll in SaveNOW and other programs offered by my office. To learn more about SaveNOW and the Ohio Treasury please visit www.ohiotreasurer.gov or call (800) 728-1102 toll-free.

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Unemployment Rate for Hispanics and African-Americans Approaches Depression-like Levels in Some Metro Areas

Special to The Truth

In a number of metropolitan areas, the unemployment rate for African-Americans and Hispanics approached Great Depression-like levels in 2009, an Economic Policy Institute analysis finds. The report, Uneven Pain: Unemployment by Metro Area and Race by EPI researcher Algernon Austin, examines unemployment by race in the 50 largest metro areas in the United States.



The white unemployment rate reached double digits in four metro areas. Unemployment rates for nonwhite populations were particularly high in three cities: Providence had a Hispanic unemployment rate of 21.4 percent and Detroit and Minneapolis had African American unemployment rates of 20.9 percent and 20.4 percent, respectively.

The Hispanic and African-American metro unemployment rates exceeded 1.5 times the white metro unemployment rate in most of the metros analyzed. In Providence, the Hispanic unemployment rate was double the white rate, and in Minneapolis and Memphis, the African-American unemployment rate was three times the white rate.

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Combining Business and Health



"I want to live and long healthy life," says LaQuinita Newton, one of the many former Toledoans who is currently making Atlanta her residence. "In 2006 I lost my grandmother and shortly thereafter my grandfather to sickness. Losing my grandmother was particularly hard. I decided to honor her by helping people improve their health."

After that experience, Newton cast about for ways to improve her lifestyle and that of others. Eventually, she

says, she came upon Zija, The Smart Drink, made from the Moringa tree.

"The Moringa tree is called the miracle tree in some parts of the world," Newton discovered. "It is referenced for its health benefits by the National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and was named plant of the year in 2008 by the National Institutes of Health."

So Newton found herself able to match health and busi-

ness by bringing the news of the Moringa to others.

"I am committed to sharing the benefits of this tree with others," she says. "Our specialty is pure nutrition and weight loss."

For more information on the Moringa tree and Newton's business, her website is www.healthwealthmiraclesmyzija.com and her email address is www.healthwealthmiracles@gmail.com

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Nurse Practitioner Publishes *Affirm Your Life Now*

This workbook guides users in using positive statements to attract a healthy and prosperous life

Special to The Truth

Dianne Hart Pettis, owner of Hart Health and Wellness Services, LLC announces the release of *Affirm Your Life Now: Using Affirmations to Attract the Prosperous Life You Were Meant to Have*. This unique workbook/journal teaches users to write and use positive statements in a way that maximizes the power of their thoughts and words.

"Our thoughts and words create our reality; what you say is what you get – what you think is what you get. I help

people change negative statements into positive ones. I help them focus on that they do want rather than what they don't want," said Pettis.

"I frequently hear patients saying things such as, 'This sinus pain is killing me,' 'I just can't lose weight,' or 'I just can't make it in this economy.' If that is what their focus is day in and day out, then the sinus pain will kill, there will be no weight loss, and they won't make it in this economy. So many of the physical ills I see in patients are directly or indi-

rectly due to the stresses in their lives. This workbook teaches a technique that can help deal with issues in all areas of life – mind, body and spirit."

The 84-page workbook includes information on affirmations and how to write them; how words and thoughts create energy; and sample affirmations in the areas of healthy diet, prevention, weight management, exercise, general health, stress management, finances, and relationships.



Pettis is a native of western Pennsylvania and currently lives in Dayton, OH. She has been a nurse for over 28 years; 13 years as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Her specialties are holistic health and wellness education and coaching, weight management, and health ministries.

The price is \$12.95 + OH tax and shipping. *Affirm Your Life Now* can be ordered by going to www.prosperouslivingsite.com and pay by PayPal. For more information about Hart Health and Wellness Services, LLC, go to: www.harthealthandwellness.com.

