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Brothers on the Rise and UT Students
Social Asphyxia, Capitalism-Style

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

So long as there shall ex- ist, by reason of law and cus- tom, a social condemnation, which ... artificially creates hells on earth ... (work) like a social condemnation, which ... artificially creates hells on earth ...

Many persons in commu- nities of color are acutely aware of the variety of ways in which personal information may be used to nega- tively impact their quality of living. In this current digital age, painless consequences resulting from the commer- cialization of personal infor- mation shows up almost im- mediately in reduced access to goods and services and by exclusion from job markets. It was a brisk and cool day, and spirits ran as bright as the sunshine. One young woman named Joy told me she had been waiting in line for hours at the Hamilton County Courthouse to early vote.

"I will stand in line four more hours rather than spend four years under something I don’t want,“ she said.

Her determination may have been a beautiful ex- pression of her patriotic and democratic duty, but voting should not be this hard.

In 2010, America’s progressive coalition was caught off-guard by an on- slate of state legisla- tures that had been taken over by far-right Republi- can, who represented millions, billionaires, millionaires and Wall Street barons. Those politicians showed themselves willing to do whatever they could to dimin- ish the power of work- ing people, people of color, the poor, the eld- erly, young people and im- migrants.

When it came to voting rights, their careful stra- tegy was simple: to dam- age and disrupt our American democracy by skewing elections. In Ohio, Republicized lim- ited early voting hours to make it harder to vote in cities like Cincinnati, Co- lumbus, Cleveland and Dayton—and those lim- its were endorsed “Souls to the Polls” for success- ful legal chal- lenges that went to the federal appeals court.

Well, they threw ev- erything at us this year, but our coalition of labor, civil rights, community and faith groups collec- tively fought back in the courts, with advocacy, with voter education and with mobilization—and it worked.

Because of our com- bined efforts, communi- ties responded with fierce determination from Ne- vada to Florida and Wis- consin and in some places with record turnout. In Ohio, the African Ameri- can vote this year eclipsed the turn-out of 2008, and we helped turn contested battleground states that would win for President Obama, including in Paul Ryan’s home state of Wis- consin.

We stood our ground and stood in line to push back against voter sup- pression and move for- ward toward shared pros- perity and social justice.

And yet our work re- mains far from over. We must continue to stand to- gether, to strategize and to prepare ourselves for the next steps we must take to protect our democ- racy.

Democracy isn’t sim- ply a word. It’s an ideal we must strive towards. And on Election Day we reaffirm that basic ideal by expressing our demo- cratic voice. It’s an exercise in dignity and equal- ity. One person one vote.

Those who would seek to deprive America of our democracy will try again, I’m sure of it. They will employ noble names and phrases to hide their true intentions. Intentions like those of Pennsylvania’s Republican House Major- ity Leader Mike Turzai, who openly bragged that new voter ID laws would hand his state’s electoral votes to Mitt Romney.

We cannot forget that one of the most aggres- sive voter-intimidation groups is called True the Ne- gation—although there’s not a dime’s worth of truth in it.

While we can all be thankful for the efforts of voters in Ohio and across America, we know it should not be this hard. That’s why in the comin- ing year the AFL-CIO along with its voting rights partners will be gathering to figure out ways to ex- pand and better protect our democracy.

So as we pause to con- sider those gifts in our lives for which we’re thankful, this year let us give thanks for our democracy—and let us re- solve to strengthen it.

Arlene Holt Baker is the executive vice-presi- dent of the AFL-CIO, America’s largest coal- ition of labor unions with 12 million members.

Democracy Should Not Be This Hard

By Arlene Holt Baker

Guest Column

The Sojourner’s Truth

Toledo’s Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor
Becky McQueen – Business Manager
Artisha Lawson – Reporter
Candice Harrison – Reporter
Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist
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A Certified MBE, 2009

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The Sojourner’s Truth December 12, 2012

Social Asphyxia, Capitalism-Style

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

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Well, it is Thursday and unless I deviate from being lazy, it means I go to Wendy’s for a burger and no salt fries. Call it fate but when I went to my burger spot and sat down, who but Noodles walked in as if he owned the place; and of course, he eyed me and sauntered over to my table:

**Noodles:** (with a grin and both eyes on my fries): What’s up Mr. Lafayette?

**Me:** Hi Noodles. Just lunch and time to read a few chapters of a book. So what’s up with you?

**Noodles:** (now well settled in and rubbing his stubby chin): It is what it is. So… what’s on the trip wire with you? Who are you thundering at this time?

**Me:** (slowly trying to move my fries to a safe zone): Have you seen the past few weeks of the local newspapers and the story after story about “you” people taking each other out?

**Noodles:** (laughs and shakes his head but with eyes zeroing in at my fries). Man, it is a war out there. Folks killing each other like there is no tomorrow. It is to the point that if someone just yells out loud, I am ready to deck for cover. Who or what took the lid off of this sewer hole?

**Me:** Tell me about it! It is to the point that when The Blade runs their Tuesday’s paper and has that full page of pictures of black folks who are on the “wanted list”, we are seeing a return to the Old West of wanted posters.

