



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 21, 2010

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Mo Money, Mo Problems

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

In every crisis there is a message. Crises are nature's way of forcing change – breaking down old structures, shaking loose negative habits so that something new and better can take their place. — Susan L. Taylor



The Toledo Public Schools whirlwind Homeboy Shopping Network – style on-the-run sales pitch, reminiscent of the sketch popularized by Damon and Keenen Ivory Wayans on the 1994 *In Living Color* comedy television series, kicked into high gear with last week's hiring of new superintendent Jerome Pecko, Ph.D.

The impending November elections have imposed a three-month time limit and sense of urgency in the attempt to sell a 7.8 mill property-tax levy to a doubting public. The expected cost to an owner of a \$100,000 home is approximately \$240 per year, and if approved the measure (the largest ever in Toledo) would generate \$22 million annually but still leave a budget shortfall of equal size.

Should the community buy or take another pass as it did in May with the previous TPS levy attempt?

There are 12 active levies with a total of 57 mills currently operating in the district. Since 2002, TPS has received approximately \$900 million from general property taxes alone. Added to this figure are an additional \$6 million per year in Rollback & Homestead money from the State of Ohio plus an estimated \$16, 17, and 13 million respectively in 2010 through 2012 and other subsidies until 2018 from Ohio's phase out of the tangible personal property tax. These figures do not include the \$5,800 per child enrollment revenue received by the district.

Yet, not only has there been a lack of measurable benefits received by the community for its massive \$1 billion investment in the TPS educational industrial complex but past problems persist even as new issues emerge.

Approximately 80 percent or \$800 million of recent funding has gone into personnel and administrative costs, most of which is expropriated to suburban communities by employees who work but do not live in the colonized district, leaving very little to investment in its most important resource – the students.

Despite the public's enormous investment, many of the schools in the minority community remain chronic failures, where drop out rates are higher and achievement and performance measures are below state proficiency levels in many categories. As a result, enrollment has swiftly declined as parents and students, perceiving better educational value, have migrated away to charters and private schools.

In addition, the disproportionate black unemployment rate, the dismal rate of college enrollment by TPS students and the segregation of minority graduates in low-paying jobs also suggests that the community is not receiving the *qualitative* benefits of an education of value.

With rare exception, (most notably Mayor Mike Bell), the paucity of TPS graduates serving as local business, governmental or institutional leaders compared to those from parochial school backgrounds creates doubt about the district's ability to provide equal educational opportunities or the technical skills necessary to make its students eligible for responsible jobs.

The discipline disparity and lack of interest exhibited by many students, particularly adolescent African-American males, also is an indictment upon the methods, policies and competence of the district.

In a system with 85 percent white (predominately suburban female) teachers, cultural mismatches that impede learning and communication exist. The lack of new ideas, the disregarding of culture in the curricula and how it is presented along with contradictions between the content of what's being taught and the reality of the every day experiences of the minority students makes it impossible to educate effectively.

So Pecko, who comes lacking extraordinary qualities that distinctively separate him from his peers, and whose previous tenure was a school district where 99 percent of the staff and the students were white, has an extraordinary challenge in selling a levy in a district where it is perceived that "political policy rather than availability of money has guided financial expenditures."

The padlocking of Libbey – a backroom barter to save union members a single cent per dollar, the disproportionate closing of inner-city schools and the rumors of Scott High School's demise are also taken by many as signs that the implicit social contract with the black community has been trampled on by TPS.

How should Pecko and TPS proceed to win support in the community?

Certainly not with the preferred TPS *modus operandi* of buying off selected docile and accepting black leaders under the guise of being culturally inclusive but in reality only to set them up as participants and agents in the exploitation of the community as a whole while disparaging and denigrating others as a means to divide and conquer.

Considering how much of the taxes have gone for labor and administrative costs, "if the black community is without the benefits of a quality education then TPS undoubtedly has something to do with it." The issue then, is about our giving and getting nothing back; about supporting something that does not support us in return.

Therefore it is a good idea to begin with genuine respect for the community and by demonstrating a commitment to change by extracting the district from "the clutches of greedy union bosses, stewards and caretakers who have allowed the school system to be pillaged."

But also, the system of have and have-not schools within the district must be dismantled and replaced with a system of equality of sacrifice, resources, technology, curriculum and instruction for all.

Finally, the request for public funds endows the community with equity, if not control – of input on how funds are to be utilized and demands a return on its huge investment, evidenced by a positive effect on the educational performance of our children.

And even then, despite new leadership and bright promises, scars from the community's dealings in the past and the remaining \$22 million deficit (even if the levy passes) make it tough to buy what TPS is selling. There are just too many problems.

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

Community Calendar

June 21-August 20

Feed the Children Program: Majestic Praise Ministries; Free lunch – Monday through Friday; 11 am to 1:30 pm

June 22-August 5

Nu-Vizion Summer Kids Program: Tues, Wed and Thurs; 11 am to 2 pm; Fourth to eighth graders; Games, crafts, music, bible lessons, free lunch: 419-241-9358

July 19-22

UT Campus Exposure Week: Presented by the Mentoring Collaborative and University of Toledo; 10 am to 4 pm daily; Monday for 1st to 5th graders; Tuesday for 6th to 8th graders; Wednesday for 9th to 12th graders; Thursday open for all: 419-381-3280 or sdoles@utoledo.edu

July 22

Small Business Seminar: Hosted by Sen. Sherrod Brown; UT Scott Park Auditorium; 3 to 5 pm; Health reform law, HIRE Act, loan programs through SBA, export assistance, selling to the federal government: 216-522-7272 or Brown_RSVP@brown.senate.gov

Mentoring Collaborative Open House: "Take Hold of Your Future;" For all grades; UT Student Union Auditorium; 10 am to 4 pm: 419-318-3280

July 24-25

Calvary Baptist Church Annual women's Day Celebration: "Christian Women Striving to Be Holy, in an Unholy World;" Saturday luncheon at 11 am with Evang. Margaret Parker; Sunday Morning Service at 10:45 am with Rev. April Hearn; Sunday Afternoon Service at 4 pm – "The Challenge of the Cross;" 419-242-9173

July 28

RIF Summer Special – Ice Cream Reading Social: Monroe Street Neighborhood Center; Grades K- 8; Parents welcome; 3:30 pm

August 6

A Fundraising Cruise up the Maumee – Sunset and City Lights: 8:15 to 11:30 pm; A cruise up the Maumee on the Sandpiper: 419-392-1034

August 7

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

Word of Faith Ministries Annual Tent Crusade: 10 am to 9 pm; Food, activities for children, entertainment for all; Min Daryl Winters of Life changers Inter Ministries, Pastor Kevin Sutton

August 8

Union Grove MBC Pre-Women's Day Service: "A True Woman of Faith – A household Necessity;" 4 pm; speaker Sis. Martha Mack of St. Mark's MBC: 419-531-1994

August 14

The Josh Project Save a Life: "Learn 2 Swim;" 4th annual summer fundraiser; 640 Inidana Avenue; Noon to 5 pm: 419-973-1383

August 20-21

Scott HS Class of 1965 45th Reunion: Ramada Inn Secor: 419-535-1226, 419-266-0330, 419-535-1925, 419-535-9567, 419-350-4080

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
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Toledo High School Sports Go Jim Crow ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



city districts and which thus relegates them to the city high schools for their athletic endeavors.

The other to-be-formed sports league will be the cream of the crop comprised of the well-endowed Catholic Schools and a few hanger on'ers who do not want to be associated with the citizens of Scott and Libbey and other "down in the heel" high school athletic programs.

Well, it looks like Toledo will be returning to the inglorious years of the early 30's, 40's and 50's when it engages in the separate but unequal splitting up of the city's sports leagues.

One will be the City League populated by kids who do not have the bucks to afford the address to live outside of the confines of the

This incredulous division of city team sports into the camps of the haves and have nots is reminiscent of the years of Jim Crow segregation whereby the black and poor schools were grouped together and the toney and moneyed high schools (a/k/a. white schools) danced with partners of their own choosing.