Happy 60th Birthday & Father's Day Daddy -- Conrad Anderson June 19, 2010



We LOVE you and wish you the best - Nikki & Suzana

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Divanomics: How to Still be Fabulous When You're Broke

by Michelle McKinney Hammond

c.2010, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. \$12.99 / \$14.50 Canada 247 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You should've seen it coming.

You knew the economy was bad. You saw friends losing their jobs, houses, their savings. Yet, when everybody else was slapping checkbooks shut, you didn't worry. Your ship came in years ago and you figured you were okay.

But then, faster than a tsunami, you were drowning in debt. How did that happen? Sunk like the *Titanic*, your finances under water - suddenly, you're broke.

So how can you keep your dignity, image and lifestyle afloat in lean times? Start by reading *Divanomics: How to Still be Fabulous When You're Broke* by Michelle McKinney Hammond.

As a popular speaker, best-selling author and business owner, Michelle McKinney Hammond was on "the diva track." In addition to her writing, she was in

demand for television, magazines and cable. She'd hired the "right" people to help manage things and she trusted that nothing was amiss in her business or her life.

Unfortunately, she was wrong.

By the time she realized that her accountant hadn't paid the bills and her assistant wasn't returning phone calls to prospective clients, McKinney Hammond was in trouble with the IRS and creditors and her business had all but dried up. She had a negative bank balance, and she was scared.

The first thing she did was to take a look at her "financial landscape." Though it was hard, she fired many of her staff and got rid of distractions. Then, she did an assessment of her assets and debts—including small IOU's — and prioritized how she

wanted to pay everything off. Now fabulously solvent, McKinney Hammond shares her ideas for living debt-free.

Obviously, never buy what you can't afford. Set limits for yourself and understand that "budget" is another word for "empowerment." Get a pre-paid credit card or lower your credit card limits. Declare a shopping fast for a month. Learn the difference between need and greed. Find expenses that rob you of cash flow, and eliminate them. Clean out your closet and clothes-swap with friends. Share phone plans, shopping memberships, bulk groceries and your talents. Tithe, pray and be sure to pay your savings account regularly.

While I'm not sure I completely agree with everything author Michelle McKinney Hammond says to do (hang out in a hotel lobby and nibble

free hors d'oeuvres for dinner?), there's no doubt that most of the tips she offers in *Divanomics* are sound and wise.

And yet, I found this to be unique as a business book. McKinney Hammond is wonderfully sassy and reading *Divanomics* was like talking to a friend who just discovered frugality. And though there's very little outward indication of it, this book contains an abundance of Bible stories and faith-based teachings. That's certainly not a bad thing, but it caught me somewhat unawares.

I think if you're looking for a chatty, splashy-fun hints-and-tips book on avoiding debt and living well while treading financial water, this is a good one to have. But if you're looking for a completely serious personal finance book, you'll find *Divanomics* to be all wet.

IBHS Provides Tips During National Homeownership Month

Special to The Truth



June is National Homeownership Month and the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) offers advice on how to keep the American dream of homeownership from becoming a nightmare.

Nearly seven out of 10 people own a home in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's "Homeownership Rates for the United States: 1968 to 2010." When considering the purchase of a home, buyers typically research key area demographics such as the quality of schools, property tax rates and crime rate. However, another critical aspect of homeownership—and the benefits or strains on that ownership experience—is the potential for natural disaster(s) native to the area.

"Buying a home is typically the largest single investment people ever make," said Julie Rochman, IBHS president and CEO. "While researching a neighborhood or town, it is absolutely critical for prospective homeowners to learn what natural

disasters, such as wildfire, windstorms, hail, or flooding, may impact the area." To help home buyers and homeowners identify and learn more about several types of natural disasters where they live or may want to live, the IBHS offers a ZIP Code-based tool at www.DisasterSafety.org. The tool provides a list of the natural disaster(s) that may occur in that particular area.

People who already own homes can use the information on DisasterSafety.org to guide them in retrofitting their houses so that they are more resistant. Retrofits range from simple tasks (e.g., covering exterior hose bibs in the winter to prevent frozen/burst pipes) to more complex tasks (e.g., installing impact-resistant windows). DisasterSafety.org offers guidelines on ways to increase a home's resiliency against earthquake, flood, wildfire, hurricane, high winds, tornadoes, severe winter weather and hail.

