

THE REAL DEAL PRESS

MAY 2014 • VOLUME ONE • NUMBER TWO



SPORTS BEAT

When these guys spoke, they rocked with dignity, passion, eloquence, intelligence. They showed a side of black professional athletes that we see all too seldom.

➔ PAGE 10

BLACK PROTEST IN NORTH RANDALL INTRIGUES ON MANY LEVELS



Photo Credit: Real Deal Press photos

By **R.T. Andrews**
Editor

NORTH RANDALL — A little-noticed and extremely peculiar event occurred last month in

this tiny, economically vulnerable village of 1000 people, huge land tracts, and big moneyed interests.

On April 14, a miserably cold and wet Monday night, starting about an hour before

the regular 7PM village council meeting, more than 40 county residents, all black, stood in front of the town hall, demanding construction jobs and contracts. It was a scene remi-

niscient of the 1970s, a time of considerable labor unrest and racial tension, as the protesters, responding to the megaphone-amplified thunder of Norm Edwards asking, "What do we want?" and "When do we want it?," chanted "JOBS" and "NOW".

The demonstration occurred in a driving rain under the watchful eye of what seemed like the Village's entire police force. Protesters carried signs denouncing the Village and calling out its mayor by name in less than gracious terms.

The protesters briefly retreated to the limited protection of a vacant restaurant's portico next door to the Village Hall before roughly a third entered the tiny Village Hall meeting space for the council meeting. After regular business was dispensed with in

30 or so minutes, the mayor then directly engaged the protesters in an emotional discussion for 20-25 minutes that often grew heated.

Several things made this a highly unusual civil rights scenario, beginning with the fact that the village mayor, David Smith, is African American, and so are the council president and a majority of the council. In fact, the village's population of roughly one thousand people is about 86% African American. So the scene was one group of black people calling another group of black people out for racial discrimination.

Additionally, the protest appears to have been both premature and disproportionate. This is not a total surprise, given that Edwards and Ken Bender organized the protest. Edwards, who has a reputation
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Gates regales attendees at Philanthropy Summit



Attending the Summit were, l-r, Cleveland NAACP president Rev. Hilton Smith, Cleveland NAACP executive director Sheila Wright, and Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davison, senior pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. Photo Credit: Real Deal Press photo

By **R.T. Andrews**
Editor

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS — Renowned Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was at his entertaining best as the featured speaker

at the Third Annual Philanthropy Summit, held at Corporate College East on April 26.

Gates, a man of strong opinions, seized the stage and held it as the program cleanup hitter at the sold-out
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Texas-based Internet radio station has strong Cleveland ties



Photo Credit: 1067TheBridge.com

By **Derek K. Dixon**
Special to The Real Deal Press

Those who oppose the rising onslaught of negative images and stereotypes that plague the African-American community can speak out against them or

look for a solution, Cleveland native John Hairston has literally created a channel that both speaks out and offers a solution.

Since October of 2011, Hairston's broadcast brainchild, 1067TheBridge.com, has emerged as a three-way combination of
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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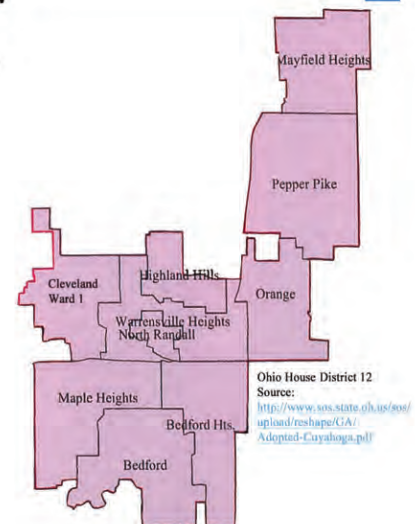
Stanley Miller, Former Executive Director NAACP and Businessman

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

May 8

Consortium of African American Organizations [CAAO] will host its annual Executive Matchmaker Reception at JumpStart, 6701 Carnegie, from 6-8PM. CAAO is expected to announce its new executive director at this event. Call 216.432.9481 or www.caaonet.com for more information.

May 17

National Black MBA Association professional development seminar: Mastering the Profit & Loss Statement. 8:30AM-Noon. 216. 245.8425.

May 20

Construction Employers Association seminar, 950 Keynote Circle, Independence 44131. When to Bid/ When not to Bid; Sales Success and Business Plan. Call 216.398.9860 or www.ceacisp.com.

May 21

Warrensville Heights Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, Thistle-down Racino, 11:30AM-1:15PM. Call 216.514.1835 or visit www.whacc.org.

Ohio Dept. of Transportation public meeting, Cleveland State University Student Center, 2121 Euclid Ave., 6-8PM. ODOT invites you to attend to discuss updating the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals on future federally funded ODOT construction projects in the city of Cleveland.