**Noodles** (surpriseingly moving two fingers towards my endangered fries): I remember when I was in ’Nam that on some days we didn’t see as much killing as we now do in the streets in Toledo of all places. People are going nuts. No respect. No values. Just foolishness.

**Me:** (trying to eat as many fries as possible without being too obvious). It is a disaster for everyone. Families are being decimated. Women can’t find husbands. Kids losing their parents.

Anger and fear everywhere. The only “winners” are the prisons and the funeral directors.

**Noodles:** (pulls back his two expeditionary fingers to regroup and find another route to the fries).

I hear you have a “solution” to the problem. What’s your fix on it?

**Me:** (slight smile of victory at the defeat of the two attacking fingers). I applied to the American Institute of Mental Sciences and received a rather generous grant to do some innovative programming. I thought if someone is going to make a buck off of our suffering, I want to be in line for it.

**Noodles:** (looking somewhat shocked at my choice of words). So, what is this “plan” about?

**Me:** My plan is to implant in the right ear lobe of every black male child between the ages of 13-32 years, a computer chip so that when they hear certain high pitched sounds raised in anger or aggressive tones or profanity, they are given an electronic stimulus to cease and desist and leave the area. This chip is planted only after they are rotated into my preventive detention system so that they are reprogrammed as to what is correct and proper behavior.

**Noodles:** (setting up straight so that he can plan another run at the hapless french fries). Now, let me get this straight. You are advocating that young bloods voluntarily go to your “detention” locations for reprogramming and when they complete it, they get this GPS chip in their ear. Am I hearing this nonsense correctly?

**Me:** (wanting to go to the counter for a refill but doubtful of the longevity of the remaining fries if I do so). I know. I know. It sounds radical and if white folks proposed it, there would be howls from the far left thinking conspiracy! But, I see it as a means of survival. If we cannot protect and nurture our young black males, the future of the black family is in peril.

**Noodles:** (silence for a period of time why he rubs his beard). I hear you but do you think black folk locking up black folk, even though it is voluntary is a good thing?

**Me:** It is better than a real lock up with real time and devastating consequences. This way we can be in control of what is said and how it is said and we can give structure to those whom apparently have no structure and have lost their moral compass. This killing and murder thing is a scourge on our communities and unless we are proactive, we all lose. If kids and young adults cannot understand killing and murder and other crimes as being offenses against God, we are doomed as a people.

**Noodles:** (looking desperate as my fries are now protected by my book in front of his grasping fingers). What if the parent wants to do this for their child but their child fights them and refuses to cooperate?

**Me:** Not a problem. The parent temporary signs off their parental rights to the minor child to us and we in turn, as the “new” parents, peacefully “take” the child in to the system.

The child has no contact with their parents for the first forty-five days and then they have limited contact with them so that the parents can gauge the progress made with their child; and if the parent is not satisfied, the child is released back to the parents.

**Noodles:** (purses his lips as if to signal defeat for the battle of the fries). Sounds great to me.

I hope it works. Now, how about a few of them fries because I bounce up out of here?

**Me:** (before I could say, “go ahead and help yourself”…the fries were devoured by Noodles).

It will work because we have to make it work.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com
There’s a Court App for That!

Clerk of the Toledo Municipal Court, Vallie Bowman-English, is in Las Vegas this week making a presentation at The National Center for State Courts e-Courts 2012 conference regarding her experience building a mobile app for court users.

“We’ve had a website for years and have done a lot of upgrades,” said Bowman-English just before leaving for Las Vegas. “I asked our developers if they had ever heard of a mobile app for courts. When people arrive here, they need to know what’s going on.”

The developers came back to Bowman-English and informed her that they had indeed not been able to find such an app anywhere in the nation – and a new high tech aid was born.

The app was developed – TMC CourtWatch – enabling users to access full case and court schedule information from their mobile devices. TMC CourtWatch is available in the iTunes store for the iPhone and iPad and in the Google Play store for Android devices.

According to Bowman-English, the timing could not be better since Municipal Court, as are most government offices, is constantly under pressure to eliminate costs – particularly staffing costs. The app allows court users – attorneys and others – to quickly find out the schedule and status of cases while waiting in the building.

The National Center for State Courts is the organization courts turn to for authoritative knowledge and information because its efforts are directed by collaborative work with a variety of associations of judicial leaders.

All of NCSC’s services are focused on helping courts plan, make decisions and implement improvements that save time and money while ensuring judicial administration that supports fair and impartial decision-making.

Bowman-English was elected to the Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court in November 2003 and is the first African-American and first attorney to serve in that position.

Prior to her election, Bowman-English, a graduate of Scott High School, The University of Toledo and Ohio Northern University College of Law, was an assistant Lucas County prosecutor responsible for the convictions of many offenders charged with criminal offenses.

