Mark Ward as John in Cirque du Soleil: Quidam

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

Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders. - Henry David Thoreau

It was a protest. It was a march, a path of hope forged last week by approximately 150 young people through the heart of a chaotic community. Contrary to the assimilationist agenda of the civil rights generation, however, these slogan-chanting youth were impassioned by the community’s own self-administered epidemic of drugs, gangs and violence.

Planned by the youth themselves and nurtured by Mayor Mike Bell’s vision of hope and youth empowerment, it was a powerful counterbalance to society’s one-sided view which emphasizes youth failure and dysfunction.

But it was also something more - because history provides something unique and special for each generation, the march in a sense was also a rite of passage, sending the much stronger message that “The day has finally come for another generation to create a new world.”

If not now, when?

Intergenerational cooperation in Toledo seems to be rare or nonexistent. The division is exacerbated by complaints from an older generation that young people are either unavailable or disinterested. The younger generation counters that the older generation is “more interested in publicly criticizing us than enabling us to lead.”

I spoke with Harvard’s Charles Ogletree, one of the nation’s leading experts on race and justice, concerning this generational divide and passing the mantle of leadership. This article is the final of three segments.

Perryman: What comments do you have concerning what is perceived as a generational leadership gap in the black community? Some assert that many leaders from the civil rights era want to hold on to their power and have basically shut out generations of potential younger leaders. Are you finding that the case anywhere else and if so, how would you address the problem?

Ogletree: I think it’s a national crisis. And I think, and I say this over and over, that we need to get future leaders to the front of the line to make sure that we don’t have the same leadership in the future. And we need to pass the baton. I think that is very important in terms of what the next generation should be doing.

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Perryman: Do you mean to the degree that maybe some of the older leaders should pass the mantle and step aside, or do you feel that they should perhaps take younger leaders under their wings? How do they make the transition?

Ogletree: My preference would be to take young people under their wings and if they don’t do that then younger people have to do what they have to do to make sure that they are a part of the process of progress in our communities.

We forget too often that Andy Young and Dr. King and Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall and all these folks were young when they took on the issue of trying to save our community. And they were much younger than the elders who were in charge and yet they were pushed to the front and that is what we have to do.

We have to push future leaders to the front of the line to make sure that we don’t miss the opportunity to get their wisdom, ideas and beliefs before us and early. It will make a difference in what we’re able to do in the 21st Century. So that is our challenge, that’s our call, that’s our - in a sense, our call to action. And the question is - how do we get to figure out a way to make sure it happens.

Perryman: Are there models or strategies you might recommend to help develop and hone youth leadership?

Ogletree: One way that would be incredibly helpful to the younger generation is to get folks in the room who have resources and contacts and who can provide money and educational scholarships - some incentives. That’s been my experience. These people didn’t give their money merely to provide youth with charity, but they gave as an incentive, that if you stay in school, do well, graduate and want to go to college then we’re going to help you.

I think that is very important in terms of what the next generation should be looking for. That we’ll provide something that will make a big difference in their lives and what they can do to make an enormous difference to our society.

That, to me, is the answer to the challenge moving forward.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min. at drdplerryman@centerofhopebaptist.org
Dear Reader. As you know by now, the Casino On The River will open this year and it is not too soon to prepare ourselves and our community for this momentous event.

That casino has been touted as being an unprecedented source of jobs, tax revenues, new cab companies, suppliers and vendors and new opportunities for downtown and out prostitutes and marginalized dope dealers to get a fresh start.

It should energize a sluggish drug-trafficking enterprise in both downtown Toledo and Rossford. The alcohol lobby is headed over heels with dreams of fantastic sales, especially to the poor sap who throws down his or her entire paycheck on RED 22!!!

Clearly children services will need to hire more case workers as disgruntled casino players return to their homes from a night of gambling with only lint to show in their pockets and they take out their bad run of blackjack homes from a night of gambling with only lint to show in their pockets and they take out their bad run of blackjack.

Local security forces will have a chance to beef up their employee rolls with the unemployed by providing them with a gun and a badge so that they can hang around the edges of the casino and monitor criminal activity.

Toledo and Rossford have made plans to share the increase revenue that will result from speeding tickets by those racing back and forth during their lunch hour to the casino from nearby downtown Toledo businesses.

Consideration will be given to a special DWI court located at the county jail in anticipation of the groundswell of new charges due to the unwritten casino policy of “If you play here, you get drunk here!”