Parking is available in the Student Center Lot. Enter via E 22nd St. or E 21st St. See attendant upon entry, mention the ODOT public meeting and parking is FREE.

The proposed changes include giving ODOT the authority to have DBE sub-goals on federally funded projects based on ethnicity to reflect the diverse population of Cleveland. This public meeting will be held in an open-house format with a formal presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by a verbal comment period.

Information/questions: www.transportation.ohio.gov/Dist12DBE or Amanda.McFarland@dot.state.oh.us or 216.584.2007.

Send information about your event to rtat@TheRealDealPress.com six weeks in advance.

NEWSMAKERS



Everett Glenn is now president, ESP Education & Leadership Institute.

Jacqueline Gillon is now Community Engagement Specialist at Thriving Communities Institute, Western Reserve Land Conservancy.



Alicia Graves of Maple Heights passed the February Ohio Bar Exam.

SeMia Bray is now Senior Manager, Emerging Programs and Institutional Advancement at Urban League of Greater Cleveland.

Short window opens for Ohio employers wanting to pick new managed care partner

Employers have until May 23 to switch MCOs to manage medical treatment for injured workers



Photo Credit: oopgo.com

The clock has started ticking for Ohio employers who want to select a new managed care organization (MCO) to manage health-care services for workers injured on the job. April 28 was the start of the four-week open enrollment period the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) offers every two years to allow employers to evaluate the services of their current MCO and determine if they would like to make a change.

"A strong MCO-employer partnership is imperative to facilitating the best and most timely treatment that places injured workers on a path to recovery and return to work," said BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer in an agency-issued statement. "BWC has strengthened its own collaboration with MCOs, and we encourage employers to give this important decision careful thought in order to assemble the team best suited to meet the needs of their workers injured on the job."

BWC partners with a network of 16 MCOs that are the primary link between injured workers, medical providers, employers and BWC. MCOs manage claim filing and medical treatment and assist employers with the implementa-

tion of recovery and return-to-work programs.

Employers satisfied with their MCO don't need to do anything. However, those considering a change can complete the MCO Selection Form online at <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov/employer/forms/MCOSelection/default.asp>, or download and print a blank form at <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov/downloads/blankpdf/SelectionForm.pdf>, complete it and mail or fax it to BWC.

BWC issues a MCO Selection Guide and a MCO Report Card to help employers make an informed decision. The report card provides MCO performance information intended to help employers with the selection process. These measures include quality medical management statistics BWC uses to evaluate the return-to-work services and quality of medical management the MCOs provide to injured workers. The guide and report card are available at bwc.ohio.gov.

The MCO open enrollment period officially began April 25 and lasts until 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 23. New MCOs for employers that make a change will begin managing the medical portion of their claims beginning June 30.

CORRECTION

In our April issue we misidentified the new county councilman for District 10 in a page one story. The new councilman is Anthony Hairston.

One Simple Reason to Make You Vote in this Year's Primary [and in every election!]

Politicians are like the rest of us. They respond to the squeaky wheel. Because your ballot is secret, no one knows for whom you vote for unless you tell them.

Rest assured, however, politicians know whether you voted. If your neighborhood turned out, your potholes will get repaired, and your neighborhood schools will get more attention. If your neighborhood had an abysmal turnout, it's a statement that you don't care, so your elected official is going to pay attention to those who do.

Simple enough.

If you really want to make some waves, get not only your whole family to the polls, make your neighbors go too. Nothing gets the attention of America's politicians faster than an engaged electorate. If black people, for example, started voting at 75% turnout, public debate in this country would be very different. And you wouldn't have to change your diet, stop watching Tyler Perry, spending too much money on consumables, or generally become a better person.

Vote so that your parents will get

a better deal. Vote so your children will get a better life. Just get all philanthropic with your vote and do it for someone you care about. Based on what was said at Saturday's African American Philanthropy Summit, they will feel better and so will you.

One more thing. Since you are at the polling station, vote all the way to the end of the ballot! Politicians watch that too.

And if you don't know who to vote for, ask somebody. Not voting is much worse than voting for the wrong guy, because next time you'll remember.

Philanthropy Summit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

event. In what was billed as a conversation, WKYC-TV3 news anchor Russ Mitchell sat on stage, needing to ask a question every now and then as Gates held forth like a man on top of the world.

Gates talked about how he, a Yale graduate, had gone to Harvard "about 20-21 years ago to rebuild its African American Studies department." He recognized the need to raise money to establish independence, saying, "if you have your own money you always have a place at the table."

Knowing that he was ignorant of fund-raising techniques when he arrived Gates convened Harvard's small army of development officers and asked them to "teach me to be a vehicle for philanthropy." He remembers the first lesson well, for he was told there are three groups that will never give you any money: doctors, actors, and black people. Doctors, because they save lives and are therefore next to God. Actors, because they think lending you the use of your name is enough, and black people.

