Delta Sigma Theta 34th Annual Scholarship Breakfast
Sierra M. Spruce and Diamond Sims

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

Without question, African Americans as a whole have progressed and are better off today than during the early and mid-20th Century. However, these gains - successes - usually won only by a “marching, riding, sitting, and protesting community that was banded together” - came with a steep price.

Whereas black survival and liberation has always been connected to solidarity, the unintended consequences of our progress has been the loss of connectedness and responsibility to one another as well as the bifurcation of the community into separate groups.

I spoke about this troubling state of the black community with Professor Charles Ogletree, one of the nation’s leading experts on race and justice issues who also serves as the director of Harvard Law School’s Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

Perryman: Let’s talk about Toledo first of all. You have described Toledo as being the number one battleground in the nation. Could you elaborate?

Ogletree: Well, Ohio is a key state for whoever is going to be the next president and part of it is what I’ve read from the Toledo Blade and other places, that Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, both Harvard educated - - both Harvard educated - - both Harvard educated - - both Harvard educated - - both Harvard educated - - both Harvard educated - - both Harvard educated.

Perryman: Whereabouts of the folks see that what Brown v. Board of Education did is give them the opportunity to do social justice in an indirect way. What did you mean by that?

Ogletree: That my students, unlike my graduation from law school in the late ’70s, we didn’t have a choice of a job, we had a choice of several jobs. We could decide which part of the country, which city and what salary we wanted to take. That’s gone today because law firms are not hiring people at a relatively cheap rate to do all sorts of work anymore. They’re only hiring people that they think are going to be there permanently as partners, so I’m trying to make students think about your skills are just as important and perhaps even more important working for a city, the state government or some kind of public interest entity or nonprofit. You can draft contracts, you know how to draft wills, you know how to deal with housing issues, and so there’s a need and a place for you in cities. And cities won’t survive without a strong set of laws about codes or about property and about businesses, etc. And so your talents can be used. That was the big thing I’m stressing to the students. And a lot of them say, “You know what, I think I will go back home and do some work,” and that to me is very encouraging.

Perryman: Coming back home is one of the problems that Toledo has suffered. Too many of our talented people leave Toledo to go to school or seek employment and just never come back.

Ogletree: Right. And that’s part of the challenge. What can you do to make them come back? You’ve got to have some real opportunities in Toledo for people to say that’s what I want to do and where I want to be. The woman at the breakfast was very honest in her comments saying “I worry about my son being around folks who are poor and especially black.”

And I assume that’s what is happening in the church as well, that you can see the frustration of people who feel locked into the environment they’re in and worried about their kids, and worried about the family, the house, meals, jobs and all that. And the whole thing is try to keep them involved in Toledo in some way and make them see that there’s something meaningful there to come back to.

Perryman: Some scholars have indicated that although desegregation was the initial goal of the civil rights movement, integration was what was actually achieved. The result being the loss of black businesses and professionals from the community as well as wide intra-racial disparities and gaps among blacks and blacks. Your thoughts?

Ogletree: Well, as I told you, I’ve seen it. It’s very disappointing in some respects. That folks see that what Brown v. Board of Education did is give them the opportunity to get outside the community and I understand that. But when they leave and take off it becomes a very unfortunate thing because they don’t come back.

I think we’ve got to figure out a way to - - churches, entrepreneurs, all of us - - to say, “Let’s buy back our community,” because somebody’s going to buy it. And then it’s not going to be our community anymore and that’s going to be a big issue in terms of what’s going to be happening next.

So that’s the big challenge that we have to face and I don’t know how we’re going to do it but there’s not going to be anything easy. I don’t know if you see differently, but the question is what the lady said, “I’ve got to protect my son and move out of the suburb or why can’t we have a black enclave right in the city.” And I had to challenge her. She obviously had good reasons but it was very chilling to hear that happen and try to figure out what other folks are doing to keep folks in the community as opposed to leaving the community because they’re worried about what’s going on as opposed to trying to change it, which I think is what we need.

How do you make it a better community?

