



Volume 18, No.22 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." September 29, 2010



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## Reclaiming the Alienated

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



*We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. . . . Our vices and degradation are ever arrayed against us but our virtues are passed by unnoticed.*  
— John Russswurm Samuel Cornish, 1827

Recently, perceptions of African-American youth have centered on images of troubling and problematic behavior such as crime, violence, educational failure and unproductive idleness rather than the promising social investment that they truly represent.

This “dangerousness of youth,” in the words of Henry Giroux, has been used by “popular media and politicians looking for quick-fix solutions to crime and other social ills, causing young people to bear the misplaced fear and distrust of adults.”

However, with Election 2010 now in full campaign mode, some have begun to see youth as possibly the central element in what, during 2012, could be known as the political and ideological Mother of all U. S. elections.

The success or failure of the November 2, 2010 election battles will provide critical strategic positioning and the establishment of political strongholds necessary to ensure victory in the 2012 war for the White House. As a result, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, have taken to the “student circuit,” attending functions at various colleges and universities in an effort to rally youth with college experience, a demographic critical to his successful 2008 election.

Sadly, youth voter participation remains skewed towards those with higher education and away from young, black youth with less schooling.

While the Civil Rights and Black Power movements were primarily driven by African-American youth – both students and the unlearned, with the exception of the historic 2008 Obama election, there has been a decline in activism and civic engagement among black youth even to the point of complete indifference. Very few black faces under age 30 – especially those from the inner city – appear in the crowds at local political gatherings or community functions.

Why are young African-Americans disengaged from local political life and what, if anything, can be done to reclaim these political refugees and revive their civic participation?

It is probable that one factor which threatens African-American youth political activism is the disdain felt by young people and the scapegoating and blame they receive as being the cause of all of society’s problems.

The truth is that behind nearly every child’s problem, there is likely to be a parent problem. Therefore the youth problem is really an adult problem which cannot be solved without dealing with the problem at home.

Have young people been violent and personally and sexually irresponsible? Absolutely! But, if we are willing to give our leaders, athletes, civil rights icons and even preachers a pass or forgiveness for their sexual sins and male supremacist attitudes then we, as Michael Eric Dyson says, can “certainly hold young people accountable without a hypocritical and false sense of superior morality. We haven’t been any better. We have, for generations, been doing the same things.”

In a further critique of the black pulpit, Dyson adds, at least “the lyrical genius of some of the young people in rap music does what the black pulpit has refused to or been unable to do: That is to tell the ugly truth about the painful realities that demand brutal honesty in correcting.”

Young people have become disconnected from mainstream political engagement primarily because they see a hyper-critical and hypocritical adult generation which is constantly b..ching and moaning because it sees youth merely as a nuisance and a low priority.

But, also, the political participation of African-American youth – having only the experience of unprecedented poverty concurrent with obscene wealth disparities, rapid de-industrialization, abandonment and the global exportation of American jobs, catastrophic financial scandal, the militarization of the inner city and policies of mass incarceration – is also hindered by an experiential divide created by the resulting divergent perspective of an older generation.

The political issues pertinent to the civil rights and baby boomer generations simply are not relevant to the Internet or Millennial generation. Tensions exist because the older generation, having had a “We Shall Overcome” or “I’m Black and I’m Proud” experience, do not understand contemporary hip-hop black youth culture nor do they feel compelled to confront the complex issues felt to be most important to a younger generation.

How shall we bridge the gap?

It’s very simple.

All bridges begin “at the scratch line of communication.” Therefore, to turn out young African-American voters, we first need to do what campaigns have not been doing – talk to black youth as well as to their peers. And talking with young people requires that we go where they are.

We must also remember that listening is crucial and necessary in order to determine and address the issues that youth care about most deeply.

Finally, most young people appreciate dialogue from an older generation when it is sincere and shows sensitivity and compassion.

Asante, Jr. (2008) tells us of how poet Nikki Giovanni, having been born in 1943, “got ‘Thug Life’ tattooed on her arm to show her ‘solidarity with the younger generation’ after Tupac’s death.” Giovanni explains that it was “a way of saying to the younger generation that the older generation mourns with you.”

Being a strong example for and building rapport with young people rather than neglecting their concerns or demonizing them is the only way to march victoriously into our collective futures.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

## Community Calendar

### September 15-29

UT Eberly Center for Women Entrepreneurship Class: “Where to Start When You Want to Start a Business;” Wednesdays 6 to 8 pm; checklist for a business, business plans, developing community resources: 419-530-8570

### September 30

Free Prostate Screenings: Sponsored by Mercy Cancer Centers; Family Care Center from 1 to 3:30 pm; Regency Surgery Center from 5 to 7:30 pm; Registration required: 419-251-6376

### October 1-3

Bethlehem Baptist New Life Center 2010 Men’s and Women’s Conference: Discussions on emotions, physical and spiritual aspects of living: 419-241-9360

### October 2

NAOMI Transitional House 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing; Heatherdowns Country Club: 419-466-7199 or 419-304-2733 or 419-343-1726

Flea Market: Sponsored by Phillips Temple CME Bible Study Group; 7 am to 2 pm: 419-242-7906

Scott High School Class of ’55 Reunion: Mancy’s Italian; 11:30 am to 3:30 pm; Program and lunch; Invocation by Rev. Charles Jones: 419-841-5923

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Striking Out . . . Bowl Down Cancer Event: Greater Toledo USBC; 1 pm: 419-480-0122 or 419-283-2122

Gospel Music Concert: Presented by Millard Catchings and The Voices of Zion; 6 pm; Ebenezer MBC; Featuring Newson Family, New Spiritual Aires, Sisters in Christ, Gospel Twilights

Glass City Church of Christ Garage Sale: 9 am to 5 pm (rain or shine)  
African Gala Night: Scholarship fundraiser; 5 pm to 1 am; L’Ambiance Banquet Hall; West African cuisine, raffles, live music: 419-902-0835 or 419-509-4134

### October 3

Walk to Defeat ALS: Flower Hospital Campus; Noon registration; Walk at 1 pm: 419-885-2673 or email [moeller@buckeye-access.com](mailto:moeller@buckeye-access.com)

### October 8-9

2010 State of Ohio Women’s Assembly: Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship; Shut in starts Friday at 6 pm, close on Saturday at 11 am; Friendship Baptist Church

### October 9

Spiritual Women Blessing Others 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Renew My Spirit Today Gala: Evang. Shirley Murdock ministers by word and music; 1 pm; Proceeds benefit Sparrow’s Nest, Cherry St. Mission, N.A.O.M.I. House

United MBC Fall Fashion Show: 11 am to 1:30 pm: 419-242-1455  
West Toledo Bereavement Monthly Meeting: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 10 am: 4567-249-7470

### October 10

United MBC 27<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary: Rev. Kaiser Jones is the morning speaker; Rev. Talmadge Thomas of Mt. Zion is the 4 pm speaker: 419-242-1455

St. Mark’s MBC 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Men’s Day: “Christian Brothers Growing up in Christ;” 9:30 am – Sunday School; 11 am service – guest speaker Rev. W.C. Garrett of Macedonia; 3:30 pm service – guest speaker Rev. Lemuel Quinn of Southern: 419-410-1563

### October 16

Local 12 UAW Civil Rights Committee Annual Dance: Local 12 hall; Live entertainment, hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, cash raffles and cash bar; 7 pm to midnight; 419-241-9126 ext 17 or 419260-6777

Grace Community Center Fundraiser: Party with a Purpose; Erie Street Market; 8 pm to midnight; Alumni party fundraiser to support neighborhood families: 419-248-2467

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## My View

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political Columnist



Why vote for Democrats this year? Because they are the party of labor, women, African-Americans and

other minorities? No, that reason, standing alone, does not explain much except political history.

Each election is always really about the future but we grade candidates on their past. If you compare the Dems to the GOP in Ohio, there really is no choice but to vote Democratic.

It is the Democrats who will more likely keep programs alive such as Job and Family Services in Lucas County. This agency has resulted in thousands of folks getting jobs, training or other help to survive. The Republicans

would likely end Job and Family Services as we know it.

