



Volume 24, No. 14

*“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*

July 31, 2013

## *The Soul Hustle Band*



## *The White Night Out Affair*

*“Our generation of black Americans was supposed to be the first not to be judged by our race or the color of our skin. Instead, we had come of age to find ourselves the most incarcerated on the planet and most murdered in the country.” Benjamin Jealous, NAACP, Page 5*

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# Fighting For the Young Black Male

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

*"That marvelously mocking, salty authority with which black men walked was dictated by the tacit and shared realization of the price each had paid to be able to walk at all."*

— James Baldwin



I have been speaking about the challenge of responding to black pain with social justice advocate Romal Tune, who has released his debut book, *God's Graffiti: Inspiring Stories for Teens*. This is the finale of our four-part conversation on practical ways to bring about reconciliation and healing from the pain and brokenness so prevalent among black youth.

**Perryman: We ended our last segment talking about the recruiting aspect of the gang paradigm that could be also be used by Christians to compete effectively for the lives and purposes of our black youth. Are there other features of the gang model that might serve as an example?**

**Tune:** Gangs are also trying to become stronger. They're fielding better collaborations because they realize there's strength in numbers. I'm always saying to myself this is what the Church should also be do-

ing. We too, should be cross-pollinating and extending our boundaries intentionally working and learning from each other. But often, churches perpetuate some of the unhealthy things about gangs. We're hyper-territorial and fight for turf where these gangs don't even do that anymore. Instead, we should recognize that we are actually stronger together and begin to connect with other churches to share ministry best practices and work together to help counsel the distressed.

**Perryman: With the amount of blood that's flowing through our streets from black male on black male violence, do you feel that the way to address these issues is through small, incremental change or through large-scale public policy solutions?**

**Tune:** I think that we should have a ground and air campaign, if you will. The air campaign is large political engagement, changing gun laws and even how

we talk about changing the laws. But also, policies that help to perpetuate opportunity, make our schools and funding fair and equitable, and deal with discriminatory laws that disproportionately incarcerate black males and things of that sort are needed.

On the other hand, some of these problems cannot be changed by just one piece of legislation. For example, you can't legislate away the pain and experiences that people are going through. That requires human interaction and I think even the White House is seeing that and when you look at some of the programs that they're funding, they're all about programs that engage people in very practical ways. So a ground campaign is also needed, one which requires a very strategic long-term approach and where the outcomes and deliverables are very clear in terms of the change you hope to see and how we're going to get to that change.

The challenge for the church, however, is that often, they don't really have any relationships with their surrounding community. The facts show that if you don't have a relationship with the people in your community, no matter what you offer, they're still not coming because they don't know you. A lot of churches will do a community-based event in the church parking lot, and say it's open to the community and then are angry when few people come. It's still not theirs. So how do we take things into the community and intentionally engage our neighborhoods and build take a lot to get us out.

**Perryman: What is the role of municipal government or politicians?**

**Tune:** There are some politicians who are effectively going into office and are serious about moving resources and changing policies in ways that actually empower communities.

They are helping to remove disparities and the barriers that perpetuate a permanent underclass of poverty and changing those things through better policies and laws. And then, there are other politicians who get in and are only concerned about re-election and so you end up with a lot of broken promises and people who do a lot of what I call ear-hustling, just to get votes and never delivering. Those are the folks that make it harder for communities.

So, we have to be very intentional when we elect people to office, to really hold them accountable before they get elected and also accountable for their answers once they get elected.

**Perryman: Finally, what is it that you want those who purchase your book *God's Graffiti* to come away with?**

**Tune:** What I've seen people take away from it, just reading some of the responses and people who are

on Amazon, Facebook and Twitter, is already happening. Teens and adults are sharing testimonies on how, through this book, they are finding that God is helping them find healing and is reconciling some situations that they have long ignored. It's also about helping young people understand that some of the things that you went through and that people blame you for, are not your fault but now you have to overcome.

*God's Graffiti* is really about helping people find hope and to stop covering up what they have been through so that they can be unapologetically themselves and pursue God's true plan for their lives. The endgame of the book is that you can overcome the pain of your past and God will show you how to pursue your purpose.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org).