When you speed dial that

same scenario to present date, it is not now necessarily separate and equal but rather based on the theory that when in doubt...follow the money trail, it is now deemed separate and unequal.

What will transpire is the scenario by which you will have a well-funded league which will have all of the fits and finishes to compete and compete well versus city high schools that are facing draconian cuts in their operating budgets including some sports being entirely eliminated.

Now if you are a gifted athlete in one of the eliminated sports, you will have to die or adapt to another sport by which you can hone your skills and hopefully attract college recruiters.

If you are in the yet to be named new league and are a

talented athlete, you simply thank your lucky stars that your parents have the bucks to send you to a Catholic high school and/or your parents have the "contacts" or "connections" to get you into their doors.

If you are stranded at an impoverished city high school that can barely afford chalk and paper towels, your only hope is to transfer out ASAP or be recruited by a Catholic high school due to your athletic prowess.

If you cannot get out of the sinking ship known as Toledo public high schools, you are relegated to a second tier of athletic mediocrity and with the hopes that your coach can persuade top-tier college recruiters to still give you a once over about attending a top NCCA college.

Yes...my friend, it is all about the money. Money to fund student athletics. Money to fund scholarships. Money to retain and develop top coaches and staff. Money to spread around so that your school's name is in front of the people who count and who make the decisions as to whether or not you attend a

level I college or you attend a Division II D school or community college.

Make no mistake about it and do not be under any illusions. When you talk about the billions of revenue dollars that are generated by college sports including the ads and clothing and attendant goodies that sell sports memorabilia to a sports-addicted nation, it matters where you attend high school and the name of your high school.

I hope this pending division of the local high schools will be a wake up call for parents to increase their diligence in ensuring that their kids focus on academics as their "way out" of poverty rather than placing their hopes that an Ohio State or Michigan or Penn State will woo their sons or daughters.

It is too bad there is not in Toledo a person or persons who have the clout to keep the high school athletic system from becoming unglued with this pending division of rich and poor and black and white.

But, to date I have not seen anyone from corporate Toledo or the religious com-

munity or government come out and make the case for unity.

I have not heard the local Catholic Bishop Blair issue any "decree" stating that such divisions are not productive but rather they cause more social upheaval than good.

I have said it before and will iterate it here, Toledo is sliding backwards, not forwards, in this intentional re-segregation of the schools which, on its own momentum, will ossify the racial hardening of this city.

In an ideal world, the rich schools would share with their poorer brethren based on the novel concept that we are all in this together and the success of the city schools, academically and athletically, helps everyone and the image of Toledo.

But I speak as a radical and if I am not careful, someone from a local Tea Party will accuse me of being a socialist for such "communal" ideas and put me on a local billboard between pictures of Lenin and Hitler.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

The Toledo Area Ministries Nutrition Assistance Program

Special to The Truth

On Tuesday, July 27, 2010, the Cass Road Baptist Church and Toledo Area Ministries (TAM) will host a Maumee/South End Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Enrollment Day at the church, 1400 Cass Road, Maumee, from 11:00 am-3:30 pm.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, helps low-income households buy nutritious food they need to promote good health. We look at income to help determine eligibility. For example, the upper limit on Gross Income is \$1,174 monthly for household of one and \$1,579 monthly for a household of two, etc. Larger households can have more income.

If your household has a person who is 60 or older or disabled, only the Net Income limit (deductions include rent or mortgage, utilities, and un-reimbursed monthly medical bills) must be met: \$903 monthly for household of one and \$1,215 monthly for a two-person household, etc. You apply for benefits by completing an application form.

Case managers from Toledo Area Ministries will be providing pre-screening and application assistance. Completing an application usually takes 30 minutes or less. Applicants should bring the following information that applies to their situation:

- **Identity:** driver's license or state identification card;
- **Address** where you live and where you receive mail;
- **Expenses:** utility bills, like electric, gas, and water, rent or mortgage;
- **Medical Expense Deduction** for households who have a person aged 60 or older, or a person who is disabled at any age: billing statements, itemized medical receipts, monthly medication expense, Medicare Part B and D coverage, etc;
- **Earned/Unearned Income:** such as pay stubs, statement from employer, income tax, or self-employment information, Social Security, SSI, VA, or retirement pension;
- **Immigration Status:** Immigration or naturalization papers.

We invite you to join us to see if you qualify for monthly SNAP benefits. If you have questions, or would like an appointment time, please call 419-654-4744.

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- Great benefits

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Testing for the Toledo Police Department will start soon.

For more information and to obtain a Police Officer Interest Card, go to www.toledopolice.com or Call Officer Peters at 419-936-3690

A New Style and Substance: Mayor Mike Bell Reflects on His First Six Months

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Mayor Mike Bell is not a hand-wringing type of guy. He's not sitting around bemoaning the fact that he got stuck with a raw deal when he became mayor of a city with a huge budget deficit, high unemployment figures and a shrinking tax base.

"This is a great place," he says repeatedly during a recent conversation with The Truth. He emphasizes that there are indeed problems to tackle, but they can be solved if he receives assistance from Toledoans. So far, however, the mayor believes the city is on track to get a handle on

"I had to make some calls that a politician might not have made," says the first-time elected office holder. "But these jobs weren't meant to turn into careers."

The gap closed but not without a contentious, very public negotiation with the police unions over salary and benefits. At one point, Bell had persuaded Toledo City Council to declare that "exigent circumstances" existed — a declaration that the city could have used to unilaterally force changes in the agreements with the unions.

By mid-May, however, the

cheered by that outcome.

"We were able to close the \$48 million deficit without adversely affecting goods and services," he says when asked what has provided satisfaction during his first six months on the job.

He mentions two other aspects of those six months that demonstrate his administration is on the right track.

First, there has been "a lot of outreach to people who had felt dis-engaged," he says of his administration's policy of meeting with citizens to gain insight into what is needed in the city's neigh-

"I underestimated how vocal the negative people are in this city and how quiet the positive ones are."

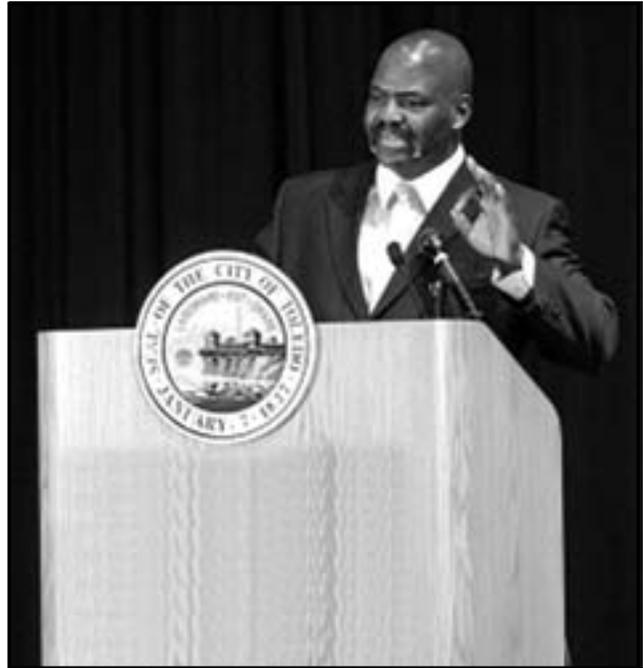
those fiscal problems.

The former fire chief stepped into a budget deficit this past January that quickly grew to \$48 million during his first weeks in office.

Toledo Police Patrolman's Association (TPPA) voted to approve an agreement that averted the need for the city to force such concessions. The mayor was greatly

pleased with the results. "I want to know if we're getting it right, or not getting it right."

As an example, Bell cites the city's approach to demolishing abandoned homes.



Who Is Watching Your Child?

BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILD WITH ANYONE

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

"What do I really know about this person?"

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

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

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS.

"Do I know how this person handles children?"

"Have I seen how they respond to stress?"