She is a member of the Toledo Bar Association, a member of the Lucas County Democratic Party, the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women’s Club and the Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Opportunity and Diversity One Industry At A Time

By Benjamin Todd Jealous, President and CEO, NAACP
Special to The Truth

The economic challenges that people of color face is reflected in the recently released NAACP Opportunity and Diversity Report Card which analyzes the hotel and lodging industry. Mediocre grades among the five leading hotels we examined - Hyatt, Starwood, Wyndham, Marriott and Hilton - reveal the widespread lack of investment in minority suppliers, the over representation of people of color in the lowest paying entry level positions, the under representation in the more highly paid career track positions and finally a lack of commitment to collecting basic diversity data that could be used to strengthen inclusion efforts.

Our report shows that black-owned businesses, which comprise seven percent of all businesses in the U.S., make up only 0.9 percent of all vendors receipts - a troubling red flag that signals how far corporate America has to go in their supplier diversity outreach. And while people of color are 36 percent of the population, only 13 percent of the governing bodies in the hotel and lodging industry consist of people of color.

One of the most disconcerting findings of our report card is that all of the top five hotel and lodging corporations do not collect diversity data from their franchise properties. This means for four out of five of these leading corporations no data is collected for the majority of their individual hotels. This is unacceptable.

The NAACP is calling for these corporations to collect the diversity data already mandated by the government through EEO1 reports. We are also asking for planners of major events to request EEO1 reports from any individual hotel they are considering for their event so they can make diversity and inclusion part of their assessment as to which hotel is worthy of their business.

The National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners has already voiced support for this action and we will be working with our community and civil rights partners as well as local bureaus of tourism to make widespread the use of EEO1 data as an important and widely used factor for determining which hotels qualify to hold major events.

The EEO1 survey is a primary means that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission uses to advance its mission derived from the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act focused on prohibiting racial discrimination in employment and almost 60 years later we still find great racial and ethnic disparities in business and its workforce.

The Opportunity and Diversity Report Card and our call to action for greater use of EEO1 data should not be seen as just a “civil rights” matter but should be understood as a means of dealing with one of the greatest threats facing the American economy over the next thirty years, racial economic inequality. We at the NAACP have always seen racial inequality as a grave threat to the country and in the next few decades if serious action isn’t taken to bridge this divide the entire nation will see the economic results of this inequality.
Continuing research on the cultural resources of the neighborhood “Kwanzaa Park” will be presented Thursday, December 13, 5:30-7:00 at the Padua Center. Brighten Up Community Organizing, a group that works out of the Padua Center, has collaborated with student researchers from the University of Toledo to conduct the research.

Their research sought to answer the questions: In what ways do neighborhood people and institutions illustrate or explain the Principles of Kwanzaa? and, How can the Principles of Kwanza be used to analyze the assets of the neighborhood? The research is part of continuing interest in building up the neighborhood’s sense of identity. In Summer, 2011, Brighten Up held a contest was held to “name the neighborhood.” Though the name “Kuschwante” is still used by some to name the neighborhood, many current residents were not aware that that was the neighborhood’s name, since its founding in the 1880s. An updated name seemed needed. “Kwanzaa Park” was submitted as a possibility, and won the contest. Currently, Brighten Up is working toward obtaining signage to identify the neighborhood and to educate residents and visitors about the principles of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday celebrating the best of what it means to be African and human. The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). Maulana Karenga, Ph.D., founded Kwanzaa, which is the only holiday that was started in the United States and is observed globally.

This year’s research focused on Deliverance House of God Church, Muhammad’s Mosque, the Padua Center, the Frederick Douglass Center, Woodberry Park Inventions and Art, and Self-Expression Teen Theater. All of these organizations are found within the Kwanzaa Park neighborhood, which is bordered by Dorr Street and Campbell and Klondike Streets to its north and south, and Brown Avenue and Hawley Street to its west and east.

Using a technique called “participatory action research,” the team researched these sites throughout the neighborhood. Analysis of the data suggests that the principles are observable in Kwanzaa Park and displays the cultural richness of these sites.

Last year’s research focused on Big Mama’s Restaurant, the $1.50 Plus Food Market, Johnson’s Produce, Paradise Baptist Church, the Mott Branch of Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Self-Expression Teen Theater, and the Collard Green Festival. Results of this research also found many examples of the principles of Kwanzaa.

The public is invited to the Thursday, December 13 event, which will begin with a light supper at 5:30, followed by the presentation and discussion ending at 7:00. The Padua Center is located at 1416 Nebraska Avenue, near the corner of Junction and Nebraska. Phone 419-241-6465 for more information about the event or the neighborhood research.
Unveiling Political Correctness: Challenging Black Males
To Stay in College

By Mary Ann Wasserman
Special to The Truth

Unveiling political correctness might be one way of encouraging black males to reveal true feelings about challenges of remaining in college. “We wanted to be intrusive and to engage students in conversation,” said Anthony Quinn, Ph.D., associate professor, Biological Sciences at The University of Toledo. “We decided to go where the students were, meeting monthly in dorms, rotating for meetings in different housing complexes.”

As a member of the executive board of Brothers on the Rise, Quinn and about 10 other professionals and grad students are members of a grass-roots effort. The goal of the organization is to stem drop-out rates of black college males from institutions of higher learning.

The cadre began their quest by gathering statistical information as well as talking to students. Some of the reasons for meeting included cultural dynamics. Under a verbal heading, questions included: are people comfortable where they are located?