Yet Gates understood that black people have always had a long tradi-

tion of philanthropy. "It's called the collection plate," he said.

By turns serious and playful, Gates offered some sound advice on raising philanthropic funds. Ultimately, he said, people give money to an individual, so it is important to build relationships. A successful fundraiser is patient, even seductive. He or she gets people in the habit of giving, and then showers them with appreciation.

He said rich people are always being asked for money, and thus become skilled at recognized appeals that are either phony or desperate.

Gates said that the black upper middle class has grown fourfold since the death of Martin Luther King Jr. At the same time, the 36% poverty rate among African Americans is almost unchanged. Recalling his youth, the sixty-three year old Gates grew intense when he said that the heroes of black people used to be the most educated among us, educators like Mary McLeod Bethune, as opposed to entertainers and athletes. He declared he had "no sympathy for blaming the white man" for our problems. In-

stead, he urged the audience to "think about social interventions for your own community."

In the Q&A that followed his discussion with Mitchell, Gates talked about his lifelong passion for genealogy, how he strategized and capitalized on his friendship with Quincy Jones to interest Oprah in supporting his initial television series on DNA, and said that reforming our schools was the biggest challenge facing black people that philanthropy could fix.

Pastor R. A. Vernon of The WORD Church gave the morning keynote address. He offered a personal testimony about growing up poor and how good he felt when he was in a position to help others and did so.

In between Vernon and Gates, the capacity crowd attended concurrent sessions on aspects of what is philanthropy and then on vehicles for giving effectively. Businessman Jerry Primm II seemed to speak for many in attendance in saying he was glad he attended. "I learned more about giving circles," he said. "I'm going to look into joining one."

CAMPUS LIFE



Jasmyn Shumate, Shaker Hts. HS '12, has been elected president of the Black Student Alliance at American University. She is the daughter of Glen Shumate of Lakewood and Jacqueline Brackett of Shaker Hts.

NEWSMAKER



Erik Keister of Bedford Heights passed the February Ohio Bar Exam.



THE REAL DEAL PRESS

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CLEVELAND TIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

online media, responsible programming, and business ownership. Based in San Antonio but heard solely over the Internet, “The Bridge” integrates light rock, gospel, old and new school jazz, along with news that is responsive to the financial, medical and spiritual interests of the discerning urban listener. The station is committed to the empowerment of both consumers and advertisers, frequently playing songs and/or artists that receive little airtime anywhere else. Likewise, business enterprises of all sizes can find an opportunity for exposure on The Bridge.

Hairston’s initial vision was to provide a desperately needed on-line alternative to a diverse listenership. “The concept behind The Bridge was to bridge the gap between different genres of music and also to bridge black communities a bit more culturally like they once were,” says Hairston.

More important to Hairston is his station’s commitment to positive and informative programming. “We don’t play music that exploits women. We don’t play music that’s laced with profanity, and we don’t play

music that glorifies the destruction of black people or our race. We try to uplift people,” he says.

Hairston grew up in Shaker Heights, graduating from its high school in 1982. He attended Hampton University in Hampton, VA and graduated in 1986 with a bachelor’s in Mass Media Communications. He worked as an on-air announcer at Cleveland’s 1490-AM/WJMO.

Hairston has established a foundational Cleveland presence in creating his successful station. Sunday morning listeners, who have been tracked from as far as London, England can hear in succession sermons from a trio of clergymen with strong Cleveland connections. Shaker Heights native, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Chicago, can be heard beginning at 9am EST, the membership of which includes the nation’s first family, The Obamas. Moss grew up in Olivet Institutional Baptist Church on Quincy Ave, during his father’s long and distinguished pastorate.

Following Moss are the sermons of Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davidson, now completing his second year as senior pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of Cleveland. His broadcast begins at 10 am EST. Finally, at 12 noon EST, listeners can hear another Shaker native, Dr. Alyn Waller, senior pastor of the 17,000-plus member Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church of Philadelphia. Waller’s late father, Alfred, was the long-time pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Cleveland during Alyn’s formative years.

In addition, former Cleveland broadcaster Lynn Tolliver, of WJMO-AM and WZAK-FM fame, has a regular program on Saturday afternoons as well.

Perhaps the most consistent challenge to The Bridge’s mission is financial support. Hairston is constantly seeking ways to make the operation more efficient. So sponsorship and fundraising opportunities are always needed.

“In today’s competitive marketplace, financial support is very important to keep the station going,” says Hairston. “We accept contributions in addition to add revenue. We

have a format that is similar to satellite programming, which doesn’t contain many audio commercials. We run banner ads on the website to showcase our sponsors and their products. It’s what helps keep us on the air. We need to get additional funding for marketing and sales which would help us grow our listener base and sponsors.”