But the above scenarios, you already know about. We help that I am talking about trying to keep motivated the local black church pastors who come out early and support casino gambling.

It appears that some of them are losing their zeal for rolling snake eyes and pulling the one-arm bandits and now they want to bail out of any gambling promotion for their parishioners. We need to tell them to remain strong, prayful and diligent because the best is yet to come. We need to encourage them not to waffle during these next crucial months by which they will see their eagerly sought for dream realized.

I need hundreds of volunteers to meet with me, organize and be trained so that we can go church to church and encourage these now flagging pastors who first supported the bill that brought the casino to Rossford.

I need sympathetic volunteers to cheer up their flagging spirits so that they are not despondent and that they will renew their pulpit call for their parishioners to untertake the short trip to Rossford and support the tax revenues and jobs that the casino will generate.

When these God-fearing and bible-reading casino-supporting pastors understand that they are not alone in their lonely vigil in awaiting the opening of the Temple of Baal, they will be encouraged and, in turn, rally their congregants.

Now, if you want to volunteer but feel that you are ill equipped to give encouragement and support to these brave pastors and the people who will be directly affected by the casino, don’t worry. I have assembled a crackpot team of trainers who will slowly and thoroughly guide you through the steps of what it means to be an “encourager” or armor bearer and thus be a blessing to these valiant men.

The workshops for your training and edification will be held at the downtown library on June 30, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meals will be served and there is no admission charge... simply sign up by June 23 and you will receive a call back indicating what one of the below seminars you have been assigned to.

WORKSHOP ONE: Worshipping the Almighty Dollar:

This workshop will take you into the mindset of pastors who have forsaken the Word of God for the lure of the fast and quick buck. You will understand the fallacies of the Word of Faith gibberish by which you “name it and claim it!” and that God is obligated to you to give you what you want if you use a certain “magical word incantation.”

After this workshop, you will be equipped to spot such a mindset in a pastor and be able to gently but firmly lead him back to sanity and balance.

You will also be able in-struct the novice church gambler and his enabling pastor that chasing after the almighty dollar leads to a host of evils including the love of money being the foremost.

WORKSHOP TWO: More and More and More...Please!

This workshop will help you understand the psychology of what it means to be trapped in a mindset that places the acquisition of material goods over that of the needs of the (Continued on Page 4)
Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs Hold 47th District Conference

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc, hosted the 47th district conference for the North Central District this past weekend culminating in an awards banquet on Saturday night at the Park Inn.

Thursday’s key event was a Women’s Entrepreneur Forum featuring a panel of presenters discussing “Building Your Business.” The panelists included Crystal Dixon, author of Destiny’s Time; Olivia Holden, director of ASSETS Toledo and Lolita Nunn, branch manager of the Washtenaw Avenue Branch of KeyBank.

On Friday night the club held its annual Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists and awarded first place to Ronald Perkins, sponsored by the Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, New Metro Detroit and Pontiac clubs and second place to Franklin Brewer sponsored by the Toledo and Maumee Bay clubs.

At Saturday’s Frances T. Ashley Youth Breakfast, the oratorical contest winners were recognized. Sidney Petty from the Toledo Youth Club won first place; Tyler Applewhite from the Grand Rapids Youth Club won second place.

Saturday’s evening banquet special recognition was for Barbara Tucker who has served as the North Central District’s governor for the past four years.

The North Central District is comprised of clubs in central and northern Ohio, eastern Michigan and Pittsburgh, PA. Denise Black Poon is president of the Toledo club, Gwendolyn Wilson-Banks is president of the Maumee Bay club.

I Need Your Help!

(Continued from Page 3)

people. You will understand how pastors and people get caught up in the tornado of wanting, wanting and wanting and how gambling can feed into that mania.

After this workshop, you will be able to lay hands on and set loose and free up pastors and church members who believe that gambling is the cure-all or panacea for ailing local budgets and their own bank accounts.

You will thoroughly understand that regardless of the success of gambling, enough is never enough and that the gullible pastors, who were first caught up in the hype of passing the casino levy, were simply victims of their own flesh-induced fantasies of bigger and richer churches and receiving the applause of man.

W O R K S H O P T H R E E:

Now What?

This seminar deals with the tragic aftermath of gambling and for those who were simply not strong enough to avoid its siren call of riches, drink, food and entertainment. Yes, these are the victims that will return to their churches and meekly seek counseling and guidance, maybe even from a pastor that supported this casino in the first place!