One general opinion is that college does not look like high school. Many responding students came from secondary institutions which did not have the look of a monolithic or a block and concrete high school.

“We brought in graduate students to this particular session and we bring in graduate students to every session. This is to get that A grade in college. They have to adjust study style; expectations have changed.”

Brothers on the Rise volunteers asked about dating as a time diversion versus time commitment to studies. Stress was another component of a probe. Did students expect to do well? What about financial help? Students were advised on the mechanics of how to seek help. Political correctness was left outside the door or in the hallway with the aid of a question on emasculation.

“We brought a concept into focus of asking for help did not make a person less of a man,” Quinn said. What does being an African-American or a black person mean? Does being black mean a certain type of music, dress or other cultural dynamics?

“We brought in graduate students for in order to retain students.”

A mentoring session might open with: “We wanted to know where you really are or how you feel.”

“Second, we start off with all males so that we can cut to the chase and get real,” Quinn said. “It (sessions) does not have to be polite. We are always asking them and get them to do most of the talking.”

According to Willie McKether, Ph.D., associate professor, Anthropology, UT, word has spread throughout the campus of the grass roots effort of Brothers on the Rise.

“Word has gotten out there are black faculty and staff who are working with black males,” McKether said. “The UT administration is a partner with Brothers on the Rise. McKether says 2012 is the second year of being organized with other volunteers to assist black males in an overall retention rate and graduation.

“Students talked about behavior at home and behavior which is appropriate for a college campus where there is zero tolerance certain behavior,” Quinn said.

Again, culture dynamics were brought to the fore. “My Reality” topic investigated street culture versus college culture. After modes of behavior were examined, a question of how to be a successful student was initiated.

“We talked about strategies for success which worked,” Quinn said. “It (that particular segment) we brought in graduate students who could talk to younger students.”

According to research, community activists indicate specifically to a lack of male role models in lives of young men. Male drop-outs of all races were 47 times more likely to be incarcerated than their peers of a similar age who had graduated from a four-year college of university.

“We spend a lot of time each year establishing trust,” McKether said. “They (black males) have to learn how to trust you really care about them. All of the goal is to improve retention and graduation rates.”

The grass roots movement was organized after recognition of some academic and social issues.

“One interest deals in working with university administration to improve those issues,” McKether said. One reason for low graduation rates among black males could be incoming freshmen do not have an idea of the mechanics of being a successful college student.

“The University of Toledo has been very supportive,” said John C. Moore, retired vice president, Bowling Green State University. As a member of Boule’ or Sigma Pi Phi, Moore is among a fraternity membership of about 5,000 black professional men around the country. Those careers include physicians, attorneys, accountants and others.

About 25 members of Boule’ became proactive to improve retention rates for black male freshmen as they were dissatisfied by the lack of black males who were being graduated. A representative group met with UT’s president, various vice presidents, and other faculty informing them: ‘we would like to be part of the solution.’

“Nationality, black males drop out at a rate of just below 25 percent,” Moore said. “The University of Toledo has a black male drop-out rate of about 18 per cent. It is a national problem.”

According to other statistics, black males are four percent of college students. Community activists point specifically to a lack of male role models in lives of young men. Mississippi State University reports African-American males graduation rate is 20 percent lower than graduation rate of white males.

Kentucky State University expressed theory higher institutions need to have a more solid partnership with industries they are training students for in order to retain sophomores and junior students.

The Boule’ works with UT incoming freshmen and also some of the upper classesmen trying to make certain students remain with higher learning. With Boule’, students are mentored at three levels. Those plates are (1) hands on; (2) meeting quarterly, (3) exchanging data of communication, including e-mail addresses and others.

(Continued on Page 9)
Up to 60 Additional Openings at Toledo School for the Arts

School Planning Program Expansion at High School Level for Next School Year

Toledo School for the Arts has announced an expansion of their high school program for the 2013-14 school year. As more and more schools nationwide choose to sacrifice the arts when budgets close in, TSA actually attributes academic success to creative study.

“We believe that students learn better with the arts woven directly into academic classroom work. Arts-integration has been our model and mission all along, and with seven years of Excellent ratings we’ve proven ourselves as a top quality education option,” explains Martin Porter, TSA director.

Porter notes that, “with success comes a longer waiting list. Per school year, we turn away 100 potential students. Our plan to grow the high school stems from a desire to accommodate those who have a genuine artistic interest and deserve a tuition-free, excellent experience.”

The excellence he refers to is the school’s Excellent ratings on the Ohio Department of Education report cards. Students come from 23 different school districts to attend TSA, and the school serves 579 students across grades six-12. TSA has twice been designated an America’s Best High School by US News & World Report, and the school’s demographics reflect that of the Toledo area.

“After careful consideration and research, we have found that we can absolutely grow our high school division by up to 60 students while maintaining class size and education quality. I am excited by the prospect of offering the TSA experience to more area youth,” remarked Nick Mariano, TSA principal.

Toledo School for the Arts will hold an Open House on Saturday, January 26 at 10am. For those interested in attending the school, applications are available and can be picked up in the office or downloaded at www.ts4arts.org. The application deadline is February 6.