"No matter the type of natural threat, there are a number of ways — from simple and inexpensive to more complex and costly — that homeowners can make their homes stronger and safer," Rochman said. "People need to know that they can do things to protect their home and family against damaging and potentially deadly effects of a natural disaster. This is important information for people in every corner of the nation, and Homeownership Month is a perfect time to focus on this issue."

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Must have Masters degree in Curriculum/Administration and teaching experience.

Starting date: August 1
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Toledo, Ohio 43605

Sixth Annual Juneteenth Celebration Planned June 19 at Toledo Museum of Art

Special to The Truth



The Toledo Museum of Art and its Committee for Cultural Diversity will present their sixth annual Juneteenth from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 19 at the Museum. The celebration features African-American food, music, dance, hands-on art and other activities. Admission to the Museum, parking and most

activities are free.

The roots of Juneteenth lie in the U.S. Civil War era. In 1863 President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed all enslaved persons in the Confederate States. But it wasn't until two years later, on June 19, 1865, that 250,000 enslaved African-Americans in Texas finally heard the news. The celebrations that followed began a tradition that has lasted more than 140 years. Today, Juneteenth—as the original celebrations were dubbed—is celebrated in cities across the nation to recognize African-American cultural contributions to American life.

TMA's Committee for Cultural Diversity spearheaded the Museum's first Juneteenth celebration in 2005 and continues to provide support for the event. An ad hoc committee of the Board of Directors, the committee strives to encourage

Arts Council, which helps fund programs at the Museum through a sustainable grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

A complete schedule for Juneteenth's activities follows:

Drop-in Activities Throughout the Day

Gallery Explorations
Stop by any Museum entrance for a pamphlet and embark on a self-guided gallery experience featuring works of art by African and African-American artists.

Reenactment of the Ohio 5th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troop

Glass Pavilion Grounds
The troops of the reactivated Company C reenact the life of a soldier during the Civil War.

Quality of Life
Main Museum Terrace
Local organizations and

Scheduled Activities

Rhythm of the Day
Main Museum Terrace
Noon–1 p.m.: Curtis Jr. & the Midnight Rockers (blues)

1:15–2:15 p.m.: The Jamm Band (jazz)

2:45–3:30 p.m.: Drums of Thunder (African drumming)

3:45–4:45 p.m.: Queens of Harmony (gospel)

5–6 p.m.: Funk Nation featuring Ron Ricks (funk)

Glassblowing Demonstrations

1–4 p.m., Glass Pavilion

Guided Tours: African and African-American Art
2 and 3 p.m., Meet in Libbey Court

Join a TMA Docent on this enlightening gallery tour highlighting works of art by Africans and African Americans.

Demonstration: Ohio 5th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troop

2:15–2:30 p.m., Main Museum Terrace

The troops of the reactivated Company C bring history to life through Civil War military drill reenactments.

Art Hours

Tickets (\$15 members/\$25 nonmembers) are available on the day of the event at the Glass Pavilion Visitor Services Desk. Adults and children 14 years of age and older with an adult are welcome.

- African-inspired Glass Beads: 1, 2 and 3 p.m.
- Create Glass Tiles: 1, 2 and 3 p.m.
- Create a Glass Flower: 4 and 5 p.m.

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.



greater awareness of Toledo's culturally diverse community.

Throughout the day, there will be gallery tours, Civil War reenactments, food inspired by African-American flavors, glassblowing demonstrations and face painting. Hands-on art activities will include making baskets, drums, animal masks, hats, kites and African mud cloths.

A variety of dance and musical entertainment will also be provided. Among performers appearing will be Curtis Jr. & the Midnight Rockers, The Jamm Band, Drums of Thunder, Queens of Harmony and Funk Nation featuring Ron Ricks.

A pre-Juneteenth kick-off activity is planned from 7–9 p.m. Friday, June 18 in Libbey Court, where Museum visitors can make their own rhythm instruments.

