

The MICHIGAN BULLETIN

FREE
Please Take One

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The 411

Keeping The Dream Alive

Happy EASTER



April 21 @ 8 p.m. - The Randy Napoleon Quintet (jazz). Napoleon returns to Michigan to relax and play some gigs, for which he's assembled a stellar cast of Michigan jazz players: Paul Keller on bass, Sean Dobbins on drums, Rob Smith on horn and Ben Jansson on sax. Tickets: \$15. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner, Lansing, MI 48906. Tickets: \$15. For more info: www.creolegalerie.com or call 517-487-9549.

April 22 - In response to a National Socialist Movement Rally at the Capitol the City of Lansing is sponsoring a "Win The Day" Diversity Celebration at the Don Johnson Field house at Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave. from 1 - 5 pm. This free event is slated to offer: food, dance and music. Celebrate diversity and unity.

April 24 - The Earl Nelson Singers' Annual Concert, "Listen to the Lambs" will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church located at Ottawa and Pine in downtown Lansing. Free to the public.

April 29 - Citizens Marching for the American Dream - send a message of the Legislature, the Governor and State Senator Stabenow to save the American Dream. Rally on the Capitol lawn at 2 pm. Call: 810 - 742-7420 Ext. 31.

April 29 - Carnivale 2006 - "Laissez le bon temps rouler" An evening of Masquerade & Mardi Gras at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center Michigan State University 55 Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48933 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Tickets \$50 per person Attire: Black Tie, Costumes optional Masks will be available for purchase. Traditional Creole cuisine Live entertainment provided by "Soul Content" Contact Felicia Wasson, Jack and Jill Program Director at felicialynnntw@comcast.net or (517) 882-7193 for tickets

May 25 - Minority Advisory Panel Golf Outing at the Royal Scott Golf Course. \$60 per perso, \$260 four-person team. 10 am Shotgun start.

The Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society (LAAAGS) monthly second Saturday meeting at the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 717 West Allegan (between Pine and Butler Streets), Lansing, MI at 9:00 a.m. Public is invited.

BCFI fund raiser announced

EAST LANSING, MI -- The Black Child and Family Institute (BCFI) announced a major fund raiser and recognized its 20 years of service at a reception hosted at Cowles House by MSU President Lou Anna Simon on April 11.

The reception was a kick-off for BCFI's fund raising efforts to purchase a newer, updated facility for its programs and to support existing and expanded programs and services.

Simon, invited members of the BCFI Leadership Team to the reception. These are people who, to date, have pledged \$1000 or more to the fund raising campaign. The campaign theme is "Building For the Future: Beginning a New Decade of Service."

Twenty years ago the Black Child and Family Institute was established to provide an intergenerational approach to improving the plight of children and families in the Lansing community. "We are currently building upon our existing successful programs and

expanding to meet the global demands of our times", said Martha Bibbs, BCFI president "Our list of Leadership Team members will continue to grow during this three-year campaign period, because people recognize the role that BCFI has played in the community over the past twenty years".

During the past 20 years, BCFI has dedicated itself to assessing the needs of children and families and providing quality programs and services to meet those needs. "BCFI was founded on the principle that to help the child, you must help the entire family," according to Founder, Barbara Roberts Mason. "We believe in an intergenerational approach involving all members of a family from infants and toddlers to grandparents and extended family members."

Contributions to BCFI will help us fulfill our mission to serve as a catalyst to supplement the education of future leaders in a global environment. Our programs fall within the categories of education, health, continued on page 3



"Baby" Copyright 2006 by Gregory P. Kelley

"Communities of color demand respect"

Anger, hurt and pain dominates community forum

By Gregory P. Kelley

LANSING, MI -- Anger, hurt and pain describes the emotions aired at the Pastors Conference of Greater Lansing Community Forum held at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church on April 8.