Interested families are encouraged to use Enrollment Line at 419.246.8732x250

Effective January 1, 2013 Dr. Samuel H. Hancock will return to private practice and rejoin Dr. Linda Whittington-Clark (Whittington-Clark and Associates LLC) as a part-time therapist. Dr. Hancock, who is a Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C.), educator, author, and International Consultant/Trainer in the area of Leadership Development and Cultural Competency, (Hancock, Hancock and Associates LLC) has a Doctorate in Leadership Education and Policy Studies from Bowling Green State University and is a former Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toledo (UT). He is also the former Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity at UT.

He worked in Private practice with Dr. Whittington-Clark, a Licensed Counseling Psychologist, who has been in private practice for over 30 years, for three years in the mid 1990’s. Dr. Hancock’s practice will include but not be limited to marriage and pre-marital counseling, along with group and individual counseling for children and adults. Most insurance companies are accepted.

Also, Dr. Hancock, a Widower who was married for 30 years recently launched a series of discussions about how men and women can have more meaningful, satisfying, trusting and loving relationships. These discussions are based on Hill Harper’s best-selling book entitled “The Conversation” and Dr. V.A. Vernon’s book the “10 Rules of Dating”.

To arrange for an appointment please call 419-578-2525. Feel free to e-mail Dr. Hancock at SAMUEL.HANCOCK@BEX.NET, and to visit his web page at www.hancockhancock.com.
Moore considers the program a tremendous success. Volunteer members of the fraternity were expecting and geared for 25 potential black male graduates to be mentored. Instead, their numbers of prospective graduates has risen to 60; that is, 60 who are seeking support in their knowledge of their courses and eventual graduation.

"If we can get the freshmen and sophomores, then the graduation rate would increase," Moore said.

Moore stressed the problem starts in elementary school where black males too often do not have reading or writing skills to succeed. When they get to college they discover far too late that they do not have those skills.

“That is why after the last two presidents for community colleges, have safety nets in place, to prepare a better foundation,” Moore said. “Black males are coming to universities and colleges unprepared to do that level of work.”

As a potential solution, Boule’ members try to find all the safety nets at UT; help is also provided by Sigma Pi Phi members on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Members of a Boule’ team exchange telephone numbers with students who need mentoring. There is a timetable to meet. Eventually, after a student receives mentoring from Boule’, a fraternity member will initiate an informal poll of the student to see if the fraternity was able to make a difference.

“What we decided to do as mentors is to tell them a little about our background and give them our history,” Moore said. “Upon finding a student with a similar course path as one of the Boule’ members, there is a matching process. From there, the fraternity member of Boule’ starts a bonding process between mentor and mentee.”

Brothers on the Rise meets in the evening when many students are out of classrooms. Call Willie Mckether, (419) 530-4994 or Marcus K. Dawson, (419) 530-4640. Contact willie.mckether@utoledo.edu for questions.
Only 20 Percent of Low-Income Fourth Grade Students Score at the Proficient Level in Reading on National Assessment

By Jim Funk, Director, Read For Literacy
Special to The Truth

The 2010/11 National Assessment of Educational Progress, a nationally representative survey of children’s reading skills, found that only 19 percent of low-income U.S. fourth grade students read at what the survey deems to be the Proficient level.

That only one in five low-income children read at the proficient level in fourth grade is a national disaster in the making. Many of these children come from low-literacy households in which the parents either cannot read or read poorly. As a consequence, they rarely read to their children who therefore begin school far behind their peers and never catch up.

To address this issue, Read For Literacy (RFL), Toledo’s volunteer literacy agency, is expanding the number of children served by its Creating Young Readers program from 287 in 2011/12 to 450 in 2012/13. To accomplish this goal, the agency is seeking 280 Additional volunteers.

In the program, volunteers read to children one to one in area preschools and schools. Each volunteer volunteers once a week and reads to three children one to one using a technique known as Dialogic Reading which has been shown to be effective in accelerating children’s acquisition of critical pre-literacy skills.

Choose where you’d Like to Volunteer
Volunteers are needed at the following sites:
- Calvary YMCA Child Care
- East Toledo Family Center
- Faith Lutheran Church
- YMCA Child Care at St. Charles Hospital
- Toledo Day Nursery – Jefferson Ave.
- Toledo Day Nursery – Stickney Ave.
- Wyman Palmer YMCA
- West Toledo YMCA
- Wolfe Creek YMCA
- Robinson School
- Learning Ladders preschool
- Dreams of Tomorrow preschool, Summit Street
- Toddlers V Preschool, Lagrange Street

Leaders in Education, Business and Civil Rights Join NAACP to Launch New Education Report

Report offers solutions to bring our Education system back to first in the world.

Last week, the NAACP released “Finding Our Way Back to First: Reclaiming World Leadership by Educating All America’s Children”, its new education report that identifies the best practices for educating all of America’s children. The report highlights the solutions needed for our children to succeed in today’s global economy. It is the first time in nearly a decade that the NAACP has put forth a comprehensive education agenda.