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

Community Calendar
May 6-10
Beulah Baptist Church Spring Revival: 7 pm nightly

May 10-12
Christian Community Church Regional Conference for Dominion Assembly: “The Fellowship”; 7 pm; Speaker Elder David Holli, 7 pm - Thur and Fri; Sat - 9 am to noon: 419-536-8357

May 10
Warren AME Rummage Sale, Car Wash, Bake Sale: Thur – 9 am to 6 pm, Fri – 9am to 6 pm, Sat – 9 am to 2 pm; Car wash – Sat only

May 11-13
Alexo Gardens Mothers Day Events: Independent senior retirement community: Fri wine social with music at 2 pm; Sat – armchair travel adventure; Sun – Mothers Day Buffet at 12:30 pm: 419-472-7115

May 12
Delta Sigma Theta E.M.B.O.D.I. (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence): “Summit to Success;” Series of workshops for males ages 10-14 on making positive choices; 10 am to 1 pm; MLK School; Lunch provided: 419-787-5483

May 13
Pilgrim Church Flower Sale: 9 am to 2 pm: 419-478-6012

May 16
First Annual Parrish Home Care Health Clinic: 10 am to 2 pm; Alpha Tower; Free food, gifts and raffles; Screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, asthma and more; Information of diabetes, heart disease, diets, drug interactions, safety, nursing homes, and more: 419-389-1020 or 567-225-2331

May 17
Carolyn Goforth Memorial Art Show: Benefit for Harbor House; Hudson Gallery in Sylvania: 6:30 pm: 419-244-6300

May 18
Grace Community Center 29th Anniversary of Junior High AfroBall: 7 to 11 pm; SeatGate Center; Fund raiser for Center; For seven and eight graders from area schools: 419-248-2467

May 19
True Vine Baptist 11th Annual Pastoral Appreciation Celebration: Pastor and Lady Melvin Barnes; 7 pm; Pastor John Williams and Eastern Star MBC: 419-539-9104

May 19
My Music Is Major Art Showcase: 5:30 to 8 pm

May 20
Gospel Fest Choir Workshop: All Saints Episcopal Church; 9 am to 4 pm; Concert at 7 pm; - Featuring Barbara Tucker, Phillip Hall and Obed Shelton: 419-242-1508

May 20
My Music Is Major Art Workshop: “How to Grow Your Business through Networking and Relationship Building;” Sponsored by the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce; 9 to 11 am; UT Main Campus, Stranahan Hall, North Ren 1200 A/B: 419-407-6697

May 20
Cash Mob!!: Powell’s Beauty & Barber Supply; Noon to 5 pm; The only black-owned beauty and barber supply operation in Toledo: 419-407-6697

May 20
Braudin United Methodist 88th Women’s Day Celebration: “Under the Wings of God” True Vine Baptist 11th Annual Pastoral Appreciation: Pastor and Lady Melvin Barnes; 4 pm; Pastor Floyd Smith and Calvary Baptist: 419-539-9104

May 25
True Vine Baptist 11th Annual Pastoral Appreciation: Pastor and Lady Melvin Barnes; 7 pm; Pastor A. Shears and Rossfeld First Baptist: 419-539-9104

May 27
True Vine Baptist 11th Annual Pastoral Appreciation: Pastor and Lady Melvin Barnes; 4 pm; Bishop Duane Tisdale and Friendship Baptist: 419-539-9104

The Sojourner’s Truth Toledo’s Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

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When people ask me the inevitable WHY question as to the lack of discernible economic or community development in the “inner city” being accomplished by people of color, I understand that the answer cannot be answered within a few minutes of polite chit-chat.

When I came to Toledo to attend the local law school, I was somewhat perplexed as to why Toledo, with its then seemingly large middle-class black population, was not actively engaged in concerted and aggressive economic and political gamesmanship.

It is not enough to simply tout the few shining examples of a few men or women who “have made it” and thus believe all is well in the kingdom.

Such a lazy attitude stifles the long-term march it requires to both aggrandize and hold economic and political gains.

What can be a death knell to a community that has the potential to expand and be inclusive of those who “have not” is an attitude that, “I got mine, now get your own!”

When people of color begin to divide themselves on the color line or on the dollar line or the neighborhood line, everyone loses.

Waging political and economic battles takes the energy and wisdom and collective dollars of all who would benefit from the gains.

When the dominant community can speak divisive words to the powers that be in the minority community of whom they think should lead that community, trouble lies ahead.

When economic forces outside of the affected minority communities decide to pick and choose who lives and who dies in the economic sense, apathy sets in.

When the minority community “leaders” are willing to sell out for a mess of potage or a pat on the head from a downtown white political establishment, compromise has set in.

So, with those above caveats in mind, the answer to the initial question can be framed in the form of a question: “What has been the overriding factor that has prevented long term, systemic economic and political development from occurring in the minority communities in Toledo in the past 30 years?”

My answer is very succinct: Lack of trust.

If I do not believe that you have my best interest at heart, I will not commit to your agenda because I believe that your motives are suspect and you are out for yourself.

If you do not demonstrate a heart of a servant who is willing to place the good of the group over your personal agenda, I will not commit my time or resources to a leader or leaders who have not demonstrated community allegiance.