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## Community Calendar

### August 10

Evangelical Church of God: Discipleship Training/Workshop for Christians; 9 am; Furthering the knowledge of the ministry: 419-297-3530  
Soldiers for Christ Unity Picnic: Altar of New Beginning Church; Noon to 6 pm; Singers, speakers, praise dancers, etc: 419-259-2853

### August 17

Back to School Music Festival and School Supply Give-Away:  
Wilson Park; Noon to 3 pm; Free food, fun, entertainment: 419-704-6195

### August 23-24

5th Annual sacred Strings Showcase Concert: Mays Chapel Unity Holy Church; Fri – 5 to 9 pm; Sat – 3 to 8 pm; Celebrating African American steel guitar tradition

### August 31

Toledo District of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Evangelism Explosion 2013: City of Zion, Mt Zion Church campus; 6 to 8 pm; "Do You Know Jesus Christ



# Alan Cox: Mayoral Candidate Aspires to Be CEO

By Sherese Davis  
The Truth Contributor

It may come as a surprise to many Toledoans, but Alan Cox is not only running as a mayoral candidate but he is also running for CEO.

"We [the City of Toledo] are a service organization..." Cox said. As CEO, Cox hopes to preside over a well-oiled machine of professional managers and effective department heads. He has made it no secret that he would like to return to the City Manager form of government that ended in 1994 and will make it one of his highest priorities.

Why a return to the past? Put simply Cox believes that under the current strong mayor form of governing, too many decisions are made based on politics rather than on the merits of the idea. The results have been city payrolls that are bloated with inefficiency, ineffectiveness and duplication. "I am about service not politics" is the slogan Cox applies to his campaign. With a city manager there is no minimum amount of time that the executive is guaranteed a job if he or she is not per-

forming up to the public's expectations.

One area that Cox used as an example of lack of progress using the current political system has been the city's response to the water treatment plant. Rather than addressing the issue of the needed changes, said Cox, each succeeding administration has continued to kick the can down the road. The result has been ever-increasing costs to the city to implement the required changes. He will address the situation head on rather than let it continue to drag on without resolution.

As president of the union Local 2058, Cox has been witness to many managers and department heads whose skills in those positions are lacking, he claims. Their appointments to those positions have often been the result of politics and not necessarily based on professional management skills. Anyone in his administration who in those positions will be required to go to school for management training.

Competency will be a key to

anyone working in a leadership position within his administration. During his first 100 days in office he will make a determination of what is the appropriate number of department and managers. One thing is certain "I will seriously reduce the number of retiree hires," Cox said.

Cox has the manner of a very thoughtful and humble individual who is not prone to exaggeration or disparaging remarks of his opponents. At times he embodies that calm demeanor of President Obama but without the fiery rhetoric displayed by the president on occasion.

He has a response to questions in which he does not have an answer: "I don't know." He willingly admits that he does not have all of the answers but is very confident about his ability to get them. His strength, he said, comes from his ability to identify, bring together and work with people who have the necessary skills and passion to get things done efficiently.

— Continued on Page 5



## African Art Has Arrived!!

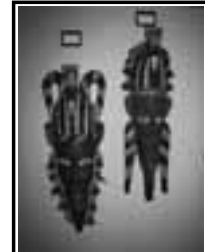
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# When Death Comes Prematurely It's a night I will never forget

I was in college, celebrating a friend's 21st birthday. A round of toasts went up. Someone poured libations in memory of all our friends who had been killed or sent to prison. Then, a friend rose to toast one more of us surviving to the age of 21.

The notion that life had reduced my friend to believing it an accomplishment for one of us to merely breathe past 21 sent me reeling.

Our generation of black Americans was supposed to be the first not to be judged by our race or the color of our skin. Instead, we had come of age to find ourselves the most incarcerated on the planet and most murdered in the country.

"Grandma," I would ask days later, still searching for understanding: "What happened? How did things turn out like this?"

Her response was the crux of my speech to the 104th NAACP convention yesterday. She leaned in and spoke softly: "It's sad but it's simple: We got what we fought for, but we lost what we had."

Those words echo in my mind whenever I think about Trayvon Martin, and it's why I once again ask for your signature in his memory.

We are nearing one million supporters of our petition urging the Department of Justice to file federal charges, including civil rights charges, against George Zimmerman. Add your name today.

In my speech I reminded those in attendance to keep pushing forward, but to always take stock of what we have and not let it slip away. Because we won the right to send our kids to any school, but lost the right to assume they would be welcomed and loved in any school they went to. We



Benjamin Todd Jealous

won the right to be police officers, but lost the right to assume we would be safe in our communities.

Now, we must end the plague of gun violence, because 21st birthdays should be celebrations of life, not of escaping death.

And we fight to roll back "stand your ground" laws and pass powerful anti-racial profiling ordinances, and do whatever we must to finally end the wars that are killing so many children in our neighborhoods.

