

Volume 19, No.22

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 23, 2011

In This Issue

Perryman Page 2

Milestones Page 3

Cosby Entertains and Challenges Toledo Page 4

Arts Section

ARTomatic Page 6

Lots of Books Page 7

Jazz at the Library Page 8

The Color Purple Page 11

Minister Reviews Lupe Fiasco Page 13

BlackMarketPlace Page 14

Classifieds Page 15



"Children, bring your parents into your school. Make them come in. Say 'Mama, this is important to me, this is about my success.' And go find your father if he's not there. If you can't find him, go on a search and tell your father, 'I need you. Your problems are with mom, not with me.'"

Essentialized Blackness

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



The Negro was invented in America. - John Oliver

The normally always poised and unflappable television host Doni Miller, never saw it coming. Bill Cosby's reply to the final question of her memorable interview on last week landed flush and was totally unanticipated.

"If black America is ever to truly reach it's potential, it must - do what,?" she posed the black community's own and arguably most celebrated and vocal critic. Cosby, without hesitation, answered firmly, "It must define what is black!"

Following a short silence, which seemed like an eternity, Miller, a true professional, quickly regained her composure to reply "OK, alright. I like that," while continuing to digest the true depth of Dr. Cosby's seemingly simplistic solution

to the community's massive ills

Implicit in Cosby's remarks is the intra-racial struggle for control in articulating who and what is authentically black or acceptable in the black community, a subject seldom a part of academic or lay discourse.

Yet, in a real sense, this conflict has always existed in the black community from the post and antebellum "house against field negro" days of psychological dispute, the "wannabe versus jiggaboo" battles a la School-Daze, and more recently in the class and status conflicts among the "bougie-fied and the ghettoized." The controversy seems to intensify as socio-economic diversity increases within the community.

What is essential blackness and how does its definition solve issues within the black community?

Often heard within the black community are accusations of not being "Black" enough because one's complexion is too light, they are too ambitious, refined, or work too hard. The opinion of some is that you are devoid of blackness if you are educated, married, married to a white person, or not of the poverty class.

Yet, almost half of today's African Americans are now occupationally middle class, a result of entering schools, institutions, jobs and other white environments in which they were once excluded; 30 percent of black families earn over \$50,000 per year; and nearly 17 percent of blacks possess a college degree.

There are many blacks today who have never experienced ghetto life, have a multitude of white friends, prefer sushi over ham hocks and vitamin water over Kool-Aid. Some are adept at code switching and speaking ebonics but also speak perfect standard English. But they are not less black because they do not fit the oversimplified, monolithic and stereotypical representations of blackness from the past.

On the other hand, there is also a competing ideology of black identity which promotes youthfulness, rebellion and sensuality while highlighting black dysfunction and pimpin', killing, conspicuous consumption and irresponsible behavior.

It is defined by commerce and technology, prospering due to the digital age's ability to influence many to imitate the behavior and models of success that they see portrayed

Scholars and activists such as Cosby tout these media representations of the black experience as "perceived" rather than authentic black culture.

Scholar Greg Tate (2003), goes even further to declare that hip-hop, which he calls a minstrelsy of black aesthetic, with its lucrative relationship to pop culture, manifests "the need by white Americans to acquire Blackness by any means necessary" and is another example of the co-optation of "the Black presence from whatever Black thing they took a shine to: jazz, blues, rock and roll, doo-wop, swing, cornrowing, ... you name it."

What is important is that through the destructive cues provided in contemporary music videos and cinema, some African Americans attempt to differentiate themselves via their language, dress, demeanor and behaviors in order to impose what they consider to be legitimate life-style and "keeping it real."

Whose idea of African-American culture will prevail?

There is a larger issue in my opinion.

Although many African Americans have advanced socially, politically and economically, the race still lags far behind collectively compared to white Americans, and a large portion of the community is still suffering from the negative effects of poverty. In addition, despite the advances of some, a bond of shared history and contemporary oppression remain along with some core values and beliefs.

And, as a wise woman replied to those whose elevated tastes could no longer tolerate those who fixed their cars on their street, bar-b-qued and hung out on their front porch, or did not meet their housekeeping or maintenance standards, "I've, had a position too, but I didn't look down. You don't look down on anyone. Because all of us know where we've been, honey, but we don't know where we're going."

Yes, "every tub must sit on its own bottom," but the current recession revealed the dangerous precipice upon which many of us sit who have "arrived:" We learned that we are one or two paychecks from foodstamps or foreclosure ourselves and that discrimination, injustice and racism exist at every socio-economic level.

Therefore, what is more needful is the solidarity that comes out of a collective black experience and which transcends the class distinctions and static, monolithic cultural

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

Community Calendar

UT Eberly Center Women's History Month Event: "My Black Is Chic;" 7:30 to 9 pm; Student Union Rm 2591; Discussion on fashion, self-esteem and self-expression:

March 24

Eberly Center Women's History Month Event: "Beyond White Leadership;" 3 to 5 pm; Panelists AnChung Chen, PhD, Shanda Gore, Ed.D, Asma Abdel Halim, Ph.D.,

Iota Theta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc 14^{th} Annual Youth Symposium: 8:30 am to 1 pm; Mt. Pilgrim Church: "H3: It's all about me: Healthy Choices, Healthy Living and Healthy Generations:"419-345-4486

Cass Road Baptist Church Young Adult Ministry Kick-Off: Food, fun, games; Ages 18-30; 3 to 5 pm: <u>419-893-2008/crbyaministry@yahoo.com</u>

Glass City Church of Christ 19th Annual Ladies Inspiration Day: "Running the Christian Race ... Get F.I.T. with God;" Continental breakfast at 8 am; Program from 9 am to 12:30 pm: 419-346-1248

Citywide Christian Trustee Association Meeting: United MBC; 10 am: 419-380-9477 Central Catholic Gospel Choir: Braden United Methodist Church; 6 pm: 419-386-2700

 $Calvary\,MBC\,22^{nd}\,Pastoral\,Anniversary:\,Pastor\,Floyd\,Smith; 4\,pm\,service\,with\,guests$ Bishop Clifton Jones and Agape Love Ministries

Crusaders for Christ Church "Fresh Start" Ministry's Freedom Experience: 2:30 pm to 5 pm; Ages 18 and up: 419-376-2331

Parkwood SDA Church Single Parents' Association Support Group & Education: 4 to 5 pm: 419-508-9648

Beulah Baptist Church Men's Day: 11 am preacer, Elder Steve Allen of New Bethel; 4 pm preacher, Pastor Clayborn Arnett of Greater Harvest

Jerusalem MBC: 6th Pastoral Appreciation Service for Rev. W.L. and First Lady Monica Perryman; Guest Indiana Avenue MBC congregation; 4 pm

Greater Toledo Urban League Senior Program Annual Black History Celebration: "Celebrating You;" 12:30 pm; J. Frank Troy Center; Speaker Robert Smith of African American Legacy Project: 419-255-6206

Phillips Temple CME Pre-Women's Day Event: Fish and Chicken Wing Dinners; 10 am to 5:30 pm

Calvary Baptist Church Youth Department: Concert - "The Blood Still Works:" Featuring Tye Quarles & Rekovered; 6 pm: 419-466-9731

April 9

Women Blessing Women Mentorship Program Kickoff: 11 am - 1 pm; 419-408-3993 or419-241-9789

Annual Community Health Fair: Cordelia Martin Health Center: Sponosred by Toledo Council of Black Nurses and Omega Psu Phi Fraternity; 10 am to 2 pm; Free adult health screenings - blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, HIV, color-rectal, prostate, lupus, etc: 419-531-4310

UAW Local 1435 Women's Committee Shero Luncheon: Honoring women in the workplace who have proven to be heroes; 11 am to 2 pm; Panelist Celia Williamson, Ph.D., of UT: 419-666-7070 or 419-215-9367

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry 14th Spring Retreat: 419-787-9635

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American

Kevin McQueen Fletcher Word Becky McQueen Publisher Publisher and Editor Business Manager

Brittany Jones Vickie Shurelds Sharon Guice James Fowler

Reporter Reporter

Jack Ford Michael J. Hayes Jason I. Lee Sr. Jennifer Retholtz

Political Columnist Entertainment Critic Lavout Designer Webmaster

A Certified MBE, 2009

The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604 Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700 thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

YWCA's 2011 Milestones: A Tribute to Woman

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The YWCA of Greater Toledo held its 16th annual Milestones awards luncheon on Thursday, March 17 –

St. Patrick's Day – at the SeaGate Convention Center as an audience of more than 700, many wearing the green, celebrated the accomplishments of eight honorees.