If your goals are no more than appearing in newspaper photo sessions and being seen at local chicken dinner events and you do not speak truth to power when you can do so, you are not going to endear yourself to an oppressed community.

If you believe that your position or title or social ties insulate you from the harsh realities that all is not well and thus you are not well, we have lost the battle and also the war.

A lack of trust means that if you are offering yourself as a community leader and yet you never are seen doing or speaking those things which build community, I do not trust you or your agenda.

If you are reticent to speak out about the actual harms that are occurring in the minority communities for your fear of losing the smile of approval from the white moneyed or political posh-bahs, you have corrupted your ability to be effective.

If you have the wherewithal to do good and choose not to because you can not see how you will get an immediate bounce back from it, you have broken trust.

If during the times that you have access to the levers of powers and you can make a difference but you shrink back because you could lose some of the “goodies” that you think you have acquired, you have broken trust.

If you have been given much but chose to give little, you have broken trust.

So, where do we go from here? We have to reset our alliances and seek out those members who motives and agendas are not tainted by “me-isms”; and who are able and willing to advance a progressive and all-inclusive agenda that sees the tangible and intangible benefits of strong communities populated by people who are considered valuable and who have gifts and talents to advance a common goal.

“Trust me,” you say.

“Show it,” I say.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com
TARTA Boss Laments Loss of Perrysburg Service and Impact on Toledoans

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

“We have a big problem affecting TARTA,” said James Gee, general manager of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority. “It’s the mentality that we don’t need public transit or [in other words] ‘if I don’t need it personally, I don’t care.’ It’s a mindset that public transportation is not a quality of life issue.”

Gee sat down with The Truth last week in the wake of the primary day vote by residents of Perrysburg, one of nine participating members of TARTA, to opt out of the public transportation service. The vote came about as a result of the state law adopted last year as part of the Ohio budget bill that permits members of Ohio transit authorities funded by property taxes to remove their communities from those authorities between now and November, 2013.

TARTA currently receives about one tenth of its levy revenues from Perrysburg. About 60 percent of TARTA’s revenues, according to Gee, derive from property taxes. Nevertheless, he does not spend much time talking about the financial issues of losing that Perrysburg revenue.

“The community opting out is not a financial problem at all for TARTA,” he says. “It’s a social problem. Those people who have jobs in Perrysburg won’t be able to get out there.”

Joining the conversation was Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. Brock has several members in his congregation who work in Perrysburg and are in danger of losing their jobs when the public transportation to and from that city ends.

“It’s a people thing,” says Brock. “We want to make sure they get first class service. Good people need to be able to get to their jobs. I stand behind TARTA. They’ve always been fair.”

As an example of the impact of the vote on Toledoans, Gee raised the case of the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons. Currently, says Gee, about 30 of the hotel’s approximately 100 employees utilize TARTA to get to work.

“There is a benefit to having Toledo folks come to those communities for jobs, for shopping,” says Gee. “There is a greater community good to be able to get around to jobs and other places.”

The travel from Toledo to Perrysburg is by no means a one-way ticket. At a recent meeting in Perrysburg, residents expressed concern about getting into Toledo from their community in light of the vote to reject TARTA. It’s entirely possible that a public transportation system adopted by city leaders of that community will of necessity establish routes that connect the two communities, overlapping TARTA service.

A great deal of the rationale for rejecting TARTA was economic for the Perrysburg voters, concedes Gee. Nevertheless, saving money on public transportation may prove to be more elusive than the voters realized.

“There are economies of scale,” says Gee. “We get insurance cheaper, we buy fuel in bulk, for example.”

While Perrysburg has opted out of the system, Gee does not see any immediate loss of other members. Sylvania Township, he notes, is discussing the matter but he anticipates other members holding firm.

In 2011 TARTA’s ridership was approximately three and a half million fares. TARPS, the service for those with special needs, has doubled its ridership in the last three years.

“A successful community needs public transportation,” says Gee. “For a lot of passengers, it’s public transportation or public assistance. If you can get them on the bus, you can get them to their jobs.”
The Padua Center announces the Fourth Annual Urban Chicken Festival to be held on June 2, 2012 from 1-5 p.m. at The Padua Center, 1416 Nebraska Ave. Some activities will be held behind the Center with the entrance off of Junction Street.

This year’s festival will continue the tradition of free children’s games all afternoon. Entertainment will include a DJ, drum line, Self-Expression Teen Theater and the Paradise Baptist Church Singers. Barbequed chicken dinners, hot dogs and other festival food will be available for sale.