And we never stop fighting for justice for Trayvon. Your signature is but one voice, and one alone may not be noticed. But if the voices of hundreds, of thousands, of millions join together and speak as one, Kevin, that cannot be ignored.

For Trayvon, and for all children who don't make it to their 21st birthday, help us reach one million signatures. Sign today. Help us send a clear message to the Department of Justice:

<https://donate.naacp.org/one-million-signatures>

Thank you,  
Benjamin Todd Jealous  
President and CEO  
NAACP

— Continued from Page 4

With a background in finance Cox is also a student of history. He has recently been viewing Toledo through the eyes of the book *Holy Toledo*, a biography of Sam "Golden Rule" Jones. (Jones was a local innovative businessman who served as Toledo's mayor from 1897 to 1904 and was ranked as the fifth best mayor in American history.)

Cox wants to provide local businesses with the same support and resources that allowed Sam Jones to be a business man ahead of his time.

Cox's father, a well-known management consultant, initiated his son into the study of business organization at a very early age. Since that time he has never slowed his efforts to learn more and continually improves his knowledge by seeking out information on the best practices in business and management.

One part of Cox's platform is his view of the relationship between the city administration and Toledo Public Schools. "I do not believe city government should be in any kind of control of education" is his position. He sees the education system and city government as a strong partnership but one that has different motivations.

They need to work closely because "they define who we are as a city" Cox said. He also applies this same philosophy to state governments as well when it comes to defining the requirements and limitations of the local school boards. He dismisses the argument of charter schools versus public

schools as a political one. "Obviously public schools can do a good job. But there are some good charter schools."

In addressing the division between the city council and the mayor's office, Cox said that "there will be issues where they don't agree but it should not be an us versus them" situation. Another thing of his recommendations that may help improve efficiency and reduce contention is to change the structure of the city council. A change from the current number of 12 to nine will reduce the number of tie breakers.

He is not prepared to designate any particular area ripe for economic development but believes there is potential in all of the areas. "Any of those neighborhoods that is stable but not improving or is deteriorating deserves the attention first," Cox suggested.

Cox was born in Detroit, the son of two native Toledoans. He lived in several states before moving to Toledo with his mother. He graduated from Start High School in 1971. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Toledo in 1979 and has worked in the field of finance for almost 40 years.

He has been a loan officer, commercial loan reviewer, and loan chairman for a community development corporation. In 1990 he joined the city administration as a financial assistance specialist and is currently a neighborhood development specialist in the Department of Neighborhoods. He has been president of the city supervisor, technical, and professional union (AFSCME Local 2058) since June, 2003.



Trayvon Martin

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IF you are looking for a devotional guide to help you grow and mature in the word, *Early Writ I Seek Thee*, by my friend and brother, Pastor T. J. Thomas is the one for which you've been looking. This interactional devotional not only allows you the opportunity to meditate on the word but also it includes time and space for you to journal, reflect and navigate where you are in your walk with God. This devotional is a must for those who are willing to go deeper into the wells of wisdom. I highly recommend *Early Writ I Seek Thee* for your use as you move through Proverbs, the Book of Wisdom.

—Pastor Tyrone D. Gordon  
Transforming Life Christian Church  
Dallas, Texas

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# A Drop In The Bucket

## The Halcyon Project In Full Effect

By Vickie Shurelds, MaEd  
The Truth Contributor

“**M**s. Vickie? They say I’m going to be famous.” “They are probably right.” “They say Ohio State University has never given a 12 year old a full scholarship before.” “They’re probably right about that, too” “Wow”

Wow, indeed! The week-end just past will hold steadfast in the minds of many for the next several decades. The Ohio State University, Columbus held an induction ceremony and among the recipients was Lima’s own Cleo “Chico” Vaughn who was honored as the first African American to play in a game for that institution.

Cleo Vaughn was also the first athletic director for the Cheryl Allen Center – then known as the Mizpah Mission. He played both basketball and baseball as a Buckeye, and went on to add many more accolades, but his sons say the SouthSide

Community Center always held a special place in their father’s heart which is why his son Mark is now the athletic director there.

Across the country, Cleo Vaughn’s sons have continued their father’s mission to have a positive impact on the children within economically challenged areas. They have created teams under the auspices of the Cleo Vaughn Sports Group (CVSG) and their latest tournament brought basketball players in for a tour of OSU on one day and a tour at Madison Prison on the next in case there was any doubt that there are choices in life.

