

*If you have something to say*

# "SPEAK UP"

*November 2001*

Serving the need for a black publication, this newsletter features several sections to share information and ideas:

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**, section is dedicated to articles about training, self-help programs and any other information that can possibly empower and increase the readers potential.

**WORD ON THE STREET**, section passes along information as to what is going on in the Jonathan Street neighborhood and other communities that can benefit or affect us all. Includes employment opportunities, agency assistance and organization events.

**BACK TO BLACK** History & Culture, section on local, regional and national black interest.

**youth news**, a view to listen to.

**SPEAK UP!**, the opinion and editorial section, if you have something to say, *SPEAK UP!*

Subscription is free and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc. 131 West North Avenue, Martin Luther King Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, phone 301-393-9290, e-mail buwdc131@hotmail.com or page Andy Smith, at 301-745-2000.

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE

**What is stopping you from buying a house?** I don't know but I'll tell you what held me back. Fear, was the number one factor that held me back from owning a home. Fear of rejection, afraid I had bad credit, afraid that I could not afford it. After a few hours at the Hagerstown Home Store, my fears melted away. I attended a free workshop that lasted a few hours (not weeks as one rumor I encountered). My wife and I met with an advisor at the Hagerstown Home Store and looked at our budget and credit profile. Using what we learned at the Hagerstown Home store, our search for a home began in April and we bought a home in October. Get started now. Contact the Hagerstown Home Store at 21 East Franklin Street Hagerstown, Maryland. Phone 301-797-0900 or visit them online at [www.hagerstownhomestore.org](http://www.hagerstownhomestore.org).

## WORD ON THE STREET

**The Wheaton Park project is under way.** Let's get behind brother Robert (Stuffy) Harris and push to make the improvements of Wheaton Park can amount to something our children can be proud of. The city is going to improve the tennis courts and hopefully more, such as the restrooms, and the baseball field as well. Discussions of the renovations have occurred at the Hotspot meetings. Stuffy will be contacting the city planner heading this project.

# *BACK TO BLACK* History & Culture

“Be not deceived. The struggle is far from over. The best of being Black is yet to be – So said the Ones who Died to set us free” - *Ossie Davis*

## *LOCAL*

**Mr. Henry Williams**, it was brought to our attention that Mr. Henry Williams gave a valuable contribution to the Jonathan Street community that should draw a worthy tribute. Mr. Williams apparently headed up the Boys Club when it was still in the black section of town. I had attended the Boys Club back when it was on Jonathan and Church Streets, but my recollection of black leadership at the Boys Club only goes back as far as Mr. Sonny Watson and Lawrence Freeman when the building was there. I would like to invite anyone to join us in organizing a fitting salute to Mr. Henry Williams for his contribution. Please call or write our office with any response to this article. Let's get back to black on this one.

## *REGIONAL*

**Negro Mountain**, is it true that the mountain up near Cumberland Maryland was named Negor Mountain after brave black soldiers who fought to defend it during a historical battle in this area. I have not had the time to research the story, maybe our readers can get involved. Was the battle from the Civil War or the Revolutionary period? The Doleman Black Heritage Museum is a good starting point to get facts from a black historian perspective.

## *NATIONAL*

“**Jocko**” **Graves statues**, insult or symbol of pride. Back in a time when the CB radio was the craze, several brothers and myself would get on the airwaves and do our thing. Often times other CB operators would engage us, frequently with insults because we were black. One phrase used by the insulting rednecks was “Porch Monkey”. Well, I had no idea what a porch monkey was until one of the brothers broke it down to me. A porch monkey was the reference given to the little statues of a young black boy named Jocko Graves. Well after this revelation I wanted to go around to every yard I could find the statues in and “free” Jocko. It was not until my Aunt, the late Peggy Doleman, provided information about the historical account of how a twelve year old black slave recruited by General George Washington to help in the crossing of the Delaware river to surprise their enemy to help win the revolutionary war. After Washington had crossed they found the horses they needed fasten to what they thought was a tree stump, it was not. Jocko apparently froze to death holding the horse for the troops crossing the river. Washington had a statute of Jocko made and erected at Mount Vernon in tribute to the sacrifice of the young black Jocko Graves. So tell me are people putting the statues in their yards to honor Jocko or is it a symbol of racial insult to have a statue with black features stooped over holding a lantern like a porch monkey?

## AJAMU & MWAMBA: Myths and Facts

**Columbus discovered America.** Still taught in U. S. schools. Red people were living in the Americas thousands of years before the first Europeans stumbled upon this continent. Blacks should stop playing the *discovery* game. It does not matter who saw or visited an area first. That's the European game, not the Afrikan game.

**Washington County Government “POSITION AVAILABLE”:** Facilities Engineer \$40,803 minimum with benefits; Laboratory Technician I \$22,044 minimum; 2 Bus Attendants \$9.09 hour; Plant Operator Trainee \$20,412. Apply at the Washington County Department of Human Resources, 100 W. Washington Street, Room 202, Hagerstown MD or call 301 791-3175

**Washington County Department of Social Services “VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT”:** Human Service Associate II \$20,090 - \$29,712 (contractual). Contact Betty Dattilio WCDSS, 122 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD for applications or call 240 420-2139. Minority Candidates are encouraged to apply.

**Washington County Community Partnership for Children & Families** is a *State of Maryland Local Management Board Initiative* located at 33 W. Washington St. 2<sup>nd</sup> fl. Phone 301-791-3486. Visit their Web-site: [www.wccp-online.org](http://www.wccp-online.org) (cool graphics, good music) for more information.

**Community Enrichment Coalition (CEC)** will provide two *SHARE* food packages a month for Brothers United to donate to anyone in the neighborhood. Jonathan Street area *Boy Scouts Troop 9* delivered the food packages containing meat, fresh vegetables and dried goods last month to senior residents in the Jonathan Street community. Interested? Call 301-393-9290.

**SPEAK UP**

I was in a situation that had volatile potential. A fire occurred on North Prospect Street in the apartment of a young woman with a disabled child, her apartment was not damaged by the fire. However the lock to her apartment was broken by the fire department. The landlord was on site and I was asked to find I if he would repair the lock. With my hand extended, I introduced myself as a representative from Brothers United Who Dare to Care and explained the concern of his tenant. The person snapped at me angrily and began ranting. I made two calls: I alerted my response team and had my backup in place, I then called a member of the city council who intervened by phone when I handed the phone to the landlord. The door was repaired and the woman’s family was properly assisted. I share this to send out this message. In my last editorial I expressed that “we can advocate without hostility and aggression”. Please, so that there is no confusion about that message means know this: “Any act of aggression or hostility toward me or will be responded to deliberately and by any means available”. In this case, that individual was almost tossed down a flight of stairs, but two phone calls put him in his place. So, don’t mess with me. If you can’t leave someone better than they were, LEAVE THEM ALONE!

*Andy Smith, Editor*

**Calendar Of Events**

November 26	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK 6:30pm
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