These maimed individuals will need your help as you try to re-integrate them back into their local church fellowship. You will show them that they must release their gaming-supporting pastor from their anger and hurt; and how they must re-channel that desire to get rich quick into other non-destructive avenues.

You will be taught the basics of family counseling, finding emergency shelter locations, child abuse intervention hotlines, medical providers and locating bankruptcy attorneys.

Also, you will be shown how to counsel naive pastors who originally thought their political support of gambling was a good thing for the local economy but they just did not think it through and now they are embarrassed and ashamed of being asked for “lucky numbers” after they give the church benediction on Sundays.

To you volunteers! This will not be an easy job to undertake because you will see and hear things that will make you cringe and turn away when you see how corrupting the dollar can be on people who only think that, “gambling is fun and exciting!”

But, be strong and stay the course.

Before long, you will be on the front line of defense awaiting the incoming casualties from the Baal Temple On The Maumee River.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com
Over 250 CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and CRB (Citizen Review Board) volunteers, who last year donated nearly 19,000 volunteer hours to the abused and neglected children served by the Lucas County Juvenile Court, were honored on Tuesday evening May 15, 2012. CASA and CRB Director Carol Martin reported that in 2011 CASA volunteers advocated for the best interests of 601 child victims and CRB reviewed 2,808 child abuse and neglect cases.

Marjory Curry, a former foster youth who spent 11 years in our local child welfare system living in at least 7 different homes, inspired the audience with her presentation, “My Life: The Truth about Foster Care.” Using her personal experience as a platform for juvenile justice and foster care reform, Ms. Curry has devoted much of the last seven years advocating in our local community as well as our nation’s capital. After earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Toledo, Ms. Curry was hired as the Special Projects Assistant with the Lucas County Juvenile Court where she assists the court administration with the development of policies, practices, and programs that ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth in the juvenile justice system.

CASA volunteers David Santiago and Ethel Dez

CASA Volunteers Doris Robertson and CeCe Norse

Marjory Curry and Yolanda Gwinn, chairman of the CASA/CRB Advisory Board

Lucas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), a non-profit organization that has operated in Lucas County since 1980, is one of the oldest and most respected of the 1000 CASA programs nationwide. CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens who are trained to investigate and monitor child abuse cases. CASA volunteers work for the Juvenile Court judges and are sworn officers of the court. CASA’s mission is to advocate so that child victims find safe, permanent, nurturing homes and do not get lost in the child welfare system.

In addition to the advocacy provided by CASA guardians ad litem, when an abused or neglected child is placed in foster care, the law requires a vigorous review process and allows a qualified, trained, and diverse group of involved citizen volunteers to conduct the review on behalf of the Juvenile Court judges. These volunteers comprise the Citizen Review Board and act on behalf of the Juvenile Court judge in reviewing and evaluating case plans to help ensure that a safe, nurturing environment exists for the abused and neglected children both in out-of-home care and permanently for the future.

The volunteer recognition event was paid for and hosted by the CASA/CRB Advisory Board whose chair is Yolanda Gwinn. J.D. Years of service pins were awarded to all of the volunteers, and Carol Kraus and Shelle Falkenberg both of Maumee, Tom Moore of Toledo, and Carol Hitt of Monclova were all awarded pins recognizing 20 years or more of volunteer service.

There continues to be a great need for additional volunteers.

For information on becoming a CASA volunteer or a volunteer member of the Citizen Review Board, visit the CASA website at www.casakids.net, call the CASA office located in downtown Toledo at the Juvenile Justice Center, 1801 Spielbusch Ave., at 419-213-6753, or email casainfo@co.lucas.oh.us.
Women for Obama Host
Visit by Re-election
Campaign Official

Kate Chapek, national women’s vote director for the Obama for America presidential re-election campaign, will address a noon luncheon June 2, 2012 at Georgio’s Café Internacional, 426 Superior Ave. in downtown Toledo.

More than a dozen local women elected officials and community leaders, including Ardenia Jones Terry, B.D., retired University of Toledo administrator, have organized the gathering as a campaign fundraiser that is open to the public. The ladies urge voters to attend and learn more about the Obama campaign’s plans to advance women’s rights while serving the country for another four years.

“We’re very excited to have Kate Chapek visit Toledo,” says Jones Terry. “We’d love to have as many people from the community come out and join in the discussion of her work in rallying not only women’s support, but the support of everyone who believes the president is the best choice in November.”