It was the Lima team’s first tournament and they worked very hard to get to the capital. Donations from restaurants helped and WalMart on Allentown Road, Jerry Lewis’ McDonalds, Greg Stolly of Ohio State Beauty Academy pledged donations after Coach Mark’s appear-



ance with Vince Koza on SportsTalk from Lima’s newest radio franchise. Tom Ahl’s Family Dealership kicked them over the top,

and the team was on its way. The Cheryl Allen South-Side Community Center has been serving that community since 1912. The building itself is part of the ministry

of Church Women United in Lima – and they have been determined to keep the doors open for those who need it most.

The center has no current

funding source having lost the support of the United Way of Greater Lima some

– Continued on Page 13

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# White Knight Out Affair

Walk The Word Ministries and Pastor Tim Pettaway presented, "The White Knight Affair," July 19 at the Best Western Premier. Currently holding services in The University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus auditorium, the event was a fundraiser for the rapidly growing ministry approaching its second anniversary this July.

"We do a lot of inviting people 'into' the church and sometimes never like to go out and mingle with the people and so we thought it would be a good time for our church family to go out and fellowship with

those who may not know Jesus Christ and let them know that Christians can come together in a fun atmosphere and still love God," said Pettaway.

Guests dressed in all white attire enjoyed dinner and dessert and a night of dancing to live music performed by The Soul Hustle band. The event was hosted by Comedian Kool Keith and guests were treated to the poetry of spoken word artist Lonnie J. Hamilton. Music was provided by Travis "DJ Big Trav" Grant.

See more photos on Page 10



Pastor Tim and Felicia Pettaway of Walk the Word Ministry.



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Mother and Son, Donte Robinson and Kim Barker.

### Donte's 30th Birthday Surprise Birthday

By Kimberly Barker, Birthday Mom

It will be 30 years July 25, 2013 that the good Lord blessed me with a son, Donte' LaMar Womack-Robinson known by friends later as Poncho.

Throughout the past years we have become the best of friends, I could not have been blessed with a better gift.

Donte' has never wanted a party always saying "No mom, save your money". So I decided to do something different this year, something special that meant keeping a 30th birthday party a secret.

It was extremely hard because we talk about every-

thing and I usually end up telling him what my plans are but I pulled it off this time, baby. For the past month Donte' thought he was coming home for a family reunion, SURPRISE!!

Happy 30th birthday, my son, mama loves you.

I would like to thank everyone who helped pull this off: my mom Brenda, Sylvia, Antionette, K'Deyah, Diedra, Crystal, Ashley, Beth, Walter, Richard, Michelle Travis Grant, Layton Hill, DJWHATMYNAMEIS, NTYME Photography and Evolution.

Love you all!!!



Great Aunt Vera Reed and Grandmother Brenda Higginbotham.



Ina Sidney and Mary Beal-Thomas.



Above: Leora Gray and Sandra Daniels-Neal.

Left: Beatrice and George Smith with Pauline Vance and Geraldine Noble.



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*Flora Jones, Kim Sutton and Kim Whickam.*



*Mother Kim Barker with Roxanne Harris and Tonya Brooks.*

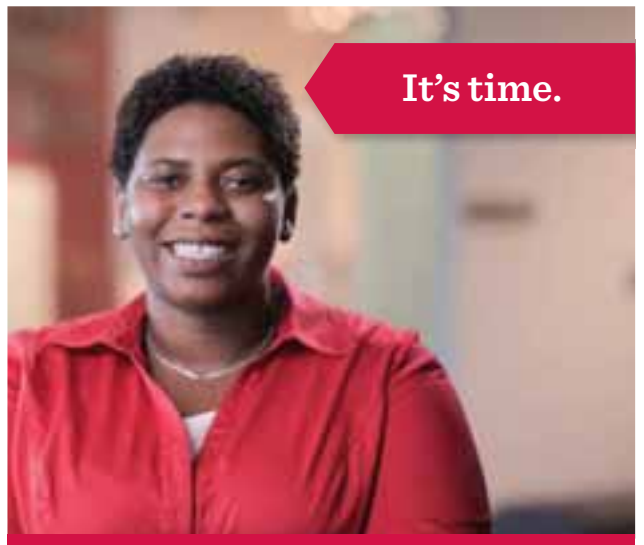


*Halisha White and Porshia Knighten.*

*Right: Sylvia Wagner and Donte Robinson.*



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*Michelle Savage and Aimee Fitzgerald.*



*Minister Galloway and her daughter LaKyra Cunningham.*



*Rhea Yound, Jessica Sherman and Marquita Murphy.*



*Travis Grant and Sonya Jones.*



*Charles and Lillian Coogler.*



*Timothy Pettaway Jr. and wife Jessica.*



*Pat Brinker and Gwen Roberts.*



*Angela McCraney, Tiffani Townsend, Marquita Murphy with Sherry Moton and Chantea Layson.*

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# Platinum Producer Comes Home



Hip-hop artist Fabolous, left, with native Toledoan Mally The Martian.

