The Ultimatum

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

Young... black men can either represent a positive progressive force or one that just continues to react to crisis after crisis. - Hikil R. Madirabuti

The party’s over, according to Mayor Michael Bell. The mayor, addressing dozens of gang members in a courtroom at the Lucas County Courthouse, assertedly announced an end to the culture of chaos and gun violence rampant on Toledo’s streets. “We will take our city back, we will return the quality of life that’s necessary for us to be a great city,” he said, as reported by The Blade.

Although the dark revelry of gang activity, violence and homicides may not quickly or totally come to an end, the police, in presenting surveillance photos and revealing detailed intelligence information, put the group of known gang members on notice that now, they at least are being closely chaperoned by law enforcement.

The mayor then presented the group (all in attendance because of parole or probation) with an ultimatum. The choice to continue the culture of violence and face the consequences of harsh responses from local, state and federal law enforcement or to accept the help to redeem their lives and put them on a positive track. “There are ways out, ... It’s your choice,” the mayor reportedly said.

How will these mostly poor and young men of color likely choose to live their lives?

I’m not sure, but I would suspect that very few of The Truth’s readers are optimistic that the choices will be positive.

One reason for our pessimism is that, despite our own denials, somewhere in our inner core we understand what Kent Greenfield (2011) provocatively described as the Myth of Choice. Greenfield, a legal scholar and former clerk for Supreme Court Justice David Souter, argued that how and why we decide what we do is often limited or constrained by biological, economical and cultural influences.

When youngsters, living on the street and sometimes in abandoned houses, or essentially being raised by the streets because they have little if any adult supervision due to disarray in their home lives resulting from joblessness and drugs, they become easily disengaged from school and eventually mainstream society. Without the education or the skills necessary for legitimate employment at a living wage, their choices are pretty much already made for them.

Each of us have choices in how we are to live. But before we can begin to make that choice, writes Jeanne Porter, Ph.D., “we have to understand the factors that shape who we are. None of us are isolated selves. Family systems, culture, spiritual traditions, the economic system, our government and the media collide and collude in constructing our image of ourselves. They collide in writing a script, and then persuade, lease and sometimes coerce us to follow,” Porter asserts.

So, if violence - a problem fueled by hopelessness, the social consequence of persistent unemployment and alienation - is to be effectively reduced, it is certain that the police cannot do it alone.

It must be a whole community effort and one that is able to generate a collective sense of urgency for the need to solve the problem. “We can’t afford to lose this talent that black men and boys bring and so we need to focus less on the problems they bring and more on their potential,” states Linda Harris, youth policy expert.

We also need to have and build a sustainable viable mainstream economy in high-poverty areas that will effectively replace the underground economy and will pay a living wage to youth, a population which has a true unemployment rate in excess of 50 percent.

In order to establish good jobs for low-income youth it will also require the community, government, education and private industry to start thinking differently to come up with innovative ways to bring young men and boys of color off the streets in order to prepare them for other than low-wage jobs.

Our Workforce Investment Boards are receiving funds but high-risk youth are often left out when these funds are dispensed. Harris states that “the community should be advocating that 60 percent of these funds coming into state and local workforce systems be allocated to high risk youth rather than the 20 percent currently being received.

But even with all of the proposed structural interventions and advocacy, only those youth who realize that they have been conforming to the script handed to them by society and are willing to tear it up and rewrite their own, will be able to overcome their previous bad choices.

My advice to youth of poverty?

Don’t allow the pain of your alienation or the assumptions of others concerning your worth prevent you from making a positive impact on society. Find a way to learn how to use your underprivilege or marginalization to your advantage. Many others have done it and are even now doing it.

The choice is yours and unavoidable.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min. at dperryman@centeroflifebaptist.org
Dear Community Members,

Exciting things are happening at the Frederick Douglass Community Association (FDCA) that we wanted to share with you, the community. The FDCA has embarked upon a journey to drive transformational change and renew its relevance in 2012.

Our new board is comprised of progressive leaders who are actively working on developing the FDCA into an Epicenter of Hope and Empowerment. We are creating innovative programs and services that will have a great and positive impact the community by 2015. Additionally, FDCA is currently recruiting a dynamic and talented new Executive Director to lead this transformational growth.

Below is a partial list of the programs that will be introduced in 2012:

- Parent University - utilizes a holistic approach to improve parenting skills that will positively impact families in the communities that we serve;
- STEMM Academy - focuses on improving the academic performance of students (K-12) around science, technology, engineering, mathematics & medicine in partnership with local school systems, colleges and universities;
- Recreation Initiatives - basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, bowling, tennis, and baseball leagues, golf, flag football;
- Technical Skills Institute - offers workshops on green/sustainable energy, nanotechnology, automation and skilled trades;
- Entrepreneurship Academy - works in collaboration with local community organizations and universities to encourage and assist aspiring and emerging entrepreneurs;
- Cultural Arts Center - provides a comprehensive experience that includes: music, poetry, arts & crafts, dance, history, ethnic cooking, sewing, quilting and movies.

The new leadership team welcomes an opportunity to meet with each of you to share the new FDCA vision, to hear input from community leaders such as yourself, and to discuss collaboration opportunities.

Sincerely,
Karl A. Parker, Sr., MBA, P.E.
President
Frederick Douglass Community Association
419-944-4063

TOLEDO NAACP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Is your criminal background report hindering your ability to secure employment, or even stopping you from obtaining credit? Or being admitted to school? Then you will want to attend the Toledo Unit of the NAACP May General Membership meeting to find out if you can get your criminal record expunged.