Juneteenth at TMA is supported in part by Huntington Bank and the Ohio

health agencies provide information about maintaining and improving your life and health.

Delectable Dishes
Monroe Street, Glass Pavilion Café, Main Museum Café

Local vendors provide mouthwatering dishes inspired by African-American flavors, including barbecue, cornbread and more. The Museum Café offers ice cream outdoors and soups, sandwiches, salads and pizza indoors. The Glass Pavilion Café also offers drinks and desserts.

Family Creativity Stations

- Main Museum Terrace: Make drums, rhythm shakers, animal masks, and African mudcloths
- Glass Pavilion Grounds: Enjoy basket weaving, kite flying, and face painting
- Classic Court & Libbey Court: Make hats and placemats

Register Today! • Space Limited!!! • Classes begin June 24th!!!

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There will be experts available to answer questions on business strategy and give valuable insight on money management and financing your new venture. You will also receive, at no cost, an individual assessment of your business — either existing or start up — so that you have the tools necessary for success.

Call today to reserve your space and to pick-up your information packet. Hurry, classes begin Thursday June 24, 2010 and space is limited.

419-242-7304 ext. 2912

Funded by:
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
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Black Music Month : Sex, Love & Relationships

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



Does Black Music have an

overwhelming sexual presence?

Our music surely reflects our passion and artists of all media have been known to be...shall we say, somewhat amorous.

All music deals with relationships, but particularly covering areas of sexual desire is something black music has perfected quite well.

From Marvin Gaye's "Lets Get It On" & "Sexual Healing" to Clarence Carter's "Strokin" to even our parents' generation

dealt with the pleasures of the flesh in their musical tastes. But even though that was over 30 years ago, there are many complaints that our current musical climate is overtly sexual.

Some even say that black or urban music is more sexual than it's ever been.

I disagree. Think back to the 90's, especially the early 90's.

Those of you under 25 may not remember but there was a guy named Luke who was a

rapper who didn't necessarily rap, but he made the raunchiest sex videos and songs.

"If you're horny, let's do it...ride it, my pony. Mysaddle is waiting, come and jump on it" does that sound familiar?

"Freakn U" by Jodeci, and just about every song from R. Kelly and Janet Jackson kept an entire decade of black music in the bedroom. As a pre-teen during those times, I have to admit that sexual imagery was everywhere in our music and it was just a sign of the times.

Yes it's true that rock music also heavily influences listeners but from the 90's to now, black music has certainly maintained its provocative edge. Young Money's Lil Wayne and Nikki Minaj have.. wait, hell.

Her NAME IS NIKKI MINAJ. What do you think when you see a 10-year old kid even mentioning someone whose name implies a 'ménage a trois'? Alarming, but I still think the 90's were worse in terms of overall naughtiness.

Black music has to serve two purposes. Be music. Be a reflection of black people to a certain extent.

And we as black people are much more than just sex and the conquest of sex. So I want to urge everyone to indulge in the bedroom soundtracks, but also appreciate the beauty of black music's ability to express

love and the intricacies of a love experience.

I can think of no finer example on the radio right now than

Alicia Keys' latest single "Unthinkable (I'm ready)."

A love affair that is questioned and pondered until it just can't be denied or resisted is quite the delicate subject. Songwriting used to be a highpoint of black music and this song is a lyrical triumph—accurately detailing a defining moment between two would-be lovers.

Could be friends, could be co-workers, but whatever they are it's clear they care much more. The chemistry is there, but what to do with it.

Her opening lyrics start with: "Moment of honesty, someone's gotta take the lead tonight whose it gonna be? I'm gonna sit right here and tell you all that comes to me. If you have something to say, you should say it right now."

The pre-chorus is especially important because so

"You give me a feeling that I've never felt before, and I deserve it, I think I deserve it

It's becoming something that's impossible to ignore." A nuance that makes this part of the song even more special is Drake's vocals under Alicia's singing that represents the male's part agreeing with her as she says she thinks she deserves to have this

chance to become more. And then.... the chorus. "I was wondering maybe, could I make you my baby. If we do the unthinkable, would it make us look crazy. Or it would be something so beautiful, either way I'm saying: If you ask me, I'm ready"

THAT is sublime.