Toledo's own platinum producer, Dwight Jamaal Brandon a.k.a "Mally the Martian," took a break from his work producing for national hip-hop recording artist Fabolous' to host a Mid-Month Mixer July 19th at Infinity Lounge presented by Vic Green of "Never Stop Dreaming Music."

Born and reared in Toledo Ohio, Brandon made the move to New York less than a year ago equipped only with the confidence in his abilities and his "hustle" work ethic and it has surely paid off.

He now resides in New Jersey.

With the productions of Fabolous' "Death in the Family," "Diamonds," "Guess Who's Bizzak" and his current projects "Mall Street" and Fabolous' latest album Losos Way II under his belt, other national recording artists are taking notice and seeking his services.

Brandon says, "I love my city, but leaving has allowed me to turn my dreams into a reality and I'm always willing to help those talented artist from my hometown who are willing to put in the hard work."



Mally The Martian, left, with Cincinnati Bengal Andrew Hawkins.



Neema Bell and Angela Steward.

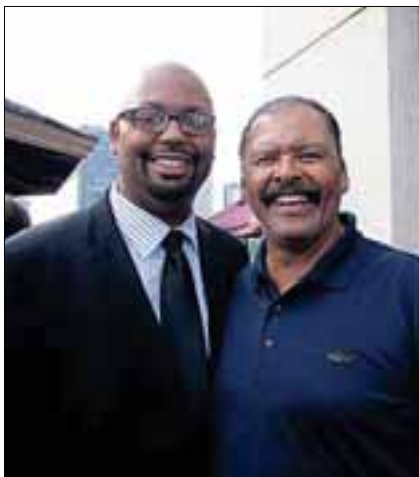
## Mike Bell Gets a Little Help from His Friends

Alan Bannister, Deborah Barnett, Richard Jackson, Calvin Lawshe and Robin Wilson – a few of the Friends of Mayor Michael P. Bell – hosted a fundraiser on July 11, 2013 at Forrester's on the River for some of the mayor's supporters in his re-election bid.

The mayor, in his remarks, reminded his audience of his fight to rid the City of Toledo of its deficit problem and his ongoing bid improve city services and bring in new sources of employment.



Mark Luetke and Mike Bell.



Richard Jackson, father and son.

## Prison Awareness Day

**Saturday, August 17, 2013**  
 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Bethlehem Baptist New Life Center  
 1430 West Bancroft, Toledo

*Remember those in prison...*

Sponsored by: United Pastors for Social Empowerment and Toledoans for Prison Awareness

## BOOK REVIEW

**'A Family Affair'**by *ReShonda Tate Billingsley*

c.2013, Gallery Books, \$16.00 / 21 pages

By *Terri Schlichenmeyer*  
The Truth Contributor

The first time he laid eyes on her, your father thought your mother was the most beautiful girl in the world.

She thought he was a pain in the neck, all gangly with legs going this way and that, asking her out until she couldn't say anything but "yes." It didn't take long for her to realize, though, that she couldn't lay her hands on a better man.

You know the story of how your parents fell in love, but there are a lot of things you *don't* know about them. And in the new book, *A Family Affair* by ReShonda Tate Billingsley, finding out could be a painful thing.

Olivia Dawson never wanted much.

Since she was a child, she

dreamed of going to Julliard but she knew that was out of reach now. Her mother, Lorraine, was already working multiple jobs to keep a roof over their heads. Olivia hadn't had a new pair of shoes in ages. Even with a scholarship, Julliard just wasn't in the budget.

But Lorraine knew where to get the money. Without telling Olivia where she was going, Lorraine rushed out the door of their apartment...

...and never came home. Lorraine had a fatal heart attack – but her last words to Olivia gave the young woman quite a start. Despite everything Olivia thought she knew, and despite that her Aunt Betty was reluctant to confirm it, Olivia's father

was alive and living in California!

Bernard Wells was stuck.

Years ago, he'd given up love for money and he'd regretted it for more than 20 years. His wife, Adele, was a shrew with no compassion but lots of cash; she was nothing like the woman he lost, the woman he thought about every day. His lovely mistress, Alyssa, couldn't give him comfort. He couldn't very well get a divorce. Bernard was stuck in a life he wished he'd never had.