The public will have the opportunity to discuss legal issues with legal professionals who can direct them to the proper legal resources to ensure that their criminal record is not holding them back from their life goals.

The meeting will take place Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Historic Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43604. For more info please call the Toledo Unit at 419-407-6488.
Murder Victim’s Family Insists He Is Just That: A Victim

On May 29, 2010, DeShaun Lee was gunned down in north Toledo by assailants or assailants who have yet to be identified, much less captured, by law enforcement officials.

Last week, a local television station spent some time following members of the Toledo Police Department who are part of the newly reorganized Gang Force Unit. Taking the television crew to a memorial established for DeShaun, the police sergeant in charge of the unit made a claim that the memorial was meant to honor a slain gang member based upon some of the paraphernalia at the site—a tree on a street sidewalk. It’s a claim that his family strongly disputes.

The short film clip did include a statement from DeShaun’s father mentioning that in no way was the memorial a tribute for a gang member, but the police officer was unmoved by the disclaimer. Leaving the scene with the television crew, he suggested that DeShaun’s family did not want to believe the obvious.

Part of the reason for the police officer’s lack of faith was the fact that a photograph of DeShaun nailed to the tree had a red frame—a reference to the Bloods street gang, he said.

That’s not the DeShaun his mother, Robin Copeland, remembers. Even though the segment did not mention DeShaun’s name, the family was distressed about the portrayal of the young man.

“It pricked us in the wrong way about how they depicted him on TV,” said Copeland during a discussion about the 16-year-old son she knew.

That was a young man in school, a student at Woodward High School after several years at Central Catholic, a former member of the Young Scholars Program, eager to attend The Ohio State University and looking forward to the future.

“He wanted to be an architect or go into something in the science field,” said Copeland.

Copeland has no doubt that DeShaun was not part of any gang.

“I know as a parent and how we have stayed on top of him,” she said. “He was in activities that we kept him involved in. We were also aware of the people he associated himself with.”

One clue that Copeland has as to the lack of her son’s involvement in gang activity is that no one has yet to be arrested and charged. That would suggest that the killing was random, rather than targeted, she said.

“There are no clues,” said Copeland. Usually the word gets out, she suggested, about gang violence.

The memorial remains on the Stickney area tree, a memorial the family maintains that in no way was the site targeted, she said.

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Mayor Proposes Domestic Partner Benefits for City Employees

Toledo Mayor Michael P. Bell last week sent legislation to City Council proposing to include the qualified and registered domestic partners of city employees in the eligibility for certain benefits. The legislation would extend the same health, dental and vision benefits to partners as is offered to spouses and dependent children of city employees.

Eligibility would be extended to same sex or heterosexual couples who meet the definition of “domestic partner” as set forth in Chapter 114 of the Toledo Municipal Code. The legal definition was established in 2007 when Toledo enacted the Domestic Partnership Registry. Couples must participate in the registry to formalize their relationship and be eligible for the benefits.

The benefits do not come without a cost to employees. Similar to employees that participate in the city plan to access coverage for a spouse or children, the premium cost must be paid for a single plus one or family coverage. Additionally, under the federal Internal Revenue Code, the value of the benefits is considered imputed income for employees and will be reflected in their W-2.

“This legislation helps us update our human resources policies, attempts to provide equal standing for all of our employees, and allows us to be a more competitive employer through our recruitment and hiring policies,” said Mayor Bell.

Toledo is not charting a new course with the proposed policy. Other Ohio cities and counties including Cleveland, Columbus, Lucas County and Franklin County offer domestic partner benefits, as does the University of Toledo and the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce. Currently, 21 states and over 200 local governments nationwide and 14 colleges and universities around Ohio offer health insurance and other benefits to their employees’ domestic partners.

The administration asked for first reading of the legislation at the May 1 agenda review meeting of council.
Toledo’s Own Tyler Perry, Avery Sutton, Overcomes Adversity with Creativity

Playwright Avery Sutton’s latest comedy, Secrets & Betrayal, will have its Seagate debut on May 11 at the SeaGate Convention Centre in a production that will benefit the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.’s scholarship program. Sutton’s story is an inspiration to all those artists who are struggling to make it in the volatile world of show business. The writer, director and star of previous hit stage comedies, Don’t Start No Staff @ 30,000 Feet! and Let The Truth Be Told didn’t always have it easy.

Working as a flight attendant for American Airlines, Sutton was laid off after the tragic events of 9/11/2001. “They came and took my car and I lost my apartment,” he says. Homeless and away from home in Dallas, Texas, an American Airlines hub, Sutton found lodging with a friend who let him live with her and do some painting and other odd jobs until he was on his feet.

“Don’t take for granted what you have today,” he advises, “for you may not always have it tomorrow.”

Sutton’s salvation came from his faith and writing about the experiences on airplanes and the variety of people and situations he encountered. “I would get up every morning and write and write,” he says. “That made me laugh.” Sutton wrote about his experiences with passengers of different races and nationalities. “They were all similar, regardless of race and nationality,” he observes.

Compiling these funny incidents into a comic play with a host of hilarious characters, Sutton has created plays that keeps their audiences in stitches. Asked to describe Don’t Start No Staff @ 30,000 Feet! Sutton tries to give a general idea of the play without giving away the plot.

“Three sisters travel on a plane. They’re all in their 70’s, but they all think they’re superstars,” he says, chuckling. “One thinks she’s Beyoncé, one thinks she’s Whitney and one thinks her name is Shirley Caesar Salaka.”