A featured raffle includes: 32” TV, a portable DVD player, and gift certificates to local businesses. Tickets are on sale at The Padua Center for $1.00 each, 6 for $5 or 6 books for $25.00. A rummage sale will make available clothing and household items for a great price. Community resources will be available throughout the afternoon with demonstrations, free materials and community connections.

Tours of The Padua Center will be available throughout the day. The Padua Center is a community-based presence which provides a variety of services to the neighborhood. Last summer, with the leadership of the Brighten Up efforts of The Padua Center, the name of the community was changed to Kwanzaa Park.

During the school year The Padua Center provides an alternative to suspension for children from local public and charter schools. During the 2011-12 school year they have serviced 144 children who have stayed from one to ten days each. The Padua Center also hosts seven summer camps. All camps are free and information can be obtained from the website: www.paducenter.org.
Claire's Day is a free family book festival held annually in honor of Claire Lyney Rubini who passed away from a heart condition in 2000, when she was just ten years old. The 11th Annual Claire’s Day is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 at Maumee Branch Library, 501 River Rd., Maumee, OH. The event is sponsored by the Free Library of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, which collaborates with Claire’s Day Inc. to provide venue space and marketing support.

The Claire’s Day book festival features children’s book authors and illustrators from around the country. The authors and illustrators meet with young readers to discuss their craft and sign their books. The day also includes storytellers, live music, and hands-on activities. A highlight of the day is the C.A.R.E. Awards (Claire’s Awards for Reading Excellence), which are presented to students recognized by their schools for being the most improved in their reading skills.

The festival includes visits to area schools by authors and illustrators; a grant program to benefit schools and libraries, and Claire’s Night, a fund-raising event for adults.

Claire’s Day is held annually on the third Saturday in May at the Maumee branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, which collaborates with Claire’s Day Inc. to provide venue space and marketing support.

Claire’s Day Inc. has partnered with the organization to provide complimentary guest rooms.

Claire’s Day Inc. has given $2500 annually to the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Legacy Foundation. These funds are earmarked specifically towards the purchase of books written or illustrated by the up-coming Claire’s Day participants. Following the 2011 event, the organization has given $25,000 worth of books to the community through this effort.

Claire’s Night will occur on Thursday, May 17 in the children’s section, Main Library in downtown Toledo, from 7-10 PM. Tickets are $75 per person. Guests can meet participating authors and illustrators, purchase their books, and have them personally signed, as well as enjoy scrumptious food, complimentary beverages and music.

For more information, please log on to www.clairesday.org.
St. Francis de Sales Names Lewis as Head Basketball Coach

Special to The Truth

Toledo St. Francis de Sales High School has named Travis Lewis as its new Head Basketball Coach. Coach Lewis comes to the Knights after two years as assistant coach and Assistant Director of Athletics at Owens Community College. Lewis led a very busy life as a two-sport athlete during his time at Eastern Michigan University (2003-2008) where he lettered four years in football as a standout wide receiver and three in basketball as a shooting guard.

He was the Offensive MVP of the football team in 2006 and followed that up as a runner-up selection for Defensive Player of the Year in the MAC for men’s basketball. A team captain in basketball, Lewis graduated with a degree in comprehensive theater art and secondary education from Eastern Michigan University.

After playing basketball professionally in China and several seasons of Arena II football, Coach Lewis returned to Eastern Michigan as a graduate assistant in its basketball program while earning his master’s degree in Sport Management.

Lewis is married to the former Jessica Minnifield, a Toledo Central Catholic and University of Michigan basketball player, and they have a son, Travis Lewis Jr.

The Knights are excited to welcome Coach Lewis as the eleventh gentleman to lead our basketball program in our fifty three years.

PHOTO: Carl Janke, Athletic Director with new SFS Head Basketball Coach Travis Lewis

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“It’s all about motherhood, scholarship and fashion,” exclaimed Cynthia Dye, mistress of ceremonies for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.’s 34th annual Breakfast for M’Lady – Scholarship Breakfast.

The annual event, which brings together Delta members and guests - nearly 500 in attendance this past Saturday, May 5 at The Pinnacle - to honor a mother of the year and to provide scholarship assistance to three young women headed to college in the fall, also brings to town the Vogue-Esquire Models of Chicago for a fashion show. This year’s Mother of the Year honoree, always a surprise to the person selected, was Deborah Roberts. Roberts, mother of son Jeremy and daughter Jalise, is a long-time member of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, a community activist and an advocate for breast cancer and heart health awareness.

Roberts is president of the Jeremy Lincoln Foundation – founded by her son – which has three community projects: a free football camp, a free turkey drive and a music arts project. Roberts also serves on several committees with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, is a member of the American Cancer Society board of directors and is a volunteer with the American Heart Association.