Everyone assumed that Kendall Wells would take over the family business someday. It was his birthright, really, but there was one problem: Kendall didn't want it. No, he had other

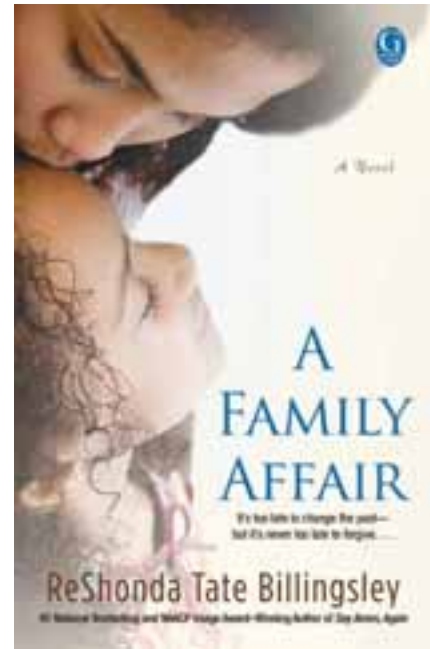
dreams of producing music and singing.

He also had memories of a nanny who loved him like a son. Memories of a sweet little girl he called Pinky. Memories of hugs, kisses, and bedtime stories, but no idea why they disappeared...

Though it's a little predictable, *A Family Affair* ain't too bad.

Author ReShonda Tate Billingsley offers readers a bit of scandalous drama mixed in a story of forgiveness that spans over time.

That goodness is wrapped a cast of mostly-likable characters and scenarios that aren't too far-fetched for comfort. There's a chaste bedroom scene or two here, but I think you'll be happy



to know that this novel is mostly on the tamer side, so you can Book Club it without worry.

If you're looking for something a little gentler,

maybe something more genteel but not too mild, then I think this is your book. *A Family Affair* may be the perfect novel to lay your eyes on this weekend.

## Area Resident to Compete for MISS OHIO USA 2014 The Official Preliminary to the NBC Live MISS USA Telecast

Special to *The Truth*

Sharitta Thomas of Toledo, OH will compete for the title of MISS OHIO USA 2014. The 2014 MISS OHIO USA competition is slated for November 8 – 9, 2013 in Portsmouth, Ohio. Portsmouth will soon welcome over 100 outstanding young women representing every corner and every major city in Ohio. Plans for the state competition are in the final stages.

"We are overwhelmed by the response and caliber of all the participants from Ohio," Melissa Pitchford, executive director with the Miss Universe Organization

said. "There is not better opportunity for ambitious young women out there today. The MISS OHIO USA competition offers women in the state of Ohio an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to advance their personal and professional goals. The MISS OHIO USA and the MISS OHIO TEEN USA Pageants will be offering over one million dollars in college scholarships to be awarded to the winners, finalists and semi-finalists!

The final competition, which will be held at the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts November 9, 2013 at

4:30 PM, consists of three proportional segments: evening gown, fitness/swimsuit and the final question.

Finally, at approximately 6:15 PM the crowning moment will arrive. The winner, MISS OHIO USA 2014, will be announced claiming the title and prize list which includes, travel, wardrobe, college scholarships and most importantly the honor to represent the state of Ohio in the ultimate pageant – MISS USA, which will telecast live in primetime on the networks of NBC! MISS USA ultimately goes on to represent the United States in the Miss Universe competition. Over 600 million

people view the MISS USA, and Miss Universe competitions in over 45 Countries worldwide.

The Miss Universe Organization, producers of the Miss Universe, MISS USA, and MISS TEEN USA Pageants, is a Donald J. Trump and NBC partnership.

The preliminary Show and competition will be held at the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts on Friday, November 8, 2013 at 8:00 PM. Tickets are available through the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts Box Office by contacting 740-351-3600 and through Ticketmaster.



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# Dear Racist White America

## Your Problem, Not Ours

If you can't tell the difference between a black person and a criminal, that should be your problem not ours. In this day and age, a hooded sweatshirt is just as common for soccer moms as it is for urban youth.

In this day and age, we have now spent years in those very neighborhoods you didn't want us in to begin with. Your White Flight killed the Great American City by draining resources from the interior, but now we live among you in the suburbs and you have very few outskirts left to run to. If you don't want us to have homes near you, that's your problem and not ours.