Policies in support of gay and lesbian citizens would likely be shelved under GOP rule. The little (very little) affirmative action in contracts would fade even more under a return to Republican rule. As for K-12 education, expect an expansion of charter school capacity and further diminution of public schools under GOP control.

Ohio is a key state in the Electoral College. For the GOP, Ohio is a must-win state. So a loss this year to the GOP will hurt President Obama's

prospects for a second term. A loss of control of the U.S. Senate will, among other matters, impair the president's ability to make the appointments he wants to the U.S. Supreme Court and the rest of the federal bench.

This is the year that redistricting kicks in after the 2010 census is complete. In 2011, a GOP-controlled Ohio would re-figure district lines and give majority control to the Republicans for the next few elections – both state and national seats in Ohio.

And, remember your friends in the Strickland ad-

ministration. Under the spoils system, the winner takes all. Black and white Democrats in state patronage positions will be sent home. Their jobs will be filled by Republican loyalists and there aren't a whole lot of black Republicans.

Speaking of black Republicans, a tip of the hat goes to Theresa M. Gabriel who is destined to be the human resources director for the new Hollywood Casino. "T" always lands on her feet. Always.

Last week, I visited the Toledo Clinic for a doctor's

visit. On the front door was a large poster extolling the virtues of voting for two Republican members of the Ohio Supreme Court. I have never seen a business office be that political in my life.

If the clinics and hospitals go ballistic in health politics, it will only result in an Ohio Supreme Court ever more committed to Big Insurance interests than it already is at the moment.

Regardless of your political affiliation, get out to vote. Vote early and vote only once!

## My Things to Do List ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column



churches and black businesses.

This one is a no-brainer to rally around.

(2) Jack Ford is punching the local fat cat Democratic party bosses and it is good to see ol' Jack throw a few uppercuts and jabs at the lack-luster party. It appears that the Democrats are sleeping at the wheel and are not in the mindset of drumming up local grassroots support for the Dems for the crucial upcoming midterm local and state-wide elections.

If we want to avoid draconian cuts in programs that benefit the "least of these" and see the Republican Swagger in the governor's mansion and on Capitol Hill, we need to register to vote and then, "vote early and vote often."

There are political forces out there who have a dim view of both Obama and "you" people and they are not coffee drinkers (get my drift?).

So, if you think of being fat and lazy and hope that all just might turn outright in the fall, guess again.

A return to the "good ol' days" is what is being discussed even as we sleep. The good ol' days includes the pernicious use of states' rights as a means to retreat on civil rights victories and other gains.

I would only ask that "we" the people take off the blinders and get informed and start raising a ruckus about what others want to do to us... but only if you permit it!

Let's not wait for our "political daddy," the Democratic Party, to do for us what we need to be doing for ourselves. Let's take control and quit leaving the driving to someone else!

(3) Someone needs to take Lisa Sobecki and Bob Vasquez to the woodshed for the continuing fiasco of the

Scott High School Rehab/Oversight Mess. In other words, minority contractors are being given a bowl full of chaff and the white contractors are getting the wheat.

Millions and millions of Scott High rehab monies are at stake and the public outcry is minimal. It was too bad when thousands of Scott alums gathered at a local park for a reunion party that there was not an organizational arm of that meeting so that the alums could organize, give money and make sure that their dear ol' Scott High School was being properly protected.

But as "we" are bound to do, we party hardy and when it comes time to do the organizational piece and pass the hat to fund "our" struggle, the Scott Bulldogs alums lost their bark and bite and ducked out of town.

What a waste of time to gather and yell and shout about Bulldog Pride but nothing was done about the antics of Lisa Sobecki and Bob Vasquez and the letting of the rehab contracts.

What a waste of potential. Gone. That is why I call the Bulldogs, Chihuahuas. They do not bark. They..arf!..arf!..arf! like a Chihuahua.

A real Bulldog would have been organizing years ago to fight the powers and make sure that Scott alums were deeply involved in the process of the oversight committee, caretakers of Scott High memorabilia, the letting of the minority contracts to rehab Scott and, especially so, the abysmal test scores at Scott.

So much for this so-called Bulldog Pride!

(4) Earlier I stated in this column about the disaster at Pickett Elementary and how it needs to be redressed. I should have harped a little longer on the urgent need for

sustained parental involvement at the school since parents are the role models for their kids to acquire a good attitude about the lasting value of a sound education.

It does not fall all on the teacher in the classroom but it starts in the home....early.

Even if the parent is not educated, they can still tell

their child not to be like them and to hit the books, get tutoring and to avoid people who rank getting an education as a, "white thang."

Whoever tells that to your kids is a dope and should be avoided at all costs. They mean your child no good.

There are good teachers at all schools and even in

spite of apathetic teachers, a child can overcome and get on with their life if the kid has a support system that encourages them to strive.

Parents, if you do not demand educational excellence from your kids, who will?

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Tolliver@Juno.com](mailto:Tolliver@Juno.com)

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# Early Voting Has Begun! Will Continue Until November 2

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On Tuesday, September 28, 2010, the Lucas County Board of Elections opened their Early Voting Site, located at 1302 Washington Street (corner of Washington and 13<sup>th</sup>) and Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce stopped by the site to tout the opportunity early voting presents for Ohio voters. Boyce is on the ballot as the Democratic candidate for Treasurer.

He was joined by local candidate and former Lucas County Commissioner Harry

Barlos, who is the Democratic challenger for the District 46 Ohio House seat now held by Republican Barbara Sears.

"Happy Early Voting Day," said Boyce. "We're here to promote early voting and encourage Ohio voters. They have 35 days to get out and vote. We saw what happened in 2008 and in the 2010 primary election with early voting and how exciting it can be for Ohio voters."

Boyce is running statewide for the first time. A Co-



*Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce speaks as UT student Andrew Wettle (L) and Harry Barlos (r.) look on*

lumbus native and University of Toledo graduate, he had served on Columbus City Council for 10 years before being appointed to the Treasurer's post by Gov. Ted Strickland in 2008.

"There's a lot at stake in this election," Boyce said. "Health care, job creation and tax cuts for the elderly, for example, so we're here today to let Toledo know how important you are in the process."

"I hope you will consider

voting for me over the next 35 days," said Barlos during his short address to the assembled media. "This gives voters the opportunity to exercise their right to vote."

Both candidates observed that Ohio's early voting procedures—still officially called "absentee" voting—allows those with busy lives to select the day that best suits their hectic schedules. The early voting site will be open every day except for Columbus Day between now and November 2—even on weekdays.

## PROMEDICA KICKS OFF THIRD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

*High school students will create a school breakfast program for a chance to win a \$5,000 college scholarship*

ProMedica Health System (PHS) proudly announces its third annual Fields of Green high school scholarship program to combat childhood obesity. Since 2008, the program has introduced innovative ideas developed by area high school students to encourage physical activity and improve the quality of food at area elementary schools.

This year's challenge is for students in grades 10-12 to develop creative, healthy and affordable school breakfast programs with 10 meals that exceed United States Department of Agriculture recommendations. All entries must be received by Dec. 1 and the winners will be announced in January 2011. Each member of the winning team will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 for their school. The winning program will also be piloted at area elementary schools in 2011.

Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years, increasing the prevalence of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic health conditions in youth. Approximately one in three children and youth, ages 2-19, in the United States is overweight or obese. Some experts believe that if childhood obesity continues to rise, the current generation could be facing a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

"The statistics are alarming and it's going to require organizations, schools and parents working together to tackle this epidemic," says President and Chief Executive Officer Randy Oostra. "ProMedica has taken an active role in helping to reduce the prevalence of obesity in the regions we serve and we are committed to partnering with community organizations."

The Fields of Green scholarship program is part of a long-term, comprehensive initiative to help raise awareness about obesity and increase access to healthy and affordable food. In 2009, PHS launched the 1, 2, 3 and a ½ Keys To Good Health Conversation™ Map education program, which is an interactive health course targeted at students in grades 4-6 and their parents.

For more information about the Fields of Green scholarship program, visit [www.promedica.org/fieldsofgreen](http://www.promedica.org/fieldsofgreen).

### The hours for voting early are:

Tuesdays & Thursdays — 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays — 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(Closed Columbus Day – Monday, October 11)  
Saturday, October 23 — 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday, October 24 — Noon – 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 30 — 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday, October 31 — Noon – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 1 — 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

No early/absentee voting will be permitted at the Board's Government Center office.