"How would they discipline my child?"

"How would they respond in an emergency?"

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

KNOW WHO IS WATCHING YOUR CHILD.

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



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

The decisions of those demolitions, he says, have been coordinated through the community development corporations.

The second indication for Bell that his administration is humming along is, well... his administration. "The staff has made my job so much easier," he says of those around him and how they are operating as a team.

So that's the good in his new job. Is there anything that has frustrated the man who is clearly enjoying his new position?

Yes, there is. It's those Toledoans who do not match his enthusiasm for his city.

"The negative attitude that some Toledoans have of Toledo," he answers. "I underestimated how vocal the negative people are in this city and how quiet the positive ones are. Now, there are many more positive people but they are so quiet."

Bell notes the irony, as he sees it, that so many people here who are from other places are so much more positive about Toledo than those who are natives of the Glass City.

"We want people to help turn this city around," he says. "But part of my concern is that it's all about bad attitude."

That concern, however, does not seem to dampen Hizzoner's mood for more than a nano-second.

"Other than that, being mayor has been a great time," he says launching into an anecdote about a recent exchange he had with Vice Presi-

dent Joe Biden during a telephone conference call the VP conducted with five mayors from across the land.

The other four mayors were voicing their concerns to Biden about the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on their cities while Bell was conspicuously silent. Finally Biden asked Toledo's leader to speak up and Bell responded with a list of all the projects the stimulus funds were creating or aiding in Toledo.

When he finished his recitation, Biden suggested to the others that they get on a plane and visit Toledo. "They got it going on," he told Bell's counterparts.

Bell takes great pride in displaying his enthusiasm for Toledo in a manner, he suggests, that his predecessors avoided. He's out and about the city, not only during his working hours but also during his time off — if, in fact a mayor has any time off. He still frequents his usual haunts, in his usual attire. But now, he attracts much more attention, a fact which bemuses him.

"It's been pretty intense," he says. "I've never seen myself as much of a big deal but people go crazy with the cameras."

As Bell sat with this reporter in a Central Avenue restaurant, it's clear that he's in his element as a man of the people. More than half of the staff and patrons stop by at some point to greet him and shake hands or receive a fist bump.

One staffer speaks with

him of the ongoing problem of house fires in his own neighborhood and Bell gives him his cell number so that he can call the mayor if he spots a specific problem.

So how does Bell view his job going forward into the next three and a half years?

He's the model of simplicity in his approach. He sees two areas of major concern — keeping an eye on the budget in order to achieve balance. "We're not out of the woods," he says. "We have got to work within our means."

His second mission is to extend economic growth and see "what hurdles are still in place that limit business growth."

Mayors don't create jobs, says Bell, even as he notes that they can impede business growth.

Managing the budget and extending economic growth, that's the Bell agenda for the near future.

"One step at a time, we're putting together reasonable goals of keeping the budget balanced and seeing our unemployment figures decrease," he adds summing up the challenges.

He's open to great ideas, he says, on either of these two topics, since he admits that not all great ideas are going to emanate solely from the mayor's office. Of course, that's all part of his plan to continue reaching out and maintaining a proper balance.

"I've said I would take my ego out of it and I've done that," he says. "It's been a whole lot of fun."

Young Mothers Receive Opportunity to Continue Education

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner Truth Reporter

Today's youth are more active and involved than ever compared to their parents when they were growing up.

School, jobs, internships, extracurricular activities, volunteering – the list goes on, but when having children at a young age becomes part of the equation, some aspects of life are sacrificed.

Most of the time, it is education.

Dedicated to helping pregnant and parenting mothers in grades seven through 12 (ages 12-21), Polly Fox Academy, sister school of Phoenix Academy, offers the opportunity to receive that high school diploma. In addition, the academic program prepares the students for future education and career opportunities.

What makes this school one-of-a-kind is the inclusion of parenting education classes. These courses give the mother insight on the physical and emotional development of the child, which involves caring for the infant, how to tackle discipline issues, community resources available and more.

July 14 was the day on which to showcase the school and the services it offers to interested students and their families during the Second Annual Citywide Baby Shower.

"This event helps them come back to school and show that Polly Fox can reduce the barriers that keep them from completing their education," said Joan Durgin, director of Program Development.

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., perspective students met with the staff, current students and representatives from local organizations. Planned Parenthood, the Toledo Public Library, the onsite Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and Healthy Start, Healthy Families were some of the associations present.

There were also presentations of the educational possibilities for students and a discussion of the subsidized childcare program offered through the Toledo Day Nursery, which is located near the school.

Working as a data collector for a grant through The University of Toledo, Nicole Kolm hopes that the occasion would bring girls in to see the school and get more information.

"Not many people have heard of the academy so this is their chance to see what we're about and erase those misconceptions about teen

pregnancy," she said. "We hope that this would encourage them to attend. It's a recruitment tool."

Affordability is not an issue because the academy is free of charge since it is a community charter school sponsored by the Toledo Public Schools. It receives no funding from TPS. For those young women living outside of the Toledo school district, it is also free of charge.

The rest of the day was dedicated to having fun, gathering information, playing games and being acquainted with future mentors and peers. The children had their fun also with an art space, where they could draw and create during that time.

Founded in 2004, the goal of the school is to "help young mothers graduate and achieve financial independence so that they can support themselves and their children." Through flexible scheduling, option of online classes, job shadowing and internship placement, a nurse educator and onsite support services like Help Me Grow, that goal is attainable for the girls.

In the academic year of 2009-2010, 211 girls, ages 12-21, were enrolled where 53 seniors received diplomas in June and 18 received college scholarships. This from a class where over 60 percent of graduates had been high school dropouts at some point.

Montria Boykin, a 16-year-old student, has been attending Polly Fox since 2008. She has two small children, one of which is a month-old little

girl. At one point Boykin thought about quitting school but after the teachers talked to her mother, she was convinced that this was the place to be for her.

"They keep you going and help you with whatever you need," Boykin said. "It is especially helpful that the school is small because they

[teachers and staff] get to know you better."

Boykin's aspiration is to be a fashion buyer and designer, a career choice that she found appealing though the help of a teacher.

The slogan, "Where Dreams take Wings," is an understatement with what the Polly Fox Academy does for

these young women's lives. It can be a "win-win" situation for the girls and the community, according to their website, since teen pregnancy causes many dilemmas for health, welfare and social service systems as well as for taxpayers. It is located at 1505 Jefferson at 16th Street, across from the Catholic Club.

"In a lot of ways it's a second chance because many lack that support system that would keep them motivated to finish their high school education," Durgin said. "Polly Fox tries to fill in those holes and help them achieve that goal of graduation."

AN OVERDUE "THANK YOU"

Three Black Veterans Take Their Honor Flight

Special to The Truth

The year was 1945. America was celebrating victory over Germany and Japan, two of the greatest military powers in human history. There were parades, civic ceremonies honoring hometown heroes and, literally, dancing in the streets. World War II was over. Yet, sadly, some of the individuals who made that victory possible could not share in the jubilation.

Discrimination was still woven into the fabric of America, and many black servicemen were still treated as second class citizens.

On Wednesday, July 21, 2010, three black Americans who served proudly and with great distinction will join 21 other World War II veterans as Honor Flight Northwest Ohio conducts its 14th mission to Washington, D.C. For the entire group, but especially for those three black Americans, this trip represents a long overdue "thank you."

Roland "Red" Jones of Toledo, Willie Hamilton of

Holland and Eugene Goolsby of Toledo will get their first look at the World War II Memorial, a memorial dedicated in 2004 as a tribute to all those who served.

Jones served in the Army from 1942 until 1945 and had a front row seat for the devastation that Europe experienced. "Those Germans were sending bombs over there right and left," said Jones of his time in England. On the morning of D-Day, he recalls that "there were so many allied planes in the air that the sky became dark." Seven days later, Jones was on his way to France to aid the war effort there.