Among that number were Dr. Samantha Adams, for her work in the sciences, and Lisa McDuffie, the 2011 YWCA Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Adams was licensed to practice chiropractic medicine at the age of 21, the first African-American woman to do so. She remains the only black chiropractic physician in Toledo.

Dr. Adams attended The University of Toledo, City College of New York and the Chiropractic Institute of New York and eventually returned to Toledo to practice and raise a family of six children.

She has served as president of the Toledo Board of Education and as president of the Toledo Branch of the NAACP board. She was honored in 2005 by the NAACP for her outstanding dedication to the organization and its mission and has also been named a "legend" by the African American Legacy Project. In 2009, she received one of the first Glass City Awards from the mayor of Toledo.

McDuffie is president and CEO of the YWCA of Greater Toledo, a job she began 15 years ago with a budget of \$2 million and a staff of 60. Today she oversees a budget of \$5 million and a staff of 100 in a service area that includes 16 Ohio counties.

Just recently, under McDuffie's leadership, the YWCA completed a \$10 million low-income apartment building that houses 65 formerly homeless women and their children.

McDuffie has served as the Ohio State representative for the YWCA, treasurer for the five Great Lakes Alliance of YWCA and recently completed a term as the president of the National Association of YWCA Executives.

This year's other honorees included Margy Trumbull in the arts; Rite Mansour in business; Martha Newhort in education; Olivia Summons in government; Pam Howell-Beach in social services and Pamela Hershberger for volunteerism.

Trumbull is an art historian and serves as a docent at the Toledo Museum of Art. She is past president of the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo.

Mansour is a senior managing director and partner with the firm of Thomas McDonald Partners. In 2006 she was named to Barron's Top 100 Female Advisors in the U.S. list.

Mewhort has been an educator for over 40 years and is a former faculty member of Lourdes College and a Trustee Emirita of the college.

Summons is director of Government and Public Affairs for the Toledo Refining Company, a subsidiary of PBF Energy (formerly Sunoco, Toledo Refinery) and is past chairman of The University of Toledo's Board of Trustees.

Howell-Beach is executive director of The Stranahan Foundation and has been responsible for an increase in its assets from under \$20 million to nearly \$100 million during her tenure.

Hershberger, a partner in the Toledo office of Ernst & Young, has worked with the YWCA and the area's chapter of the American Red Cross (chairman of the board of directors) among other agencies over the years.

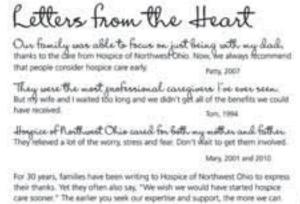
The mission of the YWCA is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA of Greater Toledo operates a battered women's shelter; a free after-school program for seventh grade students in East Toledo; a child care resource and referral program; health programs that include an early breast cancer detection program and support group and one that encourages a healthy lifestyle; a hotline and crisis intervention center for survivors of sexual assault along with its housing program and youth development program.

SECOND IN A SERIES

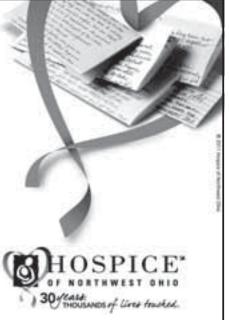








Share your story. Visit hospicerwe.org



Bill Cosby Takes an Enlightening Stroll Through the **Central City**

By Torri Blanchard Sojourner's Truth Reporter

On March 19, an estimated crowd of 2,000 men, women, boys, and girls waited in great anticipation for Bill Cosby to complete his walk through one of Toledo's many central city neighborhoods

Once Cosby made his way to Forest Ave., the thunderous drums played by the Jefferson Express Marching Band led him to the forefront of a very welcoming crowd.

"What's up Smith Park," yelled John Jones, president of the Greater Toledo Urban League. After giving the spectators their opportunity to clap in appreciation of Jones 'acknowledgement, he added, "This is the weekend that we begin to change Toledo and its landscape!"

Finally, the crown simmered down and Cosby took center stage to deliver his

sage" for the children and elderly of the urban commu-

"I don't care what white man is dealing what, we don't have to take it," said Cosby. "Our elders have to be able to walk, any time, day or night, with their pocketbooks wide open and nobody puts their hands in it."

"Amen," shouted a woman in the audience. "He sure is telling the truth!"

Sternly, he addressed the Christians in the audience. "In this area alone, there are seven to eight Baptist and Christian churches. Drug dealers get run of out Muslim

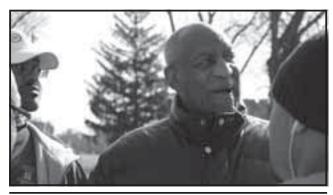
neighborhoods, but operate freely in a neighborhood filled with churches. It makes no sense," said Cosby.

He continued, "Why can the black Muslim men have the strength and care about their children, about their wives, and the Christian men are missing? "

From the quiet of the crowd, it was evident that everyone had taken to heart to the words being spoken.

Giving the crowd an opportunity to hear from a mem-

(Continued on Page 16)



Bill Cosby Wows Overflow Crowd at Urban League Dinner

By Fletcher Word Sojourner's Truth Editor





city neighborhood anchored by Smith Park on Dorr Street.

"My reward is tomorrow, to walk through that neighborhood and we get to start educating our children in places where you never thought of educating people before," he said of Saturday's mission. By this point in his address, Cosby had lowered his voice almost to a whisper as he spoke of the challenge facing the black community

"We want to get people back to the old time neigh-



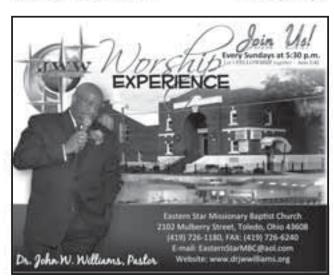


- * Tuition- Free Community School
- * All Day Kindergarten
- EMY * Safe, Learning Environment
 - * School Wide Discipline Plan
 - * Dedicated, State-Certified Teachers
 - * Before & After School Tutoring
 - * Weekly Specials: Music & Physical Education

Personal Tours 10 am - 4 pm everyday!

3319 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo 43607

www.victoryacademy.us





First and foremost, he was funny. Very funny.

Whether he was talking about the poverty of his childhood, the difficulties between his father and the rest of the family or even expounding on his now-famous remarks about the absence of proper parenting in the black community, Bill Cosby was very funny last Friday night as he enthralled an audience of 750 who had gathered at the Parkway Plaza for the 14th Annual Greater Toledo Urban League's Dinner.

And he was passionate.

"It's about the children; it's always been about the children," he said. "I'm tired of hearing about people not raising their children; tired of hearing about children raising themselves. Some of us expect the Boys and Girls Clubs to raise our kids.'

And he was dismissive of excuses.

"I'm not interested in why we went wrong," he told his listeners. "Or in how we went wrong. FIX IT. I want responsibility. For 400 years you're gonna stay devastated?"

And he was, quite frankly,

"These people," he said



pointedly, explaining to his audience that he intended to say just that. "These people don't respect what they've

But, he also took pains to point out that while the situation in African-American communities might be grave, it is by no means beyond re-

"That doesn't mean they can't be helped," he added.

And help was exactly what he was prepared to offer as he explained to the Friday night crowd, what he intended to do on Saturday in an innerborhoods," he said, "Maybe we ought to start growing cotton in Ohio, or tobacco. Then we could see the kids saying 'algebra is a lot easier.

Cosby's Friday night speech was the culmination of an evening that dwarfed previous such Urban League events. The 750 in attendance was more than the 2009 and 2010 combined.

"Ooohh wee!" said Mayor Mike Bell when he took the podium to extend greetings from the City of Toledo and

(Continued on Page 16)

Committed College Coach Program Comes to Toledo

Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, along with officials from Toledo Public Schools. the Toledo Federation of Teachers, the Toledo Community Foundation, Lucas County Jobs and Family Services and Partners in Education announced the arrival of the Committed College Coach Program on Monday before an audience of about 70 TPS fifth graders.

The program will include about 100 fifth graders in four classes at Sherman Elementary and Grove Patterson Academy, where Monday's announcement was made. The program requires a commitment from a student's par-

The University of Toledo. Bowling Green State University, Lourdes College and Owens Community College are all participating in the program.

Partners in Education will coordinate the program in collaboration with the other partners.