“If America is going to lead the world in this century the way we did the last, we must lead the world again in education,” stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. “Finding our Way Back To First’ is the road map for our activists, the communities they serve, and the nation as a whole.

(Continued on Page 12)
There’s one thing you want this coming year, and it can’t be found in a store.

This thing you want can’t be boxed, bottled, or canned. Designers can’t fashion it and factories can’t create it. What you want can’t be fitted, but it’ll be exactly the right size when you find it.

What you want is love this year, and so does Rachel Winslow. She’s a professional when it comes to Happily Ever After but in the new novel What He’s Been Missing by Grace Octavia, she’s not sure where to find it.

A sofa was not the place Rachel Winslow thought she’d be spending New Year’s Eve.

Nope, she figured she’d be dancing close and drinking cheap champagne with the love of her life, except there was no such love and there was nobody on the horizon. That night, it was just Rachel, an old movie, and a pizza delivery.

She was Atlanta’s hottest wedding planner, which didn’t help her mood. She saw love every day and that was okay; she loved love. She just wished it could be hers in the New Year. Everybody except Rachel, it seemed, was paired up with somebody. Even her best friend Ian had a girlfriend.

Sometimes, if she was honest with herself, she’d admit that Ian was really the guy for her. Hanging with him was easy, they had the same interests, they enjoyed the same restaurants, and they sometimes completed each other’s sentences.

But then Ian asked his girl, Scarlet to marry him and Scarlet asked Rachel to plan the wedding, which Rachel didn’t want to do. How could she help Ian marry someone else when he should be marrying her?

She needed to tell Ian about her feelings, before mistakes were made. But the mistake was Rachel’s; on the eve of his New Orleans wedding, she told Ian that she loved him, he got mad, and their friendship was badly broken.

But did it matter? Ian had Scarlet and it didn’t take long for Rachel to connect with someone from her past. Finally, she found love. She found her man. But did she truly find her future?

So your Bucket List has “Get Married” on it this year? Then read What He’s Been Missing, and be careful what you wish for.

With wit, smarts, and subtly clever humor, author Grace Octavia brings her readers a warm tale of love, mistakes, and fixing them both, which should make it a story familiar with legions of women around the world. Octavia’s Rachel is a savvy sistah who’s long on strong but wrong in her choice of men until Mr. Right steps right in her path, even though she doesn’t initially notice. Because of all that, and despite a German-Shepherd-size oops that eagle-eyed dog lovers will quickly spot, this was a very enjoyable book and definitely worth your time.

In this story, Rachel didn’t settle and neither should you, so don’t accept any other book than this one. For novel lovers and romance-a-holics, What He’s Been Missing can’t be missed.
Daddys@Work: All I Want For Christmas Is to See My Child

By Vickie A. Shurelds
The Truth's Lima Reporter

While hitting roadblock after obstacle, Thomas J. Smith, Founder of Daddys@Work decided there must be other men going through the same hassles with the red tape of Ohio laws that caused him to be a man with no rights to his son, but a mound of responsibilities.

He had signed the certificate after experiencing the birth of his son and, for the first few months, he was there every day. When the relationship with the mother ended, so did access to his son. Because there was no money for such things, there was no court-ordered visitation and the two parents agreed they would just work it out.

That has not been the case. Without a parental order of the court, he is only considered to be a father when child support is due, according to the law.

Quinn James is vice president of the organization and one of the men now a felon due to being behind in child support. Even with a college education, finding a good paying job that will allow for paying arrears, weekly payments and still leave enough to pay rent, buy food, and payments for a car and insurance with a record....not happening.

If you’re behind in support payments, you can lose your driving privileges, never see a dime of your tax refunds and be assured that your take-home pay may not even be enough to take you home. In fact, James has worked two weeks on a job and received a check for $0.00. So, how does one do work the following week?

The two men decided they couldn’t be the only men facing these issues and they began fine tuning a company Smith began designing in 2010. It would be the answer for a child’s question: “Where’s my Dad?”

Daddys@Work

Now, as part of the Cheryl Allen Southside Community Center in Lima, Ohio, the men have started the hard work of connecting fathers who want to work and want to spend quality time with their children with companies willing to hire them or make an investment that will allow the group to become an employer of sorts - complete with a training component that gives needed skills to those anxious to get to work.

For the past two weeks, Daddys@Work has hosted seminars to introduce the program and listen to input from community leaders, potential employers and fathers. Following the first press conference, they began receiving applications and were the sounding boards for men who were hurting from the lack of parental involvement.

Listening to the stories, it became apparent that Daddys@Work needed to be placed on a fast track, these fathers needed help in court, needed access to lawyers, needed jobs....now. They found that their research was revealing startling facts about the children caught in the crosshairs of the support system. According to the fatherhood initiative:

- Children in father-absent homes are almost four times more likely to be poor.
- In 2011, 12 percent of children in married-couple families were living in poverty, compared to 44 percent of children in mother-only families.


In 2008, American poverty rates were 13.2 percent for the whole population and 19 percent for children, compared to 28.7 percent for female-headed households.


The meetings are open to the public and held at the Cheryl Allen Southside Community Center 1802 South Central Avenue in Lima. For additional information call, 419-222-5011 or email vs@workdads@gmail.com.