For questions, call 419-213-2070 or visit the web site at [www.lucascountyvotes.org](http://www.lucascountyvotes.org)



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**AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL & HELLCATS**

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 9th**  
**THE VAMPIRE DIARIES & NIKITA**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 13th**  
**90210 & GOSSIP GIRL**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 14th**  
**ONE TREE HILL & LIFE UNEXPECTED**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 24th**  
**SMALLVILLE & SUPERNATURAL**

TV TO TALK ABOUT



# "It's Time to Step Up and Save Our Kids:" One Million Mentors Campaign Makes a Stop in Toledo

By Brittany Jones  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



When thinking of achievements and success, nearly everyone can draw a link to a person who provided the motivation and support to go beyond what is expected.

It might have been a parent, grandparent, other family members, teachers or any other positive role model.

Either way they all have one thing in common – they served as mentors.

Mentoring can create that bright line between triumph and failure because of the impact it has on a person's sense of worth. With proper and high quality mentoring, there are no obstacles too great to break down, but reaching that point is easier said than done.

There is a lack of committed, caring adults who are willing to provide that mentoring to children in need.

Currently, there are about 18 million children in need or want. However, only three million youth are benefiting from mentoring, which leaves 15 million still in need to that service, according to MENTOR an organization that imparts support and guidance for young people between the ages of six and 18. It calls it a "mentoring gap."

There are many organizations fighting to help children get the guidance that they require including the national "One Million Mentors Campaign to Save Our Kids" established by Michael Baisden, notable radio and TV host, author and activist.

Along with his co-host and colleague, actor/comedian George Willborn, the duo made it to the Erie Street Market event hall on September 21.

Brandi Brown, radio personality of WIMX 95.7 FM, began the town hall forum with mention of spon-

sors and local mentoring programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, The National CARES Mentoring Movement, 100 Black Men, SETT, the Boys and Girls Club and Lucas County Children Services.

Brown then introduced Baisden and Willborn.

After the applause died down, both welcomed the attendees and got down to the business of explaining the reason for their movement.

Willborn bought up the anniversary of a young man, Derrion Albert, who was killed in a high school brawl in Chicago. The beating, caught on video, was played continually on televised news.

That was the last straw. Since both are natives of south Chicago, they came together to figure out a way to make a difference and this gave birth to the mentoring fight.

"Tonight we are not here for a photo opt or autograph signing," Baisden said. "We are here as two black men who are tired of seeing our communities go down the drain. We want someone to wake up and say I want to find a way to help our communities and stop them from turning into wastelands."

To give a perspective of what happening locally, local mentors talked of their experience working with children.

First up was Barbie Harrison, director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Toledo. She mentioned that there are currently 350 children benefiting from the one-on-one mentoring, but there are 150 children on a waiting list and most of them are young black males.

Harrison also men-

tioned that the age limit was from seven to 18, but due to the problem of not being able to find enough committed mentors, the age has been lowered to age four and increased to age 25.

"Step forward and save our children because 100 years from now it won't matter what car you drove or how much money you make, it will make a difference in the life of a child forever," she said.

Baisden bought up a reality that there are more white men and women mentoring our black boys than black men.

"Boys learn from examples," he stated. "How do we look that people from other races spend more time with our children then we do?"

He went on to note that so many prisons are now privately run by corporations. The way that they judge how many prison cells to build, he said, is by tracking fourth-grade reading scores.

Following Baisden was Keith Jordan Sr. from The JLVision Outreach (JLVJO) that offers services to at-risk youth between the ages of 12 to 16. He stated that all the children are looking for is someone to listen and spend time with them.

"It is up to us to challenge ourselves daily, to be consistent, to be honest, to be true and we do not do that," Jordan said. "Be true to the kids and talk to them."

From the academic realm, Sheila Doles, the co-chairman of the Mentoring Collaborative of The University of Toledo, mentioned that she learned two things from this program: you can never get them too young and you have to get them.

She described the current program where UT students are mentoring at local schools

such as Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys and Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls.

"We need to step up and do something for the young boys and girls and not have this new infrastructure that got put in place be the reason to not do anything," Doles said. "If we save one child, it's worth it."

After a Baisden pulled a prank about Denzel Washington attending (since he has been an active spokesperson for Boys and Girls Club), he pointed out that the real problem is adults not knowing the kids' stories.

He urged them to share the exact experiences that a child is going through in order to save them.

Representing Lucas County Children Services, Keith Robinson, supervisor of community development, brought the point of view of foster kids who need to be adopted and those who are emancipated adults (65-70 a year) because they were forced to be on their own

before 18.

"Dads go home and find your kids embrace them because they need your love," he said. "These young people want to be connected to somebody, they need somebody."

Willborn asked those who were on the honor roll to stand. They were applauded for their hard work, but he did this to bring up a point: Last year, 38 percent of the kids who were killed were honor students.

"Just because there is nothing wrong with your child does not mean that your job is over," he advised. "It's not over because you can reach out to the kids that no one cares about to prevent those killings."

Baisden had input also, when he called a little boy and girl on stage to demonstrate what a good start to a school day should encompass – encouragement, hugs and kisses.

"Some kids don't have that good start, they start it off with abuse. They are broken down sometimes by their

own parents," he implied. "Our kids have low self-esteem; they don't feel good about themselves."

He connected that to a doll experiment where 95 percent of the time, children picked the white doll to because it "looks nicer or prettier."

He added that fathers should kiss their kids, even the boys to show that affection is not something to be ashamed of expressing.

"That is why women do not have affectionate husbands or boyfriends," Baisden conveyed. "Kiss those kids."

Shauna Woody of the Boys and Girls Club began with an explanation of the organization's mission. She told of her travels to the different clubs around the area and how there is at least one story from a child she is mentoring.

Woody went on to inform the audience of a child whose mother was killed by his father, but one would never know because he was happy

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## "Time Flies When You're Having Fun"

That quotation has proven true for Cynthia and Jack Ford during the last 90 days!




Photo by Steve Lubell

The couple got on board with a pro-health company, Visalus Sciences, and took the Body By Vi Challenge on May 1, 2010. They took the challenge with 12 friends to make health a larger priority in their busy lives.

Jack set a goal of losing 80 pounds to become eligible for placement on the kidney transplant list. Cynthia took the Body By Vi 90 Day Challenge to get fit, increase energy level and show support for Jack.

They are thrilled with the results! Jack has lost 54 pounds in 90 days! Cynthia has changed two dress sizes and no longer munches granola bars and diet soda to get through the day. Now that they have achieved success without stress, they want to invite YOU to join them on the Body By Vi Challenge, too!

**Jack Has Just 26 pounds to Go!**

If you, or someone you care about, are interested in a weight loss transformation before the holidays begin or if you are interested in joining their team of positive and dedicated professionals, Jack and Cynthia invite you to join them beginning in August 2010.

Website – <http://teamprosperity.myvi.net>  
Email – [prosperouslivingbiz@gmail.com](mailto:prosperouslivingbiz@gmail.com)  
Phone - 1-888-887-4429




Photo by Sandra Schroeder

# United Way African American Initiative

## Article 4

United Way of Greater Toledo is focused on three areas: education, income and health. Our kids need a quality education that leads to a stable job/income and access to healthcare and healthy choices. The United Way African American Initiative (AAI) recognizes the importance of these building blocks and is doing great work to help further these goals. Today's article focuses on AAI efforts in the health area.

AAI is dedicated to improving the health and educational outcomes of all children in our community through better physical activity and nutrition in schools. AAI will advocate for strategies that:

- increase access to nutritious food
- strengthen nutritional education
- expand opportunities for inner city children and families to engage in safe, physical exercise and play.

The group will engage in efforts helping educate parents and schools about serving healthy foods and using creative ways to provide healthier options.

Childhood obesity rates in America have tripled in the past three decades. According to a published report from the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, one third of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives. Many others will face



chronic obesity-related health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, and asthma.