While seeking support the current operation, Hairston is also planning expansion. “Many areas of the country have lost their R&B stations on the FM dial as a result of deregulated F.C.C. (Federal Communications Commission) rules, which has prompted some stations to abandon R&B music formats for others that they think may be more lucrative. One of our missions is to bridge those gaps and help promote a global R&B community. We have listeners all over the U.S. and we continue to grow both in the U.S. and abroad. Some of our weekend programming originates in London.

“We hope to continue (the current broadcast) and are also working on a new station that we hope to have online in the next few

months—www.thegospelbridge.com. It will focus on gospel music and more sermons. We hope to have that website up by this fall!”

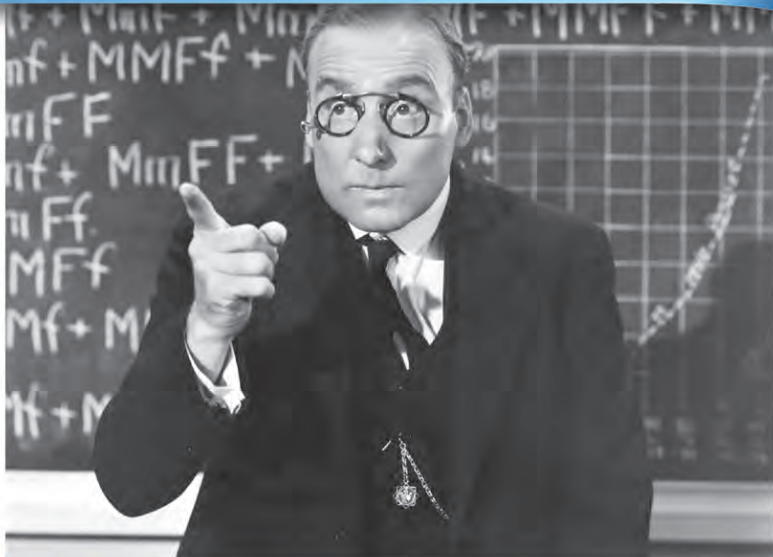
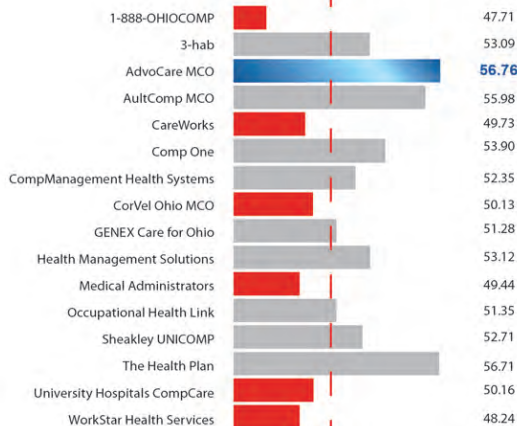
The Bridge’s format and its focus on community uplift make it a rarity in the radio world. Sometimes, he says, “you have to do whatever it takes to be successful. The key is being versatile and open-minded. Internet radio is an extension of the terrestrial (AM/FM) format, so certain skills remain.”

Hairston’s parting advice, like his cross-cultural broadcast operation, speaks to the core of people who are both ambitious and responsive to the urgent need for growth in places like Cleveland. “You may not get the kind of recognition you might expect immediately, but you have to stick with it and people will eventually find you. Don’t be too proud to also work with social media, word-of-mouth, and other ways to introduce people to your website and what you’re doing. It’s a tough business, but you can become successful at it if you work hard and you are consistent.”

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*Statement and chart above are based on BWC public data request for 2013 4th quarter BWC statistics.

NORTH RANDALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo Credit: Real Deal Press photos

for being vociferous and confrontational, is president of the American Center for Economic Equality, a nonprofit incorporated in 2012. Its stated purpose reads in part "to create economic opportunity, promote growth thru business development and to enhance the quality of life for all people thru education, research, information dissemination and communication..." Bender leads the Black Contractors Group, which appears to be an unregistered volunteer association.

The protesters showed up to

register their anger and concern over reports that the California developer who recently purchased the long-dormant and even longer-troubled Randall Park Mall, is planning to spend millions to adapt the former 1.5 million square foot property into some sort of industrial park.

Edwards and his group fear the project will unfold without any contracts or jobs going to African American contractors or workers. He said the developer, Stuart Lichter, has a poor track record in dealing with mi-

norities, and cited the redevelopment of development of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s new headquarters in Akron as an example.

Edwards said he sent a letter to Mayor Smith in March asking for a meeting to discuss his group's concerns. When he received no reply, he sent a second letter demanding a response and threatening the demonstration that subsequently took place.