(Continued from Page 11)

Our proposition is simple: if every public school does what schools do, every child will be able to get a great education. The NAACP has pushed America towards greatness before, and with this plan our guide our army of advocates will do it again.

The report highlights four areas for proactive education reform to ensure that, upon graduation, all American students are college ready and/or career ready.

These areas of reform are: effective teaching; prekindergarten preparation; targeted spending; and expanded time for learning.

By every measure our children of color are behind. We get to where we are by working hard, but we have to give our children more time and we have to level the playing field,” stated Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who offered remarks at the press conference launching the report. “We have one common enemy, and our common enemy is academic failure.”

“The strategic, targeted investments outlined in the NAACP report will generate positive education outcomes for all of our nation’s students, particularly the less fortunate among us,” stated Dick Riley, former U.S. Secretary of Education and former South Carolina Governor.

“We cannot talk about advancement in America without talking about our young people and education,” said Alma J. Powell, Chair, America’s Promise Alliance. “The simple truth is that preparing young people for success and finding our way back to first is about much more than what happens inside the classroom, it takes the interest and investment from all of us. When we meet the needs of the whole child we are one step closer to preserving the promise of America.”

The NAACP’s report also draws a connection between our ability to successfully educate students of all socio-economic statuses and our strength in the global economic marketplace.

The NAACP will share the report with activists at its over 1200 units across the country to use as a resource for education advocacy in their communities. The report will also be shared with other leading advocacy groups like Gamaliel, a non-partisan, faith-based organization that empowers ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives.

Real improvements to our education systems start with parents and community activists demanding more than the status quo for delivering quality education,” stated Ana Garcia-Ashley, Executive Director of the Gamaliel. “As activists, it is our responsibility to lift up these reforms and be the catalysts for change in our communities.”

To fulfill its promise of greatness, this nation must adopt reforms that result in success for the vast majority of the country’s youth people, rather than a fortunate few.”

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. Focused on mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.
The 10 Best Black Romance Films Of All Time!

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

The Candidates:
1. Disappearing Acts
2. Breakin All The Rules
3. The Perfect Holiday
4. Think Like A Man
5. 35 & Ticking
6. Hav Plenty
7. Jungle Fever
8. Boomerang
9. Poetic Justice
10. Deliver Us From Eva
11. 2 Can Play That Game
12. Not Easily Broken
13. Jason’s Lyric
14. She’s Gotta Have It
15. Love Jones
16. Waiting To Exhale
17. The Best Man
18. A Thin Line Between Love & Hate
19. I Think I Love My Wife
20. Love & Basketball
21. How Stella Got Her Groove Back
22. Something New
23. Why Did I Get Married
24. Why Did I Get Married Too
25. The Brothers
26. The Inkwell
27. Good Deeds
28. Jumping The Broom
29. Good Deeds
30. Mississippi Masala
31. Brooklyn’s Babylon
32. Our Family Wedding
33. How To Be A Player

This is an important list so it had to be broken into part one and part two.

Just in case you missed last week’s article, the following films are what I chose as the first half of the top 10:

Love Jones
Boomerang
Not Easily Broken
Waiting To Exhale
Love & Basketball

Black romantic films can be romantic-comedies or romantic-dramas or some combination of both. Critics and Hollywood insiders usually assume that black audiences only respond to cliché and overly-simplistic plot elements. We obviously like seeing our most attractive celebrities onscreen, so eye candy is a factor as well.

When we finally do get a film with the right cast plus the right amount of humor, intellect and warmth... it’s downright magical. Now, I choose these films aren’t the only ones of note.

I want to point out that the world of independent black cinema has plenty of undiscovered gems.

The Sojourner’s Truth

The Candidates:
14. She’s Gotta Have It
13. Jason’s Lyric
12. Not Easily Broken
11. 2 Can Play That Game
10. Deliver Us From Eva
9. 35 & Ticking
8. Think Like A Man
7. The Perfect Holiday
6. Disappearing Acts
5. Breakin All The Rules

The 10 Best Black Romance Films Of All Time (the remaining five)

Without any further adieux, I present the conclusion to…

As stated in part one... this is about those films that have given us unforgettable portrayals of our culture.

I was in the third grade when it came out and didn’t see it until maybe 15 years later.

If you haven’t seen it, find a way to add this to your collection!

Not only is it one of the greatest black romance films of all time, it basically foreshadowed the entire genre! It’s a masterpiece. Go find it. Watch. Discuss.

The Best Man

We know this movie by heart. We love the cast. We love the story.

Even though Taye Diggs’ acting skills are rarely powerful enough for him to be the central character, this is easily the most convincing role of his career. Besides Diggs however, is the ever-present Morris Chestnut.

In The Brothers, his character’s love interest dated his father. This time around, he has to deal with learning about the past indiscretions of his fiancé and best man. This film works as a romantic drama that men relate to because many guys these days have had to deal with similar situations.

It’s a modern classic that feels familiar. A favorite that stands tall among the countless other black romance films coming out at the time it was released.

Breakin All The Rules

It’s the best little-known romance film you’ve probably never seen. However, it is the quintessential romantic-comedy.

