

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

SEPTEMBER 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 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: blackmencare@aol.com or page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

WORD ON THE STREET

We need to hear from the Jonathan Street community.

The newly formed Neighborhood Improvement Team wants to hold a focus group meeting to gather concerns of the black citizens in the Hagerstown/Washington County area, specifically blacks living in the Jonathan Street community. The Neighborhood Improvement Team was formed to help improve the black community and to confront those who should be accountable for making the Hagerstown/Washington County area a good place for blacks to live or operate a legitimate business. The team noted several areas of concern and would like to focus and validate that the issues being raised are those of the black community. The Neighborhood Improvement Team consists of different organizations and members from the Jonathan Street community. To be a part of this focus group meeting call 301-393-9290.

Locks, Cameras, Action!

Well, it's on. The Martin Luther King Community Center (North Street School building) is being transformed into a "secured" facility for the Head Start of Washington County program. Electronic access locks and camera monitors installed in the areas where children's programs are is understandable, but putting cameras in the gym and outside the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office is crossing the line. Carolyn Brooks told a county official that she wants the camera to remain mounted in the hallway outside the BUWDTC office because she is afraid of being attacked. We believe that Carolyn (who is black) might be afraid to be around black people, but does she actually believe that a camera in a hallway would prevent a person from being attacked anymore than cameras in banks and stores keep them from being robbed? Since the County is allowing Head Start to install access doors and cameras, would anyone object to a Black Muslim security squad or the New Black Panther Party providing protection to the building?

Brothers United Who Dare To Care website is down but not out.

The WWW.BUWDTC.ORG website is offline in preparations for connecting new equipment to increase the newsletter distribution. Brothers United Who Dare To Care received generous funding through the Gaming Commission to purchase equipment to expand our newsletter coverage which ties into our website. The website will have a new name: WWW.BLACKMENWHOCARE and the launch date will be posted.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Call the Washington County Community Mediation Center if you are having problems with:

A neighbor over noise, a driveway, a cat or dog? *A family member* over sharing household chores, hassles with a teenager, care of an elderly parent? *Your partner or ex-partner* over finances, harassment, child visitations? *People at work* over racial tensions, duties, working together? To solve these problems you have two options. If a crime has been committed you can apply for a criminal complaint. Or you can resolve conflicts through mediation. The *Washington County Community Mediation Center* is a non-profit organization with a staff of mediators that are trained and experienced in mediation skills. For more information or if you are interest in being a mediator call 301-432-7712 or write WCCMC 10401 Sharpsburg Pike Hagerstown MD 21740. Black mediators are needed, call and speak with *Carl French*.

First Christian Church invites you to attend an information meeting about the ARK.

The Washington County Commissioners has awarded First Christian Church a grant through the Washington County Community Partnership for Children and Families to initiate and help develop the *ARK (Adults Relating to Kids)* program in this county. ARK is based on new, cutting-edge research developed at the *Children's Center for Self-Esteem*. The information meetings are ongoing now through September and are to acquaint you with the program and how your school, church, community center or organization can receive free training to start the program in your neighborhood. *Dr. B. Glenn Wilkerson*, creator/writer of the ARK program will be in Hagerstown October 4-5 to conduct the facilitators training needed to start an ARK group. Contact *Cindy S. Reeder* at 301-733-0144 or email: *csreeder17@aol.com*.

SPEAK UP!

So what do you care?

The sign on top of the North Street School Building reads, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, which leads me to believe it is a center that can be used to serve the community. I believe that the organizations that use the center should be doing so and should do so equally and as partners. "Partner" is the new trick word some organizations use to draw in another organization and then

attempt to phase out the identity or control of that organization and take it over. We have heard accounts of organizations outside of the black community coming in to take over our programs. Black people are capable running their programs themselves and retaining what is left of our black heritage. The following letter to the editor was not signed by name and I do not submit anonymous articles or

remarks. The gravity of situation at the North Street School building may justify this person concealing their identity. The writer may work for the Head Start program like myself. Unlike myself, the writer may fear retaliation for wanting to Speak Up. So, I will submit the letter as it was signed. No one else has written or spoke up on the issue, anyway. So what do you care?