For his part, Smith told Edwards and his acolytes that there was no project formally on the table to negotiate about, that no

public dollars were as yet involved, and that the Village prided itself on standing for diversity and equal opportunity. Smith said any negotiations with the developer would occur in due time with his office. He also shared his very real concern that demonstrations could potentially scuttle the project, which the Village had worked long, hard, and patiently to secure. In response, Edwards asserted that he had spent one million dollars of his own money fighting for equal opportunity and said if Lichter backed out, he would find another developer.

The mayor made clear that he felt slandered by the allegations of Edwards and his followers. He stated repeatedly and with force that "you don't know me, you don't know this community."

The mayor seemed to inquire at one point how many North Randall residents were among the protesters. There appeared to be none.

As the meeting drew to a close, with Edwards vowing to continue protesting, Smith said, "We're not going to be intimidated to do the right thing. We are going to do the right thing."

What's going on?

Edwards said at one point that if black people and governmental officials do not get in the discussion about how projects are done at the very beginning, the opportunities for meaningful minority participation become nonexistent. Yet it seemed to more than one observer, and certainly to Smith, that Edwards' approach was both premature and counter-productive. It was clear both sides felt frustrated and misunderstood.

Cleveland has a long history of racial discrimination and exclusion in the construction industry and the trade unions. Edwards undoubtedly voices the anger and frustration of many area residents who have repeatedly felt the sting of rejection as they were forced to watch from the bleachers as wave after wave

of construction has reshaped Cleveland's landscape. His organization clearly does not believe in being either polite or politic. Edwards himself has become increasingly political, endorsing candidates and supporting a tony fundraiser for Gov. Kasich last year.

Edwards has his critics, but they are nowhere as loud as he. He is a large man, and even in "retirement" remains capable of intimidation through volume and vitriol. In that regard he evokes the old public-private Cleveland two-step, a dance perfected by former Cleveland Council president George Forbes. A staple of that era was the public display of indignation and rage, typically followed, and sometimes preceded, by private deal making.

Edwards also has his admirers. One establishment insider told me a few years back how amazed he was that the black community was so docile about the inequities we face. He thought Cleveland needed more protests, albeit more effective ones.

It is too early to say what's at stake in Northfield. But any multi-million dollar construction project is an opportunity for fortunes to be won and lost. Smith appears unlikely to be intimidated by Edwards. But will he be able to stand up with sufficient resolve to an out-of-town developer used to having his way?

North Randall was once an ethnic preserve and playpen, with two racetracks, lots of tax dollars, and old-boy sensibilities. Today the village leaders worry openly that the newly opened racino at Thistledown may be eyeing greener pastures across the county line.

Issues of equity and inclusion loom large in almost all Cuyahoga communities, whether they are raw or glossy. It will be instructive to see how they play out in Northfield. As we go to press, Edwards had another protest scheduled for Northfield. It's a safe bet in this gambling village that a lot of would-be players have yet to admit they are in the game, let alone show their hands.

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Hiram College, Tri-C Partner to Create Seamless Degree Completion Programs

HIGHLAND HILLS — Hiram College and Cuyahoga Community College inked a partnership last month that will permit Tri-C students who meet admission requirements for Hiram College to earn bachelor's degrees in accounting and financial management or business management immediately after earning an associate degree and without leaving Tri-C East Campus.

While Tri-C has transfer agreements with more than 30 colleges and universities, the Hiram College partnership is unique because Hiram will have a physical presence at Tri-C East Campus, and students will not have to physically transfer schools to complete their bachelor's degree.

Speaking at an East Campus reception celebrating the partnership, Hiram College President Thomas Chema said

that Ohio has fallen to 39th in terms of the percentage of its adult population with bachelor's degrees. "Ohio has 1.2 million people who started college somewhere and finished one year or less."

The partnership expects to reduce those numbers in north-east Ohio. The new degree completion program is designed in part to assist students who deal with such issues as working full-time, caring for aging parents, and raising children.

"Access to higher education is crucial for our community," said J. Michael Thomson, Tri-C East Campus president. "This partnership between Hiram College and Cuyahoga Community College represents a tremendous opportunity for our students who earn an associate degree to move seamlessly into a bachelor's degree. Our stu-

dents will be able to earn their bachelor's degree while keeping key local ties to friends, family and employers. The ability to live, learn and earn in the same local area is key for many East Campus students."

Students enrolled in the degree completion programs will earn credit for the first 57 percent of their coursework through Tri-C and the final 43 percent through Hiram College. Hiram College faculty will teach courses in a variety of formats; most courses will be offered on the Tri-C East Campus, but there will be options for interactive video distance learning, blended learning and online classes.