A graduate of Georgetown and the University of South Carolina, Chapek has established herself as an asset among Democratic leaders. She helped architect media projects that led to the re-elections of former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in 2006. Chapek’s extensive experience in marketing and public relations also includes work on behalf of former presidential candidate, Gov. Bill Richardson.

Based in Washington, D.C., she holds a position that is key to promoting Obama’s visibility in the months leading up to the presidential showdown of 2012.

For additional information, or to purchase tickets to the luncheon, please contact Ardenia Jones Terry at (419) 265-0230. To request interviews, media may also contact Jones Terry via e-mail at ardenia.jonesterry@yahoo.com.

Second Annual Charity Golf Classic and Award Dinner

The Norman and Louise Jones Foundation will host its second annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, June 4, at the Brandywine Country Club, 6904 Salisbury Road, Maumee, Ohio 43537.

This event will kick-off with a Shotgun Start/Scramble Format. Tee times will be at 1:00 p.m. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided at 11:45 a.m.

The Golf Classic will feature exciting putting contests, tee prizes, and a silent and live auction. Toledo’s own Jerry Anderson will serve as auctioneer during the live auction. This year’s live auction items will feature a fabulous Disney World Family package for four persons in Orlando, Florida, includes three nights hotel stay plus hopper pass tickets. For the avid golfers, there will be an auction for three days of golf for a foursome at the luxurious Treetops Golf Resort in Gaylord, Michigan. The luxurious Treetops Resort is a Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Masterpiece Course.

The Hole-In-One Prize, a 2012 Mercedes Benz E350 is being donated by Vin Devers Autohaus of Sylvania.

The Co-Title Sponsors are Heidtman Steel and NuTek Steel; the Platinum sponsor is Omni Source. Sponsorship levels are still available.

The cost is $150.00 per golfer, which includes golf fees, cart, lunch and awards dinner in the Ballroom of the Brandywine Country Club. The evenings program will feature Motown Legend, Martha Reeves, formerly “Martha and the Vandellas”. Reeves will perform a couple of memorable hits and will serve as celebrity golfer, along with local celebrities and special guests.

The proceeds from the 2012 Golf Classic will benefit the Toledo area youth during the Summer Enrichment Camp and throughout the school year. More than 200 children (ages seven-14) will enjoy Summer Camp free of charge because of the generosity of sponsors, donors and participants. During the summer camp experience, children are provided academic enlightenment from local certified teachers and guest speakers. They also receive an introduction to effective communication skills, urban gardening, wellness & nutrition, personal goal setting, dining and business etiquette, physical fitness training, and mentoring from community leaders and professionals.

Immediately prior to the new school year, the NLJF annually donates thousands of dollars of school supplies, backpacks and lunch bags to school children of Lucas County in order to level the playing field for students who may need the hand-up.

To learn more about sponsoring, donating or registering to play, please call: NLJF (419) 724-0888 or email: iris.jones@nljfoundation.org.
Father’s Day Celebration for Claude Black – Jazz Pianist

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

This year’s Father’s Day will bring to Toledo a fundaising celebration for the area’s legendary jazz pianist, Claude Black at the Maumee Indoor Theater.

The 5:00 p.m. event will be hosted by the Kalvin Hughes Jazz Trio with special guests jazz stylist Ramona Collins along with Jesse Coleman and The Jamm Band.

Tickets for the fund-raiser are on sale now at Jack’s Men’s Wear (419-536-1551) and the main box office of the Indoor Theater (419-897-8902).

Advanced tickets are $20, $7.50 for children.

Black, who is suffering from cancer, has played with a multitude of musicians over the years, including jazz artists such as Charlie “Bird” Parker, Stan Getz, Joe Henderson and Wes Montgomery. He once served as the touring pianist for Aretha Franklin.

In recent years, Black and bassist Clifford Murphy have formed The Murphys, the house band for the local jazz club Murphy’s, which closed its doors last year after the death of Joan Russell.
My Music Is Major Art Showcase

Sojourner’s Truth staff

Jelise Roberts, a Toledo native, member of the foundation and founder of My Music Is Major, returned home from Columbus last weekend to organize an art showcase at the Fort Industry Square Building in honor of her late grandfather, the legendary musician Charles W. McDaniel. The arts showcase featured talent from local student artists and a youth jazz band from the Toledo School for the Arts.