The first parent and stu-

White, a former TPS student herself and a graduate of UT, addressed the students during Monday's announcement.

"It is imperative that we teach our children that a college education is the norm." said White, a UT administra-

The program will start with a commitment from student

"Our economic future depends on more of us going to college."

dent to commit to the program were Terrina White and her daughter Nakiya, a student at Grove Patterson

and coach in the fifth grade. In the sixth grade campus visits will begin along with the identification of career



interest. Visits continue through the seventh grade. In the eighth grade, a high school plan is developed and by the ninth grade, information is filtering in about scholarships offered by local colleges.

For the rest of the high school tenure, the student is receiving information on the steps necessary to apply for entrance and scholarships as well as preparing for entrance

"We'd like you to go to college, because we want you to make more money," said Skeldon Wozniak in her opening remarks to the fifth-graders. "Our economic future depends on more of us going to college."

She then pointed out the statistics that show the Toledo area falling behind other parts of the country.

Fewer than 14 percent of

Lucas County's residents have a bachelor's degree and nearly one in five do not have a high school diploma, said the commissioner. Part of the problem, she said, was the area's traditional reliance on manufacturing jobs which has led young people to believe that they can still find a good job without a degree.

"We're going to get our community off the ground," she told the youngsters.



ent or other significant adult in the child's life. That adult will be trained, regardless of whether he or she has attended college, to assist the student in preparing for college from an early age.

The student and coaches will receive: regular training on preparing for college; information packets with tasks to help students start thinking about college and a career and invitations to participate in visits to local col-











Maumee Valley Romance Writers Second Annual Spring Book Lovers' Event at Sanger Branch Library

Special to The Truth

The Maumee Valley Romance Writers of America (MVRWA) announces their second annual Spring Book Lovers Event to be held on

/www.mvrwa.net/

Maumee Valley Romance Writers of America (MVRWA) is based in Toledo, Ohio and is a local chapscripts written and are looking for a publisher or agent, while still others are struggling to finish their first book. No matter what stage your we'll hold your hand when those nasty rejection letters foul your mailbox."

Writers interested in joining MVRWA may attend two

meetings to see if RWA and the local chapter is a good fit. Before becoming a member of MVRWA, membership with RWA is required. RWA

represents more than 10,000 members in 145 chapters nationally.

"No matter what stage your writing career is at, we can identify with you."

Saturday, March 26th from 10:00 A.M. till 2.00 P.M. at the Sanger Branch Library. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the love of writing and reading romantic fiction and to promote the awareness of MVRWA. It is free to the public and no registration is required. Connie Phillips, president of MVRWA says, "It's an opportunity to meet and talk with nationally published authors of romance, and also to network with other authors in various stages of their writing career."

This event, sponsored by the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, will offer free book giveaways, book readings of published works by authors, and refreshments. For more information, visit the MRVWA website at http://



ter of the Romance Writers of America (RWA). Their purpose is to advance the professional interest of careerfocused romance writers through networking and advocacy. "MVRWA members are friendly and welcoming," says Phillips. "We have published authors, from debut to multi-published, who have been writing over a decade. Others have many manuwriting career is at, we can identifywith you. We encourage each other through the ups and downs of our careers. Topics discussed at meetings include brainstorming for ideas, writing contests, submitting to editors, finding an agent (without losing your dignity or your mind), dealing with your first publishing contract, and promoting your work. And yes,

Arts Commission of Greater Toledo Is Pleased to Announce

Artomatic 419! 2011 to Take Place April 2, 9 &16

The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo is pleased to announce that its popular program, Artomatic 419!, returns in 2011, taking place over three full Saturdays, April 2, 9 & 16, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day.

Celebrating its fourth incarnation, the biennial event – held every other year – is looking at one of its biggest and best years yet! As northwest Ohio's largest nonjuried, multi-media arts showcase, Artomatic 419! 2011 will see nearly 300 visual, performing, and literary artists from across our region's Creative Community take over two buildings in downtown Toledo's St. Clair Village, situated right in the heart of the burgeoning Warehouse District neighborhood across from Fifth-Third Field.

Due to an overwhelming response from ACGT's call for artists in the autumn of 2010, Artomatic 419! Out grew its first building, adding for the first time in the event's history a second site. The 2011 event will take place simultaneously in the 3-story historic building at 407 Washington St. (behind Jed's), and kitty-corner at 25 S. St. Clair Street (across from Homeslice Pizza). Both of these wonderful structures have been empty for some time, despite being situated in the city's core. Filled with art, live performance, and Artomatic 419! event-goers, these building will enjoy new life and new recognition for the first time in years.

This year's event will also feature the new addition of an "official after-party." The after-party event is sponsored by The Ottawa Tavern and Toledo.com, and will feature regional live entertainment each night from 10 p.m. to midnight at The Event Center (23 N. Summit St.)

This year's event is made possible through the generosity of our building partners STS Management (407 Washington) and Martin and Wood Appraisals Group LTD along with new tenant, The Art Supply Depot (25 S. St. Clair St.), and The Event Center.

This event is also supported by the Ohio Arts Council, the Small Business Administration, The Toledo Blade, ProMedica, Clear Channel, WTO5 Toledo's CW, Devicious, Toledo.com, Wayne Lumber, SFC Graphics, the Ottawa Tavern, Flash Toledo, Old West End Records. Crafts 2000 Monroe. Scran4Art. and the Toledo Warehouse District.

SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!!



Colleges to be visited are:
Fisk College – Nashville, Tn.
Tennessee State University – Nashville, Tn.
Jackson State University – Jackson, Miss.
Dillard University – New Orleans, La.
Xavier University – New Orleans, La.
Tuskegee University – Tuskegee, Ala.
Alabama State University – Montgomery, Ala.

Tour Scheduled for April 17, 2011 through April 22, 2011 Deposit is required to secure a seat on tour.

For More Information Call: Trevor Black @ 419 / 478-7844 or Gwen Banks @ 419 / 944-5912 Sponsored by:

The Maumee Bay Club

National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.



The Sojourner's Truth

Arts Section • Arts S

I Found a Gift Certificate, Now What Do I Do?

By Teri Schilichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

The other day, you were cleaning out your wallet, looking for something you needed and you got quite a surprise.

Oh, sure, you found what you were looking for. As well as three outdated coupons, a seventh grade photo of your niece (she's 25 now), a grocery list from who-knowswhen, and two phone numbers scribbled on scraps of paper – with no names.

And you found the bookstore gift certificate you got last Christmas.

Okay. So you know what to do with all that other stuff (sorry to the niece) but what do you do with a bookstore gift certificate?

Send it to me, care of.... no, just kidding. Instead, why not GO TO THE BOOK-STORE and look for these

IF YOU'RE A NOVEL LOVER... And you love westerns, try The Brave by Nicholas Evans (who wrote The Horse Whisperer). This is the story of a cowboy whose past comes back to haunt him when his son is charged with murder. Also look for Blind Your Ponies by Stanley Gordon West which, like The Brave is set in Montana and tells the story of a man who is hiding from his past and the basketball team that changes his life.

Historical novel lovers will want to look for *The Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill. That's the story of a former slave woman who decides to pen her memoirs, starting with her life in an African village and what happens to her on her journey back. This is one of those books you won't be able to put down. You've been warned...

Connie Briscoe's last novel, Sisters & Husbands is now in paperback. It's a story about a woman who can't seem to settle down, particularly since she's seen her sister's marriages flounder. Another paperback novel to look for is These Things Hidden by Heather Gudenkauf, a book about a woman who wants to put her past behind her and re-connect with her sister after a prison term for a crime that happened long ago. But the past can't always be hidden. And don't miss Color Me Butterfly by L.Y. Marlow. a novel based on a true story of four generations of mothers and daughters - also in paperback.

Best thing about a paperback is that you can buy more with that gift certificate...

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT TO READ... Try Blood Contract by Biola Olatunde, which is set in the Niger Delta. It's the story of a man who tried to escape his past by leaving his village, until that very past pulls him back.

Set in Ireland, *They Never Gave Up* by Linda Penhall is the story of two women and their lifelong friendships and the support they give one another

The Savion Sequence by D. Amari Jackson is a little new age, a little fantasy, and a little mystery, set partially in the Sahara and partially in North Carolina.

And The Abominable
Gayman by Johnny
Townsend is a novel about a
gay Mormon who's doinght
two-year missionary work in
Italy, his "torment" and the
things he faces while so far
away from home.

