

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

JULY 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 African American heritage.

Youth news, the opportunity for younger readers to contribute their view point.

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 2nd Floor, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, phone 301-393-9290, or visit our website: www.buwdtc.org; email address: brothersunitedwdtc@aol.com or page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

WORD ON THE STREET

The Washington County NAACP Family Picnic on Saturday July 20th 1PM at Wheaton Park 1pm to 6pm.

Everyone is welcomed to come join us in celebrating family with music, fun and games. There will be a basketball tournament, face painting, hula-hoops, dunk tank and more. The event is co-sponsored by Allegheny Power, B J Creations, Brothers United Who Dare To Care, Copy Quick, DSL Sound Inc., Hagerstown Ford, Hagerstown Housing Authority, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Memorial Recreation Center, Rocco's Italian Restaurant, Screen Tique, State farm, Turtle's Subs Etc., Washington County Community Partnership, Washington County Hospital Association, Wing It Café, and the Zion Baptist Church. Organizations will provide display tables supporting the family. Any donated proceeds will benefit the NAACP scholarship fund. For information on the NAACP Family Picnic contact Ron Lytle 240-420-6378. The NAACP meets every second Thursday 7pm at the Memorial Recreation Center 109 West North Avenue Hagerstown Maryland phone 301-790-0203. Contact Tracey Brown for membership information at 301-791-1579.

R.E.A.L. Life Missions, Hagerstown and around the World.

A mission work of Bethel Assembly Of God offers R.E.A.L. LIFE CLEANERS helping seniors and disabled in our community. REAL LIFE Cleaners would like to "cheer your heart and help lift the load of cleaning and other household duties. REAL LIFE Cleaners offer: General Cleaning; Organization; Someone to visit with; Laundry; Windows. This information comes as a blessing because over a year ago BUWDTC received a call that some senior residents living in public housing were in threat of a lease violation because the tenants could not meet the housekeeping requirement of their lease. A call went out to assist the senior residents and now a ministry to address their needs has emerged. If you are a senior or are disabled and could use some help with cleaning, please call Kathy Horst at 301-491-6956. I would like to add that if this is a ministry effort to assist and not recruit, it should be worthwhile call BUWDTC with you remarks.

Blacks In Business

"Cherry deZign Group" run by Creative Director *Lee Cherry* specializes in advertising design and publishing support. Design layout for books, magazines, newsletters, and business cards. Contact Cherry deZign at 301-797-9655.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Washington County Health Department GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program has \$50,000 available for Community Grants available to provide Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Activities in the Community to Minority Adults, Pregnant Women, Women, Youth, and the Medically Underserved. Interested parties are encouraged to attend either Community Meeting listed below being held at the Washington County Health Department H.W. Murphy Community Health Center Building 24 North Walnut Street, Suite 201 (Conference Room #2) Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 Friday, July 12, 2002 from 8 a.m. or Friday, July 12, 2002 12noon. Refreshments will be served. Contact Shawn Stoner, Ann Baker or Kim Rasch at 240-420-1796 for more information.

Washington County Government “POSITION AVAILABLE”: Planning & Community Development – Office Associate I \$16,203 minimum (with benefits) and Solid Waste – Weigh Clerk Part time \$11.45 hour (no benefits). Apply at the Washington County Department of Human Resources, 100 W. Washington St., Room 202, Hagerstown MD or call 240-313-2357.

Youth News

Where my family members grew up and where I grew up are two different places. This area is no longer a positive place. Our community is now called the “Hotspot”. Us youth, this includes the younger children as well as the teenagers, do not have a wide variety of places and things to do after school and on the weekends like my elders did when they were my age. So many of us just walk the streets. The same streets where the drug dealers hang out and the same streets that are filled with crime. Of course there is the Memorial Recreation Center that is run by Mrs. Ruth Anne, The Boys & Girls Club that is run by Darnell Shaffer and the other staff members, and Midnight Madness that is run by Gary Washington. These people are here and use their own time to keep us off the streets and give us something else to do. But what else is there? Nothing. I feel that there needs to be more activities for today's youth in this particular area to do. The things we have already and the people who run them are great but that's all we have. We need something that's going to keep everyone's attention and something fun and interesting. I believe if we all work together, we can get all the youth off the streets. And that is a big step in making the “Hotspot” area a better place.

By RayLonda Nobles

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

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

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

New to the Don Brown BLACK HISTORY Library

BOOKS:

- “Introduction To Social Problems” by Thomas Sullivan
- “Taking Sides – Clashing Views On Social Issues” by Kurt Finsterbush
- “Sociology” by David Popenoe
- “Sociology Critical Review Guide” by Mark Kassop
- “Sociology On The Internet” by Andrew T. Stull

MAGAZINES:

Ebony October 2001, December 2001, May 2002

U.S. News May 6, 2002, May 27, 2002, June 3, 2002, June 10, 2002, June 17, 2002

This Month's Contest Questions for a \$10 Cash Prize:

Q: What was Mr. "Step" Washington's real name and what was his nickname given for the expression he used when playing checkers. For \$10 let us know. Call or mail your answers to Brothers United Who Dare To Care 131 W. North Avenue Martin Luther King Center 2nd floor, Hagerstown Maryland 21740 phone 301-393-9290.

Last Month's Contest Question:

Q: Why does only three people a month try for this contest? Is this a reflection of the community's lack of interest in black history and culture? Or don't we care?

A: by Miranda Lewis "Speaking from a young person's point of view, the answer is simple. The reason people don't try to answer the questions is that they do lack interest. But not so much a lack of Black History, they lack interest in themselves. They are more interested in the 'word on the street', the newest Jordan's, and the hottest clothes. Then they complain because they want things to change. They need to know that, if they don't show an interest in their past they can't successfully change their future.

AJAMU & MWAMBA: Myths and Facts

The following is a clip from the website: www.black-collegian.com

The State of Black America is in Disarray

by Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney

Generally speaking, we Blacks work more, earn less; face discrimination in school, on the job, and in our neighborhoods. This is the state of Black America. The absence of strong and vibrant Black leadership in this country has not come about because of poor Black voter turnout or because of anything that we have done or not done. Rather, it is a direct result of a widespread and systematic U.S. government program over a number of decades aimed at destroying any chance of effective Black leadership in this country.

In the past, I've discussed with many people the contents of a COINTELPRO memo: a memo that among other things says that:

- There should never be another charismatic Black leader with national appeal able to unify the Black movement
- The United States Government will institute actions that discourage linkages between Africans and African Americans; create tension, conflict, and dissension within the Black community; and support the nomination and election of Blacks who will be more loyal to existing institutions and policies than to the Black movement.

Let me be specific about what COINTELPRO did to Black America and the whites who stood with us. In the 1960s and '70s, the counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) sections of the federal government destroyed Black leadership in this country through government-orchestrated burglaries, planting of false evidence, and murders as part of the wholesale violation of fundamental constitutional rights of activist American citizens. That this happened is not fiction. It is well documented. Remember, Geronimo Pratt served 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The scale of COINTELPRO rivals anything committed by the apartheid government of South Africa

Calendar Of Events

Jul 11	NAACP meets at the Memorial Recreation Center 7pm
July 12	Grant Announcement at the Washington County Health Department 8am and 12noon
July 22	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK 6:30pm