After the presentation of the Mother of the Year award, scholarships were presented to three students: Ashley Erin Parks, Diamond Sims and Sierra Spruce.

Parks, a senior at Bowsher High School, is in the top three percent of her class and will attend The Ohio State University in the fall. She has been active in cross country, track and the orchestra during her years at Bowsher.

Sims, also at Bowsher, will be attending OSU as well to pursue a pre-med course of study. She has been active on Student Council and in a variety of community service projects while at Bowsher.

Spruce, attends Southview High School and will be entering the University of Cincinnati to study business. She has also been active with community service projects and is a 2012 Cotillion debutante.

The Vogue-Esquire Models presented attire ranging from red for Deltas, to black and white ensembles, to knits, cocktail dress and finally, of course, the wedding finery.

Wanda Terrell served as chairman for this year’s Breakfast and Anita Foreman as the coordinator and co-chairman.

The committee chairmen were: Theresa Wilkins, Mother of the Year; Yatika Langford, scholarship; Sandra Strong and Trevor Black, door prizes; JoAnn Smith, decorations; LaTarsha Cook, hostesses; Bessie Mack, publicity; Clara Brank, tickets and Bonita Johnson, DJ.

Robin Stone is president of the Toledo Alumnae chapter
You’ll get yours.
Whatever comes around,
go around. Tit for tat, and
all that. Whatever you do
comes back to haunt you.
For every action, there’s an
equal reaction. You always
reap what you sow, and
payback’s a... well, you
know what it is.
When James Thicke beat
down Johnny Bergs for
sleeping with James’ wife,
it seemed that Johnny got
what he deserved. But in
the new book “An Acci-
dental Affair” by Eric
Jerome Dickey, James
might pay for the beating
with his life.
He absolutely lost his
temper.
When the steamy video
went viral, screenwriter
James Thicke went crazy.
There it was, Johnny Bergs
making real love to beauti-
ful Regina Baptiste for the
movie cameras. But Regina
Baptiste was Thicke’s wife
and while every man wanted to sleep with her,
Thicke was the only man
who had that right.
Johnny Bergs had
crossed a line. So when
James Thicke found Johnny
that rainy night, he pounded
Johnny’s handsome face
into pulp.
That was Mistake Num-
ber One: Johnny was ru-
mored to be the son of a
gangster.
In order to escape the
Bergs family and his feel-
ings of anger for his wife,
whom he trusted to do a
love scene without actually
doing a love scene, Thicke
moved to a low-income
apartment complex. It was
a good place to hide from
the Bergs, the law, and his
own thoughts.
Mistake Number Two:
there were too many need-
ful women at the complex,
and Thicke smelled like
money. It was hard to avoid
them, even when he wanted
to.
But then Regina Baptiste
started following James
Thicke, crying, begging.
She claimed that the scene
with Johnny Bergs was a
mistake. She wasn’t her-
self. She never intended for
it to happen. It was an acci-
dent.
Once upon a time, James
Thicke stole Regina
Baptiste from another man.
She had been living with
that Norwegian, Bobby
Holland, but she didn’t love
him and he was bad for her.
Holland had gotten her
hooked on cocaine, and
Thicke knew that the pow-
der would eventually be the
death of her. Which was
Mistake Number Three: the
death was likely to be James
Thicke’s...
Well, there we go. Au-
thor Eric Jerome Dickey
has, once again, made me
stay awake until all hours
of the night, losing sleep
and reading.
Yes, this is one of those
kinds of books.
“An Accidental Affair”
starts out a little rough. It
seemed, at first, that it was
going to be another tire-
some erotica novel... and
then the story grabs you by
the throat and slams you
into James Thicke’s world,
where the only people who
can be trusted are those
who’ve signed confidenti-
ality clauses — and even
then, you’re never sure.
I loved the intrigue here.
I loved the touches of
twisted wit. Reading “An
Accidental Affair” is, in
fact, like chewing on am-
brosia-coated sandpaper:
it’s gritty, but oh-so-very
tasty and if you need a copy
of it for your own, you need
to get to your library or
bookstore now.
Because that’s where
you’ll get yours.
Kaptur Amendment in Budget Committee Markup Would Prevent Increase in Student Loan Rates

Special to The Truth

U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (OH-9) this week offered an amendment in a Budget Committee markup that would prevent a looming increase in the cost of student loans by eliminating tax breaks for big oil companies.

“Student loan debt is a drag on our economy and a ball and chain for millions of American families—not just young people,” said Congresswoman Kaptur, a member of the Budget Committee as well as the House Appropriations Committee.