Hamilton served in the Army Air Forces from 1944 until 1947 as a member of the Military Police in bases along the west coast. Hamilton may have uncovered one of the few incidents of domestic terrorism during World War II. While on patrol at Muroc Army Air Field in California, he spotted a person atop the water tower. Hamilton reported the incident and later

learned that the man was a German who was trying to poison the water supply.

Goolsby helped usher the United States Marine Corps into a new era. After a 1942 presidential directive gave blacks an opportunity to become marines, Goolsby was one of the first to be recruited and served from 1943 until 1946. His experiences are documented in the book *The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines* by Melton A. McLaurin. Those black marines have gained legendary status like the Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers.

Despite their distinguished service, all three veterans experienced the humiliation and the embarrassment of discrimination.

Jones and his fellow black soldiers were given broomsticks – instead of rifles – during their basic training in Fort Eustis in Newport News, Virginia. Hamilton was refused service at a coffee shop – while in uniform – while escorting white soldiers in

Victorville, California. And Goolsby – with his Army draft notice in hand – reported for duty only to hear the words: "We aren't taking any n***** volunteers."

The "Trip of a Lifetime" includes more than just a visit to the World War II Memorial. The 24 veterans will also have an opportunity to see The Korean War Veterans Memorial, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Marine Corps Memorial and the Arlington National Cemetery for the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Veterans will meet at the Grand Aire FBO at 6:30 a.m. for check-in, breakfast and orientation. The ExpressJet charter (50-seat Embraer 145) will depart at approximately 8:45 a.m. The return flight will bring the American heroes back to the Grand Aire FBO at approximately 8:45 p.m. for a welcome home celebration with family and

(Continued on Page 14)

special THERAPIES

family COUNSELING

WISHES honored

There is a difference IN HOSPICE CARE

All hospices are not the same. Only Hospice of Northwest Ohio has been serving the area since 1981 and has defined the Gold Standard of Care in our community.

"My mom loved to sing and music therapy brightened her life."
In addition to our expert medical care, special therapies – including music, art and massage – are available to bring joy and comfort to patients.

"Our kids opened up to our counselor to discuss their feelings."
Hospice of Northwest Ohio offers counseling services for the entire family to help with emotional issues during and after hospice care.

"We appreciated that dad could try hospice care, go off and come back on."
Our team honors the wishes of how patients and families receive care – including the ability to stop or suspend our services if so desired.

For the most experienced care, insist on the best. Hospice of Northwest Ohio. To learn more, visit hospicemwo.org. Or call 419-661-4001.

HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST OHIO

ASK FOR HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST OHIO BY NAME



The Truth ECONOMY

Page 6

Tackling Tough Times

The Urban Garden Movement Plows Ahead

By Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.
Guest Column



Being poor is expensive! Poor people pay substantially more for loans and insurance and they often can't take advantage of year-long "same-as-cash" purchases when, for example, their refrigerator clunks out. Low-income urban dwellers also pay more for food in terms of price, quality and health status. Actual studies and not urban

legend document that lower quality food items in urban area food markets are often more expensive than higher quality food items in the suburban supermarkets.

The fact is that physical and economic access to nutritious foods is affected by the race and class of community residents. Communities without the ability to access nutritious foods are labeled as "food insecure" or as "food deserts."

Supermarkets such as Kroger and Safeway help create food deserts when they avoid opening stores or even closing stores in working-class communities. In many urban communities that are shunned by the major supermarket chains, smaller grocery stores such as Sav-a-lot and Aldi operate to serve residents. These, ostensibly,

more budget-conscious stores have had charges leveled against them, especially the charge that they pedal subpar food products to low-income residents who have few options. And then there are those urban communities that even the Sav-a-lots and Aldis of the world avoid.

Detroit is the nation's largest food desert. Decades ago, many of the same major supermarket chains (e.g., Kroger and Meijer) that operated in some of the nation's other large cities also operated in Detroit. Not anymore. Eight out of 10 Detroiters purchase their "groceries" from among more than a thousand stores such as drug stores, party stores, corner stores and gas stations. As a result, the diets of many residents are mostly free of fresh fruits and vegetables as they

primarily consume unhealthy foods, particularly foods that are high in trans fats, which are associated with obesity, diabetes and hypertension, among other medical ailments.

Sometimes necessity really is the mother of invention! Detroit's national leadership in the urban garden movement is a direct result of Detroit's unflattering image as the nation's largest food desert. In the wake of de-

portant tool for addressing food insecurity but it isn't a panacea. Urban farming at the boutique-level in vogue now has been proven effective but scaled-up versions have yet to be demonstrated. Moreover, caution should prevail when proceeding, particularly around brownfields, which can involve contaminated sites with dangerous heavy metals and toxic chemicals.

People are likely to be cau-

within food insecure areas. Vision and energetic leadership were required to identify opportunities and encourage execution in the midst of the city's crisis.

As a leader in the Detroit urban farming movement, Malik Yakini spoke here, on this issue, at the Glenwood Lutheran Church on June 30. His budding leadership in this movement began about 10 years ago when he encouraged the staff and parents of children enrolled at the Nsoroma Institute, a public school academy of which he was the founding director, to start planting backyard gardens. Since that time, Yakini's activist leadership in the urban farming movement has grown. He is currently the chairman of both the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and the Detroit Food Policy Council.

There is a desperate need for us to be jolted out of our current acceptance of the existing industrial food systems, which is energy intensive and environmentally destructive. Viewing videos such as Food, Inc., which focuses on stomach-turning negative aspects of food production by industrial agriculture (I dare anyone to watch one of these videos while eating dinner) is one way of shocking the public into thinking more critically about food production in America.

As Yakini pointed out, food insecurity goes hand-in-hand with social inequality. Food security and social equity in communities have to be built from the ground up.

True, Toledo isn't in the world of hurt that Detroit presently inhabits, but there are multifaceted material benefits that can accrue from urban agriculture in Toledo. Given Toledo's large number of vacant lots, abandoned homes, growing foreclosure rates and large food insecure neighborhoods, advancement of urban agriculture could provide added employment opportunities, encourage more nutritious dietary intake by disadvantaged residents, and reduce blighted community eye-sores.

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D., is professor of sociology and interim director of African Studies at The University of Toledo



industrialization that Detroit has come to symbolize nationally and the attendant decline of its population by more than one million over the last half century, approximately 91,000 (nearly a third) of the city's lots sit vacant.

In response to some 33,000 vacant houses in Detroit, and its foreclosure rates being among the nation's highest, Mayor Dave Bing is promising to raze 10,000 vacant houses over a four-year period. We are not going to see several hundred-acre farms in the city of Detroit and, even if we did, that would simply mean more industrial agriculture that would not only fail to reduce unemployment but would adversely affect the environment.

Urban farming is an im-

tious when working around un-remediated former industrial and commercial sites, but they should also be cautious around former residential sites where lead and the ill-environmental effects of leaking heating oil tanks may remain. Michael Hamm, Michigan State University professor of Sustainable Agriculture, has underscored the fact that soil testing safe from one part of a former residential lot doesn't necessarily mean that soil on other parts are safe.

The emergence of an urban garden movement in Detroit, however, has been a positive force but it didn't just happen magically as a result of Detroit suddenly having a combination of a great deal of vacant land and masses of people living

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The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Tough Times•The Economy...Tackling Treasurer's Tips: Understanding Your Credit

By Kevin Boyce, Ohio State Treasurer
Guest Column



cluding buying a home or a car and even to determine if you qualify for a job. Your credit will also help establish your interest rates when applying for a loan. Today, building and maintaining good credit is more important than ever.

If you are just beginning to build your credit, here are a few tips to help you along your way:

Opening a Checking or Savings Account

An important first step to establishing credit is opening a bank account.

Bank accounts show stability to potential lenders. Opening accounts is one of the few things you can do when you are just starting out that allows you to build your financial history.

Check Your Credit

Once you establish a bank account, you should check to see if lenders are saying anything about you by checking your credit. That information can be found in a credit report. To obtain your credit report, you can contact any of the three credit bu-

reaus: Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Everyone is entitled to one FREE credit report a year

banks, landlords, potential employers and utility companies.