The purpose of the showcase was to raise funds for the Charles W. McDaniel Scholarship Fund which is designed to help develop young musicians with the goal of preparing them for their entry into the professional world.

Charles McDaniel began to develop his musical talent at an early age playing saxophone and piano with his father and brothers during high school. He attended Miles College and in 1950 organized the Royal Swanks Band. He later attended the Bach conservatory of Music here in Toledo. He joined the local musicians union in 1958 and later became the first black secretary/treasurer of Local 5-286 in 1999.

In 1993, he organized a group of teenagers into a gospel jazz group called Jelise and Company, after his granddaughter whom he taught to play the saxophone.
Mark Ward: The Show Always Goes on for the Ringmaster in Cirque du Soleil

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Since 1993, Mark Ward has been with Cirque du Soleil, first as a member of the company’s first permanent show in Las Vegas, Mystere; and, since 1998, as the principal character and ringmaster of the show’s touring production, Quidam. That would be a total of close to 7,000 consecutive shows in his 19 years with the production—he’s never missed a single show.

Does the task ever get boring for the classically-trained ballet dancer?

“It does not get boring when you are doing something you love,” said Ward last week during an interview by telephone with The Truth. And at the age of 46, Ward doesn’t see any end to his performances with Cirque du Soleil. He plans to continue for “as long as I want to … at least another five years,” he said.

In fact, Ward’s mentor with the show is a colleague who is about to celebrate his 80th birthday. Good news for the rest of the troupe who might envision long careers on the road with Cirque. The production visits a town a week for 10 weeks before the cast gets a two-week reprieve from the bright lights. They will be in Toledo at the Huntington Center for a total of five shows in three days from June 8 to June 10.

Ward’s success in ballet certainly could not have been predicted by a quick glance at his childhood. He grew up in Denton, TX, not exactly a hot bed for the classics of any type. And in true Texas form, Ward was addicted to athletics as a youth, particularly track and field. He didn’t discover ballet until relatively late in life—as a high schooler.

After high school, Ward headed to New York for the Dance School of Harlem and the American Ballet Company, and, after eight years of performing with various companies in the U.S. and abroad, joined Cirque du Soleil for the experience that will define his career.

As John, the ringmaster, Ward is the audience’s guide or link to what’s happening on stage during Quidam, the master of ceremony with the crazy hairdo and colorful suit.

For more information on the upcoming Cirque du Soleil stop to Toledo, visit the Huntington Center website at www.huntingtoncenter.com.

You may think you’re invincible.

But all it takes is one bad decision. Don’t drink and don’t get in a car with someone who has been drinking.

Live to celebrate another day.

Behavioral Health Group
Twice as Good by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Eric Velasquez

c.2012, Sleeping Bear Press $16.95 / $18.95 Canada 32 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Eventually, one of the golfers let Willie be a caddy, which meant carrying a heavy bag filled with golf clubs. That didn’t stop Willie, either; in fact, he worked twice as hard because being “good” at his job wasn’t good enough. Soon, he was earning money at being a caddy.

Then one day, someone asked Willie to play a round of golf and Willie loved it! From then on, every chance he got, he practiced. By time he entered high school, he was one of the best golfers around. He even entered competitions. Still, lots of white golfers didn’t want Willie playing on their course. They wouldn’t let him join the club or share their clubhouse. But Willie had dreams, not only for himself but for his baby daughter, too.

He knew that someday, there’d be a place where she could learn to play golf, too, and nobody would turn her away. Willie was sure there’d be a course like that, even if he had to build it himself…

A Look at The Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur

By Michael Hayes

Rap fans can’t leave it alone, so neither can I. These two rap superstars still command a lot of attention and interest. From the Coachella hologram to the revamped Behind The Music, their presence in the game is still loud and clear.

It’s important to point out that both artists would have still been legendary even if there had never been any feud or hostility. There’s a fine line between examining their remarkable careers and listing what truly happened without always making it seem like the East Coast/West Coast war defined them. It didn’t define them.

I’m gonna spend this week and next week offering a take on both artists and their legacies that I hope you all read and enjoy.

Walk with me.

Was It All A Dream?

If you watch Notorious, you get a sense that 2Pac and Biggie hung out a few times. Shooting pool here, partying there. But it barely breaks the surface of how tight they were.

Their friendship and alliance was much closer and stronger than it is often portrayed. If you do the research, talk to the right people and pay attention to some of the media from ‘93/’94 you understand that these two should never have become enemies.

