

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

**SPEAK UP!**

FEBRUARY 2002

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

**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.

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**, section includes employment opportunities, agency assistance, articles about training, self-help programs and any other information that can possibly empower and increase the reader's potential.

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

**youth news**, the younger view is worth listening 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, or visit our website: [www.buwdtc.org](http://www.buwdtc.org); email address: [buwdtc@hotmail.com](mailto:buwdtc@hotmail.com) or page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### **Black History display case for North Street School building.**

Brothers United Who Dare To Care, with the carpentry skills contributed by Melvin L. Bowers Jr., will be placing a large display case in the Martin Luther King Center, 131 West North Avenue Hagerstown Maryland that will feature local, regional and national displays of Black heritage. The monumental portraits and plaques of that once hung unenclosed on the walls of the North Street School will be transferred to the display case. Individuals, items and events from the past and present that contribute to Black heritage will be an ongoing highlight in the display. Come view or contribute to this historical movement.

### **No one cashed in on \$30 in cash prizes.**

It would seem that I couldn't give away money. No one tried to answer last month's contest question to win a \$10 cash prize. So without any restrictions, whoever answers the contest questions will get the cash. My children are going to be glad to here this because they spend time in the Don Brown BLACK HISTORY Library at Martin Luther King Center. Shouldn't you? Please do not call foul because I am allowing my children to enter the contest. Literacy is the goal of the Black History contest. Don Brown just added several more movies to the library collection: "Finding Forrester" (Rob Brown), "Ruby Bridges" (the story of the New Orleans school integration), "Remember The Titans" (Denzel Washington), "Men Of Honor" (Cuba Gooding Jr.), and "When We Were Kings" (the Muhammad Ali vs. George Forman fight). Continue to read the *BACK TO BLACK* History & Culture section for contest information that can win you prizes. Call our office at Brothers United Who Dare To Care for more information 301-393-9290.

### **SPEAK UP! Newsletter will not be delivered door-to-door for the winter months.**

The January, February, and March editions of SPEAK UP can be picked up at these locations: Bethel Gardens Community Center, C&M Convenience Store, Just Us Barber Shop, Memorial Recreation Center, Bunkie's Store or Wing It Café. Call the BUWDTC office for additional locations or stop by our office in the Martin Luther King Center and pick up a copy for you and your neighbor. Delivery is considered for seniors or those with disabilities and BUWDTC members who have renewed their applications for year 2002.

# POWER TO THE PEOPLE

## **Much needed blood donations by African-Americans.**

Every three seconds someone needs blood, and blood types O and B are in the greatest demand. Most African-Americans have types O and B blood. In addition, certain rare blood antigen groups, such as Duffy-negative or U-negative, are found almost exclusively in the African American population. This means that when critically ill African Americans need blood, their match for a transfusion is more likely to be found in a donor of the same ethnic background. For individuals with sickle cell anemia, heart disease, kidney disease or other illnesses that require frequent blood transfusions, finding the best match is often critical. The American Red Cross is sponsoring a campaign, "For The Love Of Us", to encourage more African Americans to donate blood by informing them of the need and to assure them that donating blood is a safe and rewarding experience. A blood drive will take place on March 18, 2002 from 2:00 p.m. till 7:00 pm at the Memorial Recreation Center. You can call the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office at 301-393-9290 for additional information. Submitted by American Red Cross Phlebotomist Angie Taylor.

## **Black Talk has begun.**

The first session of Black Talk was great. Picture this; a person in the back corner of the office is rebuilding a computer. A few people stroll into the office, some sit on the couch another sits on the floor. Later of other people enter the session and pull some folding chairs into a half circle and they all began to "rap" on various subjects. The computer builder scurries in and out of the office throwing in random remarks and comments to the escalating conversations. Some of the verbal exchanges between the people are fiery but not hostile...welcome to Black Talk! I talked with a couple of the Black Talk attendee's the following day and I was told one man had slept well the night after the rap session. Black Talk is OPEN. Black Talk is TRUE. Black Talk is REAL. Black Talk is meeting Fridays at 7PM in the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office at the Martin Luther King center 131 West North Avenue Hagerstown, MD phone, 301-393-9290.