Understanding Credit Scoring

One factor in building a good credit score is if you pay your bills on time. Paying bills on time shows that you are financially responsible and able to maintain credit. Some people set-up automatic payments for their bills or set up reminders to ensure that they never miss a payment. Missing a payment can quickly have a negative impact on your credit score.

Another important factor to building excellent credit is making sure that you do not use all of the credit available to you. Keeping your credit usage at less than 30 percent is a good way to ensure that you are not going over your credit limit. Remember that you do not have to carry a

balance on your credit card. Paying your entire credit card bill each month is a good way to keep your credit under control.

As you begin to manage your credit or rebuild your credit history, understanding credit scoring is essential. Using credit scoring, lenders are able to determine your likelihood of credit risk, default, or delinquency.

Raising your score requires some work and cannot be accomplished without understanding how your credit score works. You can raise — or lower — your score based on the decisions you make, such as over-extending credit, obtaining personal loans, or accumulating debts.

To learn more about managing credit visit: www.ohiotreasurer.gov.



through www.annualcreditreport.com.

Credit reports create your credit score. A credit score is a three-digit number that lenders use to determine if you're worthy of receiving credit from them. Credit scores range from 300 (the lowest) to 850 (the highest). Lenders who may look at your credit score include

The Science of the Sale

By Rodney Neely
Real Estate Contributor



There is something interesting that occurs when any kind of transaction is taking place between a buyer and a seller. The dynamics, the very science of what's happening, is choreographed in its execution.

The seller is usually trying to maximize the value of what he has to offer, therein increasing the amounts he might receive from the potential buyer. His counterpart, if interested, usually sees value in what is being offered but wants to portray less interest openly to hopefully secure a better deal and lower purchase price.

This tango is happening millions of times each day all around the world. Whether it's a lemonade stand, manned by 10-year olds or in the highest levels of business executed by billionaire titans of industry. No matter where it is the science

of selling is fundamentally the same.

In real estate, everyone has heard the phrase "location, location, location" but, beyond that, there is a deeper level of maneuvering that propels a transaction to a conclusion. A great salesman uses many tools to gain the competitive edge of his prospect.

They include, for example, the strategies of mirroring and matching the subject. This is the art of appearing to be similar to the prospect in many ways.

If he likes baseball, then the salesman likes baseball. If he is an avid reader, then so is the salesman. Lying? No, just mirroring.

This is the science of establishing rapport to gain a level of familiarity and trust with the potential buyer or seller. These types of tools can be considered manipulation or smart business, but when it's done right, we never even realize it has happened. Trust, it's happened to all of us.

As well, there is the tactic of "alignment of interest." This is when the salesman begins to use words which imply he's on your side. Terms such as, "you and I," "we should think about it this way" or "win-win situation for everyone."

Using the right words at the right time to get closer to getting a commitment is the art of selling. The science of persuasion in sales is taught at every level of business, but in no other place does it impact your life more than in the decision to buy or sell property. This is why it's so important to be keenly aware of the sales process.

There are old expressions which say, "He was fattened up for the kill" or "he's a hog being led to slaughter." These are clichés that express that the victim in the buy/sell relationship never knew he was being taken advantage of by the other party.

In offices and classrooms all over the country real estate agents, mortgage brokers, bankers and others in the industry are being trained how to be more effective sales people. The skills they are developing can be of great benefit to you if you're on the right side of the table, but if you're not, it can cost you substantially.

You could be persuaded to pay more for a property than you should, accept higher rates than you deserve or get hit with ridiculous fees that you shouldn't have to pay, all because you didn't understand you were being sold. This is why educating yourselves and understanding the sales process is important.

By no means do I intend to suggest that all salespeople are unscrupulous or less than professional. I am saying that in a transaction everyone has an agenda. Be sure that yours is met and lines up with the other aspects of the deal that are important to you.

Take the time to investigate and understand every purchase before you execute. Learn as much as you can about the property or product you are transacting, be sure to not only hear what your salesman is saying but also listen to what's not being said.

A mentor in business once said to me, "Son, use your eyes, use your ears, and rest your mouth, and you can get through any deal without doing too much damage."

I recommend we all follow his advice.
Always remember that in life success is the greatest revenge....

Contact Rodney Neely at rodney@q3development.com



Quite possibly the cutest thing in the world.

Look, no offense to other cute things, but The Toledo Zoo's new polar bear cub has clearly set a new standard for adorableness.

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I LOVE MY ZOO

Friendship New Vision, Inc Is Changing Neighborhoods One House at a Time

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Compared to other community development corporations (CDC), Friendship New Vision, Inc. may be the new kids on the blocks, but they are intent on changing those blocks one house at a time. And in just a few short years, their imprint on neighborhoods can be clearly seen.

One of the newest CDC's, Friendship New Vision, Inc. opened for business in late 2004, early 2005. By the time 2006 rolled around, says Executive Director Patricia Sloan, their efforts to reclaim housing had really taken off.

Friendship New Vision, Inc. is one of a handful of programs run by Friendship Baptist Church under the guidance of its pastor, Bishop Duane Tisdale. The church has a drug rehabilitation program – New Concepts; a residential housing program, tutorial programs, teen programs, a welfare-to-work program, a day care center and NAOMI, a drug



Don Tisdale, Patricia Sloan, Bishop Duane Tisdale, Mike Badik, and Tina Butts

transitional house for women. And they are planning a 100-unit senior housing project.

Friendship New Vision, Inc's mission is "to promote

the public welfare by administering programs designed to ameliorate the problems of poverty, maximize employment, provide educational assistance and

training, encourage economic development and affordable housing within the community."

So to encourage that affordable housing part of the mission, Friendship started

its housing rehabilitation program in the old neighborhood that housed the church itself before its move – 13 years ago – to the outskirts of the city and into its 36,000-square-foot building set on a 30-acre site at 5301 Nebraska Avenue.

The old neighborhood is the 3200 block of Nebraska where the 105 year-old building sits. Not far away is a house on Glenwood – the first Friendship New Vision, Inc. project – that was completed with Home Dollars.

Since then, the New Vision team has gone on to work on many more and they take pride in the fact that in a few short years they have placed 22 families into homes. All but one of their homes is occupied.

"They have their buyers identified before the houses are renovated," says Michael Badik, commissioner with the City of Toledo's Department of Neighborhoods. "A lot of

CDC's have problems finishing their [completed projects]. Since they pre-identify buyers, that has helped them to get started."

Badik himself has helped New Vision get started as the team is quick to point out.

"We are so grateful to Mike Badik and the City of Toledo," says Sloan. "But especially to Mike who knew we were young but didn't kick us to the curb. He comes out here on a regular basis to work with us." Sloan also extends praise to the City of Toledo's Jody Prude, a housing manager, who does most of the follow-up work on such projects for the City.

Completing the New vision team are Don Tisdale, housing specialist, who examines specifications, tracks down contractors and walks through the properties to ensure specifications are filled, and Tina Butts, the housing consult-

(Continued on Page 9)

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Friendship

(Continued from Page 8)



the Toledo Community Development Corporation in order to get projects completed.

Critical to the New Vision plan is to make sure that they are working with the appropriate lenders. Only 10 lenders are participating because they need to be able to provide full services and, of course, cannot have a history of predatory lending.

Buyers, on the other hand, are required to participate in a homebuyer assistance program which is, naturally, held at Friendship itself.

While New Vision has completed more than 20 homes – on streets such as Torrington, Kingswood, Elysian, Searles, Clifton, to name a few – in a relatively short period of time, their impact on neighborhoods, says Badik, has been much greater than the sum of the parts. “They’ve been able to take homes and fix them up and serve as catalysts for those neighborhoods, catalysts for re-activity in those neighborhoods,” he says.

ant and licensed realtor.

Butts’ strength, says Sloan, is that she “will go where other realtors won’t go to find buyers.”

