

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

MARCH 2003

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.blackmenwhocare.org. E-mail address: blackmencare@aol.com. Page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

WORD ON THE STREET

Become an "African American Think Tank" meeting.

Saturday March 22nd at the Memorial Recreation Center from 11am to 2pm. There will be activities, door prizes, food literature, food and plenty of fun. Come one and all, have fun while learning. If there is any questions contact: *Brian Robinson or Ruth Monroe* at 301-790-0203. *Each One Teach One* and the *Memorial Recreation Center* will host this event.

Consecration and Installation service for Elder Darin Mency, Sr.

A service for the Consecration and Installation for Founder and Pastor of Ekklesia Ministries will take place Saturday March 29th, 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. The service will be officiated by Bishop Nathaniel E. Williams, D. Min., from Brockton, Massachusetts. Those interested in being a sponsor for the celebration can post an ad in the souvenir bulletin, ad layouts must be submitted by Friday, March 15th. Seating is limited; please take time to make your reservations by calling 301-797-1060 or 301-745-3417. The last day for reserving your seat is Friday, March 15th.

Blacks In Business

Ron Lytle's Enterprises has opened *Contemporary Photo Art Gallery* at 403 N. Prospect Street in Hagerstown, Maryland phone 301-714-0489; fax 301-714-0492. Original prints matted and frame with glass. Classes in Drawing, Sketching and Painting are offered. For Pencil Drawing contact *Raymond Washington* at 301-797-3446. For Oil Paintings and Pastels call 301-791-7189.

Tennis Professional *Mark Keates* will be teaching classes. Mark has instructed High School and College level classes and is experienced working with youth and adults. For enrollment or schedule call 301-791-0498.

Are surveillance street cameras a good thing?

There is not much hanging out in the hood these days. Is that due to the installation of the surveillance cameras on the streetlight poles throughout the Jonathan Street community or is the lack of activity on the streets due mostly to unfavorable weather? The buzz on the streets, the cameras are aiding the police in making arrest for drug deals, hit-and-run auto accidents and getting armed criminals off the street. So when it warms up, we will see if the surveillance cameras are a good thing.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

'Smoke Enders'.

Smokers, formers smokers and non-smokers are invited to join the Smoke Enders support group. The effort is part of the *Jonathan Street Community Improvement Project* in part with *No Smoke Neighborhoods*. To be a part of the Smoke Enders group call 301-393-9290.

2nd Annual Colon Cancer Awareness Contest for the residents of Hagerstown.

The event is to raise awareness for the benefits of being screened for colon cancer at the age of 50. This year contest promoters have asked individuals or groups to have a sponsoring organization, which could be civic or spiritual. There will be an Awards Program of Saturday, March 22nd 7:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. The program will include performances by the contest participants as well as singing, guest appearances and refreshment. If you have any questions please call 240-420-1796 for assistance.

Grants & Funding

Washington County Community Partnership has listed the following

Early Intervention Projects 2003, \$3881 is available for projects occurring in Washington County for short-term projects or short series of event/ services, which meet a "gap" or short term "need locally. Grant period is April 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003. Application deadline is Monday, March 10, 2003 at 12:00 noon.

DDA/WCCP School Age Summer Opportunity Fund 2004, \$30,536 is available in portions not to exceed \$24,999 for projects that promote Communities Which Support Family Life. Grant period is July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Application deadline is Wednesday March 12, 2003 at 12:00 noon. Call Angie at 240-313-2095 for more information.

Gaming Funds grant applications will be available April 1, 2003 at the Gaming Office. The Gaming Office must receive all completed applications no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 15, 2003. Any group wishing to participate in a workshop explaining the application process should contact the Gaming Office as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements. Funds will now be disbursed in a once a year cycle. Call 240-313-2040 for more information.

SPEAK UP!

If you think I'm dumb.

Most of my editorials seem to "gun down" social issues. I am a very serious person, and yet, I do have a sense of humor that is rarely reflected in my writings. Tim Rowland, one writer who's style I admire, is very talented in displaying wit in his editorials, you have to love how he writes. I write to draw as much light or fire on the issues I address. Rarely taking feelings, including my own into

account. The truth is the truth. And my goal is expose or commend a situation in hopes to get a righteous response to the matter. Myself, as with most people, just want to be treated right. And I will admit, most people treat me right. But we are not treated right as a race. I believe we must take on the issues, even when other black leaders refuse or will not back you or stand with us

on the issues. You may call us dumb for continuing on, but we as an organization are making progress, moving ahead helping to make a difference in the lives of those who have turned to us for help. And for the record I don't fight with a gun. Here is a mystery: I was given a sword by my Father and cut myself on it often during battle. Yet, I stand by the Sword. If you think I'm dumb. Bring it on!