"We know it's increasingly difficult for students to complete bachelor's degrees affordably in four years," said Paul Bowers, dean of Professional and Grad-



J. Michael Thomson, President of Tri-C Eastern Campus, looks on as Hiram College President Thomas V. Chema signs partnership agreement. [Emily S. Cole, Hiram College]

uate Studies at Hiram College. "Hiram College is deeply committed to our partnership with Cuyahoga Community College and providing seamless pathways to a four-year degree."

Hiram College's Bachelor of Arts degrees in accounting and financial management and business management prepare students to be leaders in business, finance, non-profit and government professions.

"We're pleased to be able to work with our colleagues at Tri-C to make the dream of a four-year degree possible to more Northeast Ohio residents," said Hiram's Chema.

"Our liberal arts curriculum is the perfect preparation for life and work in our rapidly changing world. This relationship provides more access to these life-changing experiences."

Hiram College admission counselors will be on site at the Tri-C East Campus Student Services building for admission and academic advising appointments. Hiram College will host several open house events in coming weeks.

For more information on this partnership program, visit www.hiram.edu/TriC or call 330.569.5161 to speak with an admission counselor.

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e-Mentoring helping students plot post-high school choices



(L to R) : Warrensville HS principal Lori Crum-Glenn; Dr. Renée Cavor Willis; Master Sgt. Michael Booker; Cuyahoga Community College program director Audrey Davis; and seniors Shanice Winston and Ashlee Edwards

By M. LaVora Perry
Special Correspondent

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS — Warrensville Heights City School District is taking concrete steps to get students ready for careers and college. At the April 24 school board meeting, presenters Dr. Renee Cavor Willis and middle school principal, Constance Rudolph, explained how their programs impact student achievement.

Rudolph's program, the "OAA Blitz," began in October and includes Saturday school.

Cavor Willis introduced two of the program's students, seniors Shanice Winston and Ashlee Edwards, and their mentors, Master Sgt. Michael Booker, a 27-year Marine veteran, and Audrey Davis, the Director of Cuyahoga Community College's college readiness program and a Warrensville Heights resident.

"At the beginning of the school year," said Winston, "I didn't want to go to college. I thought it was too expensive." But then she talked to Cavor Willis and many other adults including her principal Lori Crum-Glenn and assistant principal Quarnitra Price. They told

"A triangle makes the whole student — the academic piece and the social & emotional piece"

— **Dr. Renée Cavor Willis, Professor of Education at Cleveland State University & CEO of Responding to Challenges Consulting, LLC**

The program focuses on improving students' reading and math abilities. Its goal is to raise the performance index rating the district received on their 2012–2013 Ohio Department of Education report card from a "D" to a "C."

Meanwhile, Dr. Renée Cavor Willis, a professor of Education at Cleveland State University and CEO of Responding to Challenges Consulting, LLC, spoke about the program she conducted at the high school this year, "Responding to Challenges." "A triangle makes the whole student — the academic piece and the social and emotional piece," said Cavor Willis. She said her work focuses on the latter two parts.

Speaking to students and providing emotional support, exposure, mentoring and guidance — things that can't be measured on a test — are what her program is about, she said, adding, "We value our students." Her program uses e-mentoring, which relies on adult mentors communicating with students mainly through Twitter and email.

her "Shanice, you have a voice. You need to go to college and earn a living," she said. In addition, Cavor Willis helped her prepare college essays. As a result, Winston was accepted to all seven colleges she applied to and has received several scholarships including a full-ride to John Carroll, the school she wants to attend.

When Edwards was introduced to the e-mentoring program, she had been thinking about going into the Job Corps because she thought she wouldn't be accepted into college due to her low GPA. At first she considered attending Tri-C as an Architect major. However, after meeting Sgt. Booker, she is considering a military career.

Cavor Willis is a former principal at Monticello Middle School in Cleveland Heights. She has consulted with the Cleveland and Bedford school districts.

Speaking of Shanice and Ashlee, Cavor Willis said, "Whether you're in the top five percent of your class or whether you're not sure, mentoring helps."



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HEALTH CALENDAR



May 9

MetroHealth annual stakeholders meeting at Cleveland Convention Center, from 8-10AM. RSVP by calling 216-957-9999, or through www.metrohealth.org/annualmeeting by May 1.

May 13

Mayor's Office of Sustainability for Sustainable Cleveland's second quarterly meeting, at the City Club 850 Euclid Ave., from 5:30-8PM. Free, open to everyone. Come learn more about Sustainable Cleveland. Cash bar and snacks. Call 216.664.2000. for more info.

May 15

Affordable Care Act 101 Webinars. The SBA and Small Business Majority continue to host free Affordable Care Act 101 weekly webinars so small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in health insurance marketplaces. Thursdays, 2pm ET. Register: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=f1q4aa7tyvy5>

May 16

City Club Friday Forum. The Oberlin Project: How One City is Eliminating Carbon, Restoring the Local Food Economy and Figuring Out How to Be Truly Sustainable

May 17

Family Fitness Day. Green Road Park, Warrensville Heights from 10AM-Noon. Call 216.587.6500 or www.cityofwarrensville.com.