In February 2009, State Senator Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati) introduced legislation that would ban junk food from public school vending machines. All foods must pass strict guidelines (beverages cannot be carbonated or more than 150 calories per serving, for example). School districts and public schools, under this legislation, are also restricted from entering into a contract with a distributor or producer of items that would violate the nutrition standards set forth within the document. Kearney has said "childhood obesity is affecting our children in record

numbers" and "it would be irresponsible for us not to take action to curb this trend."

In 2007, AAI held a community forum to confront the issue of childhood obesity and the impact it has on a child's ability to develop socially and emotionally into a healthy young adult. Since that time, the group has garnered over \$25,000 in funding for public awareness and programming through the Aetna Foundation and has helped leverage more \$34,000 in funding for community organizations throughout Lucas County.

In January of this year, AAI began a partnership with the University of Toledo Health Science Campus to promote the launch of the

L.E.A.P. Clinic – an adolescent clinic that promotes healthy lifestyle choices, physical activity, and strategies that combat childhood obesity.

Later this year, the group will launch an awareness campaign in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move* campaign. The First Lady has an ambitious national goal of solving the challenge of childhood obesity within one generation so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight. This campaign gives everyone the opportunity to make a difference.


Lucas County government has developed a brochure for its web site that provides key action steps that

can be taken for African-American families such as the five ways to boost your brain power, eight steps to sensible eating, and tips for a healthier lifestyle. AAI intends to lend its voice to the cause regarding this issue and hope individuals, parents, schools and organizations throughout the Greater Toledo area will do the same to confront this growing epidemic.

To find out how you can get more involved with the United Way African American Initiative, please call 419-254-4670.

*This is the fourth and final article in a series highlighting the United Way African American Initiative.*



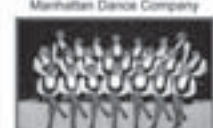



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## UT to Support Fight Against Banned Books

*Special to The Truth*

Controversial themes of life, religion, love, and hardship make literature a portal to understanding the human condition, but each year hundreds of groups attempt to ban these books from high schools, universities, and public libraries.

The University of Toledo and the American Library Association are teaming together for the 13th annual UT Banned Books Week vigil to fight for intellectual freedom and to celebrate the right to read.

The "Think for Yourself and Let Others Do the Same" vigil will take place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, on the second floor of Sullivan Hall on Main Campus (see full schedule of events below). The 2010 event, which is free and open to the public, is dedicated to Brian Hickman, a devoted seven-year committee member who has taken another job out of state.

"This international event creates awareness of the right to learn, to think critically, and to express one's views," said Paulette Kilmer, Ph.D., professor of communication. "Our UT Banned Books Week Vigil generates conversation and contemplation about the role of reading in our democracy and our culture."

Door prizes will be given out every half hour. Food will be provided throughout the day starting with doughnuts at 9 a.m., finger foods at 11:30 a.m., and pizza served at 4:30 p.m.

"Students should consider the Banned Books Week Vigil a lively break from classes and their hectic schedules," Kilmer said. "They should drop in to participate in a lively dialogue about books, movies, songs, the Internet, and other censorship issues."

Committee members for the event are Kilmer, Linda Smith, Ph.D., Honors Program; Elaine Reeves, Carlson Library; Glenn Sheldon, Ph.D., Honors Program, and Melanie Dusseau, Dean of Students Office, Arts and Sciences College.

Sponsors this year contributing food and prizes are New Sins Press, Barry's Bagels, Dunkin' Doughnuts, The Toledo Free Press, UT Business Technology, UT Dean of Students Office, UT Career Services, UT Bookstore, UT-MCO Credit Union, UT Starbucks, Glaciy Theater Collective, and UT Theater and Film Department.

*For more information contact Kilmer at 419.297.2764 or pkilmer@utnet.utoledo.edu.*

# "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday..."

A Memoir by Annette Crosby-Wright



GC Cameron came out with that song in 1975 as one of the soundtracks to the movie "Cooley High." Ironically, that's the song that came to my mind as I walked the hallways of my alma mater Edward Drummond Libbey High School this past Saturday. I attended Libbey from 1973-1977.

As soon as I exited the other side of the viaduct on Hawley Street, I knew that this was going to be a very special gathering. Cars were parked everywhere. The school lot was completely full and determined Cowboys, from every walk of life, parked their vehicles on lawns, in driveways and anywhere that a vehicle could be parked. My heart was pounding with excitement.

I looked over at my brother, Bryan "Duke" Crosby, a 1987 graduate of Libbey, as were six of our other seven siblings, and I said, "look at the cars and look at the people!" It was a beautiful and amazing site! The night before, I had taken out my yearbooks and had my hopes set on seeing my favorite teachers, Mr. McKee, Mrs. Hill, Mr. Dew, Ms. Fields and Mrs. Warren (to name a few).

I parked my car in a no-parking zone and before I even closed the car door I heard someone shout out, "Netty Crosby!" Aw, yeah, THIS is Libbey High School!

It is a real challenge for me to write about the event and

label it a "final" anything. I suppose I'm in denial...and that of course, is my choice. The laughter, the joy, the screams of "girl, look at you!" and "what's been up with you, my man!" was infectiously wonderful. The sea of



alumni was so diverse; young and younger, old and older. Black, white, Hispanic, brown, red, and all of that mixed up together simply made the mass collective seem like one gigantic Cowboy returning home to check the place out.

Every floor, and there are indeed four floors - I know because I was our Edelian Yearbook Manager and I developed photos up on the fourth floor - was occupied by fellow former students wanting to get one last look and feel from the experience. And by the way, to any freshmen who were told that there was a swimming pool on the fourth floor...well, hopefully by now you know the truth!

I found Mr. McKee and

Mrs. Fields. Both looked wonderful after all of the years, proving that it pays to take care of oneself. And even more delightful was the fact that they remembered me! And, of course, there was Mr. Ted Jobe looking exactly

Saturday's reunion and still had the same gentle smile that somehow made you think you were gonna do well in her class even if you knew you didn't deserve it!

Walking around in heels for three and half-hours never felt so good and when five o'clock rolled around I still didn't want to go home. Too bad we couldn't have made it an all-night affair. Many of the neighbors around Libbey had opened their homes and lawns to everyone. There were cook-outs, people selling Libbey paraphernalia, T-shirts, hats, you name it. Wow.

Does it really have to

close? I attempted to contact the Libbey Foundation a few months back. Trying to do something to contact the namesake of our school and "shake them down" for some money, support or something to help keep our school open. Much respect to Rev. D.L. Perryman for his valiant and hopefully on-going efforts to keep Libbey open. So, my denial continues.

There must be a way to keep Libbey open. If not for the traditional academic services then let's think of something else. Class of 1967 graduate Patrick Durham suggested using the audit-

orium as a theatrical and entertainment venue for smaller scale productions. And charter schools need a home. Perhaps a high-tech information technology hub. It's such a beautiful building. The original cafeteria has Corinthian pillars for goodness sake!

Right now it's still standing. And so are many of us. We are still here, fellow Cowboys. The spirit that we all felt on Saturday comes from within us. We are Libbey High School. We all know that that building became home for us on so many days of our lives. Didn't you feel at home Saturday? I hope that we all just do something, call our elected officials, heck I don't care, call President Obama! Let's see if we can keep our house standing, y'all!

God bless the Coogler family and all of the other hardworking Libbey alumni and volunteers who gave unselfishly of their time and gifts to make Saturday a wonderful reality, from all of your fellow Cowboys: Thank You!

Go Cowboys! Go Blue and Gold!



School Board Member Larry Sykes

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Of course, we missed a lot of Cowboys as well. Many who have transitioned to even higher ground, my sister Mary and brother Nicholas and our dad Frank, included. When our family needed to provide home-going services for our loved ones, we went called upon Day Funeral Home Services - owned by none other than Mrs. Dorothy Day. A former teacher at Libbey. Mrs. Day was in attendance at

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# Second Annual Calla Lily Educators Awards

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Beta Gamma Chapter, hosted its second annual Calla Lily Educators Awards Luncheon on Saturday, September 25 at The Pinnacle in Maumee and honored 10 area residents for their contributions in helping students achieve and succeed to the best of their potential.