Secrets & Betrayal also features three elderly sister who get together before a wedding, again living in that fantasy world under the perception that they are superstars, yet living with deep secrets which have been covering up tragic acts of family betrayal.

The cast for the Seagate production includes the following:

**SPECIAL GUEST:**

**Clifton Oliver**

Clifton Oliver is well known to many faces in the theatre world, having spent four years in starring roles from Broadway to LA, as Simba in The Lion King and featured roles in Rent. Grease and a leading man in the block buster Wicked.

Fall 2006 brought Oliver’s debut to the recording industry. Inspired by the greats, Oliver’s style is “modern retro” – a mixture of pure pop and R&B, backed by heartfelt vocals reminiscent of the emotional delivery of Luther Vandross coupled with the pop energy of Michael Jackson.

Virlinda Stanton

Stanton’s是从 Texas, TX. She has an extensive singing and acting career and performed in Oprah Winfrey national tour of The Color Purple where she played The Church Lady Darlene.

Terralyn Ramsey

Her talent and voice are astonishing and landed her on NBC’s “The Voice.” Stellar award nominee and VH1’s “Born to Diva” winner, Terralyn Ramsey’s incredible voice has drawn comparisons to Whitney Houston. Throughout her career she’s toured and performed with various artists including Mary J. Blige for the “No More Drama” tour, Ray Charles and Avant, and shared the stage with Beyoncé, Ashanti, Lisa Marie Presley, Pat Benatar, Stevie Wonder and countless other phenomenal artists.

Akron Watson

Watson is from Pleasant Grove, Texas, attended the Fine Arts Collin County Community College and lives in Dallas, TX. Akron’s has had an extensive singing and acting career performing on “American Idol”, and most recently NBC’s, “Friday Night Lights”.

Amandalyn Clark

Clark is a singer/songwriter and actress from the Midwest. Born in Oregon, at the age of seven she first began to write her own songs. She has performed in show choir, musicals, concerts and competitions and won many awards for her singing. In college she portrayed one of her all time favorite artists, Lena Horne, where she sang "Stormy Weather," in The Cotton Club Review. She toured California, as a soloist and member of the college Gospel Choir, performed in Chicago at House of Blues for John Legend.

Justin Gilliam

A native of Washington, DC, Gilliam was introduced to acting through a close family friend and fellow actor. After a few commercial and several call backs from TV series such as “The Wire” and “Veronica Mars”, Gilliam decided to focus on his collegiate pursuits at Howard University. After college, Gilliam traveled much of the country and is now back in DC where he devotes most of his time to his two year old daughter, Aralea.

Selena Perryman

Perryman began singing in the children’s choir at New Home Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio at the age of two years old. She received a vocal and academic scholarship to The University of Akron where she began her training in classical music and received instruction in performance, composition, theory, and vocal dynamics. Perryman has performed operas scenes from the Marriage of Figaro, La Traviata, Tosca, Hamlet & Gretel, Don Giovanni and Porgy & Bess.

Ericka Sanders

Sanders is an actress and dancer who has performed at the Corner Stone Theater in Dallas, Texas; Toledo, Ohio; Cedar Valley College Theater in Dallas, Texas; and the Soliloquy in Chicago. She is currently working and attending college at the University of Phoenix.

Marcia Jones

From early childhood through teenage years, Jones studied and sang music at St. Paul AME Zion Church. She attended Central State University and studied Vocal Performance. Jones has performed at various venues and with New Mixx Entertainment on tour in Europe. Jones has opened for gospel recording artist the late Ronald Winans; sang background for gospel recording artist Albernta “Twinkie” Clark and opened for gospel recording artist Vicki Winans.

Joyce “Soliloquy” Lewis

In 1998 Lewis stepped on to the stage and ventured into the realm of poetry and her name was no longer the same. A new birth of Soliloquy was inspired and evolved into many performances. She has appeared on several television episodes and in community plays such as Tomorrow May Very Well be Too Late, Like Mike the Mirror and Shades.

Cynthia Valentine-Drane

Cynthia Valentine-Drane was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio where she developed a love for music. At the early age of five years old, she began singing in the church junior choir at St. Paul AME Zion Church. In 1997 Valentine-Drane was cast in the off-Broadway play Ain’t Misbehavin which opened many doors in Valentine-Drane’s acting career.
Teenagers find themselves at a crossroads. By eighth grade, 37 percent have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) by the end of high school, and more than a third (37 percent) have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) by the end of high school. Nearly three quarters of students (72 percent) have consumed alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse during the graduation months of April through June where one third of alcohol-related fatalities involving teens occur.

One bad decision can impact their entire future and parents should intervene now before an irreversible choice has been made.

Unison Behavioral Health Group has launched their spring prom and graduation campaign and urges parents and caring adults to participate. The “Live to Celebrate Another Day” campaign is designed to increase awareness of alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse during the graduation months of April through June where one third of alcohol-related fatalities involving teens occur.

Dr. Bonnie Kauffmann, director of Unison Behavioral Health Group’s Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program for Youth, encourages parents to intervene - - even when it seems like your teen does not care. Kauffmann states that, “based on the stage of their brain development, adolescents are more likely to: act on impulse, misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions, get into accidents of all kinds, get involved in fights, engage in dangerous or risky behavior. We also know that adolescents are less likely to: think before they act, pause to consider the potential consequences of their actions, modify their dangerous or inappropriate behaviors.”