New Vision’s housing projects have been completed with a combination of funds provided by Home dollars, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Neighborhood Stabilization. All of which folds in nicely with the City of Toledo’s “Dream to Own” program – a “dream that we want to help,” says Sloan.

And New Vision has been effective, says Badik,

in making it convenient for prospective homebuyers to realize those dreams. The CDC has established a lease/purchase arrangement for families who need more time to purchase. “It’s an opportunity for people to fix their credit and have an affordable place to live,” he says.

New Vision has made it a practice not to go it alone. They have partnered at times with the Dorr Street Coalition, the University of Toledo Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and other CDC’s such as ONYX and

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Research Indicates Affordable Homeownership Programs May Help Close the Minority Homeownership Gap in Ohio

Ohio Housing Finance Agency Utilizes Research to Address the Homeownership Gap among Ohio's Minority Homebuyers

By Doug Garver
Executive Director
Ohio Housing Finance Agency

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) has partnered with The Ohio State University's John Glenn School of Public Affairs to conduct research on critical issues and trends impacting the affordable housing industry.

The newly launched Office of Affordable Housing Research (OHR) released *Closing the Gap: Minority Low-Moderate Income First-Time Homebuyers and Neighborhoods*, a report which examines Ohio's affordable homeownership program to further understand mobility patterns and neighborhood quality of low-income non-minority and minority purchasers.

When affordable and sustainable, homeownership

provides economic and social benefits, an opportunity to build wealth and can increase neighborhood stability in Ohio communities. However, there have been and continue to be substantial gaps in homeownership rates between minority and non-minority households.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2007, the homeownership rate for non-minority households was 75 percent, compared with less than 50 percent for black and Hispanic households. In the 1990s and early 2000s subprime lending temporarily reduced this inequality. However, with one in four subprime loans delinquent in the final quarter of 2009, these unaffordable lending

strategies have only exacerbated the homeownership gap, as minority homeowners have been disproportionately affected by the crisis in the subprime loan industry.

Closing the Gap presents analyses of statewide data from OHFA's First-Time Homebuyer Program nested with Home Mortgage Disclosure (HMDA) and U.S. Census data. Results suggest that nearly one in five households purchasing their first home through OHFA's First-Time Homebuyer Program were minority borrowers, compared with approximately one in 10 overall home purchases in Ohio last year, suggesting considerable progress towards closing

the gap.

This report also highlights the geographical representation of OHFA's mortgage products and the mobility patterns of low-to-moderate-income households as they enter homeownership for the first time, identifying areas for future opportunities to reach out to under-served populations with affordable mortgages.

OHFA's First-Time Homebuyer program offers down payment assistance – reducing the out-of-pocket expenses associated

with buying a home – allowing borrowers to save for future mortgage payments. In addition to down payment assistance, OHFA provides 30-year fixed mortgage loans at a competitive interest rate which makes homeownership more affordable and sustainable over time than other mortgage products. These incentives help Ohioans make the transition to successful homeownership.

Holly Beard, Ph.D., OHFA Research Coordinator, and Stephanie Moulton, Ph.D., assistant professor

of Public Affairs at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, are collaborating with stakeholders, academics and other state agencies to explore issues impacting homeowners in Ohio. The complete study is available on the newly launched website at www.ohiohome.org/oahr/index.aspx.

Visit: www.ohiohome.org/oahr/closingthegap.aspx to read *Closing the Gap: Minority LMI First-Time Homebuyers and Neighborhoods* in its entirety.

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EOPA of Greater Toledo, Incorporated Presents

URBAN GREENS & SPROUTS Community Gardens

Special to The Truth

Inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama's White House Kitchen Garden and with the assistance of \$77,000 federal stimulus dollars, officials of the Economic Opportunity Planning Association of Greater Toledo, Inc. (EOPA), are proud to present the **Urban Greens & Sprouts Community Gardens**.

At present, this major project includes four gardens that will soon be maintained by community members and neighborhood residents. A Ribbon-cutting ceremony and Garden Tour to showcase and celebrate the four community garden areas is scheduled from 9 a.m.-Noon, on Saturday, August 14, 2010. This event is free and open to the public. The tour is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. at EOPA's primary Community Garden lot, located at 725 Belmont.

The **Urban Greens & Sprouts Community Garden Tour** lots are located at the following sites:

- EOPA of Greater Toledo, Inc. Community Garden 725 Belmont
- Toledo SeaGate Food Bank Community Garden 536 High St.
- City of Mount Zion Community Garden 701 Vance St.
- Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist/ Frederick Douglass Center Community Garden 640 Indiana Ave.

EOPA's mission through the Urban Greens & Sprouts Community Gardens is to provide access to fresh produce, plants and flowers, educate residents about good nutrition and healthy eating, and to instill neighborhood improvement, a sense of community, economic development and a deeper respect and love for the environment.

"We are thrilled about the endless possibilities that these community gardens can provide to residents. It has long been documented that in many urban areas, access to fresh produce is virtually impossible or unaffordable. With the creation of EOPA's Urban Greens & Sprouts Community Gardens, we are attempting to address some of these issues and many more," said James H. Powell, chief executive officer of EOPA.

The kick-off will feature:

- A live broadcast from a local radio station
- Gardening celebrities
- Cooking demonstrations by **Diana Patton**, a local holistic health counselor, and **SeaGate Food Bank** officials
- Take-away garden-themed gifts for the public at each lot site
- Special presentations
- Refreshments and light fare
- Children's activities

For more details on Urban Greens & Sprouts Community Gardens, please call EOPA at 419.242.7304

Book Review

Blair Underwood Presents From Cape Town with Love by Blair Underwood, Tananarive Due, and Steven Barnes

c.2010, Atria

\$25.00 / \$32.99 Canada

365 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

You hate breaking promises.

It's not the look you see on the face of the person you've disappointed that bothers you - although that's bad enough. And it's not that you have a personal reputation to defend - but you do.

The problem with breaking promises is the guilt you'll never assuage until you've made things better. And in the new book Blair Underwood Presents From Cape Town with Love by Underwood, Tananarive Due, and Steven Barnes, that "making better" part could get Tennyson Hardwick killed.

Tennyson "Ten" Hardwick had a hard time following the knife. It stabbed the air quickly, like a sewing machine needle more than a weapon in the hands of a slight, bald man. But the display was no parlor trick: Ten knew a threat when he saw one.

Then, snakelike, the man

melted into the crowd and Ten's mind was back on the job, keeping the throng away from rich, gorgeous Sofia Maitlin as she hurried into the South African orphanage. Maitlin had hired him to protect her as she visited the child she was adopting, and Ten took his work seriously.

Months later, the memory of that knife bothered Ten with a nagging unease. He'd since reconnected with an old high-school classmate who was beautiful, smart and gave him plenty else to think about but that disquiet returned afresh when Maitlin hired him to work security at her daughter Nandi's birthday party.