Those honored this year were: Betty Amison-Lewis, executive director of the Grace Community Center; Earl Francis Barry, retired officer of the Toledo Police Department; Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D., executive director of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB); Lee Conklin, news anchor with 13abc Action News; Sheila Early, pastor of Trulight Global Ministries; Larry Hamme, Ph.D., chief clinical officer of the Unison Behavioral Health Group; John C. Jones, president and CEO of the Greater Toledo Urban League; Jackie Morris, third grade teacher with the Toledo Public Schools; Ed Scrutchins, director of athletics with TPS and the commissioner of the City League and Floella Wormely, police officer with TPD and director of the S.T.R.I.V.E. program

(Success Through Remediation Incentive Vision Effort).

The individuals were nominated by a community organization or individual who felt they met the criteria and qualifications established by members of Beta Gamma Chapter – serving, volunteering and going above and beyond the call of duty for students and youth.

In addition to the individuals honored, Beta Gamma also presented a community organization award to the Isaiah Thomas Giving Foundation, founded by Mary Beal and her family after the loss of her son.

The morning event opened with a procession by the honorees led by Kathy Gregory of the Beta Gamma Chapter.

Alexis Means, reporter with 13abc Action News served as the mistress of ceremonies.

Guests were greeted by Pandora Taylor, president of the chapter. Dorothy Batson, event chairman, recognized the contributions of Jean Brown, one of three chapter members who passed away during the year. Brown played a significant role in establishing the Calla Lily



*Honorees*

Educators Awards Luncheon.

After the invocation by Muriel Webb-Williams, Linda Collins, Kudos advisor for the chapter, introduced the oratorical presentation by TiRohn Sanders.

Means then presented the honorees as Sandra Meeks-Speller offered a power-point view of the awardees.

Amison-Lewis founded the Grace Community Center in 1969 and built the facility on W. Delaware after a suc-

cessful capital drive. The Center offers year-round education and social development programs to families in the Old West End neighborhood.

Barry began his career with TPD in 1972 and, after 12

years on duty, received an assignment as the department's Safety Officer. Under his watch, the Safety-T-City program became a highly-acclaimed child pedestrian and traffic safety program.



*Alexis Means*

Bledsoe, former vice president for Student Life and special assistant to the president at The University of Toledo, founded SAAB, a nationally-renowned program that now has more than 250 chapters across 40 states with the mission of enhancing the spirit of care for males in middle and high schools and in colleges and universities.

Conklin has been on 13abc Action News for 10 years. In addition to his anchor duties, Conklin has a long history of being involved with youth. A mainstay at athletic events all over town, his "13abc All-stars" basketball team has generated more than \$350,000 to benefit local academic and athletic programs.

Early, a classroom paraprofessional, mentor and community volunteer, coordinates and supervises a back-to-school supplies giveaway program, a food bank program and an angel tree program during the holidays. She also volunteers to work with delinquent youth at the Child Study Institute.

Hamme has devoted more than 30 years of service to the youth of the Toledo community working not only at Unison but also with Toledo Public Schools providing workshops and in-services for parents, teachers and administrators. He is also known for his home-based family therapy for children of all ages.

Jones, an associate minister at the Christian Temple Baptist Church, serves as the youth and teacher coordinator for his church. Prior to his appointment as president of the GTUL, he led that organization's Young Professionals branch, working tirelessly to help young people reach the goals they set for themselves.

Morris is known as "the (Continued on Page 9)

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## EOPA Heightens Focus on Creating and Maintaining Wealth

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Economic Opportunity Planning Association has its hands in a lot of activities designed to address a variety of conditions in poorer neighborhoods. Over the last week, EOPA has conducted several workshops in an effort to highlight the "economic" portion of its mission.

On Saturday, September 25, EOPA held a one-day workshop titled "B.Y.O.B." (Be Your Own Boss) that was devoted to business and entrepreneurial development. On Monday, September 27, the agency hosted its second workshop in three days. This one was titled "Save Your Dream" and its purpose was to provide information on resources and assistance available to renters and homeowners facing foreclosure.

Saturday's workshop – B.Y.O.B. – was funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the stimulus bill). Derick Gant of Comexx Consulting, Inc served as facilitator for the event.



Bonita Betts and Derick Gant

An audience of more than 150 turned out to hear guest speakers take them through the various opportunities that are available for the adventurous of spirit and the business start-up process.

The session was held at the Toledo-Lucas County Main Branch Library in the McMaster Center. Eric Slack, director of planning for EOPA, opened the session.

Barbara Stein of the Library welcomed the audience

and informed them of the resources available at the Library for business owners and entrepreneurs.

Gant then took the audience through the process of actually starting the business. He was followed by Truman Irving of American Diversified Distribution – one of three companies he owns – who addressed the opportunities presented by franchising – "Working While You Work."

Fifth Third Bank's Charlie Krolak spoke of banking issues for entrepreneurs and Glenn Johnson, former owner of a number of McDonald's franchises in the Toledo area, held forth on the topic of surviving in any business climate or market as he took the audience on a tour of creating a multi-million dollar business from scratch.

How does a business stay on track financially? Accountant David Wood of the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce addressed that topic.

On Monday EOPA's economic focus took a sharp turn at the Save Your Dream workshop, also held in the McMaster Center. Gant and mortgage broker Bonita Betts, along with an assist from Irving, guided their audience through the particulars of saving a home during financial difficulties.

"You've really got to push to get help," said Betts as she encouraged those at risk of losing their dream to stay diligent in trying to modify their

(Continued on Page 16)

## Awards

(Continued from Page 8)



Beta Gamma members

consummate educator" going above and beyond for her students. Her students have consistently reached and surpassed projected achievements. For example, 100 percent of her students passed the Ohio Math Achievement Test in 2009 and the Ohio Reading Achievement Test in 2010.

Scrutchins, a sounding board and resource for student athletes and their parents, has been instrumental in mentoring children, sacrificing his time to have open gym after school and working with students on the fundamentals of sportsmanship and academic achievement.

Wormely founded S.T.R.I.V.E. in 1997 to assist students with the passage of the former Ohio Proficiency Test (now the Ohio Graduation Test). Since its inception, hundreds of high school students have been assisted to pass the test. S.T.R.I.V.E. is the largest summer tutoring program in the area.

The National Organization of Delta Kappa, Inc, is a professional organization of teachers dedicated to the task of training youth to cope satisfactorily with today's problems through day-by-day instruction in the classroom as well as multiple contacts in the community. The organization was founded in 1923 in Jersey City, NJ by a group of seven educators.

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# African-American Leaders Honored

Special To The Truth

On Thursday, September 23, the United Way African American Initiative (AAI) hosted An Evening with Leaders awards reception. Several awards were presented to influential partners in our community.

**The AAI Partnership Award** was created to recognize an organization that has demonstrated outstanding commitment and support to the mission and goals of AAI. Last night, Craig Teamer from Huntington Bank and Merida Allen from The University of Toledo presented this award to the Kent Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library system and to Springfield High School.

Since 2008, the Kent Branch Lucas-County Library, under the direction of Faith Hairston, has been a constant support in AAI efforts by hosting its monthly Lunch with Leaders series and is looking to partner with AAI on educa-



tional opportunities for Black History Month 2011. Kent Branch willingly serves its community through book discussion groups, family storytelling, community forums, and special occasions such as Martin Luther King Day and Kwanzaa.

From the staff at Springfield High School to the commitment of the Spring-

field Schools superintendent's office, this partnership spells success. The staff and teachers of Springfield High School work tirelessly through collaborative community efforts to increase student success and promote diversity. They also allow more than 50 African-American business leaders to serve the students as mentors and role models.

**The AAI Common Good Award** was created to recognize individuals whose excellence in leadership has made a significant impact in the Greater Toledo area. Recipients of the award have demonstrated outstanding initiative, advocacy efforts, impact of work and motivate others to follow their lead in service to and for others. Amelia Gibbon from United Way and John C. Jones from the Greater Toledo Urban League presented this award to Barbara Kyles, executive director of the J. Frank Troy Senior Center, and Fletcher Word, co-owner and publisher of The Sojourner's Truth.

Barbara Kyles serves as the director of the J. Frank Troy Senior Center, a program of the Greater Toledo Urban League. Barbara Kyles has led the organization for five years and has a great ability to serve this sometimes vulnerable population. Kyles believes she was born to do this work and is fulfilling her purpose in life by helping to change and improve systems by

advocating daily for seniors. Kyles is a tireless worker at her institution of faith and lends her voice to the cause for a population of people that often times do not have a voice for themselves. To know Kyles is to know a true advocate for the needs of older adults in our community.