“Student loans now represent a greater burden on the American people than credit card debt,” said Congresswoman Kaptur. “American families—students, their parents, and non-traditional students—are being forced to borrow more to finance their educations. They’re the ones who need a helping hand, not the giant oil companies who are raking in billions of dollars in subsidies.”

The amendment offered by Kaptur and Budget Committee colleague Karen Bass (D-Calif.) would repeal the “dual capacity taxpayer” rule that allows oil companies to claim foreign tax credits against royalties paid to foreign governments for the right to extract oil. Kaptur said that her amendment, which would raise an estimated $6.4 billion over a 10-year period, would also effectively encourage more domestic exploration and production by the “Big 5” integrated oil companies (Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Shell, BP and ConocoPhillips).

Under sequestration process rules, which took effect after the failure of the “Super Committee,” student loan origination fees would increase by a percentage specified in the sequestration order. In 2007, with not a single Democrat in opposition either in the House or Senate, Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act that cut in half the interest rates on federal loans (from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent). That provision is set to expire on July 1, leaving more than 7.4 million students with federal loans facing the prospect of a doubling of rates.

“That would raise the interest payments on some students by a thousand dollars a year,” said Congresswoman Kaptur. “We simply cannot let that happen.”
Opening a virtual hotbed of worms, the Lima City School board and athletic directors have announced open discussions that could lead to changing the GPA requirements to participate in sports and other non-graded activities.

At a time when there is a plethora of evidence that our students are struggling with grades and content knowledge strong enough to pass state tests, they are considering lowering the requirements from the current 1.75 (on a 4.0 scale) to 1.50. The discussion has generated animated reactions among educators and the general public.

“So, are we trying to send the message that sports are more important than your school work?” asks one listener on a local talk show. “Are we saying to students, if the work is too difficult for you, we’ll lower the standards so you can still play?” asks another.

Lima Senior High School girls basketball coach Vincent Holliday says the school is looking for ways to include more students in school activities. He believes the move could pull more of those students from the achievement gap. “Maybe if we can get those kids to participate in sports and change the kids their hanging around with to students who care about their grades; who have pride in their school and in themselves, maybe we can get them to work harder…to get better grades,” says Holliday. “This could put those students under the watchful eye of a coach who will push them to do better.”

Emmanuel Curtis, a middle school basketball and track coach agrees. “We’re not talking about a huge number of students, here. We’re talking about a few students we may be able to get turned around if they feel more like they are a part of their school. My girl’s basketball team Average is 3.1 and those who are higher reach out to those other team mates to pull them to the next level.”

One argument for the change is that it puts Lima City Schools in line with other schools in their same athletic conference. Of those schools, only LCS and one other are currently at 1.75; some schools have no GPA requirement for participation, others have it set as low as 1.0.

The discussion is clearly centered on non-graded activities; proponents want the public to know. This is not about not meeting state-mandated requirements. Assistant Superintendent of LCS Jill Ackerman states; “We are trying to get kids to be more involved in our schools. We are looking for ways of reaching across to those students who need more of an incentive, and maybe a couple more positive people in their lives saying, ‘You can do this.’ Especially in the middle school level; we want to get them involved early so they get the discipline, high expectations, and behavior re-inforcement from our coaches. And let’s face it, if they don’t play sports in middle school, it will be very difficult for them to make the teams in high school missing that valuable background.

“We also lose kids from the city schools because they transfer to other schools that do not have the 1.75 GPA requirement. Their parents take them elsewhere so they can have the benefit of playing sports for those schools. The problem for those students is that they do not do any better academically; and other schools in the area do not offer the resources and programs available for struggling students as Lima City Schools.”

This is likely to be a difficult sell to the public at a time when the school district needs support from voters. The perception that Lima City Schools has a poor track record for state-mandated testing. During the last election, their levy request did not pass. One voter said, “All they care about is sports, and their sport teams just ain’t that hot.” The adage “Perception is Everything” will certainly come into play during the open discussion before the suggestion is put to a formal vote with the school board. In the meantime, the coaches and administrators want to include the community in the discussions. They’d like the chance to explain their theory on how it could work for some students.

Dr. Anthony Atkins, MD, of Detroit first questioned the idea; and then after hearing some of the talk points equated the program to one that he says, changed his life. “The Ohio State University offered a chance for students who didn’t necessarily have the grades to get into medical school,” says Dr. Atkins. “They program was challenging and intensive; giving those students a chance to prove that they were more than their GPAs reflected. I went through that program, and given that chance put me where I am now…a doctor; saving lives, helping people. But, if they hadn’t let me in so I could prove myself; who knows where I’d be right now? So, now I understand what these coaches are saying, and I think it’s worth the chance to give even one kid a helping hand and let them prove they can be successful.”