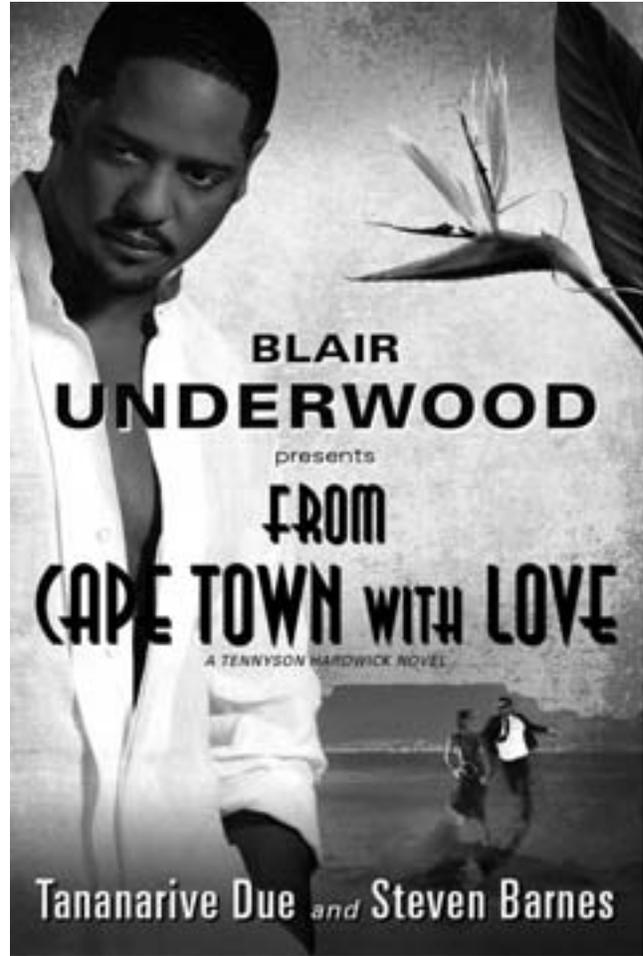
Two hundred Hollywood parents and children were at the party, along with dozens of caterers and service workers. There were clowns at this party, carnies and two elaborate inflatable bouncy-ships with lots of places for kids to hide - a

security nightmare, in other words. And when the worst can happen, it always does.

Little Nandi was playing on an inflatable bouncy-ship when she went in but didn't come out. A frantic afternoon search turned up nothing but an adult-sized hole in a back fence, and a hair ribbon the child had worn. The ransom call came that evening. The kidnapers wanted \$5 million, then more. And a little girl cried into the phone...

Hot enough for ya? No? Then turn up the heat because From Cape Town with Love grabs you by the shirtfront on page one, slams you into the action with no apology and pins you there.

In this third book of the Tennyson Hardwick series, authors Blair Underwood, Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes give readers a further peek into their main character's personality while still preserving his sense of mystery. Bodyguard, sometime-actor, and



former gigolo Tennyson Hardwick is cooler than a glacier, a man's man who can't resist women or responsibility but who has a soft spot that he's not afraid

to show. An enigmatic guy like that is hard to resist, so don't even try.

Though this novel can be read as a standalone book, reading the previous two will

give you a better frame of reference. You won't mind, though, because From Cape Town with Love gives your summer so much more promise.

Advertisement for StarPupils. It features a close-up of a child's face and the text: 'starpupils™ healthy eyes for healthy futures StarPupils.org Our Vision is Vision®'. It also includes the logo for 'Prevent Blindness Ohio' and contact information for the organization.

Advertisement for Fairview Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. It features a logo with a heart and a person, and a photo of two people. The text describes the center's services: 'Fairview Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation center is your bridge to home from the hospital. Fairview's broad rehab and Long Term Care services can restore a broken bone or broken spirit. Our Transitional Living Unit helps residents to discover problem areas before leaving us. Have peace of mind knowing that our staff of professionals administers care with a gentle compassionate touch. Call today to arrange your tour. We accept most insurances. 4420 South Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43615 Office: 419-531-4201 * Cell: 419-367-6376 * Fax: 419-531-3607'

Interview With Hutch Dolla Daddy

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

During my first time interviewing Hutch, Bash At The Bay was just a concept he was tinkering with. Now it has become one of the largest free outdoor urban events in the entire state of Ohio. Yes, the entire state.

From his radio career, to events all over... Hutch Daddy has become a power broker here in this area's entertainment scene. But I don't deal with Hutch because of all that.

I can honestly say that through various conversations over the years, Hutch is one of the people who encourage me when I need it. Dealing with this local music scene, and also trying to get it popping as a career... there's a lot of sleepless nights and un-answered questions. But on that grind, you find people who offer you lessons, advice and true wisdom. Tracy holds me down like that, Gutta hold me down like that, my own team holds me down like that... and I have to admit that no matter what you THINK you know about Hutch, he has always been one of the most supportive, fair and positive people I've ever dealt with. But don't take my word for it, read the interview and get to know Hutch Daddy Dolla.

Because the way this city is, you never know how long you will know someone.

Michael:

Just in case some of my readers live in Toledo but have never left their couch during the last few summers, please tell everyone exactly what "Bash At The Bay" is.

Hutch:

The Bash At The Bay is a series of events including fashion shows, comedy shows, a car and bike show, concerts and parties which all surround the main event, the free beach party and concert at Maumee Bay.

Michael:

I remember when you first had the idea for Bash At The Bay and you explained your vision to me, it was simply about giving this city something it never had before, do you think Toledo understands your true motivation... if not, why not?

Hutch:

I will have to say yes and no. Yes, because the event has grown into national event. I've still been able to keep the beach party and concert free to attend. It's now an annual event that area residents look forward to every year. But in the same breath, I would have to say, no... because I had hoped to unite all of Toledo with this event. However, it seems as the popularity grows, the separation grows with it.

Michael:

Please explain the reason for charging local artists to perform at Bash at The Bay 2010

Hutch:

I'm glad you asked that. The Bash at The Bay had been funded solely by me for the past few years. No help from the radio station or government agencies. The expenses are far too great now for me to handle alone. There are many artists from out of town who want to come here and be a part of our event. In order to do so, they must become a performance sponsor. This helps us with the cost of this gigantic event.

Local artists can also become performance sponsors if they would like to guarantee themselves a spot on the stage. But, for those who can not afford to become performance sponsors they have the option to audition at the local artist showcase.

The registration fee is \$150.00. That's the price of a good outfit. Most rappers in this area spend that much in one weekend on drinks at the club. We feel anyone who has something to gain by being apart of the event should somehow contribute to the event. So, we are kinda forcing the artists to give back to the community.

Michael:

As a radio personality new to the area, how would you describe the affect coming to Toledo has had on your career?

Hutch:

It's been great! I take pride in being able to come to an area and bring new ideas and energy. The world is much smaller now. People all over the world are watching what I am doing here. That makes me feel good when I can go to any part of the country and someone knows me and what it is I am doing here in the Glass City. That is one of the biggest affects on my career, more national notoriety.

Michael:

I know you have a dedicated team of people who help with most of the events you've done, who are they and what are their roles?

Hutch:

Well, you have TJ Bailey. He's the event manager. He runs the event while I'm with the celebrity guests. He also is responsible for the street promotions. He is hands down the go-to-guy if anyone is trying to promote on a street level. Kalah Neal is the event administrative assistant. She keeps all of the Bash at The Bay business in order. From finances, to hotel reservations, artist hospitality she does it all.

Zahra Collins is the model coordinator. Anything dealing with the models, she is responsible for. She also coordinated this year's fashion show. DJ Big Lou The Mayor is the event music director. He makes sure that the hundreds of DJs that are involved with the event are scheduled and taken care of. He also supervises the sound engineer during the events.

Big Lou has been with me since the very first event. He was one of the first individuals to step up and take the challenge to help to take this event from idea to reality. There are so many people who contribute to the success of the event. Nobody can do anything great without having a strong team behind them. Please believe me!

Michael:

You know me and Zahra are mad cool (Z!) and I joke to her about calling you Hutch Hefner. But, seriously, please explain to Truth readers what the Please Believe Me Girls are and what they are about and not about.

Hutch:

The Please Believe Me Girls are my family. They hold me down even when no one else will. They are really an extension of me. A lot of people think that the Please Believe Me Girls are just models, but they are much more than that. They are college graduates, nurses, administrators, accountants, students, teachers, managers and mothers. They are a group of strong women who aspire to do more with their lives than just be a pretty face. It's funny when I hear some of the negative comments about them. What's wrong with urban modeling? What the Please Believe Me Girls are doing is no different from what Melissa Ford, Buffy The Body, and Angel Lola Luv are doing.

The models I just mentioned make an average of \$2,500.00 per one hour appearance. How many people can say they do that? Look at what Tyra Banks was doing before America's Next Top Model. She didn't start off like that. The Please Believe Me Girl brand reaches much, much further than the city limits of Toledo. Many people from this area don't know this, but the PBMGs have appeared in national publications and have Internet fans from all over the world. We take aspiring models and assist them in following their dreams. The Please Believe Me Girls are true ladies. No one can say they ever saw them out at a club or concert and they acted like anything less than mature women.