Fletcher Word is the co-owner and publisher of The Sojourner's Truth, a weekly newspaper that serves the northwest Ohio area and brings its readers information about the local, state and national African-American community. In addition to his duties with The Truth, Word is also a frequent contributor on local television shows as a political analyst.

**The AAI Inclusion Award** was created to recognize an individual or organization that encourages,

Moore, executive vice president at United Way.

A 2007 YWCA Milestones honoree and advocate for children everywhere, Jane Moore is a 30-plus year veteran of the United Way system and spends her days helping others in her job. Through her position as executive vice president of community impact and outreach, she is tireless in her approach to create positive change. In 2004, it was Moore who went to then United Way president and CEO Bob Lucas and inquired of the need to have volunteer-led groups within organization whose focus was around a mission that helped advance African American and Latino communities. The African American Initiative was Jane's vision. Today, AAI



embraces and celebrates differences that foster a better place in which to live, work and raise a family. Recipients are outstanding visionary leaders that develop and advocate for inclusion strategies throughout an organization, workplace, or community that yield meaningful results. Phillip Cunningham of ThoseFellas, LLC presented the award to Jane

is thriving because Moore had the vision to celebrate the uniqueness of culture and diversity among ethnic groups and support inclusive opportunities to engage them in meaningful work to help change lives.

The United Way extends congratulations to all this year's honorees.



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**Tess M. Gordon MD, FACOG** has reopened Northwest Ohio Partners in Women's Health II, located at 3840 Woodley Road, Suite B., Toledo, Ohio 43606. Professional services include: Integrated medical services for women of all ages, and diagnostic ultrasound including 3D/4D.

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# Trinity Basketball Club Celebrates Second Successful Season

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*



The Trinity Basketball Club, an AAU Club Team for female high school athletes in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, just completed its second season of competition. The team – two teams, really – held a celebration banquet on Saturday, September 18 at the Garden Lake Banquet Hall in order to honor the contributions of the team

members and those who have volunteered their time in working with the club.

The Trinity Basketball Club was the inspiration of Head Coach Darrell Dorn, also coach of the girls' basketball team at Woodward High School. He organized the team with the help of friends and fellow church members at Family Baptist

Church.

"I went to them and said 'this is the vision I have' and they bought into it," he told The Truth last year on the occasion of the first banquet. "We have people who believe in the vision of God first and everything else falls up under that. Everyone has a unique talent and it's all compatible for the girls."

The club's mission is to bring girls together to focus on spiritual growth, leadership development and basketball skills.

After the team's successful first year of competition, this year two teams were formed – a 17 and under team and a 16 and under.

Members of the 17 and

under squad included: Maketta Allen, April Anderson, Kaylah Harris, Autumn Jones, Keia McCarver, Samona McMillan, Morgan Morrison, Climone Reid, Brianna Rogers, Karahn Scott, Alexis Thomas and KaBria Walker.

The 16 and under squad included: Alia Carswell, Tori Collins, Annisha Daniels, Tanisha Dysart, Torianna Easley, Taima Jones, Keshyra McCarver, Deshayla Mosby, Talajha Parker, Tatyana Reynolds and Sara Zanki.

The coaching staff and board members are: Dorn, Jason Moss, Melvin Thomas, Sharyce Banks, Debra Jones, Jenai Hinklin, Camilla Davis and Gwen Banks.

## Mentors

*(Continued from Page 5)*

every time he was at the Club. She mentioned that another child was shot by a peer and that there was a kid traveled to numerous shelters throughout his life. He now attends The University of Toledo.

"At each and every club, the kids have stories," Woody said. "This is who we are here for today."

Towards the end, Baisden shared his sympathy with the sister and mother of the late Racole "CoCoo" Hill.

"We are here because we care. We got an emergency in our community right now, it's beyond an emergency." Baisden urged. "Martin Luther King and Malcolm would be ashamed of us. They would like to see us do something more for our kids."

As a thank you, Mayor Mike Bell gave the men the key to the city.

Toledo is the 67<sup>th</sup> out of 72 cities visited on the tour

As an incentive to driving registration for new mentors, Baisden is raising funding for mentoring programs across the tour markets by matching contributions from participants up to \$350,000. In turn, the Michael Baisden Foundation will then direct the funds toward local mentoring programs.

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Book Review

**Girl Parts** by John M. Cusick, performed on CD by Chris Patton

c.2010, Candlewick on Brilliance Audio \$24.99 U.S. and Canada 5 CDs / 5-1/2 hours  
 c.2010, Candlewick Press \$16.99 / \$20.00 Canada 218 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
 The Truth Contributor

People – especially those of the opposite sex – can be so irritating.

She expects you to know what she wants, like you're some mind-reader or something. He refuses to tell you what he's thinking, and says "Nothing" when you ask. She's a drama queen. He's a freak.

Without a doubt, you could get along with machines so much easier.

In the new book *Girl Parts* by John M. Cusick, you'll see that's right – maybe.

There was absolutely no way that David Sun and Charlie Nuvola would ever be friends. Even though they were classmates at St. Sebastian's and practically neighbors, there was just no way in the world.

David was popular. He was one of the "cool" guys who partied hard and dated every

hot girl at nearby Saint Mary's School, even though he had an official "girlfriend" that he had, of course, cheated on. What could he say? Girls liked David and his money, his car, his good looks and his cocky confidence.

Charlie was, in every sense of the word, a nerd. His father was a nerd, too, and that's the way it was in Charlie's world. He had some friends, he had his books and a bicycle to get around, and that was enough.

But despite their differences, Charlie and David had one thing in common: they both were diagnosed with "dis-associative disorder." Neither boy seemed capable of normal human relationships. Charlie's father was unworried. Embarrassed, David's parents brought home the solution to their son's little social problem. She was beautiful, with

curves on her curves and hair that lent itself to her name: Rose. She appeared to be about 16-years old and was presented in a pod, made by Sakora and already programmed to love David Sun. Rose was a bot, a "companion" who made David drool but who gave him a nasty, painful shock if he got too friendly.

The truly shocking thing about Rose wasn't the spark between her and David Sun, though. As a bot, Rose was missing her "girl parts," a fact that David learned almost too late. A fact that disgusted him.

Spurned, Rose deliberately short-circuited herself – maybe forever, if not for Charlie and his quick thinking. But David's rejection voided Rose's existence, and the creators at Sakora wanted to find her, quick. A bot on the loose is very bad PR...



Are your parents always yelling at you to get off the computer or celly? Do you find it easier to do Facebook than face-to-face? If that describes you, then you've gotta have this novel.


Set in the not-so-distant

future, *Girl Parts* is funny, sad and highly enjoyable, but there's another facet that will occur to readers long after they close the back cover. Author John M. Cusick writes with humor, but he also adds a hidden dash of cultural com-

mentary: In the future, will bots possess more humanity than humans?

Whether you're techy or a technophobe, I think you'll find this novel to be a great read. For you, *Girl Parts* is total fun.

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**Where:** Frederick Douglass Community Association  
 1001 Indiana Avenue - Toledo, Ohio 43607

Sonya Newton - Program Coordinator - [snewton@fdcatoledo.org](mailto:snewton@fdcatoledo.org)  
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# Entertaining Ourselves:

## Is the Internet Helping Or Hurting Our Understanding of Quality Entertainment?

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



Once upon a time, our entertainment choices were beyond our control.

Our favorite shows, songs and videos were only available to us when and how major media saw fit. If a major television network moved your favorite sitcom to a different night it felt like someone was playing with your emotions. Even though we had more video shows than we could watch, it never seemed as if we saw our favorite music videos enough.

Entertaining the masses was a closely-controlled situation.

New music, new videos, new shows, new media in general were always controlled by huge corporations picking and choosing who gets entertained and when.

Now in 2010 the tables have turned entirely.

Major media conglomerates no longer control the world of entertainment.

In fact, they are struggling to keep up.

Yes indeed, the Internet has changed the very type of entertainment we can receive, how often we receive it and even given us the power to CREATE it for others to receive.