Andy Smith, Editor

THANK YOU

Thanks to Wright-Gardner Insurance for continuing to support our effort to share computer technology and training. Thanks to Pop Doleman for the black history books and the "vintage" Ebony magazines. Thanks again to Don Brown, Arnetta Doleman, Anne V. Doleman and Jiggs Dotson for their monthly contribution of magazines and books. We would also like to welcome our new Computer Training students: Glendora Lewis, Orpha Henderson and Charlotte Saunders.

UPDATE: Boys & Girls Club, County Attorney refuses to disclose how State funding is being spent.

A \$75,000 state grant was awarded to implement a Peer Education for the predominantly black Jonathan Street Community. Brothers United Who Dare To Care (BUWDTC) made an informal request to the Boys & Girls Club operations director Buck Brown to discuss a strategy to resolve concerns on the matter and was refused (see attached). Washington County Community Partnership/ Local Management Board director Stephanie Stone told BUWDTC to contact the County Attorney for financial and grant information for the Neighborhood Initiative project. The County Attorney's office also refused to disclose the financial records and grant information (see attached). There are Statewide budget cuts and spending concerns. It is time to appeal to the State to find out how State funding to help the people is actually being used. Citizen funded programs are constantly abused with top-heavy overhead and bureaucratic padding that can unfairly target the program for elimination. To be a signature on a letter to the State concerning this matter contact: Brothers United Who Dare To Care 131 West North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center, Hagerstown Maryland 21740 or phone 301-393-9290.

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

"From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life."

- Arthur Ashe

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: "The Complete Book of Men's Health", "1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History" by Jeffrey C. Williams; "Great African-American Women" by Darryl Lyman; "Duke Ellington" by Scott Yanow; "Black Writers, A Selection of Sketches" by Linda Metzger; "Juneteenth Texas" by Francis Edward Abernethy; "The Narratives of Fugitive Slaves" by Benjamin Drew; "Cathy Williams" by Phillip Thomas Tucker; "Renaissance In Harlem" by Lionel C. Bascom; "Pioneers of the Black Atlantic 1772-1815" by Henry Lois Gates; "Billie Holiday" by Stuart Nicholson; "My Remembers" by Eddie "Sarge" Stimpson Jr.; "Climbing Up To Glory" by Wilbert L. Jenkins; "Underground Railroad In Pennsylvania" by William J. Switala

Comic Books: "Truth – Red, White and Black (Vol. 3)" by Robert Morales & Kyle Baker/ Marvel Comics

VIDEOS: "Deacons of Defenses" starring Ossie Davis and Forest Whitaker

MAGAZINES: ESPN MAR 03, 2003; Details MAR 2003; Newsweek JAN 27, FEB 17, FEB 24, MAR 3, 2003; People FEB 24, MAR 3, 2003; Real Simple FEB 2003; Scouting MAR, APR 2003; Source FEB 2003; Spin FEB, MAR 2003; Sporting News DEC 23, DEC30, 2002; JAN 6, 2003; 2003; U.S. News FEB 24, MAR 3, 2003.

Editors Choice: Book "1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History" by Jeffrey C. Williams

Magazine "The Black Gender Gap" by Ellis Cose (News Week March 3, 2003)

Video "Deacons of Defense" starring Ossie Davis and Forest Whitaker

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

This Month's Contest Questions:

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

\$100 Cash Prizes (3): Write and submit a report on the impact of tobacco use and related illnesses on African Americans in Washington County. Report must include: at least three agencies in Washington County addressing the issue, include at least three projects involved around the issue; at least one organization that helps minorities develop programs and identify funding and resources to combat tobacco related problems. You must interview (by phone, email or in-person a point of contact for each source include their name and title 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. Reports must be submitted by March 31, 2003.

Answers to last Month's Contest questions:

\$10 Cash Prize: Jonathan Hager's slaves were said to have been blindfolded and taken to mine Hager's Secret Silver Mine that was said to be located somewhere between a four mile stretch from the Catoctin Furnace to the Catoctin Hollow and Wigville Road.