All these books may be a little difficult to find, but if you're in the mood for something completely unusual, give them a try.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO BUY A HOUSE THIS YEAR... Don't shop before youread Before You Buy! by Michael Corbett. This book takes you from dreaming of home ownership to painting your new bedroom and everything in between, and it even addresses your "freaking out" moments. If this is your year to own a home, what better way to use that gift certificate?

IFYOUJUSTWANTTHE FACTS, MA'AM (or sir).... and you're getting married, look for Offbeat Bride by Ariel Meadow Stallings, which will give you lots of ideas and make your Special Day as perfectly unique and non-traditional as you are. If you've got a daughter (or if you are one), look for You're Grounded Forever... but First, Let's Go Shopping by Susan Shapiro Barash, a book that discusses the ageold mother/daughter battles and what can be done to stop them. For the artist in you, grab You Can Draw in 30 Days by Mark Kistler, which is a cool book that will unleash your creativity, even if you think you can barely hold a pencil.

If there's a 20-something in your family, look for Not Ouite Adults by Richard Settersten, PhD & Barbara E. Ray. That's a book to help you understand why your post-teen is still a kid (to you) and why it's a good thing. And if you've got other challenges in your family, you'll want to read Siblings and Autism, edited by Debra L. Cumberland and Bruce E. Mills, an anthology of true stories from people who have brothers or sisters with the

autism spectrum.

I also liked Yellow Dirt by Judy Pasternak, which is a chilling historical account of nuclear development and what happened when the government knowingly contaminated an entire tribe of Native Americans. If you're looking for outrage, this is your book. Another outraging book is American Plastic by Laurie Essig. How does our love of plastic money affect our plastic lives? Read on...

IFYOUCRAVEAGOOD CRIME STORY.... Try BMF: The Rise and Fall of Big Meech and the Black Mafia Family by Mara Shalhoup. Set in Detroit, that's the true story of organized crime, power, drugs, and greed, and how the empire was brought down by a team of dedicated investigators. Then look for Stay in Your Lane: Judge Karen's Guide to Living Your Best Life by Judge Karen Mills-Francis, who is the star of the syndicated TV show Judge Karen's Court.

I also liked *Double Play* by Mike Weiss; a true-crime story of the double murders of George Moscone and Harvey Milk, and includes a DVD and new information you might not know.

FOR THE GAR-DENER.... who's tired of putting the same old thing in the ground, look for Bizarre Botanicals by Larry Mellichamp and Paula Gross, which will give you dozens of cool ideas for the garden and for that landscaping project you've been thinking about. I also liked The Blueberry Years by Jim Minick, which is a very sweet book about a different kind of family farm. Bonus: RECIPES!

FOR THE BUDDING WRITER.... who can't seem to get started on that new novel, look for Mastering Creative Anxiety by Eric Maisel. This book - which is useful for anyone who needs creativity - can boost your brain and get you to the next level on your book, your artwork, your screenplay, song, or skit. I also really loved The Word: Black Writers Talk About the Transformative Power of Reading and Writing, edited by Marita Golden. This book, filled with interviews of authors such as Pearl Cleage and Edwidge Danticat will also get you motivated to put pen to paper or fingers to kevboard.

IFYOU CRAVE A BIOG-RAPHY or MEMOIR... then try My Week at the Blue Angel and Other Stories from the Storm Drains, Strip Clubs, and Trailer Parks of

Las Vegas by Matthew O'Brien. This is a collection of stories - all true - about the people who live on the edges of Las Vegas, and it's a definite don't-miss. Then look for Good Behavior: A Memoir by Nathan L. Henry. That's a book about the author's year in jail, what got him there, and how he turned his life around. And if you still want more lifestories, grab Learning to Die in Miami by Carlos Eire, which is the tale of a man who came from Cuba in 1962 with his older brother, and how he adjusted to his new life and his new country

FORTHETRIVIAFAN...
Look for complete fun in The Celebrated Pedestrian and Other Historical Curiosities:
A Miscellany from BBC History Museum. It's a book about quirks and oddities throughout history and throughout the world, and it's a browser's delight. Also look for Campbell's Weather Compendium by Harry Campbell, which is a book for gardeners, cooks, trivia buffs, and weather fans alike.

TO MAKE YOU LAUGH.... Look for *Daily Scoldings* by Beryl Barclay. That's a book filled with advice and quick wit, and it's

quick to read, too.

IF YOU WANT A BUSI-NESS BOOK TO READ...Look for Now... Build a Great Business! by Mark Thompson and Brian Tracy. This book will teach you how to take your business to the next level to maximize profits and grow. Bonus: it includes website information, Also look for Black **Business Secrets** by Dante Lee. That's another entrepreneurial book, but this one is specifically for African Americans who want to make a better business.

IFYOU'REANADVEN-TUROUS SOUL.... And you're planning a vacation on wheels this summer, grab Across American by Bicycle by Alice Honeywell and Bobbi Montgomery. That's the story of two women who biked from Oregon to main one summer, the people they met, the sites they saw, the troubles they encountered, and the fun they had.

FORTHEPET-LOVERIN YOU.... And you don't have a lot of time, look for Mad About the Dog by Belinda Harley. At just 90 pages, that ticket to tuck into purse or briefcase because it's so brief.

Also try Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat by Hal Herzog. This interesting, lively book explains – among other things – why view animals differently and why most people prefer a pup of the canine sort and not of the rodent kind.

IF THE GIFT CERTIFICATE IS FOR THE KIDS...

AND THEY'RE LITTLE.... look for Not All Princesses Dress in Pink by Jane Yolen & Heidi E. Y. Stemple, illustrated by Anne Sophie Lanquetin. That's a great book for the little princess who must wear blue or green now and then. Your young reader will also enjoy Memoirs of a Goldfish by Devin Scillian, illustrated by Tim Bowers. That's a funny story about a very crowded fish bowl - and here's the bonus: it's a Mom's Choice Award-winner, I really liked Even Monsters Need Haircuts by Matthew McElligott, which tells the story of Ultimate Bad Hair and a monstrous beauty parlor. And I loved The Prince & The Gift by Janet H. Surette, illustrated by Tasha Nalini Maraj. That's a book with a lesson for kids who need it,

(Continued on Page 11)



For its third year, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is swinging out and blaring its horns to the up-tempo as they encourage you to join us to observe Jazz Appreciation Month with fun-filled FREE activities your entire family will enjoy!







Saturday, April 9 - (Noon - 4:30 p.m.) Celebrate JAZZ JAM with a total of eight bands playing throughout the day in the Wintergarden and Huntington Meeting Room at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. From 1-3 p.m., a Children's "Bang a Drum" workshop is scheduled in the Children's Library Program Room, located on the second level of Main Library.

Wednesday, **April 13** – (11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) Join the Library for JUNIOR Jazz Jam, an afternoon of pure jazz performed by the talented Toledo Public School student musicians of Byrnedale and Deveaux Middle Schools, in the Wintergarden of Main Library, 325 Michigan St.

Each April, Jazz Appreciation Month is celebrated nationally and internationally, and it is the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History which operates the world's most comprehensive set of jazz programs to honor the month. Jazz is an American musical art form first started in the early 20th century in African American communities in the South. Its influence is based on West African and European traditions. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Jazz Appreciation

The Library's Jazz Jam is generously sponsored by the Professional Musicians of Northwest Ohio, Local 15-286; Friends of the Library, and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

The Library's JUNIOR Jazz Jam is generously supported and presented by Toledo Public Schools and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.





Visit us at: www.staracademyoftoledo.org

Meet the Artists Reception/Open House @ Toledo Heights Branch Library

Art work of Nick Leeper, 7th-grade student at Byrnedale Middle School

Join the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Toledo Heights Branch, 423 Shasta Dr., for its month-long celebration of Youth Art Month in March by viewing student art work from area schools. Join Toledo Heights for a Meet the Artists Reception/Open House at the branch scheduled from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29

Refreshments will be served. This program is an opportunity for student artists and their families, and members of the community to enjoyyouthart. Please join the Library for this FREE event.





