

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

APRIL 2003

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.blackmenwhocare.org](http://www.blackmenwhocare.org). E-mail address: [blackmencare@aol.com](mailto:blackmencare@aol.com). Page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

## WORD ON THE STREET

**Hagerstown native and Emmy Award winner Kelly Wright was seen on television anchoring the war news.**

Wright the son of Jonathan Street area resident, June Wright, was seen reporting the Iraqi war on the Fox News Network channel. Kelly Wright recently hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Colon Cancer Awareness program held here in Hagerstown at the North Street School/ Martin Luther King Community Center this past March.

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE

**Special Black Talk session will be held on Saturday 10am April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Bethel Gardens Community Center.**

"BLACK TALK" Hosted by Dr. Richard Williams author of the books, "They Stole I, You Must Return It" and "Torches On The Road Of Passage". Dr. Williams has appeared on the Black Entertainment Network (BET), the Oprah Winfrey Show and was part of a team chosen and sent to Kenya, Africa to investigate the effectiveness of an AID' s treatment developed by African researchers. BLACK TALK is an informal rap session support group discussing issues that affect black people. Topic highlights for this session: Health issues affecting Blacks; the impact of tobacco use on the black community; Civil responsibility and rights for health issues affecting blacks; help from the government for the black community for tobacco related illness and addiction. Brothers United Who Dare To Care invites anyone to participate in the BLACK TALK sessions. BLACK TALK is OPEN. BLACK TALK is TRUE. BLACK TALK is REAL. For men or women; black or white; rich or poor BLACK TALK is for you. Session is on Saturday, 10am, April 26 in the Bethel Gardens Community Center, Hagerstown, Maryland. FREE ADMISSION. Call 301-393-9290 for more information.

**Youth Art Contest. Theme: "Keep Your Butts Off Our Streets!"**

A \$100 cash award will be given for the art selected for the T-Shirt design for the campaign to reduce Teen tobacco use and the litter from cigarette butts on the streets of our neighborhood. The design will be selected for the T-Shirts that will be worn by our youth that are participating in the No Smoking Neighborhoods campaign. Made possible by funding through Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance (MOTA). Call Brothers United Who Dare To Care 301-393-9290.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to Brian Robinson of Each One Teach One for inviting the community to participate in the African American Heritage Program and the Memorial Recreation Center for Hosting the event and the people that help his program succeed like Valencia Burnett, Monique Evans, Police Officer Dwayne Freeman, Mollie Smith, The Boys & Girls Club Step Teams, Don Brown and all others who contributed to the event. Thanks to June Wright for keeping the positive "Colon Cancer Awareness Program in the Jonathan Street neighborhood. Thanks again to Don Brown, Arnetta Doleman, Anne V. Doleman and Jiggs Dotson for their monthly contribution of magazines and books.

# SPEAK UP!

## What would you do?

Recently I have received a series of notes. One note I received was encouraging me to step forward and be a leader (the last person who challenged me to be a leader disappeared from our organization after I was elected president). Another note wrote that what the local press writes doesn't do

anyone good, especially Brothers United. What the press wrote helped the citizens receive public information and put exposure on the issues. Still another letter warns me against publishing "inflammatory and unsubstantiated articles referring to the historical accounts about deaths of black

inmates at the local jail. I was asked by the author of those notes for what purpose would I print these articles. What good does rekindling such stories do? Why don't you just read some of the recent letters we received from black inmates at the jail and tell me? What would you do?

*Andy Smith, Editor*

*L. Dotson a Washington County Detention Center inmate 3-29-03 writes:*

Andy,

Hello Little Brother! I need you to put forth the issue to someone on the outside either at City or the County or both about my condition and the information that I am sending you. The medical staff and the Jail Administration both refuse to give me proper medical treatment as needed. Here is a copy of all the open medical (doctor) appointments, that will have to be rescheduled and that is slowing down my healing process. So see what you can please do for me, and my visiting hours are only on Saturdays from 9:00 to 10:00 in the morning.

Thanks always

Love and Peace

Big Brother Pee Pee

*D. Frisby a Washington County Detention Center inmate 3-29-03 writes:*

Andy,

What's up main man! I am writing to you at this time for a very big favor. I have been trying to get in touch with you to see if you can be of some help on assisting me in getting into a drug rehab center. You know my addiction is very sympathetic and severe, and you are the only one in the community who I can depend upon right now. Also, I have been writing several drug rehab programs on the outside, but with the skills and knowledge that you have, I know you know someone who can help me. I would appreciate if you will stay in touch by either writing or visiting me on Sundays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Thanks very much,

Timmy Frisby (my real name is Derrick Frisby)

P.S. Here are some of the places I wrote: Massie Unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Genesis drug program, William Donald Shaffer Drug Rehabilitation, and 'First Things First' drug program.

*Don Brown writes in a letter dated Saturday March 1, 2003:*

Andy,

The spirited gathering last Sunday at the MLK Center had tables with information from the NAACP, Mrs. Doleman's Museum, and the Boys and Girls Club. Mrs. Monroe was there for the Memorial Recreation Center. Brothers United, with its library and museum was missing, and that saddened me. I'm constantly puzzled by that, with only 6 to 8% of the population, the African-American community, badly fractured into non-cooperating factions, thinks it can accomplish great things. Without the help of the Majority, you are not going to get what you need, and it's silly to pretend otherwise. I keep hoping to see a leader step forth, overlooking the things that divide all these groups, and urging them lovingly to work together, working hard to make things happen. I keep hoping that person is you, Andy, but whoever does it will prove himself a leader, and be recognized as such. God knows, you folks need one. Great things can happen when people work together without any thought given about who gets the credit.