We no longer depend on major media to give us just a few options we may or may not like. Now we have instant gratification and the power of choice

Think about it... how many hours a week do you spend in front of a television?

Now think about how much time during a week you spend in front of a computer.

Instead of waiting on the radio to play our favorite song or the TV to play the shows we like, we can search and find the exact thing we are looking for with no middle man.

Even beyond just trusting professional comedians, musicians and actors to entertain us... now anyone with the ability to shoot and upload a video has a reasonable slice of global attention span. But with power comes responsibility.

Now that we control what

we find to be entertaining... did we remember to bring the good taste and judgment to know what good entertainment really is?

Let's look at some of the most widely-watched web videos in recent memory and decide if we can even be trusted with the power of choice.

### GANGSTA HIT BY ICE CREAMTRUCK

(to view this clip, go to youtube and search "gangsta hit by ice cream truck")

The guy is no gangsta, he just felt like being goofy and dancing in the street.

However dancing in the middle of a busy street is rarely a good idea.

In the middle of him teaching us how to dougie, an ice cream truck slams into him.

Funny? Hell yes! Hope he's not injured but he chose to dance in traffic.

Videos like this can be found all over the internet, someone's momentary lapse of common sense becomes amusement for millions. But it takes on legendary status when it gets remixed by other youtubers and goes from fame to infamy.

It's kind of like a funny joke written on the wall in the men's bathroom, it may be crass but if kept to small doses it's pretty funny.

However, the Internet never seems to offer anything in small doses.

### BEDROOMINTRUDER SONG

(1<sup>st</sup>. youtube: Antoine Dodson Original Bedroom Intruder News Story)

(2<sup>nd</sup>.. youtube: Bed intruder song ..it has 26 million views)

This has become legendary at this point.

Various web crews have been "auto tuning" the news ever since the 2008 election, but this is one "real life news event" turned into web phenom that summarizes the entire issue at hand. We all know the story: burglar breaks in, decides to take a nap, sleeping victim wakes up to find burglar in bed next to her, news shows up, films the first "interesting" black person to be seen (who happens to be victim's brother), clip gets online and then remixed in autotune and now you have two ridiculously funny but slightly embarrassing results.

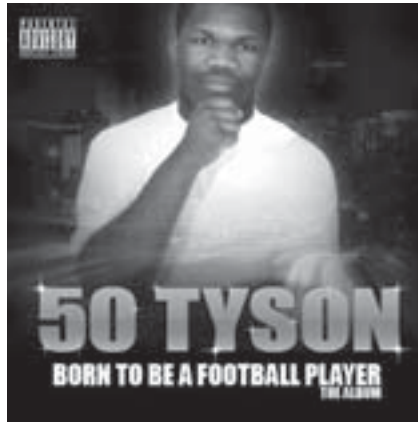
"He's climbing in yo' windows... and snatching yo' people up..." has become worldwide. Just as quotable as Dave Chappelle was just

five years ago, this actual news footage turned autotune web hit is the epitome of the good, bad and ugly truth of the audience now entertaining ourselves. Antoine Dodson's way of expressing himself as a victim didn't have to be eloquent... but just a little absurdity in a video is all it takes to become an overnight internet sensation. For better or worse is the question.

### 50 TYSON

(youtube 50 Tyson "imam ballplayer" with lyrics)

Literally millions of aspiring rap artists have taken to



youtube for their chance at either a record deal or a fanbase. Tantalized by rappers like Soulja Boy and Waka Flocka, no talent wannabes find instant fame online and the more absurd their chances of becoming bonafide artists, the more insane the Internet fandom becomes.

50 Tyson, a teenager who fused two names together based on who people say he looks like, has amassed millions upon millions of views of his amateur freestyles.

But no one is laughing with him, most are laughing at him.

Among those laughing at him is celebrity comedian and movie star, Kevin Hart.

Hart's video mocking 50 Tyson just gave 50 Tyson an even larger following.

For weeks the world was amused by his disjointed rhyming but the more we all watched the more it became a serious concern as to whether this kid had serious developmental disabilities.

Sure enough, it comes out that 50 Tyson is actually autistic.

But it's too late, the views have already been counted and the viral video audience has stooped to a new low in its appetite for entertainment.

### SOULJAGIRLONTHE M.A.R.T.A.

(1<sup>st</sup> youtube: Crazy.... On train caught on tape)

(2<sup>nd</sup> youtube: \*ORIGINAL\* Crank Dat Soulja Girl Remix On Marta Train)

A huge viral sensation spawning multiple spin-offs and a whole new reputation for the ATL. The "soulja girl" video was shot guerilla-style without the star of the clip even aware she's on camera. Someone uses a cell phone to catch a bizarre sight, a hostile girl threatening a female senior citizen. The original clip is only amusing because the girl causing all the ruckus

hit "Crank Dat Superman" as her way to intimidate the elderly. It's disturbing, but absurdly amusing.

But as with most viral vids, it's the remix video that does the trick.

The remix video takes a troubling scene and turns it into something so hilarious that even though you know it's wrong you can't turn away from.

"I'ma beat yo ass on this train.... We on the M.A.R.T.A. I'm fin to do my thang.."

You thought I couldn't freestyle on you boo?" – sheer lunacy to begin with, but setting it to the actual "Crank Dat.." music and editing it just made it irresistible.

But similar to 50 Tyson, in the months following web infamy it was revealed by the attacker's family that she is normally on heavy medication to suppress her moods and this incident of her threatening a sweet old lady on the train by dancing and rapping was the result of her missing a dosage. Our insatiable appetite to entertain ourselves reveals just how talented the average joe shmoo at a computer really is.

Editing these videos to remix and upload is time consuming, and the reason it's done... is for your entertainment.

### SHAWT BUS SHAWTY (youtube: shawt bus

shawty)

Nearly 10 million views and one of the best and brightest viral web videos ever, BYOB Ent's satire of current rap music's reigning dunce cap elite showcases a polished effort at creating media and also voices serious concern about the dumbing down of rap.

Have you ever heard the music of O.J. Da Juiceman?

What about Gucci Mane or Waka Flocka Flame?

If you are as familiar with this music as most people in my generation are then chances are you either love it or hate it. Thank goodness we have Lupe, Kanye, Drake, J. Cole and more who bring balance to today's rap genre but for every quality rapper there's a multitude of hacks mindlessly gumming their way through cookie-cutter subject matter and sound.

Shawt Bus Shawty is a video that really says what we've all been saying every time we hear some of these type of rappers, but it illustrates it beautifully and captures every nuance in pure comedy genius. This is viral web media with intellect and purpose. Major media would never have thought of this, it's a brilliant example of the audience creating entertainment that reflects sensibility to what we truly see as entertainment in the first place. Because really, just because

(Continued on Page 14)



# Entertaining

(Continued from Page 13)

a guy screams his name over a track every few bars doesn't make him a rapper, it makes him annoying!

From the very opening seconds, it addresses the loss of our language, our art, and the lower aspirations many in our community think is the most they can attain.

This is entertainment gone right.

### READ A BOOK

Another positive aspect of allowing just anyone to create media, this is a message cleverly disguised by southern crunk rap sounds but still effective.

It's been out a few years but I remember everyone was talking about this because it finally displays some of the fundamental differences between, well ... you know.

Remember Chris Rock's stand up routine where he explained the difference be-



tween black folks and ni\*\*az?

Even in that routine he used comedy to point out how even though black people in general are astute and don't mind learning about the world around them... somehow ni\*\*az act like they are allergic to reading a book. This clip takes that premise and runs with it.

Is that what we have become?

A world amused by mentally-impaired episodes and stereotypes?

Or is it empowering that now we have such control over our own media that we

can provide ourselves with endless choices of ways to entertain ourselves?

From IQ flattening buffoonery to eloquent insights custom-fit for the digital age, it seems the Internet has succeeded in reflecting the very worst and best of us.

For me personally, I like watching Ryan Leslie... one of my idols.

His online presence inspires me. Same as Ed Lover's "C'mon Son" series (shout out to Darron for getting me hip). The first piece of web junk I couldn't stop watching was this video called "Ghetto Delta" back when I was still in college.

I watched it while I was writing this piece... and even though it's not as funny, I watched it once... maybe twice.