The meeting stemmed from a March 20 early morning shooting of an Eaton County Sheriff's sergeant, who gave a detailed description of a Black man he said shot him.

The officer's charge later proved to be false.

The sheriff's department released a composite drawing of a suspect: a Black man, about 6 feet tall with a muscular build, in his mid-20s, with a light to medium complexion, and pock marks on his face.

Shortly after 3 a.m. Lutz reported he was shot in the right arm while on patrol near the West Town Plaza on West Saginaw Highway.

Police blocked off neighborhoods, closed school buildings and conducted a massive man hunt at daybreak for the supposed gunman.

More than 40 police officers from as many as six departments and



Tammy Sims, with her children, shares her concerns with a local TV reporter

at least one helicopter participated.

Days later, a State Police investigation determined Lutz actually turned his own gun on himself and his squad car.

The police officer falsely accused a "Black man" of shooting him.

"I really think it's sad in this day and age, knowing he knows the rules of swearing to serve and protect, to falsely accuse a Black person of doing this," said James Gill, president of the Lansing's branch of the NAACP

and a Lansing police officer. Lutz currently is on paid leave at a mental health treatment facility.

It was pointed out this is not the first time a Black man has been falsely accused of a crime. Several people recalled the 1989 Boston shooting of Charles Stuart's pregnant wife. Stuart said a Black man committed the crime. Stuart later confessed to shooting his wife and then himself.

Also, the Susan Smith case was recalled. In 1994, Smith said a Black male car jacked her and took her two children. She later confessed to killing them herself by driving her car in a local lake with the children strapped inside.

And, now a local police officer makes a false charge that a Black man shot him and sparks a massive manhunt.

Rev. Michael Murphy said, "Communities of color never want to see this happen again. "Our communities demand respect."

Other ministers pointed out a bond of trust between the Black community and police agencies

has been stretched if not broken. Five year Delta Township resident Tammy Sims says enough is enough.

"We need to investigate the police and police the police, or the police will continue to do the same thing - stop us for no good reason."

She said the Eaton County Sheriff's have a history of harassing her male family members. "They have stopped my husband at least eight times." She says the police harass her son just because he wears braids. "He is an 'A' student," Sims said.

"They just don't care about Black people. My husband has been pulled over many time for no reason". Sims said.

The authorities need to stop blaming the victim says Deon Williams.

"They need to stop blaming us for the things that they (the Eaton County Sheriffs) do," Williams said.

"We can't do nothing about our

color, but that seems to set them off," He added.

Aurrelio Todd, called the forum a diversion.

"This is a smoke and mirror job. A mockery. No officials from the Eaton County Sheriffs Department are here," Todd pointed out. "But you see them six or seven deep along Waverly Road on Friday or Saturday night."

Community Activist Gordon Wilson said part to the blame revolves around the lack of voting. "It's our own fault because we don't vote. Where is the Mayor? Where is the person who represents this area at? They are not here. If they aren't going to do anything for you, then don't vote for them," Wilson said.

Members of the Pastors Conference plan on meeting with officials of the Eaton County Sheriff's Department to discuss its hiring practices, promotional opportunities and diversity training.

Kappa's recognize community journalist, volunteers

Five community activist were recognized by the Lansing Alumni and the Delta Pi (MSU) chapters of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., at their 59th Northern Province Council at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center, 6820 S. Cedar St. on April 2.

More than 300 Kappa men, and their Silhouettes (spouses) and families from western New York, Toledo, Ohio and Michigan attended the event.

The First Gentleman Dan Muhern spoke at the evening Community Service Awards Ceremony where the following people received awards:

Gregory P. Kelley, editor-in-chief of the Michigan Bulletin Community Newspaper, Gloria Cannon, community volunteer, Joan Jackson Johnson, Ph.D. community volunteer, Larry Leatherwood, community volunteer and Rina Risper, publisher of the New Citizens Press.



Gregory P. Kelley



Young man shares insight with gathering.

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