Don

**Boys & Girls Club to receive over \$41,000 off the top of a \$75,000 grant for a 24 week Peer Education Program for Jonathan Street community youth. Brothers United Who Dare To Care is asking to meet with County officials.**

BUWDTC is seeking a meeting after being denied information that revealed the top-heavy fees charged to a state funded program in which organizations from the Jonathan Street community were overlooked to participate in (see attached).

# *BACK TO BLACK* History & Culture

"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?"

- Vincent Van Gogh

**Don Brown BLACK HISTORY Library located in the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office. Library hours 4pm to 6pm Monday thru Thursday or by appointment call 301-393-9290. New arrivals listed below:**

**BOOKS:** "At The Hands Of Persons Unknown" by Philip Dray, "Dead Man Blues by Phil Pastras, "Tearing Down The Color Bar" by Joseph F. Wilson, "In Search Of Black America" by David J. Dent, "Chronology Of World Slavery" by Junius P. Rodriguez, "Boogie Man" by Charles S. Murray, "Brotherhood In Rhythm" by Constance Valis Hill, "Homecoming" by Charlene Gilbert, "The Bluest Eye" "Tar Baby" "Beloved" "Jazz" "Song Of Solomon" "Sula" by Toni Morrison, "The 761<sup>st</sup> Black Panther Tank Battalion in WWII by Joe Wilson Jr., "A Regiment Of Slaves" by Edward G. Logaere, "Finding Fish" by Antwone Q. Fisher, "This Far By Faith" by Juan Williams, "Out Of Sight" by Lynn Abbott & Doug Seroff, "Intelligence, Race and Genetics" by Frank Miele, "Visions for Black Men" by Na'im Akbar

**Comic Books:** "Truth – Red, White and Black (Vol. 4 & 5)" by Robert Morales & Kyle Baker/ Marvel Comics

**VIDEOS:** "Amistad", "Tales of Manhattan" with Paul Robeson & Ethel Water, "The Bicycle Corp" 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Buffalo Soldiers experiment using bicycles in Montana.

**MAGAZINES:** Caribbean Beat JAN, FEB, MAR, APR 2003; Carnival (Trinidad & Tobago) 2003; Crisis (NAACP) JAN, FEB 2003; Ebony MAR, APR 2003; ESPN MAR 17, 2003; Essence MAR, APR 2003; Details APR 2003; GQ APR 2003; Heart & Soul MAR 2003; Newsweek MAR 2003; Oprah MAR, APR 2003; People MAR, APR 2003; People Teen MAY 2003; Real Simple FEB 2003; Scouting MAR, APR 2003; Source FEB 2003; Spin APR, MAY 2003; US Magazine MAR, APR 2003; U.S. News MAR, APR 2003; Wild West APR 2003.

**Editors Choice: Book** "Visions for Black Men" by Na'im Akbar

**Magazine** "The program book for the Service of the Consecration and Installation for Elder Darin Mercy, Sr. (includes the Vision and Mission Statement of Ekklesia Ministries).

**Video** "Amistad" the slave ship revolt that led to a Supreme Court case.

**There is a box outside of the BUWDTA office with FREE magazines, past issues for you to keep, help yourself.**

## **This Month's Contest Questions:**

**\$100 Cash Prizes (3):** Write and submit a report on the impact of tobacco use and tobacco related illnesses on black people in Washington County. The report must include: at least three agencies or at least three projects addressing the issue about the impact of tobacco use and tobacco related illnesses in Washington County and name at least one organization that helps minorities identify funding and resources to combat tobacco related problems. You must interview (by phone, email or in-person) and include names with titles of the person contacted for each source included in the report. Age categories for contest awards are: 7-14 years of age, 14-21 years of age and 21-up years of age.

## **Answers to last Month's Contest questions:**

**\$20 Cash Prize:** Where was "Black Wall Street" located? Was "Black Wall Street" the first bombing of U.S. soil?

**Answer:** (see report in **Youth News** section)

## Youth News

### **Black Wall Street.**

In Tulsa, Oklahoma there was a community flourishing with ethnic heritage and cultural diversity a place called Black Wall Street. Another name for Black Wall Street is Little Africa, it was said that it was like a mini-Beverly Hills. During the early 1900's it was known as the golden door of the black community. This successful all black community was bombed and burned to the ground by mobs of envious whites. Many people lost their lives after that night 3,000 African Americans were dead. This bombing destroyed their dream this bombing is also known as the Black Holocaust in America.

Obviously, I think we should all know who would be behind such an evil thing as to destroying a piece of history just because of skin complexion and jealousy. The people behind the destruction of Black Wall Street were the Ku Klux Klan. If you wonder how they did it, they were working in consort with city officials and other sympathizers. This was one of the first bombing on U.S. soil. One thing I find weird is that we are so worried about other countries bombing us, when we would authorize bombing our own land to get rid of some blacks. I don't know if you think something is wrong with bombing your own country, I do. Because of the events on June 1, 1921, more than 600 black businesses were lost and from what I have read about Black Wall Street, I feel this bombing was a big change in history and that if it was still around today it might have changed our society for blacks today. Also, I think that when blacks know about the success of Black Wall Street it could encourage a lot more black communities to be like Black Wall Street today.

*By Toni E. Smith*