They really were around each other’s homes and crew, not just shows.

Even though Tupac was born and reared for 18 years as a New York City resident, for some reason he chose to attack his hometown and claim it was retaliation for set ups, style biting and other perceived grievances at the time he and Biggie fell out.

But where’s the proof? In this very column, I interviewed Nashiem Myrick a little over a year ago. Nash is the producer responsible for the track and

(Continued on Page 11)
Toledo Museum of Art Gives Active Military Families Special Offers All Summer Long

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) has been designated a 2012 Blue Star Museum. Through a collaborative program with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and the U.S. Department of Defense, Blue Star Museums provide special offers to military families in recognition of their service to the nation.

More than 1,500 museums across America are participating this year by offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day (May 28) through Labor Day (Sept. 3).

Because TMA is open to the public free of charge year round, free parking and a 10 percent discount on purchases in the Museum Store also are being provided to those in active duty and their immediate families. To receive the benefit, military personnel must show appropriate identification.

Leadership support for Blue Star Museums has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. A complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

This is the third consecutive year TMA has been part of the program.

Downtown Toledo Improvement District Presents “Lunch at Levis Square” Concert Series

“Eat to the Beat on Thursdays”

In an effort to promote more pedestrian traffic in the central business district and to create an opportunity for downtown workers and visitors to enjoy a refreshing mid-day break near the end of a busy work week, the Downtown Toledo Improvement District, Inc. (DTID) is again sponsoring a free downtown luncheon concert series in Levis Square. “Lunch at Levis Square” will occur every Thursday, May 31 through August 30 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Levis Square is located at the intersection of Madison Avenue and N. St. Clair Street in downtown Toledo.

2012 Lunch at Levis Square Entertainment Schedule

Every Thursday May 31 – August 30 from 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 31               Benny of the Jets, rock
NEW THIS YEAR
Thursday, June 7  Rachel Richardson, acoustic folk/soul  NEW THIS YEAR
Thursday, June 14  Johnny Reed & the Houserockers, blues
Thursday, June 21  Rodney Parker & the Liberty Beach Band, country
NEW THIS YEAR
Thursday, June 28  Extra Stout, Irish genre
Thursday, July 5  Grapesmugglers Lite, R&B/jazz   NEW THIS YEAR
Thursday, July 12  The Dan & Don Show, pop/rock
Thursday, July 19  Kyle White, folk rock
Thursday, July 26  Glass City Steel, steel drum/island music
Thursday, August 2  Dezire, Motown
Thursday, August 9  Illiss, folk/acoustic   NEW THIS YEAR
Thursday, August 16  Johnny Rodriguez, light rock
Thursday, August 23  The Swamp Kings, blues & rock
Thursday, August 30  David Browning, pop/folk
The Best in the Midwest: The History of the Moors

This event will feature a talk from El Hajj Khalid A. Samad on the story of the original Moors in Toledo, Ohio. He will also share the methods he has used to reach at risk youth, prevent urban violence and reform gang members, neighborhoods, communities and cities.

El Hajj Khalid A. Samad will reveal information and sacred locations of artifacts, vortexes and actual existing sites located here in the Toledo community. Minister Damu Crenshaw EL of The Moorish Temple will expound on present day Moors.

Saturday, May 26 at The Truth Gallery, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo from 3 to 7 pm. For more information call 419-777-4999 or email getchangeback@themark-etplace.com.
Message to Graduates

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Every year around this time I write my annual message, usually to those graduating from high school, but it may be time to expand it to anyone completing education at any level.

For minorities, I think we sometimes take for granted how hard our previous generations fought just for us to have access to education.

The same way it’s an uphill battle to get some students to learn these days, if you go back a few generations it was an uphill battle for someone to get a book in their hands. There was a thirst for knowledge, for advancement. There was a deep and abiding commitment to improving quality of life through higher education. Remember that scene in The Color Purple where Celie’s sister was teaching her how to read by naming all the things in the kitchen? That’s not just Hollywood embellishment, that’s really an example of how rare it was for our people to be literate... much less educated.

In 2012 what does it mean to have those titles next to your name? I guess there was a time before I was born when a college education was affordable and a job after graduating was basically guaranteed. But for the last few decades the opportunities to achieve either one have been drastically reduced. Obtaining a college degree was supposed to be a reliable means of financial hardship. But higher learning has such a high price tag these days thanks to loans and inflated costs no one can explain. Ironically, obtaining a degree actually keeps many people closer to the poverty line until they find that job that changes their fortunes for good. But, where is that job going to come from?