Smart, well-paced, balanced and interesting the entire way through.

The other films on this list are powerful, meaningful, or emotional.

Breakin All The Rules succeeds because it flawlessly executes the same tenets of all the most popular films of this genre. Plus, there’s a little shout out to Toledo in it!


It is one of the best, go see it!

Jason’s Lyric

“Sometimes you don’t need a plane to fly”...

Those were her first words to him.

Jada Pinkett’s portrayal of Lyric showed a side of black women that was sincere, romantic and poetic. It’s like you’re falling for her at the same time Jason falls for her.

But before these lovers can freely indulge in their dreams and passions, they find themselves trapped by harsh realities and past demons.

This film involves more than just Jason and Lyric falling in love, but the romance between them is inspiring.

More than any other film on this list, Jason’s Lyric creates an aura of old-fashioned courtship and passion. Also, I usually hate when actors attempt phony accents but Jada Pinkett and Allen Michael Payne handle that Texas hood drawl pretty well for two East Coast natives! Lol.

Jason and Lyric eventually persevere teaching the simple yet valuable rule: it may not be easy, but it’s worth it.

One of my all time favorite films, period... and definitely one of the Best Black Romance Films Of All Time!

Thanks for reading, feel free to email: mercuryspeak@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!
Financial Fraudsters Exploit Relationships

From your family to your social networks, the people around you often have the most influence on your life. But according to experts, fraud artists can also use those bonds to convince you to invest in a scam.

“This tactic is called affinity fraud, and it is one of the most common types of investor fraud, because it exploits the bonds you share with others,” said Gerri Walsh, president of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. “A fraudster will create a common bond strongly shared among community members—like in a church or the military—and then use this bond to take advantage of their trust, luring multiple investors in their community.”

Worst-Case Example
One of the worst cases of affinity fraud in recent history is the case of the “Three Hebrew Boys.” These three scam artists used an angle of faith and camaraderie to trick church groups and military service members. Ultimately, they conned their victims out of $82 million.

The Hebrew Boys created relationships with high-ranking military officials, who were then used to sign their subordinates—like Joyce Adams, a retired Navy officer who lost almost $40,000 to the scam. Adams assumed the officials had already done their research on the investment and did not hesitate to invest because the bond with other military personnel gave her “a sense of trust.” Like many fraud experts, Walsh warns investors that just because everyone else is doing something, it doesn’t mean it’s okay. When it comes to finances, you should take more than trust into consideration.

Helpful Tips
Walsh suggests that you follow these simple steps when considering an investment proposition:
• Ask questions—and expect answers. Even if the person who first told you about the investment is a friend, there may be others involved who are not. Ask the seller if he/she is licensed and if the investment is registered.
• Double-check. Verify that the seller is licensed and the investment is registered at www.SaveAndInvest.org. LearnMore.
• End the conversation. Practice saying “no.” Even if you trust the seller, give yourself time to think about the investment. Take steps to make sure your money is in safe hands.

For more tips on spotting investment fraud and protecting yourself, visit www.SaveAndInvest.org/LearnMore.

CEO Needed

The YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo has initiated a nationwide search for the position of President/CEO of the organization. The search process is being conducted by the Trustee Search Committee, working in tandem with the guidance from the Y-USA. More information about the position description, requirements, and application process is available on the Y-USA website at: http://www.ymca.net/career-opportunities/

The YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo, committed to strengthening communties through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

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Floor  Toledo, Ohio  43604

Accounting:  419.729.8137

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A minimum of a high school degree or GED is required. Some college education would be a plus.

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Toledo Charms Celebrate Blessings with “Blue Bells”

Toledo Charms Celebrate Blessings with “Blue Bells”

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Christmastime brought Charms and Charmers together on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at the Brandywine Country Club to celebrate the holiday season.

Caroling, glitz and fellowship were the hallmarks of this year’s celebration along with musical selections by guest artists Deborah Gardner and Derrick Roberts, Ed.D.

This year’s Christmas Committee chairmen were Charms Jeanette Bradley and Zenobia Faulkner.

Charm Theresa Wilkins, president of the Toledo chapter, offered the welcome and Dorotha Stubblefield, the chaplain, presented the invocation.

After dinner and the presentation by Charm Lenora Barry, the guests and members were introduced by Charm Shirley Duckins, who also recognized members December birthdays.

Charms, Inc was founded in June 1962 in Pittsburgh adopting the motto ‘smile, help your fellow man and aspire to greater things.’

The Toledo chapter was founded in October 1970 and currently has 19 active members. They welcome new members interested in service – civic and cultural engagement.

Toledo Charms officers are Wilkins, president; Sandra Goodwin, vice president; Shirley Clay, financial secretary; Shirley Windless, recording secretary; Juanita Stephens, treasurer, Deborah Washington, Ph.D., parliamentarian; Duckins, historian; Stubblefield, chaplain.

Other members are Barry, Ceru Carroll, Bradley, Faulkner, Yvonne Gayle, Kathy Nail, Patricia Taylor-Nobles, Clementine Sherman and H. Hortense Ward.