If you somehow allow teenage white boys to binge drink, crash cars, swing on cops, set things on fire, loiter and God knows what else but yet you can't tolerate a teenage black boy's style of dress or taste in music, that should be your problem and not ours.

If years of slanted local news has you under the false belief that we are more likely to kill, deal and steal than you are... if you believe that nonsense that's on you.

You don't have the right to police us unless you are actual law enforcement.

You don't have the right to use deadly force on us because your

repressed (or overt) racism makes everything we do look suspicious to you.

These are YOUR issues, not ours.

You may feel that you now have an "open season on young black people" hunting license now that Zimmerman (and others) have proved you can take an innocent black life with no consequence but ... your history of killing us should be blood on your hands, not ours. Got it? Good.

## The Hypocrisy

The very idea of you not feeling safe around us is ridiculous.

When it comes to the military and war, when it comes to founding fathers and tradition ... America LOVES to remember the past.

Yet when it comes to slavery, America acts like it's old news and too far back in the day to be concerned with. Well, I call it bullsh\*t.

Taking into account the hundreds of years of torturous and genocidal violence you put us through (as well as our Native American brothers/sisters), shouldn't we fear you?

Shouldn't we be the ones crossing the street to avoid you on a late night walk?

I mean even after slavery you spent decades lynching us in broad daylight, often after church with everyone in the community

wearing their Sunday best while eating sandwiches (pic-nic)... just watching while your men strung us up in nooses that snapped our necks as we hung from trees. No arrests or jail time, just business as murderously usual. Shouldn't black people be the ones tense and worried when we see you in packs?

The NRA stresses the need for those who may face an attack to be armed and ready for self defense, well don't you have a longer history of attacking us (and others) than we do of attacking you?

From fraud to violent crime, you break just as many laws as we do even with the numbers shaved thanks to lopsided sentencing and other judicial hook ups you get that we don't get. It's pure hypocrisy to even front like black people are somehow closer to the criminal element than white people. Stop acting stupid.

## A Race War at Your Doorstep

It won't happen. Mark my words.

There will never be another all-out race war in the United States, at least not between black people and white people. Black people aren't mad and our society is now irreversibly integrated.

White people aren't all evil, some are actually on the side of

what's right and good...they are probably reading this and agreeing with me and thinking of whom they will show this to. But no, it won't happen.

So you arming yourself for the day you get the chance to gun us down by the hundreds is really more of your own fantasy than preparation for a feasible scenario. Could there be uprisings in various cities due to more Zimmermans?

Absolutely. But the cry of the Black American right now is not one for blood, it's one for fairness. Think of the black community before you placed crack cocaine and liquor in the mix, it was thriving... self-policed and mostly peace loving to the point even those who did run numbers or have side hustles were still gentlemen of respect.

We are a peaceful people. I'll say it again, at our most native level... we are a peaceful people. I don't anticipate a day ever coming where millions of black Americans take to the streets to kill and harm the first white person they see. But for every Zimmerman, there may soon be a response. So why not just help us all by stopping Zimmermans before they become Zimmermans.

## The Truth About You

You did enslave us for centuries.

You put Chinese men in slave labor camps to build your railroads.

You stole land from the Mexicans as you re-shaped this continent.

You also slaughtered an indigenous people and relegated them to 'no man's land on their own land.

You don't have the right to claim this is "your" country.

You don't have the moral position to fear anyone.

Making you feel guilty doesn't do anything for anyone, that's not the goal.

This isn't about shaming you into respecting the rights of minorities.

But it is about your invention of this thing called racism and you taking responsibility for the violence, hatred and prejudice that you ingrained into the fibers of this nation.

Every minority community still has work to do and our own issues at hand.

But when you look at racial tension and incident in the United States...

White people, you are the problem.

But you can also be the solution.

Judge us by our character, make these laws fair and treat all humans like humans... that would be a good start.

Peace.  
mercuryspeak@gmail.com

— Continued from Page 12

aimed at families of the SouthSide of Lima who are looking for a way out of their situation, but are held back by lack of resources or, in some cases, they have not been able to utilize resources available through state and local agencies in a way that allows them to climb out of the grip of poverty.

The youth-focused part of the plan is called The Halcyon Project and proposes unconventional ways to produce or discover scholarship money for every child involved in the Center's programming.

When Mark Vaughn retired from teaching, he decided to dedicate some time, just as his father did before him, to the children who come to the center. He started a basketball team, and as the news spread about the SouthSide Spartans and within weeks the team had grown to 20 members. He makes demands on them, stresses self-discipline and responsibility as he teaches them

the rules of the game of basketball and the game of life.