That is pure genius because so many people (black, white, whoever) can relate to it. The video is quite multi-cultural just as Alicia & Drake are multi-cultural, but their music is identified as black music and it feels good to have our music produce such a quality moment as this song. Five years from now "Unthinkable (I'm ready)" will still sound and feel just as good as it does today.

Songs like "Prototype" by Andre 3000 and entire albums by Chrisette Michelle and many others have given us lasting black musical moments centered around love as opposed to just a wild time bumpin' and grindin'. But they both represent aspects of life we need portrayed and appreciated in our music.

June 2010 can become a time when we not only celebrate black music as it is, but also highlight the best of what is being offered and give all listeners proof that quality still exists.

Happy Black Music Month, everyone!

TARTA Letter to the Editor

Editor,
The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority believes the voters of Lucas County and northern Wood County should have the right to vote on TARTA's proposal to change its funding from property tax to sales tax.

Currently, this tax-saving approach is in trouble because Sylvania Township Trustees voted on June 1 against TARTA's proposal. This vote, if it stands, will prevent the issue from being submitted to voters at the November General Election.

TARTA is bound by Ohio law requiring a unanimous vote of all a transit authority's member communities to take major action. TARTA has nine member communities, including Toledo, Sylvania, Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Waterville and Spencer and Sylvania Townships in Lucas County and Perrysburg and Rossford in Wood County.

Currently, TARTA's funding change proposal has been approved by the Lucas County Commissioners and by Ottawa Hills and Spencer Township. Two of the three members of the Sylvania Township Trustees are the only representatives of a member community to vote in opposition.

TARTA has until late July to obtain its member communities' agreement to put the issue on the November ballot as well as to convince the Sylvania Township Trustees to change their vote.

If you agree you should have the right to vote on whether or not to repeal the 2.5 mills in property tax TARTA currently collects and replace that with a one-half percent sales tax on all purchases made in TARTA's service area, TARTA urges you to let your elected officials know you want the right to vote.

TARTA hopes you will contact your local elected officials and the Sylvania Township Trustees and respectfully share your point of view.

James K. Gee
General Manager
TARTA

Council Aide

Toledo City Council is seeking a qualified individual to serve as a Council Aide to members of Toledo City Council. The duties include constituent services, legislative activity, staffing public hearings, and general office duties. Applicants must possess skills with Microsoft Office software, outstanding oral and written communication and organizational skills, ability to multi-task and work independently, and must maintain confidentiality. Experience with City or other public entity operations, public policy, research or customer relations is a plus. The successful candidate must pass a pre-medical exam, a Police background check, and be in compliance with any child support order and City taxes. Send resume by Tuesday, June 22 to: Gerald E. Dendinger, Clerk of Council, One Government Center, Suite 2140, Toledo, OH 43604 or e-mail to gerald.dendinger@toledo.oh.gov or fax to (419) 245-1610. The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.


Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-144,

(Project # 0002-07-513) for Bowman Oddy Chemical Storage Area Ventilation Upgrades 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, July 7, 2010. 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 \$70.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David E. Knapik of HT Bernsdorf, Inc. at 419-535-1616. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$154,000.00; Breakdown: HVAC: \$130,000.00 & Electrical: \$24,000.00.

6TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN PRAYER BREAKFAST

In Memory of Rev. Robert P. Wormely, James Cobham, Jr. & James Cobham, III

Friday, July 9, 2010 ~ 8:00AM
Mount Pilgrim Church
1401 Hoag @ Dorr St.
Rev. Raymond G. Bishop, Jr.
Pastor

TICKETS \$10.00

With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.
Matthew 19:26



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CLASSIFIEDS

June 16, 2010

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PCN: T98811 ~ LEADERS Implementation Coach, Curriculum & Instruction, The University of Toledo

This position will focus on inspiring teacher leaders to enact change through Project Based Science by providing ongoing support during challenging times. This position is grant funded with the possibility of continued funding as the grants are renewed annually. The annual salary for this position is \$45,000.00.