The teenage brain is different and being aware of these differences can help parents and concerned adults manage the behavior of adolescents. Dr. Kauffmann reminds parents that “74 percent of kids (8-17) said their parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking and using drugs.”

Dr. Bonnie Kauffmann and the staff at Unison Behavioral Health Group know all too well that addiction is a developmental disease, typically beginning in adolescence. Dr. Kauffmann’s team currently treats 100 adolescents who suffer from substance abuse and dependence disorders. The teens involved in Unison’s program often have family and school problems, poor academic performance, health problems (including mental health), and involvement in the juvenile justice system. These teens often begin to abuse alcohol and/or drugs during times of transition, such as changing schools, moving, or divorce.

Dr. Kauffmann advises parents, caregivers, and concerned adults to recognize that youth diagnosed with the following mental health disorders are at an increased risk for substance abuse: attention deficit disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and bipolar disorder. Warning signs to look for include: sudden changes in personality, drop in school performance and attendance, sudden and frequent outbursts (temper tantrums), increasing conflict with family members, withdrawal from responsibilities, changes in peer group, borrowing/stolen money, difficulty concentrating, loss of interest in hobbies, secretive behavior regarding actions and possessions, change in appearance, poor grooming habits, and redness around the eyes or face.

Unison Behavioral Health Group treats youth ages 11-17 with substance abuse and dependence disorders, including behavioral health disorders. Through an integrated team approach, the program offers clients and their families the option of receiving services in their home or in our offices at 1212 Cherry Street. Youth involved with Unison’s substance abuse treatment program also have full access to the agency’s psychiatric services. Professionals and family members who are concerned about a child’s behavior and suspect a mental health condition and/or substance abuse, can obtain confidential support by calling Unison Behavioral Health Group at 419-693-0631.

Information on Unison’s “Live to Celebrate Another Day” prom and graduation campaign can be found by visiting the agency’s website at www.unisonbhg.org.
Most people know that a healthy diet can play an important role in preventing high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, certain cancers and osteoporosis. A healthy diet is one that is high in fruits, vegetables and fiber and low in fat, saturated fat and cholesterol.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates nutrient claims found on food labels. Food manufacturers decide whether to place these terms on their products or not so it is possible that some foods might meet the definitions but not have the term listed on their label. The good news is that the words mean the same thing for all food products so as consumers we can know what those terms mean.

Free - this means a food does not contain or contains only a very minute amount of the nutrient. For example, fat-free salad dressings contain less than .5 grams of fat per serving.

Low - products labels low cannot contain more than a set amount of the nutrient in question. These levels have been set low enough to allow frequent intake without concern about going over dietary recommendations. Specifically:

- Low sodium: no more than 140 milligrams per serving
- Very low sodium: no more than 35 milligrams per serving
- Low calorie: no more than 40 calories per serving
- Low fat: no more than 3 grams per serving
- Low saturated fat: no more than 1 gram per serving
- Low cholesterol: no more than 20 milligrams per serving
- Reduced or Less - this means the product contains at least 25 percent or less of a nutrient or calories than the regular product. An example might be a box of reduced fat crackers.
- Light (or lite) – this means the product has 1/3 fewer calories per serving than a comparable product or 50 percent less fat or sodium per serving than a comparable. One example is yogurt.
- Good Source – the product provides between 10 to 19 percent of the daily value of the nutrient
- High, Rich In or Excellent Source – the product provides 20 percent or more of the daily value for a nutrient.

Walking With a Mission:

Thousands to Walk to Improve Their Health at 2012 Toledo Heart Walk and 10K Run

Special to The Truth

More than 3,000 people will take steps to improve their health and dedicate themselves to living heart healthy lifestyles when they participate in the American Heart Association Toledo Heart Walk and 10K Run. The non-competitive, one and three-mile walk and 10K run will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at The University of Toledo’s Glass Bowl Stadium, 2801 W. Bancroft Street, Toledo, Ohio.

The annual event raises funds to support heart disease and stroke research and educational programs in local schools; community groups. Teams also include family and friends of survivors will wear red caps and yellow t-shirts to help pass laws that keep our air clean and our children physically fit.

The 2012 Toledo Heart Walk and 10K Run is sponsored locally by Paramount Health Care. Media sponsors are WTOL, The Toledo Blade, and Clear Channel.
Living a Passion-Filled Life!

By Angela Steward, Fitness Motivator
The Truth Contributor

What a passion-filled month! As you know, fitness is one of my passions. I was blessed and very fortunate in being selected to speak about exercise and fitness and to provide fitness demonstrations at several women’s conferences and lunches this month.

I always enjoy sharing my fitness journey with women who are looking for a little push to start their own. I now see those women in my classes.

I was also asked to teach at one of the largest law firms in Toledo. Every Monday for one hour we burn calories while having a great time. They are now passionate about exercise and I look forward to working out with them every week!

For the second year, my fitness program, Fabulously Fit, was chosen by ProMedica to sponsor the Heart to Heart Fitness Challenge where 30 women, (I’ll call them “HH”) based on weight, body mass index and health, were selected to exercise with me for 30 days.

For reasons unknown, out of 30 women selected last year - only five women finished the 30-day program. This year’s participants were over-the-top excited and 26 out of 30 women completed the program! The best part is that they all lost weight and plan to continue to exercise. They all thanked me for giving them their “aha” moment – they are now passionate about exercise. I thank them for allowing me to take them in the direction they wanted to go.