You Can Help TUFCU

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Anyone in the community can help the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union remain healthy and a vital force in the city. TUFCU is in the midst of

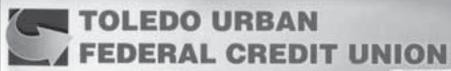
institution's cashreserves, a vital part of the various criteria used in ratings

Those who wish to cona fund-raising campaign tribute and help the credit

designed to increase the union raise a much-call 419-255-8876 needed \$250,000 in reserves or become a member can do so by visiting the credit union at 1339 tion. Dorr Street. For more information about TUFCU,

All funds on deposit are insured by the National Credit Union Administra-





"It's Your Turn"

Free Checking . Saving & Loans Pay All Utility Bills Free Tax Service

Bricks Sold as of March 2011 Board of Director & Staff of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

Would like to take this opportunity to Thank All who have invested in our new building. We still believe God.

You still have time to be a part of history.

Also we would like to thank: Ohio Community Development Finance Fund, City of Toledo, Lucas County Port Authority, Organized Neighbors Yielding Excellence

CHURCHES: Greater St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church, New Life Church of God & Christ, New Life COGIC Missions, New Life COGIC Church School, Redemption Baptist Church, St Paul Missionary Baptist Church, St Martin de Porres, Southern Missionary Baptist Church, Mt Pilgrim Baptist Church, St. Philip Lutheran Church, Bethesdu Christian Church, Grace Presbyterian Church.

Business: Alpha & Omega Collections LLC, Big Boy Construction, C Brown Funeral Home, Commodore Perry Federal Credit Union, Earl Enterprises LLC, The House of Day, KPGL Global Energy Resource Group, Inc., Logan Creek Construction Company, Midwest Urban Newspaper, Mo's Market, Nabil's Next Day Sign, Platinum Creations Hair & Nail Salon, Po- Mo's, R.C. Olinstead, Inc., The Toledo Journal, Quality Time Day Care, Whittington Group Realty, Inkjet Express 1 Hour,

Organizations: Afro American Police League, ALPHA PHI ALPHA Fraternity (ALPHA XI LAMBDA CHAPTER), Maumee Bay Club NANBPWC, INC., Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club, Toledo Chapter Coalition of Black Trades Union, Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., Glass City Black Brothers United,

Clergy: Bishop Edward T Cook, Pastor Darian N Banks, Pastor Clyde Beverly & First Lady Michelle Beverly, Rev. Raymond Bishop, Pastor Glen D Burel Sr, Minster Charles E Chandler, Pastor Robert A Culp, Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman, Rev Dr John E Roberts, Pastor Talmadge J Thomas, Pastor Troy Thomas, Rev. Robert P Wormely, Pastor William Terry, Rev. Kevin J Bedford, Mother Bernice Roberts, First Lady Sheila Cook, First Lady Willetta Perryman, Pastor Robert W Lyons.

Officials: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Judge Charles J Doneghy & Lena Doneghy, Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Jeanine Perry State Representative, Councilman Joe McNamara, Councilwoman Wilma Brown, Wade Kapszukiewicz Lucas County Treasurer, Vallie Bowman English, Ian B English Esq., WilliAnn Moore, Brenda Hill, Joanna Baron Atty., Eddie M Cole Atty., Myron Duhart Atty., Toby Fey Atty., Keith Wilkowski, Atty., Barb Wilkowski, Barbara Cobbam, Suzette R Cowell, Shawn Cowell, George W Cowell Jr., Edwin Mabrey, Leo D Martinez, Maria E Martinez, Ed Phillips, David Smith, Frances Smith, Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, Ray Wood.

Community: Eve Allen, James Allinon, Jewyana Anderson, Eric Baldwin, Sam & Altbeu Baldwin, Mira Banks, Dule Barnhill, Queen Esther Barringer, Debra Becne, Rozein Becne, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Bivens, Arlene Bond, Henry Boyd, Anita-Hackett-Braswell, Charsena Braswell, Carol-Jean Brazzel, Drenda Brooks, Gwen Brown, Leona Brown, Michael A Cancel Sr., Ernestine Carter, John Chapman, Russell Chapman, Felton Chatman, Lamont Chenault, Leona Chemault, Anita Cobb, Rufias Coffey, Charlest Codey, Reginald Coley, Dennis Conley, Gloria Conner, Branden Mykal Cook, Manhattan Michelle Cook, Barbara Corggens, Andre L Cowell Sr., Kevin Cowell, Ruth L. Cowell, Sharon D Crawford, Lester Crump, Maequisa Durden, Jeanette Davis, Martha N Ramey-Dewalt, Janice Edwards, Shirley A Thomas El, Patricia Y Ellis, Rose E Bonhart Ellis, William H Ellis Sr., Percy Evans, Virginia Evans, Taundra Ezell, Harrison and Ethel Y. Files, Jr. Priscilla Fletcher, Josh Floyd, Mary Floyd, Phyllis D. Flowers, Janice Fryar, Verbie Garland, Robin Gaines, Gist Family, Del Grace, Kelli Grace, Stanley Graves, Gertrude Green, Ralph Green, Harrist Hardy, Yvonne Harper, Corene Harris, Doreen Harris, Mary D Hooks-Harris, John & Mary Hawkins, Lester & Vera Haynes, Victoria Scott-Hayward, Nate Hayes, Patti Henry, Sylvia Hewitt, Aviance Hill, Mozell Hill, George Hillard, Gloria Hillard, Gabrielle Hinton, Roy Holloway Sr., Holly Hodge, Eirgie Hughes, Albert J Hunter, Harrison Hutchimson, Lucile Hutton, Thomas Hutton, Willis Jackson, David L James Sr., Martin Jarret, Elaine Baker-Johnson, Gary Johnson, Jacqueline Luckett-Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Lee Johnson Jr., Anthony Q Jones Sr. Anna M Jones, Larry A Jones, Anita Jude, Aho King Ill, Alto King Sr., Terri King, Delores Latson, Barbara Lee, Willie Lee, Delores A. Lindsey, Lisa K Linear, Mark Lockett Sr., The Lockett Family, Yulonda McClure-Logan, Marilyn D. Lomas, Besty Long, Will Lucas, Larnzy McClelland Sr., Theressa McClendon, Donald H McCreary, LueDell F Martin, Pamala Matthews, Paula Mayes, Eddie Merrell Jr., Geraldine T. M Carnel and Celeste Smith, Charlesena Smith, Chris Smith, Shirley Smith, Virginia Haywood-Smith, Wanita Smith, James Snodgrass Sr., Tracee Persynan-Stewart, Robert W. Stiegel, Lynn Storum, Antonio Stuart, Mary Stubblefield, Cornell Talley, Pierrette Talley, Mattie Taylor, Monique Talley, Dorothy Tarver, Freddie & Antoinette Tisdale, Lillie Watkins, Charles B Welch, Twyla Lorraine Wheaton, Evangelia White, Jeffrey White, Anderson N Whitt, Vincent Wiggins, Edith Williams, Felesha Williams, Muriel E Webb Williams, Hollis & Pat Williamson, Jane Williamson J.T. Williamson, Dorothy Willis, Edward Willis, Pamela Wilson,

The Color Purple Musical: A Soulful Experience

By Monique Ward Special to The Truth

It's 8 p.m. at the Stranahan Theatre (March 10-13) and the venue is filled to capacity with a diverse audience from all different walks of life. Many have a common love for art and theater but this crowd was here in particular to experience one show in particular. This Broadway show, produced by Oprah and music legend Quincy Jones was based on the Pulitzer Prize winning book by Alice Walker, The Color Purple. It was to become quite obvious why the Broadway musical received over 10 Tony Award nominations as act one began. The story opens with Celie (Dayna Jarae Dantzler) and Nettie (Traci Allen) playing the clapping game called Huckleberry Pie which has become so well known from the movie. Soon after Celie is married off by her Pa to Mister (Edward C. Smith) and takes her second child from her. Nettie also runs away from her Pa to be with Celie but Mister tries to take advantage of Nettie when she moves in. When Nettie defends herself against his advances, Mister puts her out and she promises to write

Celie before she departs the stage. We are then introduced to Harpo, Mister's son (Cameron J. Ross) and his pregnant wife Sophia (Pam Trotter) you can't help but to fall in love with the two spirited characters. Harpo is the doting husband while Sofia has all the attitude. Mister gives his son advice on how to deal with his wife which Harpo doesn't agree with. He then turns to Celie for advice who agrees with her husband in saying that Sophia should be beaten. Songs such as "A Tree Named Sofia" and "Hell No!" had the audience laughing and in tears after witnessing Harpo's bruises from Sofia beating him up instead. Soon after this, Sofia leaves Harpo who turns their house into a juke joint and hires a girl named Squeak (played by Allison Semmes) as a waitress. Squeak soon becomes Harpo's mistress and moves in with him. By this time, the town temptress, Shug Avery (Taprena Augustine), makes it back home from her travels. She makes her entrance onstage to the townspeople singing "All We've Got to Say" as part of the local gos-



sip. Celie ends up caring for Shug after Mister bring her to his house. While caring for Shug, Celie starts to develop deep feeling for her and they become good friends. Shug finds a letter written by Nettie and gives it to Celie which disproves her previous thoughts of her sister being dead."Too Beautiful for

Words" and "Push Da Button" were too well-recieved numbers sung by Shug. Act two begins with Celie discovering the numerous letters that Mister hid from her over the years. She also learns that Nettie traveled to Africa on a mission trip to Africa with a local pastor that also adopted Celie's babies. Dur-

ing this time, Shug returns home for Easter and realizes that Celie is mad at God which lead to a spiritual rendition of the title number "The Color Purple." The musical continued with comedy and silent moments of awe through-out. Celie is reunited with her sister & children, Mister becomes a changed man & Sophia takes Harpo back. It was obvious that the cast managed to capture the minds and hearts of the audience with amazing voices and wellchoreographed dance moves. By the conclusion of the show all the seats of the theater were empty due to everyone in the standing for a thunderous ovation.