President Barack Obama said earlier this spring that he and Michelle, just finished paying off their college loans barely eight years ago. That’s a married couple in their 50s with Ivy League educations who eventually found good jobs (and then really good jobs, obviously). We’ve all heard about how had the job market is, and it’s no exaggeration.

There really are graduate degree holders competing with high school students for fast food jobs and paper routes. We’ve had a swell of educated men and women dumped into the workforce with fewer and fewer places that exist to employ them. You can thank Ronald Reagan and the first George Bush for that.

It’s safe to say that in these days and times we have returned to education as a survival tool. We are back to going against all odds to obtain the learning and skills we need just to make ourselves only marginally more prepared than the next person in line.

Some industries thrive while others falter, so what ever field of study you devote yourself to make sure it’s one that has earning potential (something I would tell myself if I could do it all over again). Also, the “Good Ole Boy” network is still alive and kicking.

Who you know can make a world of difference for those in the loop or spell complete rejection for those not in the loop.

Get your education. No matter if it’s DeVry, ITT, the full university experience... whatever. But be aware of what you are getting yourself into and how you can make the most of the time and money you’ll be spending.

Even though things are tight, they are getting better.

An education is an investment in more than just the amount of money you bring home, it’s the understanding you gain about how the world works and what you can teach the next person.

The following is a list of graduate shout outs.

I was on facebook and posted a stat asking anyone who knew a graduate to comment so I could congratulate them in this article, so here you go.

Alizia Moore, Bachelors of Sociology, Lourdes College
Tamy Jamison. B.S.N., Lourdes College
Tasia Jett, Central Catholic H.S.
Todje Jett, Old West End Academy
Chris Jones, Start H.S.
Chrisannna Jones, Woodward H.S.
Cortney Jones, Start H.S.
Keonte Jones, Bowalker H.S.
Vernon Anthony Hickman, Bachelors in Science, University of Toledo
E.J. Hry, Scott H.S.
Faith Mc Glown, Masters in Education, University of Toledo
Edwin Thomas Claybourne, Toledo Early College at U.T.
Samantha Heckman, Whitmer H.S.
Eric Heckman, Whitmer H.S.

Special Acknowledgement to my cuzzo Terrell Scott getting his degree up in Detroit.

And also the newest singer/songwriter on U.G.E, who along with being a neo soul songstress also just completed her Bachelors in Women Gender Studies at The University of Toledo... Shardae Lady Dae Moss.

Congratulations to you all!

And if you don’t know how you got on this list, thank whoever you know that knows me on facebook because they looked out for you and your accomplishment!

B.I.G. and Tupac

(Continued from Page 10)

I’ve spoken directly to the man who made the record that many wrongly assume was the musical spark that lit the feud.

His account of the story carries great significance and he points out that the song was made before 2Pac was exciting his home in a deliberate move to turn him from a profit-minded artist wanting to confront Pac about his growing animosity towards the East Coast.

You got Nas yoking him up on sight, but there was a long line of New York-based artists wanting to confront Pac about all the disses. So if the urban legend depicts’ Pac as a victim who waged this righteous war against friends who turned out to be enemies... that just isn’t accurate or supported by evidence.

To say that Biggie bit his style isn’t accurate or supported by evidence. What is more accurate is that 2Pac deliberately changed his image to stay relevant in a music industry that was starting to transition from the early 90s West Coast dominance to the mid 90s East Coast resurgence.

2Pac’s Makeover

Even with a few run-ins with the law and minor controversy, 2Pac was still a glowing example of all that was good about rap music in his pre-Death Row days. He had loyal fans but not necessarily break out commercial success.

It’s just my opinion here, but I think he or someone with a hand in his career decided to intentionally make a drastic change to his image. Perhaps to tie his artistic persona to some of the incidents he was having beyond the stage and the studio.

Along with that change in image came a drastic change in his sound, and instead of...
B.I.G. and Tupac
(Continued from Page 13)

socially -aware and conscious artist to a more gimmick- based hardcore artist.

You don’t make songs like “Brenda’s Got A Baby” and “Keep Ya Head Up” by accident. I believe those truly represented how Tupac was raised and the man that he would have been. But, when you transition from that kind of material to songs like “Ambitionz As A Ridah” and “Toss It Up” that doesn’t happen by accident either.