It takes a lot of courage to walk into an “already-filled” class, where everyone is familiar with one another and where everyone has claimed a special spot on the floor. But those HH ladies would get to class early, take all the weights, grab all the steps, lay down their mats and would claim their space.

It was hilarious! But sometimes you need “new” energy in a class and that’s exactly what the HH ladies provided. The challenge is over and guess what?? My HH ladies are showing up and showing out. Welcome to the FabFit Sistahood!!

To say April has been a busy month is an understatement. But I’m very fortunate because I’m living my passion and sharing it with others. What about you? What’s your passion? Do you know how to identify your passion? Here’s a little hint: if you do something for hours on end and never once look at the clock, that’s passion. Find your passion, live it, then share it - passion is contagious!!

Yours In Passion & Fitness
Angela R. Steward
Fitness Coach
Creator of Fabulously Fit Studio Fitness, Co-Owner
Ph: 419-699-9399
Email: FabFit1@yahoo.com
Website: Fabfitu.com

Walking With a Mission:

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Clarence Smith Community Chorus Spring Concert 2012

“Music, Message and Movement”

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus will present its annual Spring Concert entitled “Music, Message and Movement” on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., Christian Community Church located at 2500 Nebraska Ave.

The evening promises to be one of the city’s most exciting, entertaining, culturally diverse and educational event of the season. The chorus will highlight the evening with various classical and spiritual selections; Rhonda Sewell, Trayvone Mathis and Crystal Barnett will take the spotlight and share their written expressions with us. The chorus is proud to present The Tapestry Performing Arts Company out of Columbus, Ohio under the artistic direction of Lorii (Stewart) Wallace, one of Toledo’s own!

Mark your calendar! The evening’s program will keep you caught up in its “Music, Message and Movement” from start to finish. This is a concert you will not want to miss! Join us at Christian Community Church on Saturday evening, May 19, 2012. Program begins at 6:00 p.m. don’t miss a minute of this awe-inspiring musical treat.

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Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club Hosts Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, April 28, 2012, the Toledo club, National Association of Negro Business & Professional women’s Clubs, Inc. hosted its 48th annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon at the Inverness Country Club.

Forty-eight debutantes and mothers enjoyed a luncheon sponsored by ProMedica Health System. The purpose of the luncheon was to allow each debutante to show her appreciation to her mother and present her with a red rose. Fifteen club members were also in attendance.

One of the repeated themes the debutantes expressed was that they may not have always been grateful and, at times, hard to supervise. Plenty of tissue was on hand for

(Continued on Page 10)

Every Kid’s Favorite Day of the Week!

Lucas County Kids FREE on Saturdays. 12 and under, 2 kids admitted per paid adult.

Limited Engagement!

Mindbender Mansion

Now - April 28

Imagination Station

Downtown Toledo - 419-244-2674 - imaginationstationtoledo.org
Open: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm, Sunday: Noon - 6pm

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Mother-Daughter Luncheon
(Continued from Page 9)

The luncheon mistress of ceremonies was Denise Cardwell, etiquette chairman. Greetings were offered by Denise Black Poon, club president, by Barbara Tucker, North Central District governor and by Wanda Terrell, first vice president—programs. Clara Brank, club chaplain, gave the invocation. After the luncheon, a mother’s poem was read by Cardwell, then came the introduction of the debutantes by Phyllis Dunbar, Escorts/Fathers chairman, and Leola Haynes, Debs-in-Waiting chairman. Debutantes gave tribute to mothers and the luncheon ended with a question and answer period by Deborah Carlisle and Beverly Tucker, talent co-chairmen.

Sharon Green Gaines served as luncheon chairman and Wilma Brown is the Cotillion chairman.

Spring Concert
(Continued from Page 9)

Ticket information will be available from any chorus member or by calling 419-535-0933 or 419-535-0216. Tickets may also be purchased in advance—$10.00 Adults / $8.00 Students & Seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus
In its 36th season, the CSCC maintains a liberal helping of standard classical music in its repertoire. However, it specializes in the performance of Negro spirituals and is dedicated to its preservation as well as the performance of works by African-American composers. Its members come from all walks of life, unified by their mutual love of great music. This award-winning ensemble has performed numerous times on radio and television and has appeared with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, and on programs presented by the Toledo Museum of Art, the Lourdes College Music Series, as well as on the University of Michigan’s “Music of Black Americans Symposium.”

The Chorus has embraced its civic role with participation in countless building and bridge dedications, community festivals, church programs and city events, including the Toledo’s Annual M.L. King Celebration at the University of Toledo. The CSCC is a past recipient of the “Music of Black Americans Symposium.”

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The Many Phases of Life...
Redefining Diva by Sheryl Lee Ralph

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Is it so horrible to know what you want?
You don’t think so. That’s why you’re decisive, you state your needs clearly and firmly, and you expect people to act accordingly.

Nothing. So why do people call you the “B” word that rhymes with itch? You’re not nasty or horrible, so why would they call you a diva?

Author Sheryl Lee Ralph doesn’t know the answer. But, as she says in her new book, Redefining Diva, if they call you that last name, you really should thank them.

Okay, so you’re a diva. What is that, anyhow?

The word, says Ralph, has gotten a bum rap lately, but it was originally an Italian noun derived from the Latin word for deity; in other words, a diva is a goddess.

Ralph also says that the word is an acronym for Divinely Inspired Victoriously Anointed.

A diva, says Ralph, “copies no one. She is her own woman.”