The GPA topic will be put to a vote soon, public input is welcome. For more information or to submit questions visit limacityschools.org. The next scheduled school board meeting is Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 6:00 PM at Freedom Elementary School on Calumet.
Movie Review

The Avengers

By Michael Hayes

Minister of Culture

My dad grew up on comic books, and like any rebellious child, I stayed away from them for the most part. But luckily, all of us kids in the 80s and early 90s were treated to cartoon revamps of all the super-hero stories our parents had in their youth.

So in a way, I'm hip to The Avengers. Fans of this kind of movie will range from comic-con-dwelling super geeks who know every nuance of every character to a T all the way to casual fans who thought the commercials looked interesting.

In the middle will be a smaller range of moviegoers with varying levels of familiarity with the story.

But rather than reaching back into childhood for cliff notes, you only need to think back to 2008. Yes, this is one of those films that you have to see AFTER you've done your homework.

With over $200 million made domestically in its first weekend in theaters, The Avengers has set a new world record for the biggest opening of any film... ever.

You could see it without any back story and still have a blast, but who would be if I didn't explain what you're walking into? Okay.

The Avengers is actually the sixth film in something called, The Marvel Cinematic Universe. Action movies that form a franchise (X Men, Transformers, etc.) have their own universe that ties fans of the stories origin to its on-screen version but it usually revolves around one central figure.

For example, even though X Men had three linear instalments and then X Men Origins: Wolverine, X Men: First Class came along as prequels, it was all still related to the central X Men storyline and legend.

This is four separate legends, four separate franchise worthy on-screen action films that have been dropping clues for years about how they were all linked together.

Remember Tony Stark's father in Ironman and Ironman 2? How was he a weapons manufacturer who had deep ties to the American military? Well in the Captain America film, which takes place 60 years ago, there's Tony Stark's playing his role to make a Captain America... the world's first super-soldier.

So, I will say it again, doing your homework is necessary before seeing The Avengers.

You should be familiar with Iron Man (2008), The Incredible Hulk (2008), Iron Man 2 (2010), Thor (2011) and Captain America (2011) or else, most of The Avengers will have you sitting there with the deer face. I'm a huge fan of the Ironman franchise. I have to say it's my favorite of them all, and I've watched both so much I can recite some of the scenes word for word. But Thor and Captain America... meh. Not so much.

So, I'm not saying you will thoroughly enjoy either of those.

But you absolutely need to see Thor because much of the plot in The Avengers if you want to know who the bad guy ( Loki) is and what his overall threat is. You also need to know what S.H.I.E.L.D is, which is evident in all of the above mentioned films.

For those of you who have already completed your homework, can we all just let out one giant "aaaahhh, now THAT'S AN ACTION MOVIE!"

I mean, this film just got better with every passing scene.

They had to let Robert Downey, Jr carry most of it because his character is the most magnetic (no pun intended), and it was his wit and humor that made the Ironman films some of the most successful action films in history... not just Marvel history, film history.

The Avengers hits a few weak points when it relies on characters and story lines not as interesting or actors not as convincing, but overall... it's such a thrill ride you barely notice any weak points. Remember when action movies in the 90s had a lot of sexual imagery to go along with all the explosions and fight sequences? One thing about the Marvel films is that women are usually portrayed as powerful and intelligent equals to the men instead of accessories, which comes across in this film with ease. But, Scarlett Johansson is hot as Black Widow. Even if her so-called Russian accent seems a bit intermittent.

In the comic books and cartoons, it was only our childhood openness to fantasy that could make a team of super-heroes' save the world and win....

But this film is mature enough to admit there would surely be some personnel and communication problems to work out before the team truly became a team.

The interplay between the Avengers themselves is where this film really shines. They fight, fuss and learn to get along... and it's almost more entertaining than when they battle their common enemy.

You need to see this film and you need to see it on a big screen.

Yea, yea... I know. Hollywood claimed bootlegging was putting them out of business and they almost shut the Internet down talking about how broke they were and yet they are setting new world records for profits... I know. But, the movie-going experience is worth it for a movie like this. Go ahead and pay that 10 bucks... and enjoy one of the most well- rounded, intense and completely satisfying action movies you will ever see in your life!