\$10 Cash Prize: A \$200 reward was offered for the local runaway slave *James W.C. Pennington* by Washington County resident *Frisby Tilghman* the reward notice was placed in the **Hagerstown Torch Light and Public Advertiser** on December 13, 1827. Pastor Pennington was the minister who married Frederick Douglas and his wife in 1838 soon after Douglas's escape by train from Baltimore.

\$10 Cash Prize: Kathleen Snowden a local black woman who grew up near Mount Airy in Dorseytown, a town named after her grandfather. Her father, a blacksmith, owned just about everything in that town, during WWII he helped the Army restore guns from the Spanish American and Civil wars using a plating method that he was the only person in the country at that time could process.

Youth News

Smoking does affect your abilities because you may have to go on medication and you may have to sit in a wheelchair or it can also put you on an oxygen tank like my nanny. She started smoking when she was 9 or 10 years old. I found out she didn't start to inhale until she was 13 years old. I also found out that she stop smoking at the age of 60. I know it sounds crazy to stop smoking at the age of 60, but it's the truth and that's how I know smoking can affect you.

Josie Smith, age 10.

If you want to have your story, poem, drawing published in the Youth News 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 phone 301-393-9290 or visit our website: www.buwdtc.org click on Youth News.

AJAMU & MWAMBA: Myths and Facts

Fact:

In Hagerstown back in the '30's a black man named Ernie Bobs was castrated in a home in the 300 block of Jonathan Street by Greg Franks, husband of a white woman Bobs was sexually involved with. Another local black man, Ronnie Bronson came to Bobs' aide. Bobs apparently bled to death because the local authorities did not respond to the report of the crime, allowing the attacker to escape. The authorities eventually arrived at the scene of the crime and arrested Bronson who had waited with Bobs in hopes that medical help would arrive. The authorities based their reason for Bronson's arrest on the fact that he had Bobs' blood on his shirt. Bobs was falsely convicted and imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. (The names have been changed to protect the innocent).

In another horrid story of such social injustice, during the 50's the local authorities arrested a Hagerstown black man, because it was reported that he was seen with a white woman. While in custody no one came to aide this man, the woman that he was apparently seen with was not even white, and she was a black woman with white features. The woman never came forth to identify herself. This black man later was said to have hung himself while in custody at the former County jail that was located in the 200 block of Jonathan Street. Circumstances around the alleged suicide did not support the social attitude at that time indicating that the black man was lynched as a message to the black men of the time that sexual relations with white woman was taboo.

In the 80's two black Hagerstown men, in unrelated incidents, were reported to have committed suicide while in custody at the Washington County Detention Center. One was serving a jail sentence and was said to have committed suicide in a drug overdosed on medication that he had been receiving for a medical condition. The other man was awaiting sentencing for a crime but was not a stranger to incarceration and the man's family questioned why he would commit suicide. The circumstances around the suicides was never satisfied within the black community where these men were known to have loved and enjoyed life to its fullest.

Myth:

Blacks are the only African Americans in the United States of America.

Fact:

Whites that may have migrated from Africa or had been exiled from South Africa following the revolt of apartheid and receive political asylum or American citizenship are considered African Americans even though they are white. The white African Americans technically can qualify for benefits set aside or reserved for African Americans. The resolve of this issue is for black people to simply classify themselves and their resources as black. Say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud.

COME CLEAN Corporations with ties to slavery and apartheid urged to show and tell.

Chicago became the first city in the nation to require businesses bidding for city contracts to reveal whether they profited from the enslavement of African American with the Slavery Era Disclosure Ordinance. The ruling, which City Council passed 44-0, will effectively spotlight corporations for possible legal action, but will not prevent companies that participated in the slave trade from operating in Chicago. The unanimous passing of the Chicago law caps off a year of restitution activity, most notably August's Millions for Reparations rally, which drew hundreds to the National Mall in Washington, DC. In addition, a lawsuit was filed in November in a New York court against eight banks and 12 other companies across six countries for apartheid reparations. Though it's not 40 acres and a mule, such efforts may bring companies that profited closer to paying their debt for aiding racial oppression.

-David Wall Rice (THE SOURCE magazine February 2003)

Calendar Of Events

March	Computer Training Classes at Brothers United office Monday thru Thursday 4pm
March 13	NAACP meet at the Memorial Recreation Center 7pm
March 24	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK Center 7:00pm
March 29	Community Prayer Gathering at Zion A/G in Maugansville 6:30pm