The weekend with his team opened up new realizations. "Our kids are without social skills. They're okay on the court, but they have no idea how to conduct themselves outside of their basic home environment. We have to work on that."

This key piece of information is the core section of the Halcyon Project for children, and the SHOW-WAY Initiative for adults. Teaching how to navigate through the complicated cultures of business and economics is challenging at best; being dumped in the middle of those situations without the necessary social skills means nothing but frustration, embarrassment and failure for the majority of the people who can afford it the least.

The weekend was a rollercoaster of emotion for the players and the coaches. The SouthSide Spartans participated in their first tournament and took

the third place position.

Through all the chaos, one child stepped outside his station. He demonstrated he had learned the skills Coach Vaughn had been stressing for the past few weeks. As team manager he took his responsibilities to task and did a noteworthy job of keeping his team on track.

And people took notice. Other coaches, staff members at OSU, even the wives of coaches were impressed by his eloquence, inquisitive mind, and attention to duty; so much so he was presented a scholarship to the Ohio State University. At 12 years of age.

Proving the theory of the Halcyon Project Objective - to prepare the students to be ready when opportunities arise; and that the environment in which a child was raised can be utilized as a springboard to successful outcomes no matter what may have occurred in the past.

It is possible to change the world one child at a time. Wow.

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**Announcement:**

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus is asking: Is there a performer in you? Do you like to sing? Do you want to learn how to sing?

The adult choir, one of the area's most venerable singing groups for over 35 years, is directed by Clarence R. Smith, Jr., and typically performs both traditional and updated spirituals plus traditional jazz, classical music, and Broadway numbers. For more information and/or to schedule an audition, call 419-534-2299.

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We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes must be received by Friday August 16th. Send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to:  
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Bachelor's degree in social work or psychology and a valid driver's license required. Master's degree preferred. Current Ohio LSW or PC license and experience preferred. Premium pay rate is provided.

Send resume and salary requirements to:  
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**Request for Qualification (RFQ)  
 to Hire an On-Premise VoIP Telephony Consultant.**

Inquiry # FY14-10. The University of Toledo intends to retain consulting services to assist the University with the evaluation, planning and implementation of voice and data services. Please submit all responses to The University of Toledo, Sharon Hunt, Learning Resource Center, 2165 E. Scott Park Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43607 by DATE: August, 16, 2013, TIME: 3:00 p.m. (EST). For a copy of the RFQ, visit [www.utoledo.edu/depts/purchasing](http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/purchasing). Click on Request for Qualifications link; click on document link. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to [sharon.hunt@utoledo.edu](mailto:sharon.hunt@utoledo.edu). Questions and answers will be posted at above referenced link on a regular basis until one week before the response deadline. When submitting response, please reference Inquiry # FY14-10 on the outside of sealed envelope.

**Request for Qualification (RFQ)  
 to Hire a Cloud VoIP Telephony Consultant**

Inquiry # FY14-11. The University of Toledo intends to retain consulting services to assist the University with the evaluation, planning and implementation of voice and data services. Please submit all responses to The University of Toledo, Sharon Hunt, Learning Resource Center, 2165 E. Scott Park Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43607 by DATE: August, 16, 2013, TIME: 3:00 p.m. (EST). For a copy of the RFQ, visit [www.utoledo.edu/depts/purchasing](http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/purchasing). Click on Request for Qualifications link; click on document link. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to [sharon.hunt@utoledo.edu](mailto:sharon.hunt@utoledo.edu). Questions and answers will be posted at above referenced link on a regular basis until one week before the response deadline. When submitting response, please reference Inquiry # FY14-11 on the outside of sealed envelope.



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### The Ninth Annual African American Festival

The ninth annual African American Festival, held at the Scott Park Campus of The University of Toledo, brought forth thousands of people from Toledo and the surrounding communities to hear, see, eat, visit and just enjoy a relaxing day or two in the summer sun. We didn't get photos of everyone, obviously. We got a lot, however!



*Above: Charmella H and Willette McCoy.  
Left: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union staff.*



*Breakfast honorees.*



*Joseph Davis and Theresa Taylor.*



*Pamela Givens, Dr. Amanda Muhammad and Lydia Lott with Armon Miller (seated).*



*Dale and Beverly Barnhill.*



*Cheryl Williams, Donnetta Carter, Jan Harrington and Debbie Barnett.*



*Franklin and Preston Shumpert with Kimberly Huggins.*



*Shanah Marshall and Alexis Means.*

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