See you next week.

Email or facebook search: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

# Turn your trash into cash

When Calvin's dad passed away, Calvin found boxes and boxes of test strips and other diabetes supplies. Calvin called the pharmacy to see if the unopened supplies could be returned. The pharmacy said they didn't take back supplies.

Calvin saw an ad in the Sojourner's Truth about someone wanting to buy diabetes test strips. Calvin made \$150 on the supplies he was going to throw away.

Extra diabetes supplies can earn you money. Don't throw away those extra supplies, sell them and get cash.

Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test strips by calling 419-740-7162 or emailing [buyteststrips@gmail.com](mailto:buyteststrips@gmail.com)

Boxes must be sealed with no damage. If the boxes have labels on them, please leave the labels. The labels will be removed with a chemical process that leaves the box looking new. Your label is then shredded. Boxes must expire after July 2011.

Currently looking for these brands: OneTouch, Bayer Contour, Ascensia Elite, Accu Chek, FreeStyle Lite and FreeStyle.

Sometimes other brands and other supplies are purchased at a lesser amount.

Don't let your diabetes supply provider tell you the brand of test strips you have to have. You can choose a name brand (like the ones listed). The providers try to get everyone to use generic supplies.

In this difficult economy, turning trash into cash helps. The holidays are coming, clean out your supplies and call today.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

September 29, 2010

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## MATH INSTRUCTOR

High school instructor sought (certification preferred) to teach Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus for The University of Toledo Upward Bound Program. Tuesday evenings, 5:00 – 7:30 pm, September 20 – December 14, 2010, \$20/hr plus an additional 1hr paid planning. Interested individuals please email letter of interest & resume to joel.todd@utoledo.edu or call (419) 530-3811.

## Licensed Paraprofessional Needed

Strong candidate would be caring, patient and tolerant. Experience with effective behavioral and instructional strategies a plus. All qualified candidates should apply with a letter of interest, copy of certification and references to:

Star Academy of Toledo  
Attn: Gaye Dobson  
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Toledo, Ohio 43609

## Wanted to Buy:

Diabetes Supplies  
Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test strips  
Must expire after July, 2011.  
Leave labels on boxes.  
We remove and shred.  
Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.

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Sponsored by the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority  
September 29, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the:

Hilton-Toledo  
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Toledo, Ohio  
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Speaker: J. Keith Swiney, President/CEO  
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RSVP to Barbara J. Dermer - 419-259-9457 - Space is limited to the first 70 registrants.

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The City of Toledo is accepting applications for the position of Refuse Truck Driver. This position requires one (1) year of experience driving a refuse truck or closely related vehicle having a rating of at least 33,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. Must possess a valid State of Ohio Class B Commercial Driver's License without restrictions on vehicles having air brakes. Must be physically qualified to perform the duties of the position at the time of appointment. The salary range is from \$13.502 to \$18.003 per hour with advancement to the maximum pay level per the appropriate bargaining unit agreement. Interested individuals should obtain an application at the Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 1920, Toledo, OH 43604 or online at the Department of Human Resources web page at [www.toledo.oh.gov](http://www.toledo.oh.gov). The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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## Account Payable Rep

Account payable rep needed in our firm. Candidate must have at least high school or college degree. The position offers 200 dollars per week plus benefits. Send resumes to [js1960@live.com](mailto:js1960@live.com) if interested

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Booth rent \$50.00 per week to start, commission possible. For information call Roxy at (419) 380-9528.

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Paycheck would be sent to you for the assignment by Certified Check or money order. The paycheck would be \$3,900, you are to deduct your 500 salary, and the rest would be used for the evaluation at the store that would be sent to you.

Your Employment packet are as follows : 1. Business evaluation form: This is the form you are required to fill after you visit any shopping mall in your area, you would be given the store name and address. You are required to evaluate its customer service and quality control after their services are rendered to you. You would required to fill a form to rate the employee(s), the form would be given to you after the evaluation:

2. Training Assignment: You are hired to evaluate the quality of services of the store or mall that would be given to you.

You are needed to rate the employees.  
Please note, this is a part-time activity.

Anyone interested please contact send email to [nahsahclearinginc@yahoo.com](mailto:nahsahclearinginc@yahoo.com)

## House for Rent

North End. Fenced in Full basement. Deck  
2 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths  
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## Account Payable Rep

Account payable rep needed in our firm. Candidate must have at least high school or college degree. The position offers 200 dollars per week plus benefits. Send resumes to [js1960@live.com](mailto:js1960@live.com) if interested

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Please send your resumes to [leonagodsblissing@hotmail.com](mailto:leonagodsblissing@hotmail.com)

## Web Tips

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**EOPA**

*(Continued from 9)*



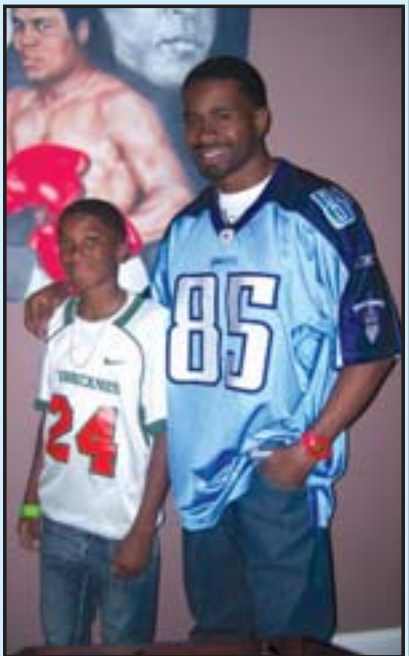
Truman Irving

mortgage structures in order to keep their homes. "There is an advantage in the modification issue but it's not necessarily easy."

Gant also urged the attendees to take a serious look at restructuring their budgets and to "take a look at creating a strategy that will help you find the light at the end of the tunnel." Gant's company, Comexx, does exactly that for clients.

Slack, whose office was critical in the planning of the two events later explained to The Truth why it was important for EOPA to engage this process.

"It was critical in order to create an awareness of two areas of concern for our community," he said of the BYOB workshop and the Save Your Dream session. "Business creation and entrepreneurship are avenues through which we can develop larger income bases and multiple streams of income. Mortgage issues are adversely affecting those in the inner city and those with moderate to low incomes."



Pictured are Nate Washington of the Tennessee Titans and Kenny Coleman who plays for the Hurricanes of the Mid City Football League. Kenny is wearing one of the jerseys purchased by Washington and the 85th Foundation. Washington, a Scott High School graduate, bought over 400 Nike Jersey and football pants for the all eight teams of the Mid City Football League which is the same league he played in as a youth.

**What's In a Name?**

When I began reading, "Street Renaming Honors Martin Luther King," I became excited and called my wife, Estell, and shouted, "Peaches, they finally did it! They finally did it!" They renamed Dorr Street for Martin Luther King. But the excitement was short lived.

Dorr Street was not renamed for Dr. King. In fact, no street was renamed for Dr. King. King's name was tacked on to the bottom of a portion of the street which runs in front of the new school and called it "Martin Luther King Way," which probably cost the city less than a \$100.

Although I no longer live there, I feel insulted. For years, in concert with the NAACP, NUBIA, Save Our Children, Inc., and every major labor union, we tried to get the City of Toledo to rename a major street for Dr. King. Toledo remains the only city in America, with a sizeable black population, that does not have a major street named for the nationally-acclaimed civil rights leader. And since Dorr Street was our main street, and Dr. King was our main man, we felt that it was only fitting that the main street be named for the main man.

We certainly applaud the renaming of King Elementary, "Martin Luther King Academy." And, based on studies we have seen, the single-gender concept should be successful. And the unnamed preacher's affirmation was appropriate: Much education, much pride. Little education, little pride.. No education, no pride."

This is, in no way, to down play the importance of the Martin Luther King Academy, and those who have worked tirelessly, to make it happen. My continued frustration is that we are too eager to accept crumbs when we could get the whole cake, if we would just insist on it.

Floyd Rose  
Valdosta, GA

**African Art Has Arrived!!**

**Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!**



**The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM**



**Stop by on Friday evening, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 9:30 PM for our GRAND OPENING!**



**The Truth Gallery  
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