Let’s just say that the whole coastal feud and beef with Bad Boy was something drummed up by executives at Death Row and Interscope to turn 2Pac from a platinum-selling artist into a diamond-selling artist, it worked. Because that’s exactly what happened.

If you look at it strictly from the perspective of how many units were sold at various points in his career, 2Pac going from a positive, uplifting artist to a negative gangsta-rap artist resulted in his sales more than tripling. The darker he got, the more money he made.

But the money he made was nothing compared to the money being made off of him.

His original contract with Interscope was inked far before the days of rapper/moguls negotiating to get better percentages and options. It’s often been said that one of the ways to tell when an artist is being jerked is when they have an overflowing vault of unreleased material yet they don’t own any of their masters or publishing.

It’s an old school record industry pumIp tactic to keep an artist with cash in his hand, but asset broke and constantly in the studio. Death Row has been sued more than any other 90s rap label for not paying or crediting songwriters, producers or artists correctly.

Suge Knight didn’t have a background in the business aspect of music.

He wasn’t an executive. Tupac was at the end of his contract.

There’s a lot to suggest that everything that transpired after the Quad Studio screams of foul play. But, as Puffy has often said in the years since the tragic losses of both artists, music has an energy to it and everyone has to be careful what they speak into existence.

“I don’t have time here. I don’t have time to lay the hook! You do that after I leave!” That is a quote from Tupac speaking on his own mortality.

Every man makes their own destiny, but it’s quite possible that we lost one the most iconic artists of our time even before he left this earth.

Be careful of the people you let in your head.

Next week, part two.
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 Mach Peterson 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 Buildings, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5393. 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 need additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Patrick.Stutler@lgb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, 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: $15.25 /hr part-time.

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

To apply, submit an application and signed Background Removal Standards form to: Police Officer OD Tltn
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 website: 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.

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 LCIDC) 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@unionbhg.org

EOE

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS
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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 cso@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 Voll of Duket Architects Planners at 419-295-4500. 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, OH 43606. 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 419-213-3636.

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
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Honors Mothers on Mothers Day

Submitted by Rev. James H. Willis, Sr.

On Sunday May 13, 2012 at the 10:45 a.m. service, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church honored 12 mothers for “Mothers Day.” According to Rev. James H. Willis, Sr. Senior Pastor, this was the eighty… 80… and up crowd.

The oldest active member (Mother Louise Hairston) seated in the wheel chair is 98 years old and she looks forward to coming to church each Sunday.

Each mother in the group was given a certificate noting the scripture from Hebrew 11:1 stating “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen”. This passage demonstrates how each mother has gone forward and reached the point where they are in life… “By Faith”…….

According to Pastor Willis, these mothers show how much they love the Lord by their action. They are committed to doing His will, and are good roll models for the younger people of the congregation.

Indiana Avenue MBC Annual Senior Citizens Prayer Breakfast

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Thirty-one years ago, Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church inaugurated its Senior Day program with a special service on Sunday morning. A Fun Day was later added to make it a Senior Weekend.

Seven years ago, Sister Patricia Hurley suggested a Hall of Fame be established in order to honor the service and achievements of the seniors of Indiana Avenue. All through these years, Sister Clara Jackson, a retired City of Toledo senior citizens coordinator, has served as chairman of the event.

Once again, last Saturday, May 19, the congregation of Indiana Avenue gathered to honor its own and held its annual Senior Citizens Prayer Breakfast in the Stephenson Roberts Fellowship Hall and inducted nine more members into the Hall of Fame, much to the surprise of those so honored.

Azilee Adams was honored for her service in the area of religion; JoRay Bates for education; Ella Edwards for mentoring; LaGwanda “Joyce” Parker for business/industry; Deborah Roberts for community service; Derrick Roberts for music; Shirley Ware for volunteerism; Lillie Watkins for caregiving and Thomas Wes for athletics.

Seated: Mother Shirley Ware, Mother Ella Edwards, Sis JoRay Bates, Deborah Roberts, Sis Lillie Watkins, Derrick Roberts
Standing: Jean Williams, Pastor John Roberts, Jerome Graham, Sis Clara Jackson, Wilma Brown, Sis Florence Butts, Sis Maxine Forney

Mother Ella Edwards, Pastor John Roberts, Mother Shirley Ware

Meet the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes Center!

NWF’s Simonne Lightfoot is leading our efforts to help community groups across the nation.

Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future.

nwf.org/turtle

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Toledo, Ohio 43604
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