Ralph became a diva through a lifetime of observing strong women. Her mother, a Jamaican immigrant, worked in a hospital to pay for her ticket to America. Ralph’s grandmother, a North Carolina belle, was headstrong and fearless enough to tussle with the burglars who killed her husband.

Divas, you see, know that risks are to be seized.

At 16, Ralph took on a big risk when she went to Rutgers University.

She had initially considered going to medical school, but she hated dissecting. She switched to law school, but it was “boring.” Then Ralph stumbled into drama auditions, tried out for a play, and found her niche.

When a Diva discovers what she’s meant to do, Ralph says, she knows it. After working with the Defense Department, she landed in Hollywood and the movies, but Broadway was her first love. Good Diva that she is, she tackled every opportunity, which eventually gained her a part as one of the original Dreamgirls in the stage show. She ultimately quit the show, went back to Hollywood, and enjoyed more fame on television.

Today, Ralph still acts because Divas know “yes” can be satisfying. She also works with the Diva Foundation, an organization that focuses on HIV/AIDS awareness and testing. She does it to memorialize her friends and because, she says, “a real Diva counts…her blessings.”

I wasn’t sure what to expect when Redefining Diva crossed my desk. Is it a memoir? Or is it meant to inspire?

The answer to that is, delightfully, both.

Author Sheryl Lee Ralph weaves a lot of advice into this biography, giving readers plenty of takeaways while she shares tales of family, fame and folly.

And that’s what makes this book so enjoyable: Ralph imparts life lessons in between star-studded gossip and her own experiences, on-stage and off. Advisements are wrapped inside anecdotes, which somehow make them more memorable and definitely more fun to read.

I liked this book, and I think you will too. Read Redefining Diva for the advice. Read it for the biography. Either way, this’ll be a book you’ll want.

New Beginnings Non-Denominational Church Celebrates Opening of Banquet Hall

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

The New Beginnings Non-Denominational Church of Bible Truths, which began 11 years ago and moved into their home at 2443 Collingwood three years ago, reached another milestone on Sunday, April 29, as members of the congregation celebrated the opening of the Donald Lee Weatherly Sr. Banquet Hall.

Joining the congregation in the dedication were Bishop Marjorie Holt and the members of the Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral. Holt had the honor of introducing the afternoon’s guest speaker Prophet Clinton Chambers of Connecting Covenant Citizens of Temple Hills, MD.

During the three years that New Beginnings, under the leadership of Pastors Tracy and Eugenia McDonald, has occupied the building on Collingwood, the church has completely renovated the edifice, adding a library and now the banquet hall.

Also in attendance were Bishop Raymond Newton, Overseer Sherrill Newton and members of the Turning Over a New Leaf Church.

The new banquet hall, which can seat about 125 diners, is named for a former deacon of the church who passed away on June 2, 2008. Deacon Weatherly was the first member of the church when it was started in the pastors’ home. He was the husband of Mother W. Laverne Weatherly and the father of Co-Pastor Eugenia McDonald.
Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Should comedians be giving relationship advice?

Chris Rock is a genius, you can take his advice and apply it to any lover’s spat.

But Steve Harvey? When that book came out a couple years ago, I was worried.

Every time I heard someone quote or reference what he was saying, I wondered “is this a joke or is he for real?” It’s not questioning if he is qualified to give relationship advice.

I mean, who truly can ever be qualified to do that anyway?

But his platform of what it means to “think like a man” is based on the idea that men actually think the way he’s suggesting we do. So the platform this film is based on is taking the concept of men in his book and deconstructing the platform he’s working from, let’s just look at the film created from Steve Harvey’s best-selling book.

The plot is fairly simple. A group of men who appear to all be in their early to mid-30s happen to all be in various stages in their love lives. It’s a cliché that basketball courts and bars are the only two places these guys can congregate in order to bond, however I do agree with the assertion that when guys are together we discuss women.

But this is no random circle of friends. According to Steve Harvey, this group of men include the following types of males females can expect to encounter when dating: The Mama’s Boy (“Michael” played by Terrence from 106 & Park), The Player (“Zeke” played by Romany Malco), The Happy Newly-Divorced Guy (“Cedric” played by Kevin Hart), The Dreamer (“Dominic” played by Michael Ealy) and last but not least, The Happily Married Guy (“Bennett” played by Gary Owen).

The guys all happen to know each other, but the women they end up involved with are randomly won into the storyline except for two.

It’s not just the guys, holding true to the book… the women are type-cast as well. As the couples start to form, the plot hits its stride as all types of male and female have to overcome barriers of behavior pursuant to their own type which prevent them from fulfilling relationship they desire.

I’m a fan of the romantic-comedy genre, so it’s a reliable formula to create a story line where some epiphany must occur in order to secure true love’s embrace. But some parts of this film are so formulaic in their almost cheesy and, as I said earlier, Steve Harvey’s take on relationships just seems dated and unconnected to the here and now. But since this is an adaptation, we can’t blame the film… we’ve got to blame the book.

As for the acting, it’s a gamble putting seasoned vets next to amateurs who still come off as amateurs. But when the on-screen talents of Taraji P. Henson, Gabrielle Union and Michael Ealy are involved, the remaining cast can rest assured that the heavy lifting will be done for them.

Ensemble casts can be tricky attempts at star power over substance. But when we’re black stars don’t we? We’ll take that Chris Brown over substance. But we love tricky attempts at star power lifting will be done for them.

We can rest assured that the heavy lifting will be done for them.