Gift Certificate

(Continued from Page 7)

but it's such a pretty book that they'll never notice

ANDTHEY'REMIDDLE-SCHOOLERS....LookforHow to Trap a Zombie, Track a Vampire, and Other Hands-On Activities for Monster Hunters by A.R. Rotruck. Published by the Dungeons & Dragons folks, this book is funny and very fun for young wizards. I also liked Beast Friends Forever: Book 1, Meet the Beast bvNateEvansandVinceEvans. Part comic book, part chapter book, this is a great bridge between the two, and your young monster-lover will love it.

And if you're heading on vacation this year, check the bookstore for CoolStuffEvery Kid Should Know by Kate Boehm Jerome. This is a series of books, each focusing on a specific city, its history, sites, and trivia, includes pictures and plenty of information for the young vacationer. Cincinnati, Orlando, Dallas, Tampa, Atlanta, Houston, Buffalo, and Charleston are available now.

more books are slated to be released in the coming months.

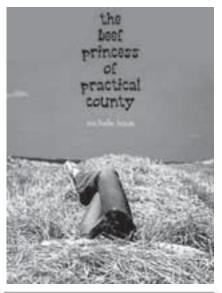
IF THEY'RE TEENAG-ERS...then look for The Twin's Daughter by Lauren Baratz-Logsted, a gothic novel about two girls separated at birth and the creepy things that happen when they unite as grown-ups, one with a daughter who sees too much. I also liked The Beef Princess of Practical County by Michelle Houts, a novel about one girl's week at the county fair after months of preparation and weeks of avoiding the nastiest girls in her small Indiana town. And if you've got a "Twilight" fan who's chomping for something to read, look for iDrakula by Bekka Black. Getthis book, and they'll say fang you very much (sorry, I couldn't resist).

And there you are: a few dozen ways to spend that found gift certificate by spending a few hours in a bookstore and then, curled up with a book you'll love.











In Search of Our Past: Women of **Northwest Ohio**

What do Nancy Drew, a iazz club owner, and a Native American activist have in common?

The stories of these women involved with these topics are among those featured in the final volume of the local women's history series In Search of Our Past: Women of Northwest Ohio

This last volume celebrates the Women Alive! Coalition's 25th year Anniversary and includes: Millie Benson, author of many of the Nancy Drew books; environmental activists Jane Forsyth, PhD. and Betty Jo Carstensen; black historian Edrene Cole; big band singer Helen O'Connell; sculptor Joe Ann Cousino, evangelist Ottabee Simms: Rusty Monroe, the queen of Toledo iazz: Jovce "Snowfeather" Mahaney, Native-American activist

and early bus driver Virginia Wiezbicki.

Also included are nine women from Fulton County, including Edna Crisman, who closed her business at the age of 100 1/2!

Volume XI costs \$10 with \$1.50 each for shipping and handling.

The Coalition will be hosting a Family and Friends Event to gather those who knew these women on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Sylvania Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library in Sylvania, Ohio from 2 - 4

The Monroe County Community College's Whitman Center, 7777 Lewis Avenue, Temperance. MI (just across the state line) is hosting an authors roundtable of several in the women in the book on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 from 12:30-1:30 in Room 8.

Saturday Morning African Dance and Drum Classes From

"ALMA African Dance Fitness for Young People"



Saturday Mornings, 9:30am-10:15am Common Space 10 S Holland-Sylvania Rd, Toledo OH 43615





Classes are a fast-paced 45 minutes of African Dance with an emphasis on FITNESS, featuring warm-ups, stretching and conditioning, technical instruction & practice, and introducing young people to the "call & response" learning style, found in the traditional drum and dance form.

ALMA dance classes always feature LIVE DRUMMING from internationally-acclaimed artist & ALMA Artistic Director, Yaya Kabo, and ALMA Musical Director, Pevely. ALMA dance classes are led by ALMA Director, Allison Kodeih.

No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome, from beginner to advanced.

Best suited for young people, 6-13 years old. Class fee is \$5 per participant; PRE-PAY & SAVE, 6 classes for \$25. (Group/Family rates can be discussed prior to classes.)

"ALMA West African Dance Technique for Adults"

Saturday Mornings, 10:30am-noon Common Space II

10 S Holland-Sylvania Rd, Toledo OH 43615

Adult classes in traditional West African dance, designed to exercise your body and mind, and open your spirit to the healthful benefits of traditional West African music and

Classes focus on FITNESS, and feature warm-ups & stretching, technical instruction & practice, and highlight the unique communication of the traditional drum and dance form.

ALMA dance classes always feature LIVE DRUMMING from internationally-acclaimed artist and ALMA Artistic Director, Yaya Kabo, and ALMA Musical Director, Pevely. ALMA dance classes are led by ALMA Director, Allison Kodeih.

No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome, from beginner to advanced!

Best suited for ages 14 and up. ALMA classes are offered in 6 week sessions; \$10 per class, PRE-PAY & SAVE - 6 classes for \$50.



Album Review Lupe Fiasco Lasers

By Michae Hayes Minister of Culture



It's sad that hip-hop heads seem to be the most boxed-in people on earth.

If this was 1998, Lupe Fiasco would be shoulder to shoulder with the Mos Def and Common types. He would've been seen as backpacker royalty that keeps that boom bap so alive that it only adds to their artistic cache when they attempt genre blending or reaching into alternative sounds. But, this man came on the scene five years into the new millennium. Sort of as Atlantic Record's one-two punch.

Plies and Lupe Fiasco are on the same label and as their first and second albums hit the shelves both rode a powerful wave of fans who dug deeper and deeper into them with every song and appearance. But Lupe had a heavier cross to bear (and yes, I know he's a Muslim... but you get the reference).

Fine, don't call it conscious hip-hop. Fine, don't call it progressive hip-hop.

But even as fans and artists never seem to want be defined by a category or title, the entire premise of this type of hip-hop is that it intentionally categorizes itself opposite mainstream rap

Just as Erykah Badu ushered in and then killed the term neo-soul, it's a doubleedged sword because people who like that kind of music need to call it something!

Lupe represents that lane once filled by Tribe Called Quest, and occasionally filled by Talib and the aforementioned. Along with The Roots and a few others, creating this particular type of hiphop is what artists like Lupe Fiasco are known for.

Lyrics with substance, tracks that aren't glittery or bass heavy but more organic.

Lots of metaphor, simile and wordplay and subject matter that address the conditions we live in not just personal ambition.

But as much as fans of "conscious" hip-hop appreciate our heroes who keep giving us that real, there's the other edge to that sword.

More than any other form of urban music, artists are held to a strict standard of expectations.

Lupe has always played the line between conscious hip-hop and some kind of skater boy, alternative semi Pharrel-esque type of artsyness

But the rhymes, the rhymes, the rhymes, the rhymes... are always there.

Lupe's recent label troubles became major internet news late last year.

Atlantic Records was allegedly trying to force him to sign one of those nefarious 360 Deals (which I explained in an article last year, any rappers — hope you read it) and they also wanted to force himto pick more radio friendly singles.

After name dropping the title of his unreleased album a year prior, fans were not only rabid but they were actively campaigning for Lupe's fair treatment.

Then an online petition was started with the fans demanding that Atlantic let Lupe do him and let his album come out.

Lupe spoke out about the situation, the video lit up the internet.