Michael:

Being involved in Toledo's entertainment scene, what are some things that artists/labels/

promoters etc are doing right, And what are some things they are doing wrong.

Hutch:

First let me start off by saying these are blanket statements. This does not apply to all promoters. Just most. The biggest thing that Toledo promoters are doing right is that they are promoting directly to the people. They have created a network where they do not have to depend on mass media to promote.

This is the first place where I have seen sold out concerts with absolutely no radio or TV. That's amazing! Artists should take notes. The biggest thing I see Toledo promoters are doing wrong is the lack of creativity. There are so many other types of events that could be going on, but promoters like to be safe. No one wants to be the first to do something outside the box unless someone else has done it and it worked.

Here is the irony. That's the same exact mentality record companies have. They are so afraid nowadays to take a chance on new artists. New artists have to prove they are stars before they even get their deal.

Michael:

Industry wise, you got Drake and The Roots dropping great material recently... but then you got "Pretty Boy Swag" on the air, which... I'm quite open minded... I crank a few Gucci joints, but I can't tolerate that. What do you think of music these days and who are you listening to?

Hutch:

Actually, I think the music has taking a great turn lately. A couple years ago artists like Drake, B.O.B., and Kid Cudi couldn't even walk in the record company door. Whether you like her or not, everyone has to admit that Nikki Minaj has resurrected the female MC. Although "Pretty Boy Swag" may not have much lyrical content, its good for what it's for. There is room for everything. The main thing is that whatever type of music you do, you have to keep in mind that this is a business. It's not just about the "best song." Marketing and promotions are a major factor. And to answer your question, I usually listen to old school music. I mean really old school. But I just got an advance copy of Rick Ross' new album. I can't stop playing it. That's the album of the year! Please believe me!

Michael:

What changes in the radio business do you think would help the music industry?

Hutch:

More independent stations. Stations like WJUC are rare. They have to compete with multi-million dollar corporations. That's not an easy thing to do. There are about 10 major companies that own all of the stations in the country. The sad part is they look at what each other is playing and copy. That means everyone ends up playing the same thing. Sad, but true.

Michael:

Metro Toledo has over half a million people, you have impacted the entertainment scene here in a huge way but in a short time. What's next for Hutch Daddy Deezy?

Hutch:

Well, I have to seriously consider if I will continue to do the Bash at The Bay after this year. It's so much negativity for an event that I am doing for the community. Unfortunately, I will be leaving the market permanently within the next couple of months. I've been in and out of town doing different projects for other radio stations and promotion companies.

As much as I love the people and the city of Toledo, the time has come for me to move on. I would like to say thank you to everyone for accepting me into your city and allowing me to be a part of your lives. This has been a wonderful three years and I am forever grateful. You can always keep in touch with me and follow me on Facebook and twitter @hutchdaddydolla. Well, there you have it Toledo.

See you July 25 2 p.m. at Maumee Bay State Park. If you want more info: www.bashatthebay.com

Shouts to my artist, U.G.E. singer/songwriter Aye Dee who just moved his family out of town... we love Aye Dee So our farewell event at the open mic night at the Truth Art Gallery was truly a sight to see, should've been there!





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CLASSIFIEDS

July 21, 2010

Page 15

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Community Organizer

The Padua Center is seeking a part-time (8 hours a week) Community Organizer. Responsibilities include door-to-door canvassing, grant research, planning and executing community events. EOE. Send resume? to Search Committee, The Padua Center, 1416 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43607. Fax-419-720-6995 or welshv@yahoo.com.

Administrative Assistant

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. Responsibilities include general secretarial work, producing the weekly church bulletin and data entry. Seeking a Roman Catholic. Excellent communication and writing skills, Microsoft Word proficiency a must. EOE. Send resume to Search committee, St. Martin de Porres, 1119 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606, fax: 419-241-6214.

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Rummage Sale

A Community Parking Lot Rummage Sale
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209 S. King Rd. Holland, OH
Rent 6ft table \$15.00 day of event
Everyone welcomed to come buy or sell

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-151,

(Project # 5004-09-1449) for University Medical Center Air Handlers for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 28, 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 City Blueprint of Toledo - Richard Nagy, 2010 Madison Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43024. Call 419-243-4881 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$30.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Ron Herzog of Harley Ellis Devereaux at 248-262-1500. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Dowling Hall, in room 2315 at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$124,000.00; Breakdown: HVAC: \$124,000.00.

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY11-013, (Project # 1130-10-654)

for Campus Infrastructure Improvements (HSC Central Steam Plant) 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, August 4, 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 \$90.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Bob Taeuber, Project Manager, of Fosdick & Hilmer, Inc. at 513-241-5640. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in The Health Education Building, Room 103, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$2,998,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$350,000.00; Plumbing: \$151,000.00; Fire Protection: \$21,000.00; Mechanical: \$1,704,000.00; & Electrical: \$772,000.00.

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Job BO0710, Building Operator Pool, Facilities Maintenance

The University of Toledo is accepting resumes for a new applicant pool for Building Operator positions on the Health Science Campus. These positions may be temporary, permanent, part or full-time. May work variable work hours, including evenings and weekends.

This position works under the general supervision, performs skilled HVAC/R, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, plumbing, electrical, painting, groundskeeping and maintenance repair of assigned buildings. Operates boilers and automation system. Performs preventive maintenance on all building systems and components.

Qualifications include: Stationary Steam Engineers license required. Have twelve (12) months training and/or experience in HVAC/R, electrical, plumbing under supervision of journeyman trade worker or equivalent. City of Toledo plumbing, electrical, or refrigeration license desired. Maintains valid driver's license and must be insurable under the University of Toledo's driving policies. Steam generator experience a plus.

Knowledge of HVAC/R, electrical and plumbing systems. Knowledge of general maintenance and general repair practices of boiler systems and building components. Ability to apply principles to solve a variety of everyday practical problems. Ability to use math, read and write common vocabulary, read blueprints, understand manuals and verbal instructions (technical in nature). Works well with hands; works with close tolerances.

To apply, submit a cover letter, include position title/job number in the subject line, and resume by July 30, 2010 to: The University of Toledo, HR Dept/ MKR, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43606-3390; fax 419-530-1490, or email recruit@utoledo.edu. Use only one method of application.

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The Marr, McGary, Hemphill and King Reunion: "Coming Home!"

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Mary Marr shared her vision to bring her family together and form a bond that never be broken 54 years ago when she gathered that family and hosted the first reunion here in Toledo.

Mary Marr's maiden name was McGary and she wanted to include that part of her family as well. As time went on, after that initial reunion in 1956, the Kings (Marr cousins) and the Hemphills (Mary Marr's oldest son) were added to the celebration.

Today, therefore, the reunion is held under the name of Marr, McGary, Hemphill and King (MMHK) and it still going strong – being held every even numbered year.

This past weekend, July 16-18, 2010, sisters Pattie Poston and Ella Butler, hosted the reunion here in Toledo. Over the years, the event has rotated to other parts of the United States such as California, Texas, Georgia, Illinois as well as all over Ohio. This year's event, here in Toledo where it all started, was ap-



Kathryn Mitchell, Ramont Watkins, Pattie Poston, Ken Poston, Sheila Watkins (Not pictured - Ella Butler)



Sarah Frieson, Mabel Tubbs, Prestein Wadell and (standing) Alfred Marr

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propriately titled "Coming Home."

The signature event of the weekend was held at the Holiday French Quarter in Perrysburg as more than 110 family members gathered for the dinner and dance and to celebrate their unity.

Present at the event were Mary Marr's children—Sarah Frieson, Mabel Tubbs (the family's matriarch at 94 years), Prestein Waddell and Alfred Marr.

Assisting Poston and Butler with this year's reunion were Kathryn Mitchell, Ramont Watkins, Ken Poston, and Sheila Watkins.



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