## **Hagerstown Home Store home ownership workshops for February.**

Thursday February 7 (6-8 PM), Saturday February 23 (9-11 AM) at the Hagerstown Home Store office at 21 East Franklin Street. Seating is limited, so please make a reservation for the date and time of your choice by calling 301-797-0900.

# SPEAK UP!

## **Black History Month?**

Nathaniel Henderson Jr. a black teen falsely accused of robbery then charged of the crime by the Hagerstown Police, jailed and a day later, released and charges dropped. Black teenage girls were told by Valley Mall security to not wait outside of mall for the bus, but to go inside and buy something because people outside of the mall were "scared of them". A County

Commuter bus driver told my daughter, a teenage black girl, she won't be allowed back on "his" bus because she was singing. Hey, I used to drive those buses! These incidents are frustrating and puzzling, and not what we need during Black History Month. I have no clue why there is a Black History Month. Please tell me, why is there a Black History Month and

who started it? And why was February, the shortest and coldest month of the year, chosen to celebrate Black History. I believe Black History, or any cultural history should be embraced, preserved and cherished all year round if it is to be of any value or substance. So do we really need a Black History Month?

*Andy Smith, Editor*

**You are on the way to home ownership, after a quick stop at the Hagerstown Home Store.** Don't stop now John Williams until you back the moving truck up to the door of your own home.

*Submitted by Brothers United Who Dare To Care*

## **THANK YOU**

Antietam Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary & Brenda Laughlin, the Nelson Family of Hagerstown, the Ballweber family of Boonsboro and Mike Boyce, Day's Shoppe in Hagerstown, Don Brown of Boonsboro, our newsletter drop points, Bob Maginnis & the Herald-Mail, J. Michael Nye, Francis Campbell, The Lions Club, Isaac Doleman, Llew and Sandi Browne and this months program partners.

# BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

"It's 2002 what are you going to do?" *Andy Smith, BUWDTC.*

## **Buffalo Soldier Day Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Martin Luther King Center (North Street School building).**

African-American veterans of the U.S. Army from the 1860's thru the present time will be honored during "Buffalo Soldier Day in Hagerstown". "Buffalo Soldier Day in Hagerstown" is an example of the continuing pride in the legacy of black soldiers. The Baltimore chapter of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Calvary (horse) will have displays open from 10am to 3pm. Buffalo soldier hero William Othello Wilson, Washington County's only native ever to be awarded the Medal of Honor. His medal and the paperwork involved will be on display during "Buffalo Soldier Day". Call Don Brown 301-432-6501 for more information or feel free to contact the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office at 301-393-9290.

## **Contest Question: What was the name of England's Black queen?**

At seventeen she wrote King George III a letter that had him chose her as his queen before he had ever laid eyes on her. Her black mother was the mistress of the Portuguese King Alfonso III. Several U.S. cities and counties bear her, although she never set foot on American shores.

## Youth News

### **Kent Dillon nominated for Father Of The Year.**

Brothers United Who Dare To Care nominated Kent for the 2002 Fatherhood Conference to be held this summer. Kent is a black 36 year old resident of Hagerstown Maryland. Kent is the father of a 10 year old daughter and a 9 year old son. Kent is a single parent completing a two-year commitment to the volunteer program Americorp, while he attends college to study Human Services. Kent reordered his life to be a better father and a positive male role model especially to black men. Kent hopes to inspire young men to be successful parents using early intervention through social work. For the past couple of years Kent has brought Americorp volunteers to help the director of the Memorial Recreation Center with its Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner. Kent has recently joined with Brothers United Who Dare To Care, of Hagerstown Maryland, to help with the group's Youth Enrichment program. Kent even attended a planning meeting for the 2002 Western Maryland Fatherhood Conference to get insight into the initiative. Kent helps his son with Cub Scouts and added that he also coaches Little League.

If you want to have your story, poem, drawing published in this section or on the Youth News website page submit your work to Brothers United Who Dare To Care 2<sup>ND</sup> floor 131 West North Avenue Hagerstown MD 21740 or visit our website: [www.buwdtc.org](http://www.buwdtc.org) or call 301-393-9290

## Calendar Of Events

February 25	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK 6:30pm
March 2	Buffalo Soldier event at MLK 2pm
March 18	Blood Drive at the Memorial Recreation Center 2pm to 7pm