And within a week.. Julie Greenblatt (remember..the same three people who lead Def Jam to major success in the late 90s then went to Atlantic?.She's one of the three.) and Lupe are photographed cheesy-faced doing business that supposedly will make everyone happy.

So label drama dies down, fans are happy to see their man being treated with the respect he deserves but one thing remains: is this album any good?

The appeal is very wide on this one. Fans of Paramore and Wale will love this equally.

Lupe Fiasco has managed to create highly-polished songs that sound more like mainstream pop rock than mainstream rap.

It's catchy as hell and not

exactly urban. But somehow it works. Must be a Chi Town thing (what up Sherita!, I know you are reading this). The ability to occupy that same lane Kanye did when he came out, like a new era of backpack but with entirely new rules and wider boundaries.

And just like with 'Ye, it's the subject matter that is Lupe's saving grace. On "Words I Never Said" there's an obvious ploy to more commercial audiences (but pop, not commercial rap) by adding the now ubiquitous Skylar Grey singing over a track that's just as much Eminem as it is Linkin Park.

However, Lupe's first verse rips into atrocities like corporate news and the 91/1 cover ups with glaring detail and measured urgency. It's nothing short of brilliant.

Now how Chicago is this? On the same track he blatantly says he hasn't and never will vote for President Barack Obama. WHOA!

See, I won't even go into detail.

Another of my absolute favorites is the Trey Songz assisted "Out Of My Head."

The production is genius! Just as what Pharrel and Jay Z think they are capable of every time, Lupe and Trey have achieved with ease. And Lupe needs that lady's track bad and this is it!

The lead single "The Show Goes On" is an attempt at that stadium music — bigger than life sound, but it's just so-so to me. I remember seeing the video weeks ago, and it just wasn't on par with what I expect from Lupe.

It's not wack, it's just missing the identity of the artist.

But artists of this caliber are always capable of creating a song that is sure to be a fan favorite for years to come. "State Run Radio" and "All Black Everything" are two of the best hip-hop songs I've heard in five years. At least.

Lupe Fiasco tackles the matrix of corporate radio, vents about the pressure to make hits (a la dumb down) and then caps it off with an urge for fans to take control of what they listen to. The music along with Matt Mahaffey's vocals create a sonic experience so pleasing you don't care what genre it does or doesn't fit in.

Now the other song I mentioned, "All Black Everything." is the song that Lupe Fiasco made that Nas, Common, Mos Def and Talib

should've made.

This is the song that cements his position as one of the few lyricists who can transport listeners to somewhere beyond where they stand. It is singularly one of the best hip-hop songs I've ever heard in my life.

The album only has one or two songs I don't care for at all, one of them is the avoid-at-all-costs "Coming Up" and the title track "Beautiful Lasers" just feels like a forced anthem, and I have had this album for over a week and I don't check for that one.

But there is material on this release that you absolutely need in your life and as I said, the rhymes are there!

True grade for Lupe Fiasco's LASERS is a solid B.

Go and BUY IT!!

Or else he might end up being a 360 artist living on singles and we won't get another album.

Hit me up: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com or FB search me.







CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

March 23, 2011

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS **610 STICKNEY AVENUE**

Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments

Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older. Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included.

Call (419) 729-7118 for de-

FOLIAL HOLISING OPPORTUNITY/FOUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER





Place **YOUR AD HERE** call Pam at 419.243.0007

Wanted to Buy: Diabetes Supplies

Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test strips Must expire after Jan. 2012. Leave labels on boxes. We remove and shred. Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.

For Rent

Newly remodeled, two bedroom Security system, 2549 Stickney \$425, \$400 deposit Call Demetria 419-514-4011

For Rent

3118 Elm - 3 bedroom, basement garage, deck \$650 month - Section 8 Call 419-349-8938

APARTMENTS

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

Call 419.872.3510 or 419.87

Posting 5981: New Media Specialist, **University Communications**

The New Media Specialist is an integral member of the communications staff, responsible for development and implementation of strategies for utilizing the University's electronic communication vehicles, including social media networks and on-campus television content management systems; evaluating trends in these areas and finding ways to utilize the latest technologies to promote the university. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in communications, with specific emphasis on public relations journalism or related field; demonstrated ability to write and coordinate content in a professional, collaborative manner; understanding of, and familiarity with, the latest technology; demonstrated success in the social networking environment for a large organization; excellent writing and verbal communication skills; demonstrated ability to work collaboratively in a complex organizational environment. For more information and to apply: please visit jobs.utoledo.edu/ applicants/Central?quickFind=50827. Deadline for this position is March 25, 2011. UT is an EEO, AA **Employer and Educator**

Classifieds are posted online at www.thetruthtoledo.com

EBLACK MARKETPLACE



Hillandale - \$87,000/REDUCED

Ottawa Hills condo. 1440 sq. ft., 2 full baths. Location, location, location. Bright home, new carpet, newly painted. Spacious one floor. Lots of storage, private garage. One great unit.

Seaway Asset Management

Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.7097

Duplex for Purchase or Lease

Great investment property! Excellant condition! Move in ready for owner or tenants. Both units contain newer furnace, hot water tanks, new windows, updated electrical system. Both consist of large living areas and lots of storage space. WOW! Motivated seller. Easy access for showings.

Seaway Asset Management Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.7097

YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR THIS! SCREEN PRINTED TRANSFERS & AIRBRUSH NOVARRO'S GARMENT IMPRINT 1 TO 101+ T-SHIRTS

1 TO 101+ T-SHIRTS
DESIGNS FOR ANY OCCASIONS: Reunions – Business – Schools
Sports – Events – Civic – Youth ...
ENGLISHISPANISH
Novarro.1@bex.net google NOVARRO GIBSON 419-464-2361

\$16,000 Down Payment Assistance

May include other incentives if you purchase now! Unique two-story brick home located Olde South End. Totally remodeled! Over 1,500 sq. ft. home furnished with appliances. 1 "floor LNDY room, large bedroom. Large closets. Extra loft for entertainment. Must see!

Seaway Asset Management Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.7097



HOUSES FOR RENT!!! SECTION 8 WELCOME!!

Website: www.whittgrouprealty.com Click on Featured Listings and Navigate OR call 419.536.7377

Email: propertymanagement@whittgrouprealty.com



THE C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

1629 Nebraska Avenue, 43607 419.255.7682

A BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU ACCREDITED BUSINESS START WITH TRUSTSM

"A Life with natural health and beauty

Body magic system - designed to re-shape, restore & revive Vitamins

Variety of nutritional supplements

Lose inches without exercise or surgery
Contact me to set up a showcase
www.ardyssinternational.com/UniqueDesigns:
Traci Barner drknlvlytbarner@yahoo.com: 419,346.8610

NEW LISTING!

3bd home w/carpet over hardwood floors: LR w/decorative fireplace; Dining Room with custom blinds and built-in buffet; Appliances included, full basement, fenced yard and 2 car garage. Sold "AS IS", no seller concessions!!
Wilma Smith * DiSalle Real Estate Company

Office 419.350.7514 * Fax 419.866.1566

605 Brighton Highland Park Beauty! 3 bdrms; new roof, windows, kitchen, bath carpet and fresh paint Possible 6% down payment assistance.

Move In Ready. \$64,900

Call Alma Dortch-Gilbert 419.297.2301 for appointment adortchgilbert@sbcglobal.net

Better Care Lawn & Show Removal Services L.L.C. Commerical/Residential Free Estimates Senior Citizen Discount Insured and Bonded Landscaping Phone: 419,917,6440 * Fax: 419,754,3953 www.bettercarelawnservice.com

Woodley Court - \$259,000 6 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, 3488 sq. ft.-Custom-built home. Must see to believe. Located in the quiet Trail Acres subdivision. Built

for entertaining or large family. Easy to show and ready for buye Seaway Asset Management Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.7097

STNA TRAINING

Richards Wants to Get You a Job

Ask about our Early Registration Specials Become An STNA in three weeks Morning/Evening/Workend Classes Available Just \$50.00 down gets you started We Train, We State Test and We Hire

For More Info Call Richard Health Systems

419-534-2371

"PODIATRIST KEEPS PATIENTS ON THEIR FEET" Bunions, hammer toes, and plantar fascitie



are some of the common foot problems. Dr Edna M. Jean, DPM deals with every day. She sees a lot of ingrown toenails and fungal nail infections. She also treats diabetics and orders diabetic shoes for those who qualify. As a podiatrist, Dr. Jean literally helps keep

you on your feet. 1857 N. Reynolds Rd. Toledo, OH 43615 Schedule an appointment. Call 419-537-987 Almost all insurances are accepted including Medicaid and Caresource.