As the couples start to form, we learn that all of the men are having issues in their love lives. The Mama’s Boy is the type which prevent them from fulfilling relationship they desire. The Player is the type which prevent them from fulfilling relationship they desire.

The Dreamer is the type which prevent them from fulfilling relationship they desire.

The Happy Newly-Divorced Guy is the type which prevent them from fulfilling relationship they desire.

The Happily Married Guy is the type which prevent them from fulfilling relationship they desire.

As for the acting, it’s a gamble putting seasoned vets next to amateurs who still come off as amateurs.

What is the real reason women are after men? Do women want fairness? Do women want chivalry or completely and utterly fair treatment with no special distinctions? We change the flat tires, take out the garbage, squash the spiders so they don’t have to?

Or do women want the absolute equal treatment we learned about in women’s studies courses in undergrad? You know, that absolute equality which means that both sexes can be expected to kill the bugs, discuss the feelings, and shop for groceries.

Is there a clear-cut answer to what women want? Or is attempting to group people together by similar patterns inherently flawed because exceptions will always exist to whatever patterns that emerges?

Steve Harvey, Brian McKnight and countless Republican legislative acts have got the ball rolling. All you gotta do is speak up, ladies.
AOD THERAPIST

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. is seeking an experienced AOD Therapist to provide individual, family and group counseling and case management services. Candidate must possess a Bachelor’s degree, Master’s Degree preferred and have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Dual mental health (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC) and chemical dependency licensure (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LICDC) required.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:
Human Resources - AOD
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbgh.org

EOE/M/F/D/V

POLICE OFFICER

The Village of Ottawa Hills is accepting applications for the position of part-time Police Officer.

Required training and experience:
Must have a minimum of a two year college degree or equivalent, from an accredited college or university. Must be commissioned as a Peace Officer according to the rules of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council. Must be available for weekends and holidays. Written, physical, and psychological tests are required, as well as an extensive background check.

Starting wage: $18.25/hr part-time.

Applications are available at the Village Offices, 2125 Richards Rd., or online from the Village web site www.ottawahills.org/police

To apply, submit an application and signed Background Removal Standards form to:
Police Officer Position

Ottawa Hills Police Department
2125 Richards Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

All applications are due by 05/18/2012.

The Village of Ottawa Hills is an equal opportunity employer.
The Toledo Refining Company, LLC is currently hiring First Class Maintenance Boilermakers.

**Overview**
The Toledo Refining Company is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. Our company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so all employees must follow all procedures and safe work practices. Starting pay is $32.89 per hour. After completion of a six-month probationary period, the rate of pay is $34.92.

**Scope of Work**
Completion of assignments relative to the maintenance or installation of equipment within the Refinery utilizing First Class prime skills. Work to be performed is inside shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned. Candidate will be held accountable for the quality and quantity of work, participate in training programs as assigned; and understand and comply with Toledo Refining work rules, the Code of Conduct and Company Policies and Procedures.

**Qualifications**
Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver’s license.

Completion of a state approved Boilermaker apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience. Equivalent work is no less than 8 years as a Boilermaker. Successful candidates must possess First Class Boilermaker work experience and First Class Boilermaker skills. Ability to demonstrate First Class performance is required. Ability to read blueprints as it pertains to boiler making. Ability to work from written and oral directions to perform assigned tasks. Ability to coordinate work, function as a member of a team to get work done; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and participate in training programs to maintain and/or upgrade skills. Must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment including but not limited to the utilization of cutting equipment. Candidate must have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. 

**Unusual Working Conditions**
Must be able to perform physically-active assignments including work on high structures and within confined spaces. Mandatory overtime is required as well as occasional shift work required.

**Conditions of Employment**
Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to coordinate work, function as a member of a team to get work done; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and participate in training programs to maintain and/or upgrade skills. Must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment including but not limited to the utilization of cutting equipment. Candidate must have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. 

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**Wanted to Buy:** Diabetes Supplies
Earn up to $12 per box of 100 test strips. Must expire after September 2012. Leave labels on boxes. We remove and shred.

Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.

**POLICE DISPATCHER**
The Village of Ottawa Hills is accepting applications for the position of part-time Police Dispatcher. Required training and experience:

High school graduate or G.E.D. equivalency. Must be available for weekends and holidays. Must be able to perform multiple tasks at once. Prior computer experience with ability to type 35 wpm and the ability to remain calm under pressure are a must. Written, physical, and psychological tests are required, as well as an extensive background check.

Starting wage: $13.00 /hr part-time.

Applications are available at the Village Offices, 2125 Richards Rd., or online from the Village web site: www.ottawahills.org/police

To apply, submit an application and signed Background Removal Standards form to:

Dispatcher Position
Ottawa Hills Police Department
2125 Richards Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

All applications are due by 05/18/2012. The Village of Ottawa Hills is an equal opportunity employer.

The Toledo Refining Company, LLC is currently hiring First Class Maintenance Electricians.

**Overview**
The Toledo Refining Company is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. Our company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so all employees must follow all procedures and safe work practices. Starting pay is $32.89 per hour. After completion of a six-month probationary period, the rate of pay is $34.92.

**Scope of Work**
Completion of assignments relative to the maintenance or installation of equipment within the Refinery utilizing First Class prime skills. Work to be performed is inside shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned. Candidate will be held accountable for the quality and quantity of work, participate in training programs as assigned; and understand and comply with Toledo Refining work rules, the Code of Conduct and Company Policies and Procedures.