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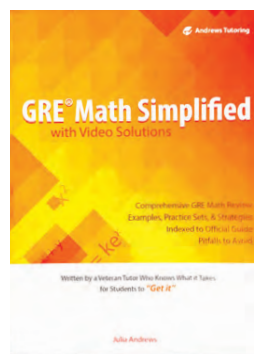
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



May 3

The Urban League of Greater Cleveland Guild will host its annual "Spring in Bloom" Luncheon/Fashion Show Saturday, May 3 at the T.S. Macklin Event Center, 6200 Enterprise Parkway in Solon. Door will open at 10:30 AM and the program will begin promptly at 11:30.

Twenty vendors featuring jewelry, clothing, scented candles and many unique gift items will give guests an opportunity to shop. There will be raffles of gift items donated by each vendor as well as special gift baskets donated by the Guild. The show will feature guest models Harry Boomer, Channel 19 & 43, Wayne Dawson, Fox 8 news & family, Pastor Todd Davidson & family, Antioch Baptist Church; and Joe "Flash" Gordon, Central Cadillac.

Honorary chairman is Kathryn M. Hall of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Tickets are \$40 per person. For tickets and more information, call the Urban League 216.622.0999 or Irene Walton, luncheon chairperson, 216.268.5939. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.ulcleveland.org.

Send information about your event to rta@TheRealDealPress.com six weeks in advance.

License Plate of the Month



Lutheran East HS parking lot. April 19, 2014.

See a license plate that made you laugh, made you think, or simply admire its originality? Capture it with your phone and email it to us along with where and when you took it.



By **R.T. Andrews**
Editor

The big breaking story as April drew to a close was how having even scads of money can't forever hide ignorance and bigotry. I'm referring of course to the saga of Donald Sterling, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team in the National Basketball Association, whose girlfriend apparently was involved in taping his idiocy.

We can lament another example of privacy invaded, as Sterling apparently had no expectation that his remarks would become public. Actually I have the sense that he might not have been that concerned about publicizing his views, given first, his track record of discrimination in many areas of his life over the years; and second, because I don't think he's the least bit embarrassed about those views. He's a pretty consistent hater.

I actually find a number of positive aspects to this story. For one, I like the way basketball's new commissioner, acted with urgency and force in doing the right thing. I did not hear one commentator call for or expect a lifetime ban from the NBA for Sterling. I think that particular punishment really fits the crime, because at this stage in his life, Sterling is not apt to discover tolerance.

A sizable number of my friends believe that basketball is the best game in the world, and that its world-class athletes are the most phenomenal. Sure, some of that is cultural bias, but hey, the game is so elemental and free flowing at its best that there is much more room for creativity, imagination, even elegance. In its elemental flows it often reminds me of a jazz quintet. Five players, each expert on his own instrument — whether piano, bass, drums, or horn. They have some basic plays but each must stay attuned to the moment, to the music, to his teammates.

When it works in music, the spirit is uplifted. The feeling can be the same

on the court, as when a steal is made or a rebound secured, and the whole team shifts seamlessly from defense to offense, the ball zipping through the air via a pass or two or three before being laid in or dunked. Or when a screen is set on one side of the floor, and a teammate cuts to the basket from the other side, knowing that if he executes his move perfectly the ball will find him in position to take his favorite shot, the one he practices endlessly.

Sometimes the play is so phenomenal that we tend to overlook all the work — practice and study — that goes into recognizing the moment to make a band or teammate, or seize the initiative. So actually for me, one of the sweetest things about the run up to the Commissioner's announcement was hearing so many current and former players speak so brilliantly and effectively about what should happen, what it meant, and why it was important. Dap to all of them, including LeBron, who left Cleveland with a tin ear but has ascended to world-class statesman for the game he loves. And dap to the relatively unknown former Utah Jazz player, Thurl Bailey. He wasn't that great a player, relative to the game's stars and superstars, but damn he sure sounded smart and reasoned. And of course much respect goes to another former Cavalier, Kevin Johnson, who is now the mayor of Sacramento, California's capital.

When these guys spoke, they rocked with dignity, passion, eloquence, intelligence. They showed a side of black professional athletes that we see all too seldom. And the long struggle to build a more tolerant and equitable society probably gained more from these displays than from the banishment of a fool.

To paraphrase the President of these United States when he was asked about Sterling, sometimes it's not necessary to comment on monumental stupidity. *Res ipsa loquitur*, the lawyers say, meaning the thing speaks for itself.