Good Credit or Bad Need a Car? New or Used Call JP the Stork He Delivers 419.320.0863

LARRY E. HAMME, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist Individual, Family, Marital, Group Therapy Psychological Testing, Training

4125 Monroe Toledo, Ohio 43606



2 & 3 BR Homes City Wide!

Traditional financing & lease w/option available for some Call Montalena @ 419.320.5224 and follow me. Your Guide To Home!!

Hicks Day Care Where Kids Come First!



CLASSIFIEDS

March 23, 2011

Page 15

Heinz NA - Fremont Factory has an opening for a Maintenance Supervisor.

We are seeking an individual with comprehensive knowledge of basic mechanical and electrical principles gained through training and experience equivalent to a minimum of 10 years experience as a journeyman industrial mechanic or electrician. A 4 or 2 year engineering or engineering technology degree may be substituted for an equivalent years of experience.

- · Minimum 4 years supervisory experience in maintenance
- · Directing a multi-disciplinary workforce in an industrial production environment
- Utilizing a CMMS, preventative maintenance program, and a predictive maintenance program.
- Knowledge of OSHA safety rules applying to industrial workplace, GMP, EPA, fire code, governmental and company requirements as necessary.

Strong coaching, team building, and delegation skills are required along with a strong results oriented work habit

Resumes will be accepted to April 1, 2011

Submit Resume to:

Heinz NA – Fremont Factory Human Resources Job Code SUP-5440 1200 N. Fifth Street Fremont. Ohio 43420

Heinz NA – Fremont Factory is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Toledo Public Schools will receive proposals for an Employee Benefits Consultant. Written specifications are available through the Employee Benefits Department, Room 112, Toledo Board of Education, Thurgood Marshall Building, 420 East Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608. Relevant questions may be directed to Mary Dunne. Proposals for these coverages must be returned to the Human Resources Office, Room 105 at the same location no later than 4:00 PM. Friday, April 1, 2011. This agreement for Consulting Services will become effective upon award.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is requesting proposals for Alcohol and Other Drug treatment programs for its Fiscal Years 2012-14 (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2014). A detailed Request for Proposal may be downloaded from the Board's website at www.co.lucas.oh.us/mhrsb under the heading of AOD Treatment RFP. Copies of all required forms are also available from the same location on the website. Organizations interested in providing services may also get copies of the RFP by written request submitted to:

Scott A. Sylak
Executive Director

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of
Lucas County
701 Adams St., Suite 800
Toledo, OH 43604

A bidders' conference will be held on April 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Office to provide further detail and afford an opportunity for prospective providers to ask questions related to the Request For Proposal.

Request for Proposals Basic Plumbing Services RFP #11-008

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for Basic Plumbing Services. Proposals will be received in accordance with law until Monday, April 4, 2011 at 3:00 pm.

RFP documents are available on LMHA's website at: www.lucasmha.org or in the LMHA offices, 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. These documents may also be obtained by calling (419) 259-9419.

All proposers shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each proposer must ensure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their age, race, color, religion, creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap or national origin.



Toledo Refining Company

Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for two Area Maintenance Supervisors assigned to either the Crude or Hydrocracker area. Candidate will support the Area Business Team in all aspects relating to Maintenance. The Area Maintenance Supervisors serve as the liaison between the Area Business Teams, Planning, Scheduling, and Execution to ensure proper Maintenance representation.

Candidates must have at least 10 years supervisory experience. Minimum 5 years refinery experience is preferred. Bachelor's Degree or minimum 2 years college preferred. Must be able to respond 24/7 to unscheduled call-ins.

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

EOE/M/F/D/V



Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Laboratory Supervisor. The selected applicant will be responsible for the direct supervision and oversight of the laboratory technicians and all aspects of their work, including: contract application & basic scheduling, team productivity and compliance with safety & quality standards meeting laboratory and refinery business team goals.

Candidate must have a BS in Chemistry with a minimum of 2 years Analytical or Organic Chemistry. Candidate must have a minimum of 10 years experience working in an industrial setting with 5 years Laboratory experience. A minimum of 3 years Supervisory experience. Must be able to respond 24/7 to unscheduled call-ins.

For confidential consideration, please submit you resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

EOE/M/F/D/V

Request for Proposals Tenant Moving Services RFP #11-007

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for Tenant Moving Services. Proposals will be received in accordance with law until Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 1:00 pm.

RFP documents are available on LMHA's website at: www.lucasmha.org or in the LMHA offices, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. These documents may also be obtained by calling (419) 259-9447.

All proposers shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each proposer must ensure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their age, race, color, religion, creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap or national origin.



Toledo Refining Company

Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for an End User Support Technician. The selected applicant will be responsible for first and second level support to the Toledo Refining Company end users. Duties include but are not limited to: maintenance of the systems operation help desk phone support line, desk side visit, pc builds, hardware/software instillation, basic network and telecommunications troubleshooting and support.

Candidates must have at least 5 years End User Support experience. MCSE certification is preferred. Bachelor's Degree or minimum 2 years college preferred. Must be able to respond 24/7 to unscheduled call-ins and be able to lift up to 30 pounds.

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

EOE/M/F/D/V



Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for 2 Maintenance Shop Foremen. The selected applicant will be responsible for supervising and directing the execution of personnel in the assigned shop according to established plans/schedules. Candidates will be responsible for safety of their crew as well as quality/quantity of the repairs performed.

Candidates must have at least 10 years supervisory experience and 5 years refinery experience or 5-7 years craft specific experience. Bachelor's Degree or minimum 2 years college preferred. Must be able to respond 24/7 to unscheduled call-ins.

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

EOE/M/F/D/V

Cosby Central City (Continued from Page 4)



black community. Above all, he was more bothered by the black men who do not take the initiative to be fathers to their children.

Cosby made sure to emphasize the importance of bettering our inner-city and the people in it.

"You can't expect somebody to come from City Hall to clean up a mess that you're giving an okay to," he added.

tor of Scott High School, to the stage where she introduced the audience to the schools "Stand Up" campaign.

"The "Stand Up" campaign is sphere-headed by our students to encourage their peers to stand-up and succeed. We have students who are ready for success, but we need community support and advocates to be great role models and help lead our kids in the right directions," said Jeffries.

In addition, the students from Ella P. Stewart Academy and Martin Luther King Jr. Academy were addressed directly by Cosby.

"Children, bring your parents into your school. Make them come in. Say 'Mama, this is important to me, this is about my success.' And go find your



father if he's not there. If you can't find him, go on a search being time and tell your father, 'Ineedyou. Your problems are with mom, not with me.'"

As the rally came to a close, Cosby's words were heard loud and clear. He was disgusted by the amount of drug dealing in the area, in addition to all of the crime it brings to the After Cosby delivered his final remarks, cheers could be heard all throughout the park. Apparently, his message was well received by numerous individuals who appeared, at least on Saturday morning, willing and ready to improve the black community.

Cosby Dinner (Continued from Page 4)

glanced over the packed room. "I'm glad I'm not the fire chief."

The evening's mistress of ceremonies was Kristian Brown, 13abc news anchor. The Shades of Brown from Bowling Green led the crowd in the Black National Anthem ("Lift Every Voice and Sing").

This year's Charles H.
Penn Humanitarian Award
winner was Crystal Ellis,
former superintendent of the
Toledo Public Schools.
Derick Gant, financial advisor received an award for his
entrepreneurial achievements.

The evening closed with remarks by John Jones, president and CEO of the Greater Toledo Urban League.

The chairman of this year's banquet committee was Rhonda Sewell. Cheryl Slack and Sena Mourad were co-chairmen. Also serving on the committee were Phyllis Crockrel, Alan Bannister, Darlene Miller, Deborah Barnett, Keith Jordan, Walt Crockrel, Laneta Goings, Gina Thompson and Jermaine Young.









For Heart and Vascular Services...

EXPECT EXPERTS. At ProMedica, we live by our Mission to improve your health and well-being. The experienced teams at ProMedica's 11 hospitals work together seamlessly to research groundbreaking technologies and deliver state-of-the-art heart and vascular care.

No matter where you live in the region, you have access to the unparalleled heart and vascular care that is, in a word, ProMedica.

For more information about your heart health, call or click today. www.promedica.org/heart | 877-303-5558

2011 Pubblediss