Andy Smith, Editor

Dear Brothers United,

I am writing in response to what Mr. Andy Smith has wrote in the June newsletter about Head Start a MLK putting cameras and access doors on the building. This makes me angry and it should make a lot of parents who have children that attends Head Start at MLK angry as well. This is just stupid and a waste of good money. Why can't they put the money to something more useful; for instance, more programs for the handicapped? They are yelling about not enough children enrolled – I wonder why this is? If they want more doors and cameras – what's wrong with the current doors? Why not get the staff to monitor and watch the place? Cameras cannot pick everything up and lots of times; the film can't be used in court. Also, why treat young children and parents as criminals? This is just unconstitutional in my opinion. This is the first time I have heard of a Head Start facility needing security. As much as the staff is in and out of the building - don't they think someone would see or know if something was suspicious? They should leave the doors alone and let the staff, parents, volunteers and people living around the area be the "security". Pretty soon there won't be a Head Start for children - what is the community going to do then? I say get more programs for children and do things to draw more children. Parents get more involved and enrolled in the program before they run the place into the ground.

- Sincerely, Someone who cares about what Head Start is doing

Reparations, Reparations, Reparations! Reparations for black people in the United States do not deal with just the enslavement of our ancestors, but the "ripple" effects caused by slavery.

- Alesia Parsons

Youth News

"Believe The Gospel" Concert at Hagerstown Community College Saturday September 21st.

Crossroads Ministries youth dance ministry will be performing at the concert which will began at 5pm. Janelle & Ministry will headline the event and perform music from her new CD "Janelle". Others performing include the local Zion Baptist Church Choir, Cross Road Ministry singers, The Mighty Sounds of Joy from Virginia, The Gospel Key, also from Virginia. Contact Ricky Scott, Elite Christian Promotions 301-797-9048.

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

"The Negro must be up and doing if he will break down the prejudice of the rest of the world. Prayer alone is not going to improve our condition, nor the policy of watchful waiting. We must strike out for ourselves in the course of material achievement, and by our own effort and energy present to the world those forces by which progress of man is judged?"

- Marcus Garvey

New to the Don Brown BLACK HISTORY Library

BOOKS:

"Bedtime Bible Story Book" by Paradise Press, "Year Of The Bible – New Testament" Contemporary English Version, "Prayers For Children" Golden Books, "The Story Of Jonah" by Victoria Marshall, "Friday The Arapaho Indian" by A.M. Anderson, "My Family Shall Be Free" by Dennis Brindell Frandin, "Cane River" by Reggie White, "Freedom River" by Doreen Rappaport, "Journey To Beloved" by Oprah Winfrey, "Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr." Great Nubian Quiz

MAGAZINES:

Black Issues November – December 2000; Ebony (past issues); Entertainment Weekly May 24, 2002; Essence (past issues); Jet (past issues); Reader's Digest March 2002, June 2002, August 2002, September 2002; TV Guide (past issues); U.S. News July 29, 2002; August 12, 2002; August 19, 2002

VIDEOS:

"Hard Ball" starring Keanu Reeves; "Peal Harbor" documentary by Tom Brokaw; "The Color Purple" starring Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey; "Cabin In The Sky" starring Lena Horne, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson and Ethel Waters; "Hagerstown City Hall Rally" led by Brothers United; "Reparations Rally" Washington D.C. August 2002.

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

Q: The Red, Black & Green Flag was unveiled by the U.N.I.A. & the A.C.L. on August 13, 1920. What does the colors of the flag represent?

Q: Name the organizations, from the abbreviations, that adopted the Red, Black and Green.

Q: What man led this effort?

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 Questions:

Q: Who was the first black officer to graduate from West Point? A: Henry Ossian Flipper (1856-1940).

Q: Who was the first black jockey to win the Kentucky Derby in 1875? A: Oliver Lewis was riding "Aristides".

Q: What black cowboy, a notorious cattle thief and confidence man, came with a Texas trail crew to Dodge City where he lived to his death in 1929? A: Ben Hodges was one of the few men to survive the wild and dangerous Dodge City,

Monique Broadus, Paula Burnett, Janice Kelsh and Carolyn Norse provided answers.

Calendar Of Events

September 18	ARK information meeting at First Christian Church 7:30pm
September 21	Believe The Gospel concert at HCC 5:00pm
September 26	Hotspot Community Mobilization meet at Bethel Gardens Community Police office 7:00pm
September 30	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK 6:30pm
September 30	Neighborhood Improvement Team meet at MLK 7:00pm
October 1	Community Enrichment Coalition meet at the Antrim House Fountainhead Plaza 7:00am