**Qualifications**
Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver’s license.

Completion of a state approved Electrician apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience. Equivalent work is no less than 8 years as an Electrician. Successful candidates must possess First Class Electrician work experience and First Class Electrician skills. Ability to demonstrate First Class performance is required. Ability to read blueprints as it pertains to electrical work. Ability to work from written and oral directions to perform assigned tasks. Ability to coordinate work, function as a member of a team to get work done; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and participate in training programs to maintain and/or upgrade skills. Must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment including but not limited to the utilization of cutting equipment. Candidate must have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. 

**Unusual Working Conditions**
Must be able to perform physically-active assignments including work on high structures and within confined spaces. Mandatory overtime is required as well as occasional shift work required.

**Conditions of Employment**
Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; and pass a post offer pre-employment physical, background check and drug screening.

In order to be considered for this position, applicants must submit their resume per the following process on or before 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 6, 2012. All contact information must be accurate and up to date. Selected candidates will be notified and assigned a testing date and time by phone and letter.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com and selecting the Career tab. Once on the career page, candidates can view our current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

EOE/M/F/D/V

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**
The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority invites college students to apply for an eight – ten (8-10) week internship in the field(s) of Finance and/or Information Technology beginning approximately June 1, 2012. Those interested may submit their resume to Human Resources, One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604 or csobczak@toledoportauthority.org no later than May 11, 2012.

**Finish Drywall and Painting**
Residential and commercial
Patch and match existing textures
References upon request
419-280-2967

**CLASSIFIEDS**
May 02, 2012

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Qualifications
Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and, hold a current driver’s license.

Completion of a state approved Machinist apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience. Equivalent work is no less than 8 years as a Machinist. Successful candidates must possess First Class Machinist work experience and First Class Machinist skills. Ability to demonstrate First Class performance is required. Ability to read blueprints as it pertains to machining. Ability to work from written and oral directions to perform assigned tasks. Ability to coordinate work, function as a member of a team to get work done; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and participate in training programs to maintain and/or upgrade skills. Must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment. Candidate must have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

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EOE/M/F/D/V

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EOE/M/F/D/V

Legal Notice
Electronic proposals will be received by Lucas County Job & Family Services (LCJFS) on behalf of Lucas County Workforce Development Agency (LCWDA) until 4:00 p.m., May 9, 2012 for the selection of a single vendor to provide Staffing and Payroll-related Services for the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program. Submitted proposals must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Letterhead Bids. The contract period will be from June 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012.

No bids will be accepted after the May 9, 2012 4:00 P.M. (local time) deadline. All bids must be submitted electronically to Michelle Niedermier at niederm@odjfs.state.oh.us. Bids submitted by any other method will be rejected. No confirmations of receipt of bids will be provided.

The Request for Letterhead Bids will be available Friday, April 27, 2012. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from April 27, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. to May 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email, by Michelle Niedermier at niederm@odjfs.state.oh.us by May 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on May 4, 2012 at https://apps.co.lucas.oh.us/bids If any changes are made to the RGF as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RGF will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of April 27, 2012, at http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Pete Gerken - President
Tina Skeiton Wozniak - Commissioner
Carol Contrada - Commissioner

Bid #48-2012-RLB/WDA-01
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Scholarship Tea

Special to The Truth

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter held its annual Scholarship Tea, to recognize the scholastic efforts of graduating high school seniors applying for the organization’s scholarship.

The sorority was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC on January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-trained women.

The local chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. have provided community service programs and offered scholarships within the Toledo area since 1928 on the undergraduate level and since 1952 on the graduate level. It is due the commitment of its dedicated and hard-working members that numerous fund-raiser events such as the Secrets & Betrayal play – SeaGate Convention Center May 11, 2012 and Fall Into Fabulous Dance @ Brandywine Country Club, September 29, 2012 have allowed for over $200,000 in scholarships and financial contributions have been made to impact the community at large.

Deborah N. Washington, Ph.D., 30th president of the graduate chapter proudly states that “Zeta Alpha Omega is a chapter of professional women who work together to comply with our national initiatives, and meeting the needs of our community by providing service and scholarships.”

Felicia R. Dunston, an educator, stated that “I am committed to education and am honored to serve as Scholarship Chairman and aid students onto their next academic goal of attending college.” Dunston noted that over 30 scholarship applications submissions were received and approximately half were invited for academic recognition and scholarship interviews. A total of $7,100 in scholarships will be awarded to deserving graduates and wishes them well as they pursue this next academic goal.

Lisa E. Dubose, scholarship co-chairman and 28th president of the chapter, stated: “Community support of our fund-raisers permits us to provide scholarships. A 2008 AKA scholarship recipient Ashley Strickland will graduate magna cum laude from BGSU May 5, 2012 and came back to inspire this year’s candidates. We are extremely proud of these students who intentionally focus on academic success.”

Dubose serves as chairman of the 2nd Annual Fall Into Fabulous Dinner fund-raiser event where the chapter will have two musical genres, one area with a live blues band and another area with a DJ for R&B and ballroom dancing.

Students recognized during the Scholarship Tea include: Zachary Fletcher; Jacqueline Ford; Kai Franklin; Kayella Henderson; Trayvon Mathis; Aleisha Miller; Sydney Petty; Deon Parker; Ashley Parks; Tyler Smith; Sierra Spruce and Kamoria Wilson.

For more information about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., please go to www.aka1908.com and/or for details on fundraiser events www.zetaalphaomega.com.