This position requires a Bachelor's degree and preferably a Master's degree in Education, Communications, Marketing, or a related field; past experience in public relations and/or sales; the ability to build teams; the ability to work well and collaboratively with many groups of people from diverse backgrounds; the ability to multi-task and to meet deadlines; project management skills; the ability to communicate clearly, both in written and oral form. For further information on this position, please visit our website at:

<http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/hr/main/employment/career.html>

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job), a resume, as well as three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390 or fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by June 25th, 2010.

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator

PCN: 996535 ~ Programmer Database Analyst, JHCOE, The University of Toledo

This position supports the software development and maintenance of the assessment application and management systems on any of the University of Toledo's servers, including enterprise server(s), network server(s), regional server(s), database server(s), and departmental server(s).

This mid-level position requires a degree or certification in Information Technology, Computer Science or closely related field; a minimum one to two years experience; two to five years is ideal; proficiency in ASP, and one or more other web application platforms such as, ASP.NET, JSP/J2EE, or PHP; proficiency in HTML, JavaScript, DOM/DHTML; experience with Business Objects Integration is also required; Proficiency in object-oriented programming languages such as Visual Basic, C#, C++, or Java; Extensive experience in relational database design and use (e.g. Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, or mySQL) including stored procedures, data modeling, and debugging. For further information on this position, please visit our website at:

<http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/hr/main/employment/career.html>

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job), a resume, as well as three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390 or fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by June 18, 2010.

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator

PCN: 994721, Staff Auditor, Internal Audit, The University of Toledo

This position is responsible for planning, performing, reporting and following up with specific audit assignments under the guidance of the Director. The annual salary range for this position is \$46,500-58,000.

This position requires a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or related field; CPA, CIA or CISA certification preferred, if not currently certified must show demonstrated progression towards CPA, CIA or CISA certification within 1 year from date of hire; 2-4 years auditing, compliance, accounting, and/or information technology experience is strongly desired, with some experience in higher education and/or healthcare; possess strong auditing skills such as ability to plan, organize, execute, delegate and manage the audit process; study, evaluate systems and make recommendations. For further information on this position, please visit our website at:

<http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/hr/main/employment/career.html>

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job), a resume, as well as three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390 or fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by June 18th, 2010.

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Appointments only

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-145,

(Project # 5004-10-1537) for University Medical Center Third Floor ICU Waiting Room 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, July 7, 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 Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Tom Stuckey of Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc., at 419-352-7537. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 8:30 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: \$430,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$316,000.00; Plumbing and HVAC: \$57,000.00; Fire Protection: \$12,000.00; & Electrical: \$45,000.00.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-140,

(Project # 1130-10-651) for Building Envelope - Bid Package 1 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, June 23, 2010. 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 \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Brad Rossi, AIA, NCARB of Rossi & Associates, LLC at 419-385-6633. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$2,080,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$2,080,000.00.

Council Aide

Toledo City Council is seeking a qualified individual to serve as a Council Aide to members of Toledo City Council. The duties include constituent services, legislative activity, staffing public hearings, and general office duties. Applicants must possess skills with Microsoft Office software, outstanding oral and written communication and organizational skills, ability to multi-task and work independently, and must maintain confidentiality. Experience with City or other public entity operations, public policy, research or customer relations is a plus. The successful candidate must pass a pre-medical exam, a Police background check, and be in compliance with any child support order and City taxes. Send resume by Tuesday, June 22 to: Gerald E. Dendinger, Clerk of Council, One Government Center, Suite 2140, Toledo, OH 43604 or e-mail to gerald.dendinger@toledo.oh.gov or fax to (419) 245-1610. The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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Salon Needs Techs

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. ~ Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Regional Recognition

Special to The Truth

Zeta Alpha Omega (ZAO), the Toledo alumnae chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has often been recognized on the regional and international levels. In addition, over the years many sorors from the chapter have been tapped to serve in leadership roles on the regional and international levels. The AKA **Great Lakes Regional Conference** was held in April 2010 at the Detroit Renaissance Marriott Hotel and had approximately 1,400 attendees.

The Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter was chartered in Toledo, Ohio on April 25, 1952 and last month marked 58 years that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) has served the Toledo community. **Clara L. Petty**, current president of Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, represented this chapter along with seven delegates. Petty is in her second term as chapter president [2004-2005 & 2010-2011] and is also the Northern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania Cluster Coordinator for

the region. Petty said: "I was honored to represent the Toledo Chapter as it was recognized at their 79th Great Lakes Regional Conference for the chapter's meritorious service and effective community services during 2009."

Petty added that "the process outlined by the region to document the efforts of chapter to reaching international community service goals are stringent. Awards received at the 2010 conference reflect the efforts of the prior year's community service efforts".

Lisa E. Dubose, immediately past president said: "I am proud to be a part of an organization of women who are committed to community service and the empowerment of the citizens, to make a difference through volunteerism and encouraging others to do so as well. I thank the membership for all the selfless work. To receive first place as Outstanding President for my 2009 term [Chapter Size C], I was

thrilled and it meant the world to me to be acknowledged in front of my chapter members, our region, international officers and our international president."

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Elinor Allen, Reading Is Fundamental; Denise Black-Poon; Roslyn Cooper; Mary Dawson; Morgannia Dawson; Lisa E. Dubose; Felicia R. Dunston; Shekeshia Jefferson;

Tracci Harmon; Margaret Huntley; Katina Johnson, Richelle Watkins and special thanks to our junior helpers – Najee, Nia and Aliyah Johnson.

Congratulations to Zeta Alpha Omega on the 79th Great Lakes Regional Conference Awards:

- Margaret Davis Bowen – "Outstanding President 2009" - 1st Place to Lisa E. Dubose
- Evan Evans "Graduate/Undergraduate Relations" - 2nd Place



· Beulah T. Whitby – "Outstanding Chapter" – 3rd Place

· 2010 Exemplary Chapter Regional Director Award - 2009 timely reporting

· Level II Heart Beat Award Recognition

· Mary Dawson served as the Co-Regional Doorkeeper

· Ann Battles (Former Great Lakes Regional Director) and Shaunta Hopkins (niece) introduced her aunt, our current Great Lakes Regional Director Schylbea Hopkins to the conferees.

· Brunetta O'Neal received recognition for her service on the History Book Committee & Connection Reports.

· Denise Black-Poon served with the Regional Heritage Committee and the GL Regional Choir.

· Clara Petty was recognized as NO/WP Cluster Coordinator

· Lisa E. Dubose was

recognized for her term as president.

· Ann C. Battles, Cynthia Battles, and Rebecca Battles were highlighted in the video tribute to Schylbea Hopkins, which was created by Shaunta Hopkins.

· Iota Iota Undergraduate Chapter at Bowling Green State University received a certificate for Connection Award

· ZAO received a Certificate of Recognition for its continued contribution toward national scholarship, via the *Education Advancement Foundation*.

· Felicia Dunston, Katina Johnson and Janice Wooley-Wouldard became certified by the Graduate Advisory Council

· BGSU undergraduate Iota Iota Chapter - Certificate for their Connection Book.

Numerous other members served as voting tellers, facilitators, recorders, delegates, vendors, conferees and other capacities throughout the conference.

Other Regional Highlights were Representatives from Zeta Alpha Omega served in many areas during the conference.

Since 1952, the chapter promoted and sponsored many outstanding projects in the Toledo area. These projects evolved from community needs as well as the international program platforms. This included: One-to-One Tutorial Programs to improve literacy of at risk youth; Voter Education and Registration; provided over \$180,000 in scholarships for graduating high school seniors for collegiate pursuits made possible by our annual fundraisers. This year's inaugural New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball is the major fundraiser for community service and scholarship.

For Information on upcoming events: go to www.zetaalphaomega.com

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