The True grade for The Avengers is A.
Communities of Color and Student Loan Debt during the Great Recession

By Christian Weller
Special to The Truth

Last week the Center for American Progress released an analysis on the latest data from a survey conducted from the Federal Reserve of households in 2007 and 2009 showing there is even less economic security today for those who went deeper into debt to pay for their education in those years, particularly communities of color. The largest increase in the median education debt amount—$5,715—occurred among African-American households. Households of other races and households with a high school degree also saw comparatively large increases in education debt. That is, households that disproportionately struggled due to higher unemployment, lower wages, and fewer benefits than their counterparts, such as African Americans, saw faster debt increases than their counterparts. It is possible that struggling groups were more willing to go deeper into debt than their counterparts in an effort to regain some economic security during the difficult labor market during and after the Great Recession. The summary data show that rising education loans put many student loan borrowers, especially communities of color, into an economic pickle. It is possible that counterparts in an effort to react to this growing problem is under way and gaining traction. Since AARP and AARP Foundation launched Drive to End Hunger last year, the initiative has donated more than 6.6 million meals and driven corporate and individual donor commitments with an expected value of $1.1 million. Chase Card Services (Chase), a division of JPMorgan Chase & Co., makes a donation to AARP Foundation for Drive to End Hunger each time an AARP Visa Card from Chase account is opened and the card is used. Last year, Chase contributed $1.6 million to this important cause, which is equivalent to an estimated 750,000 meals for older Americans in need.

To attract even more attention and resources to this often-overlooked issue, Chase is doubling the donations made with the AARP Visa Card to AARP Foundation for Drive to End Hunger during the month of May, which is Older Americans Month. For more than a year, Chase has been donating $0.03 for each purchase made with the AARP Visa Card and $1 for each new account opened. However, in May, Chase is increasing this commitment by donating $0.06 for each purchase made with the card, $2 for each new account opened, in addition to a $100 cash back bonus for cardmembers after their first use of the card. All told in 2012, Chase will donate up to $2 million to AARP Foundation. Doubling donations provides an easy way for cardmembers to make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans who face hunger each day. This year, in addition to the donations made through AARP Visa Card purchases, Chase has teamed up with four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Jeff Gordon and will appear on the No. 24 Drive to End Hunger Chevrolet for five 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races throughout the country.

Doubling Down On The Fight Against Older American Hunger

Nearly 9 million Americans 50 and older are currently struggling with hunger or lacking sufficient nutrition and food resources. And the problem is predicted to increase 75 percent by 2025, according to AARP Foundation.

Fortunately, an effort to eradicate this growing problem is under way and gaining traction. Since AARP and AARP Foundation launched Drive to End Hunger last year, the initiative has donated more than 6.6 million meals and driven corporate and individual donor commitments with an expected value of $1.1 million. Chase Card Services (Chase), a division of JPMorgan Chase & Co., makes a donation to AARP Foundation for Drive to End Hunger each time an AARP Visa Card from Chase account is opened and the card is used. Last year, Chase contributed $1.6 million to this important cause, which is equivalent to an estimated 750,000 meals for older Americans in need.

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INTERESTED BIDDERS: Purchasing Building DEMOLITION project

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until 1:00 p.m. on May 23, 2012 at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers’ Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the demolition of the Purchasing Building as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Macpherson Architects and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan room in Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting May 4, 2012 which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for May 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at the Purchasing Building, 443 East Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608.

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Human Resources - AOD at csobczak@toledoportauthority.org, by phone at (419) 776-7000, or fax at (877) 281-0784.

Bid Package – Purchasing Building
Bid Item No. 1 Purchasing Building
Demolition $156,846

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 Office
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.

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.

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 details.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry #FY12-123, (Project #0054-12-736) for McComas Village Restrooms for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $35.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Jerry Volt of Duket Architects Planners at 419-255-4500. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43604. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%; Project Estimate: $262,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: $200,000.00 and Plumbing: $62,000.00.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LCCS is seeking proposals from non-profit and for-profit agencies or entities capable and willing to provide Educational Support and Enhancement Services and Alternative School Suspension/Expulsion Services to families/children. RFP materials will be available from May 9 at 9:00 a.m., through May 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m., at 705 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio 43604. To make arrangements to pick up an RFP packet, call 419-213-3658.

An applicant information meeting regarding the RFP will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 913, 705 Adams St.

The deadline for submitting completed proposals (NO FAX) is Thursday, June 7, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. No proposal will be accepted after that deadline.

By: Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services
Fight Night at The Huntington Center

Turner Boxing Productions & Knock-Out Entertainment Ltd. hosted Fight Night at The Huntington Center on April 28, 2012. Local boxer Martin Tucker was a featured fighter who won in his first hometown fight in seven years.

WBA World Champion Bronco McKart from Monroe, MI was the headliner and also took home a win. Special guests included James “Buster” Douglas and Tommy “Hitman” Hearns who joined 2000 spectators for the Toledo event.