Zeta Phi Beta conference April 2014

The souvenir book for the 80th annual leadership conference of the Great Lakes Region of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, held in Cleveland April 24-27, 2014, contains a celebratory ad proclaim-

ing Michelle Porter Norman “the hardest working ZETA we know.” I can say amen to that after spending some time with the dynamic director of the Great Lakes Region, a volunteer position she

assumed in August 2012.

In a whirlwind chat at the Cleveland Renaissance, conference headquarters, Ms Norman filled me on ZETA history, mission, and global growth. She said

there are 120,000 Zetas worldwide and that she had just returned from Europe to welcome new chapters in England, Belgium, and Dubai. She shared the essence of the principles of ZETA’s “finer woman-

hood”, including sisterhood, service, and scholarship.

Zeta Phi Beta’s service orientation, she explained, means that they strive to leave a legacy honoring every local community they convene in. While in Cleveland, they presented awards and gifts to local nonprofits Singleton Health Care Center and Transitional Housing Inc. This recognition was in keeping with the Great Lakes Region’s 2014 community initiative to meet the basic needs of the spiritually challenged. The conference also awarded scholarships to area students.

The host chapter for this year’s conference, which exceeded expectations with well over 600 registrants, was Nu Theta Zeta, based in Warrensville Heights. Tamara Manning Gordon is Nu Theta’s president.

Well-known ZETAs include Minnie Riperton and Zora Neale Hurston.



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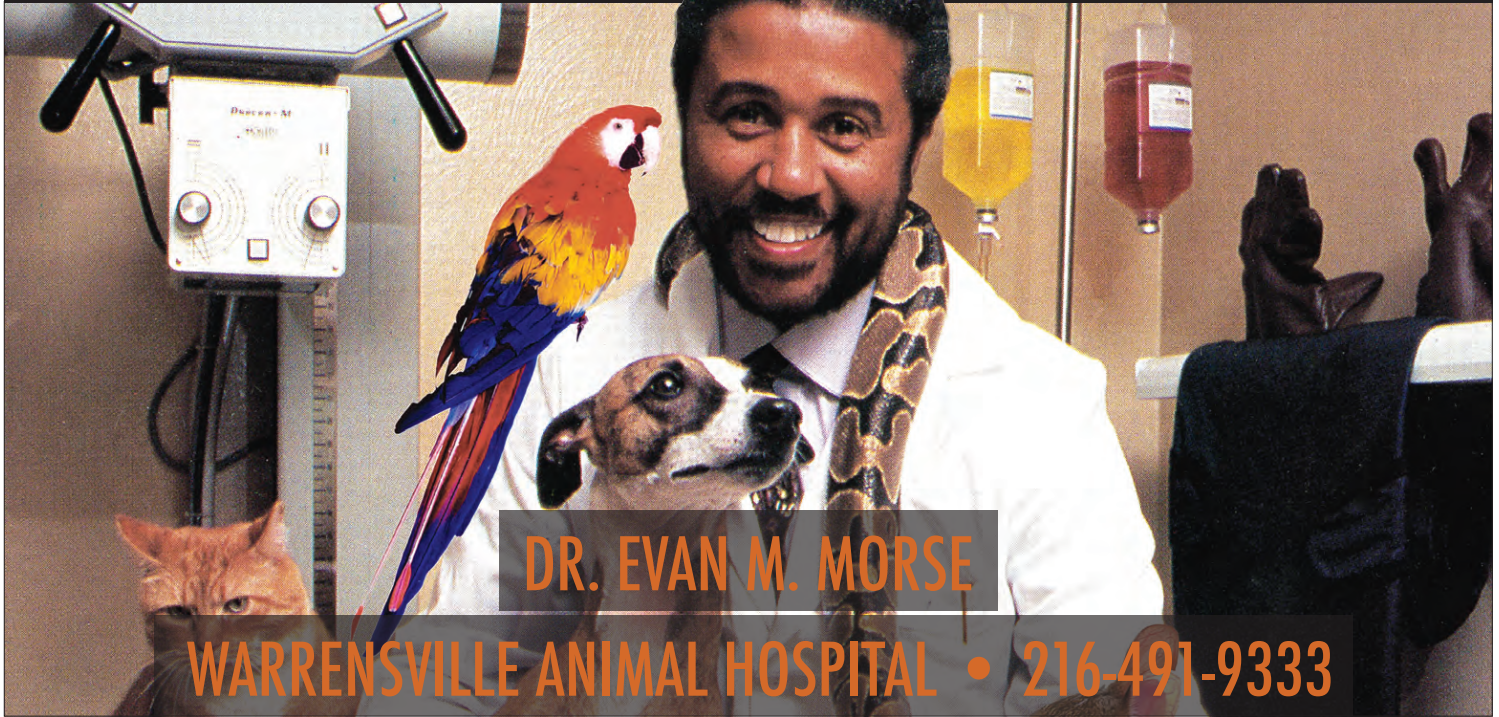


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